KBA Identification Process - Philippines

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Presented at the WPC
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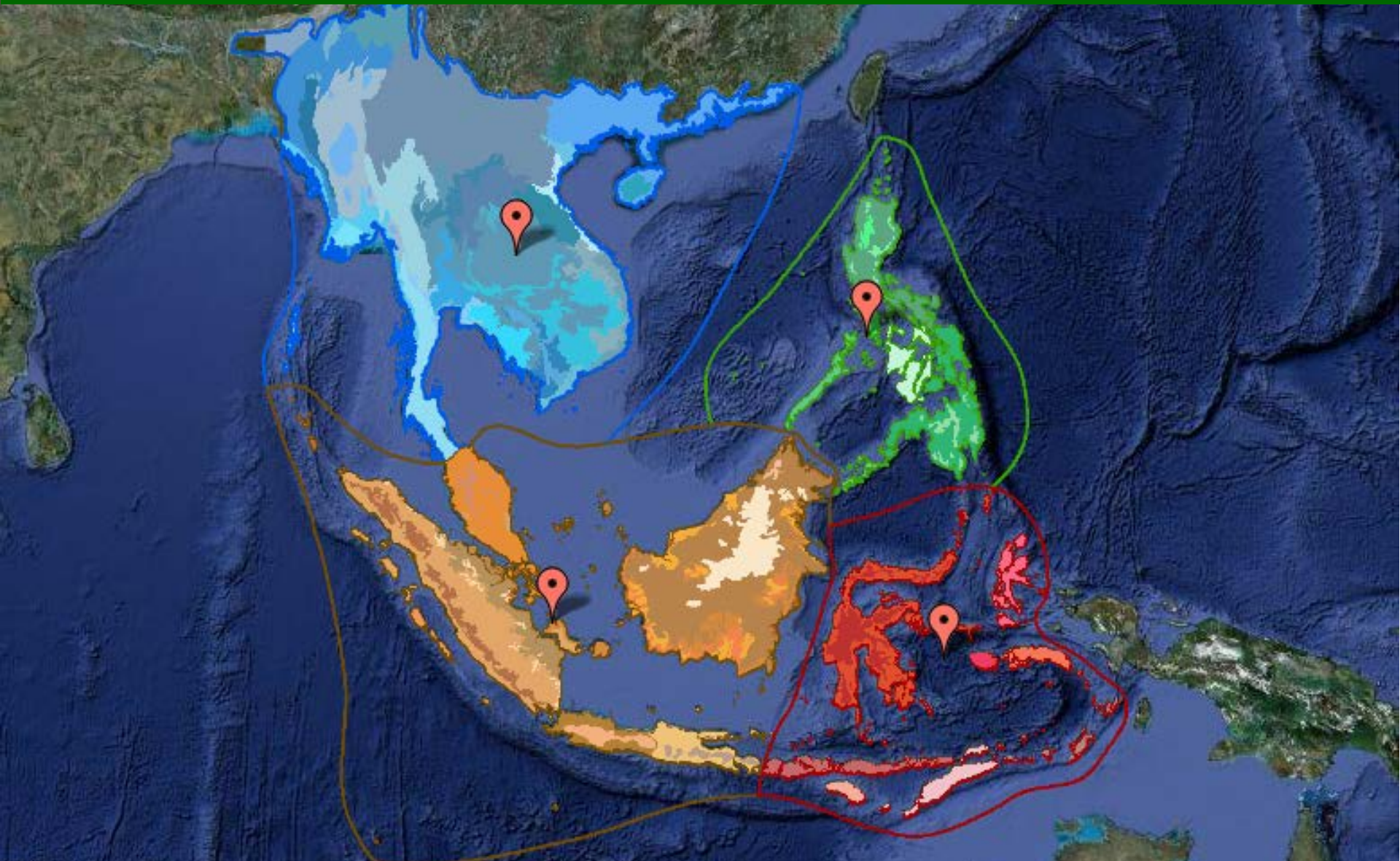
The Philippines is one of 4 countries recognized as biodiversity hotspots in the ASEAN (Indo-Burma, Philippines, Sundaland, and Wallacea)



