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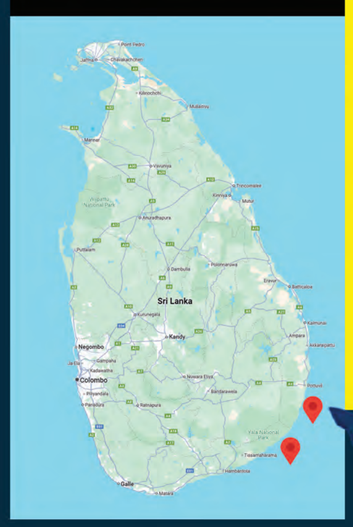
A MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF

GREAT BASSES AND LITTLE BASSES SANCTUARY

(Maha Ravana and Kuda Ravana)

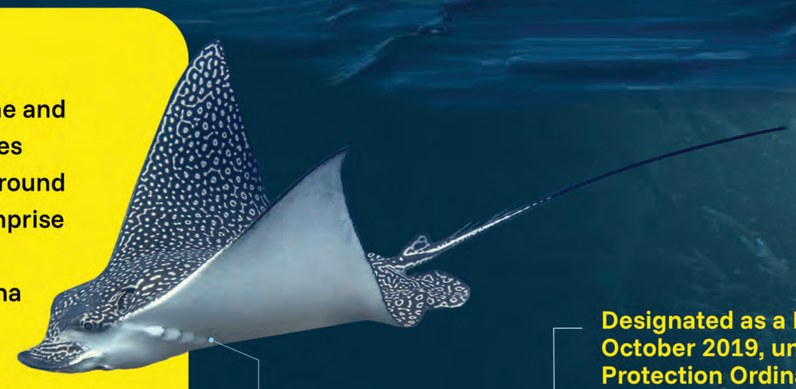
Southern Province, District of Hambantota

What does it protect?



The Sanctuary protects two sandstone and limestone reefs known as Great Basses Reef and Little Basses Reef located around 13 kilometres offshore. The reefs comprise of a variety of corals and marine life including grey reef sharks, turtles, tuna and reef fishes.

The area is also culturally significant due to its historical features including two lighthouses constructed in the 1870's and range of ancient shipwrecks.



Designated as a Marine Sanctuary in October 2019, under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469).

672.8km²

Review of Protected Area Management Effectiveness

Once a protected area has been designated, it is important to understand how well it is being managed. Various methods can be used to evaluate management effectiveness. One of the most common methods used is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4). This involves answering 38 questions based around five management themes:

PLANNING
Assessment of protected area legislation, design and planning.

INPUTS
Assessment of resources: staff, budget, equipment, and facilities.

PROCESS
Assessment of the way in which management is conducted.

OUTPUTS
Assessment of the implementation of management actions; delivery of products / services.

OUTCOMES
Assessment of the outcomes and the extent to which they achieved the protected areas objectives.

What we did

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme and Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) assessed the management of Great Basses and Little Basses Marine Sanctuary by reviewing available evidence and using DWC Ranger expert opinion on 22 January 2024. We have identified what is working well and key actions that could help to improve management.

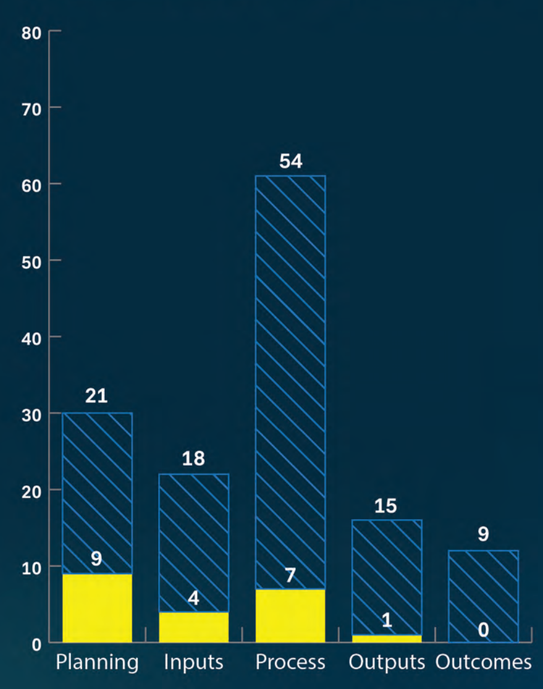
Stakeholders

Names of sectors involved in METT-4:

Government

METT score per management element

21 — Total assessment element score
120 — Total maximum element score



Habitat / Species	Condition	Trend
Coral reef	Unknown	Unknown
Shore birds	Unknown	Unknown

Identified threats

- Illegal fishing
- Climate change
- Tourism
- Coastal development
- Lack of clear governance roles
- Shipping lanes/ shipping traffic

Next Steps

The Department of Wildlife Conservation will use the results of this evaluation to determine priorities for the future.

Key successes

1. The Marine Sanctuary is legally established under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance.
2. There are broad objectives in place for the Marine Sanctuary to achieve.
3. There is cross government collaboration between DWC, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Sri Lanka Navy to combat illegal fisheries in the area.
4. There is legislation in place to support sustainable land and sea use planning around the boundaries of the Marine Sanctuary.
5. The Marine Sanctuary is believed to be the right size and shape to achieve its objectives.

Key actions to improve management

- Develop a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) Management Plan that outlines key management actions for the next 5 years and provides opportunities for stakeholder input.
- Improve stakeholder awareness of the boundary of the Marine Sanctuary through awareness materials and sharing of GPS co-ordinates.
- Build collaborative partnerships with other government and non-government bodies to support management and monitoring of the Marine Sanctuary.
- Explore remote technology options to support compliance and enforcement efforts.