Background

- Second largest archipelago with 7100 distinct islands covering 30 million hectares
- Complex geological history resulted in an extraordinary wealth of biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine ecosystems that host the richest coral reef and reef fish communities
- Threatened with exploitation and unsustainable resource uses that are depleting its natural resources

Importance of a KBA process

- Identifying areas critical to the conservation of biodiversity identifies as one form of intervention to help the government and stakeholders **prioritize conservation action and devise geographically specific strategies**
- Inform **delineation processes** that would curb the expansion of extractive activities such as mining, fishing, etc.
- Aid in **monitoring the progress** of conservation action

KBA Process

- Terrestrial and inland waters identification process: completed in 2006
- Marine habitats identification process : completed in 2009

Methodology

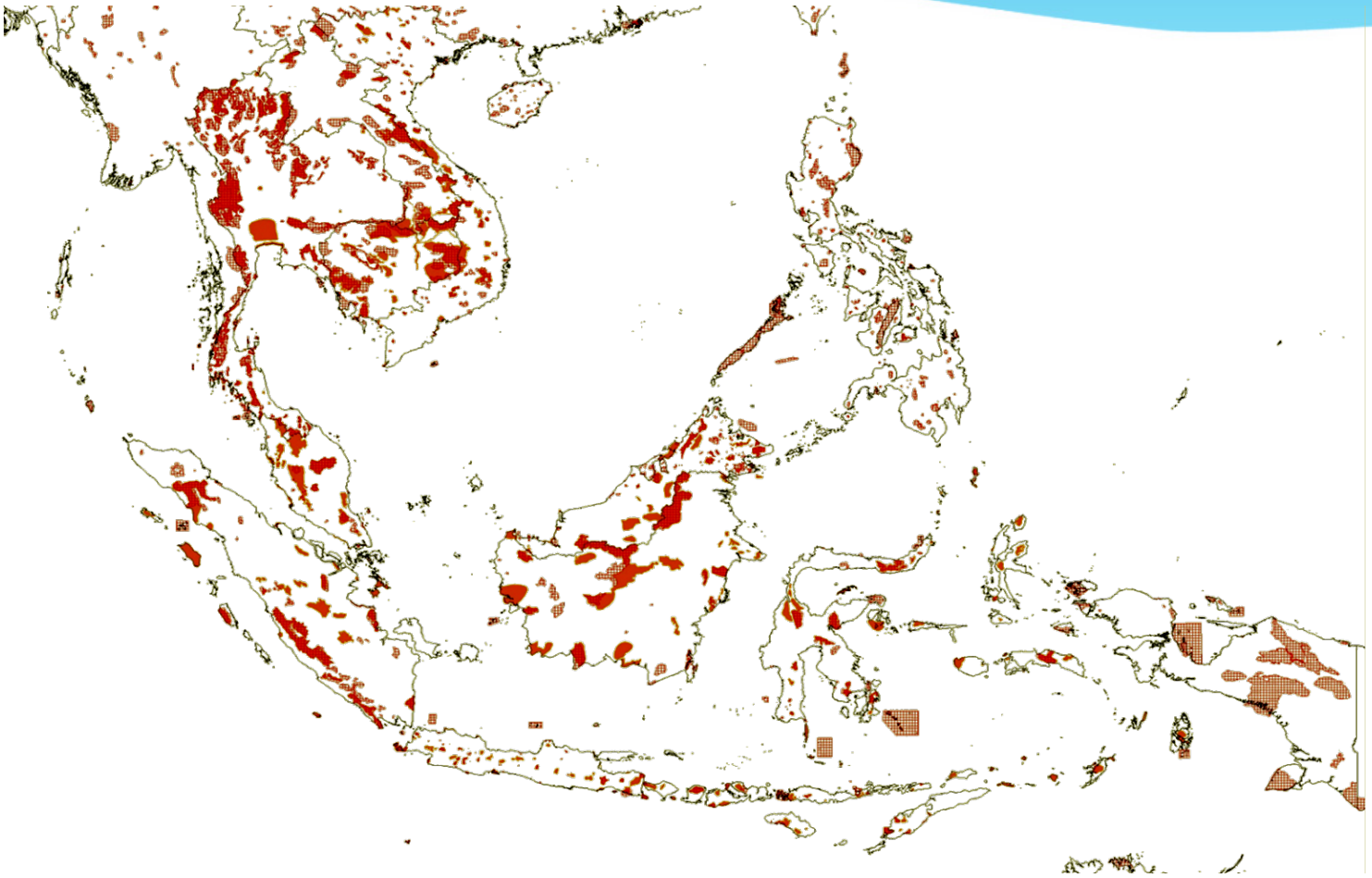
- **Followed process based on Langhammer et al**
- **The criteria of vulnerability and irreplaceability were both applied with certain modifications due to limited availability of information**

Pre KBA Workshop Processes

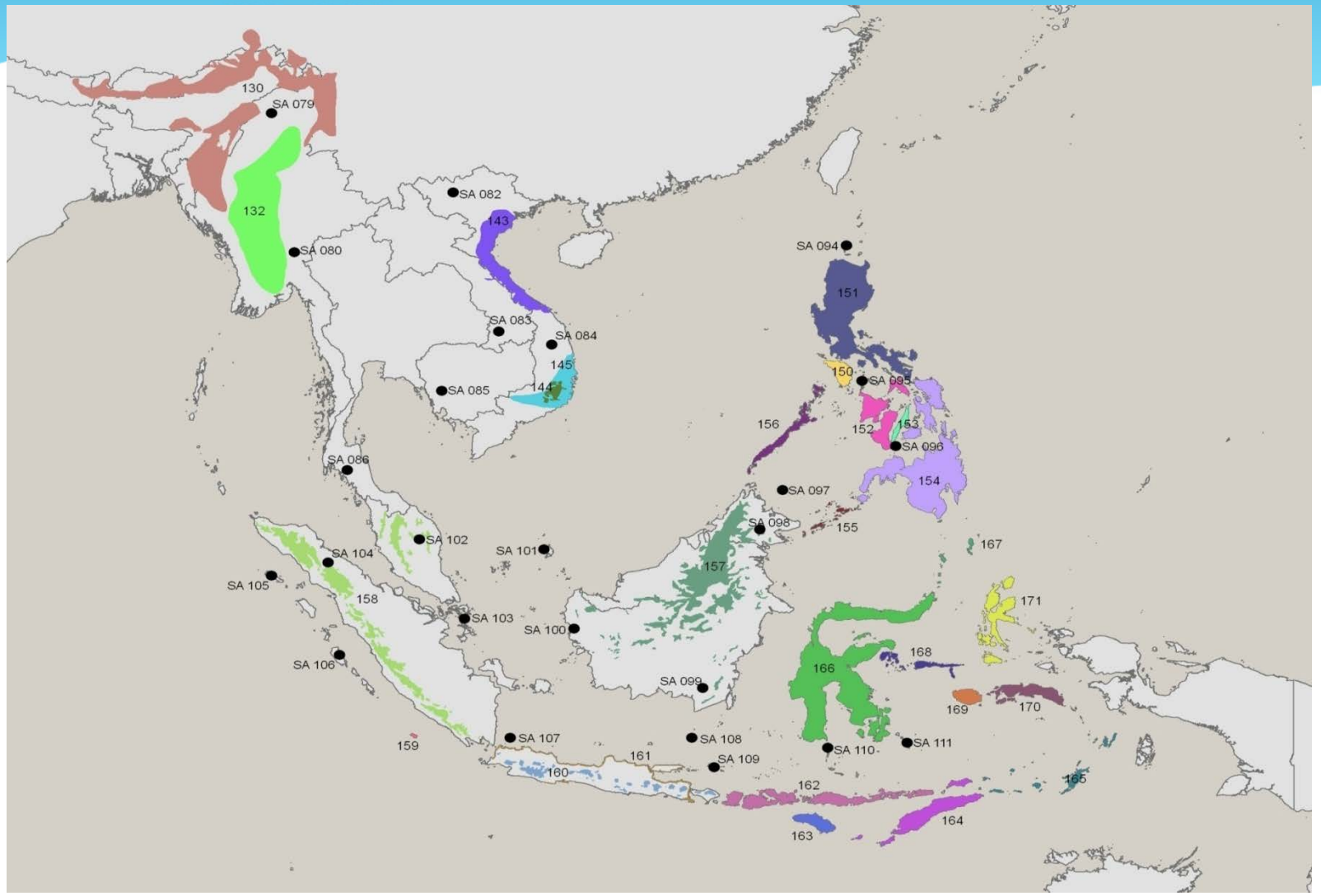
Analysis of trigger species based on

- literature review, expert validations
- Species occurrence and distribution data were obtained from survey/assessment reports, scientific reports, published literature, museum records and expert accounts
- Point locality data for each trigger species were then plotted on a map and overlaid with data for other trigger species belonging to the same taxonomic group.
- KBA boundaries were delineated primarily based on available information (IBA, CPA), on habitat requirements and affinities of the trigger species.

Important Bird Areas



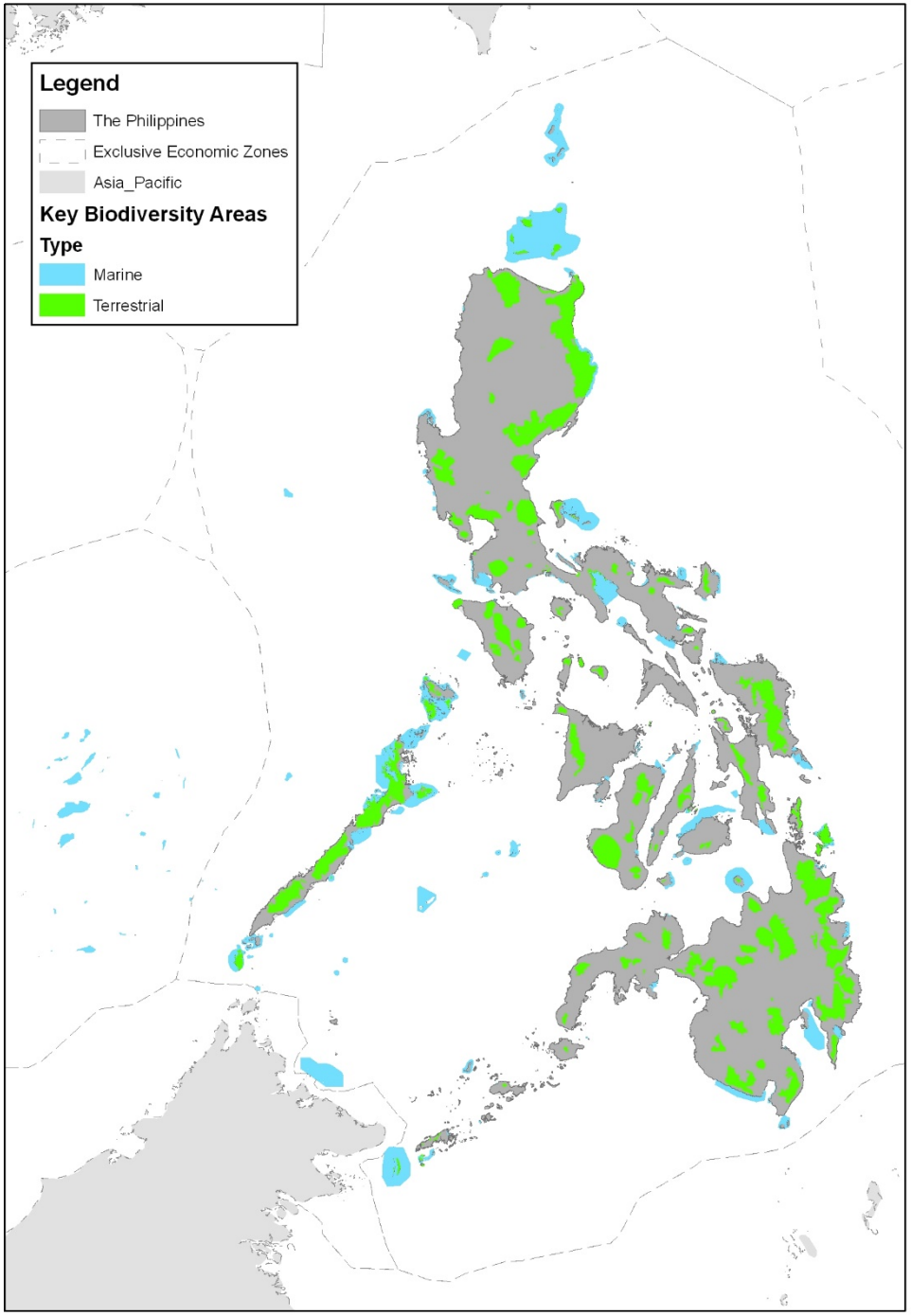
Endemic Bird Areas



Results Integration

- **Initial KBA maps for each taxonomic group were then produced and were reviewed and validated through a series of meetings with experts.**

- **The final terrestrial, freshwater and marine KBA maps are the result of the overlays of taxonomic group maps**



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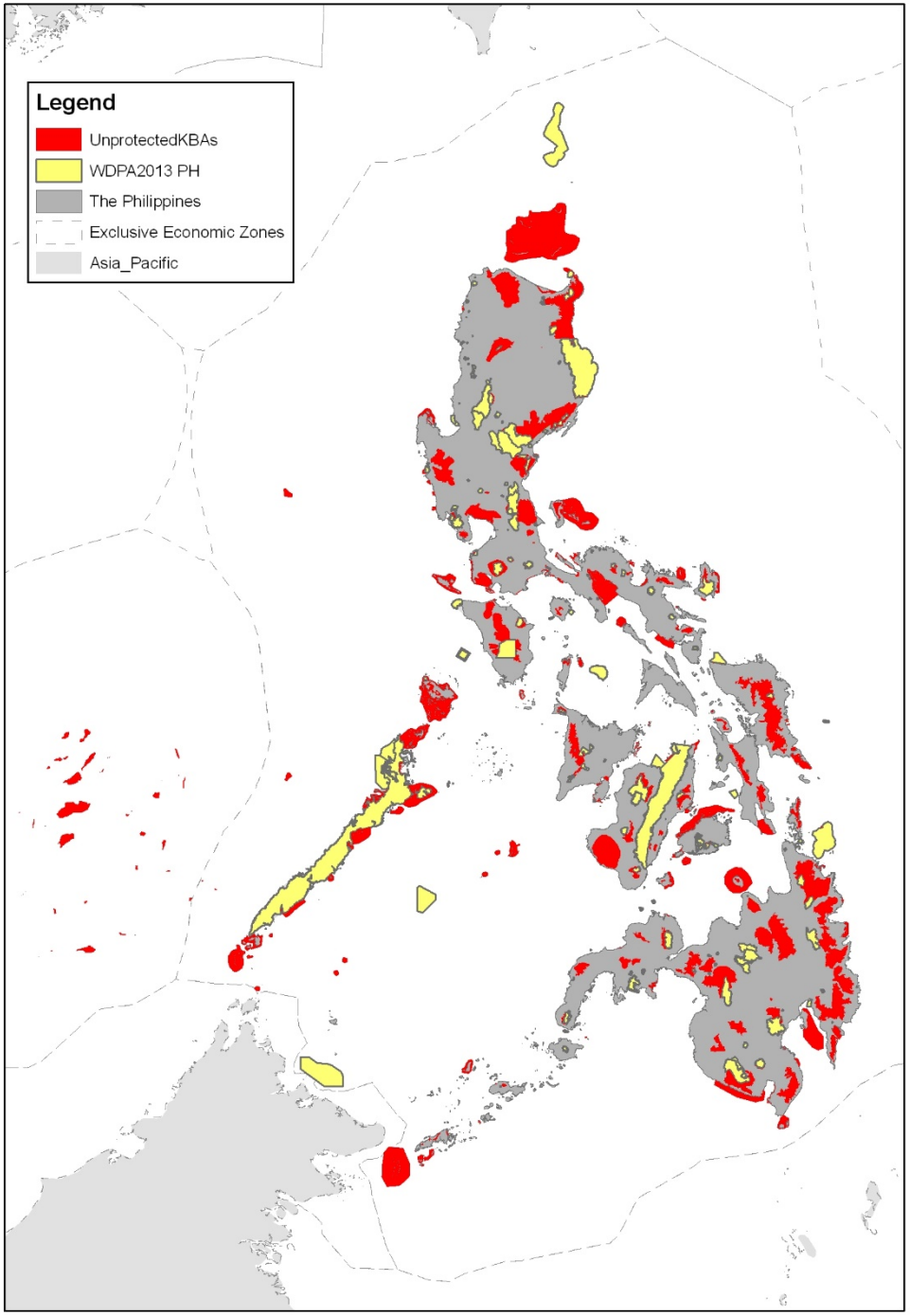
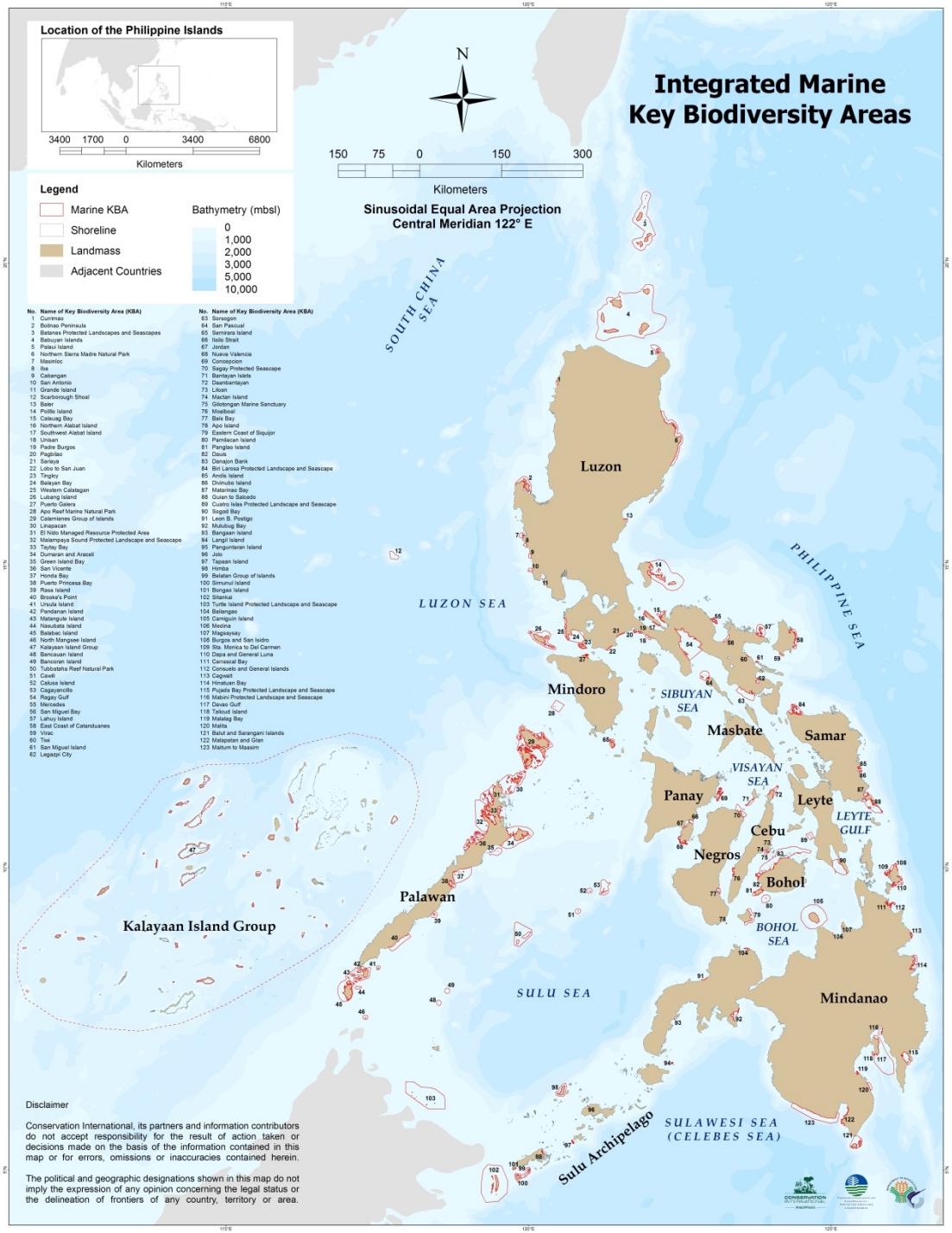


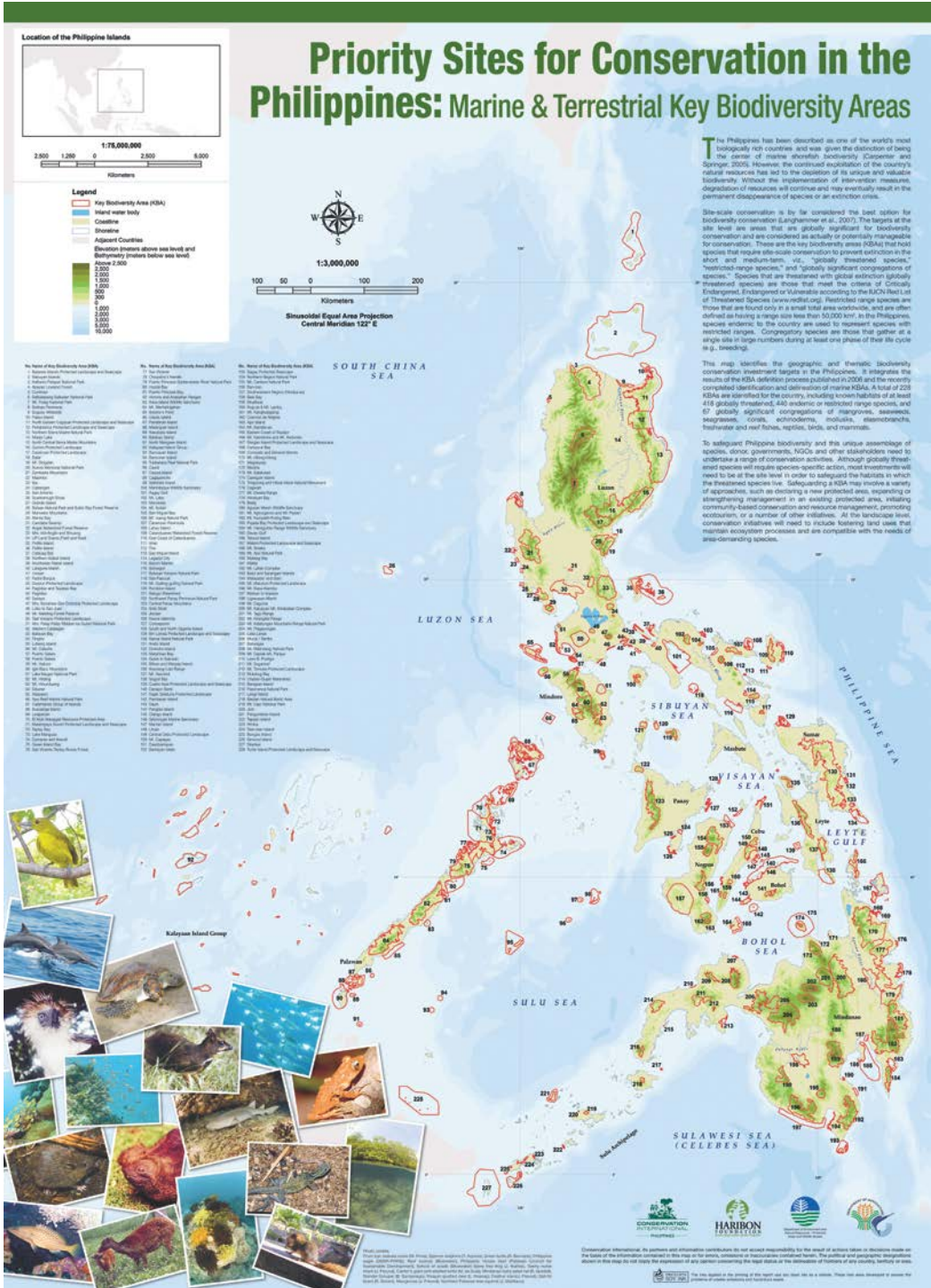
Results

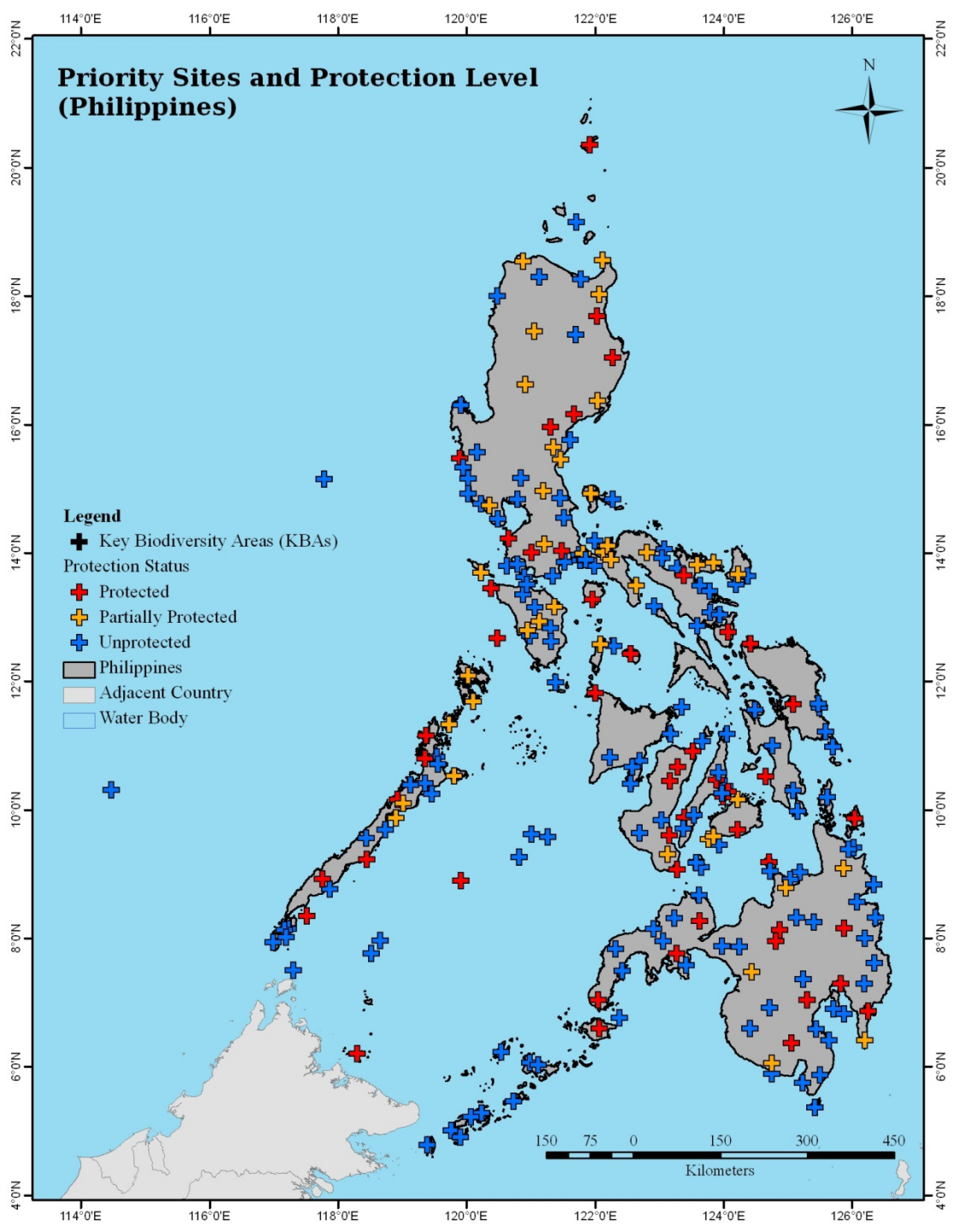
- Marine KBA map
- 123 Marine KBAs



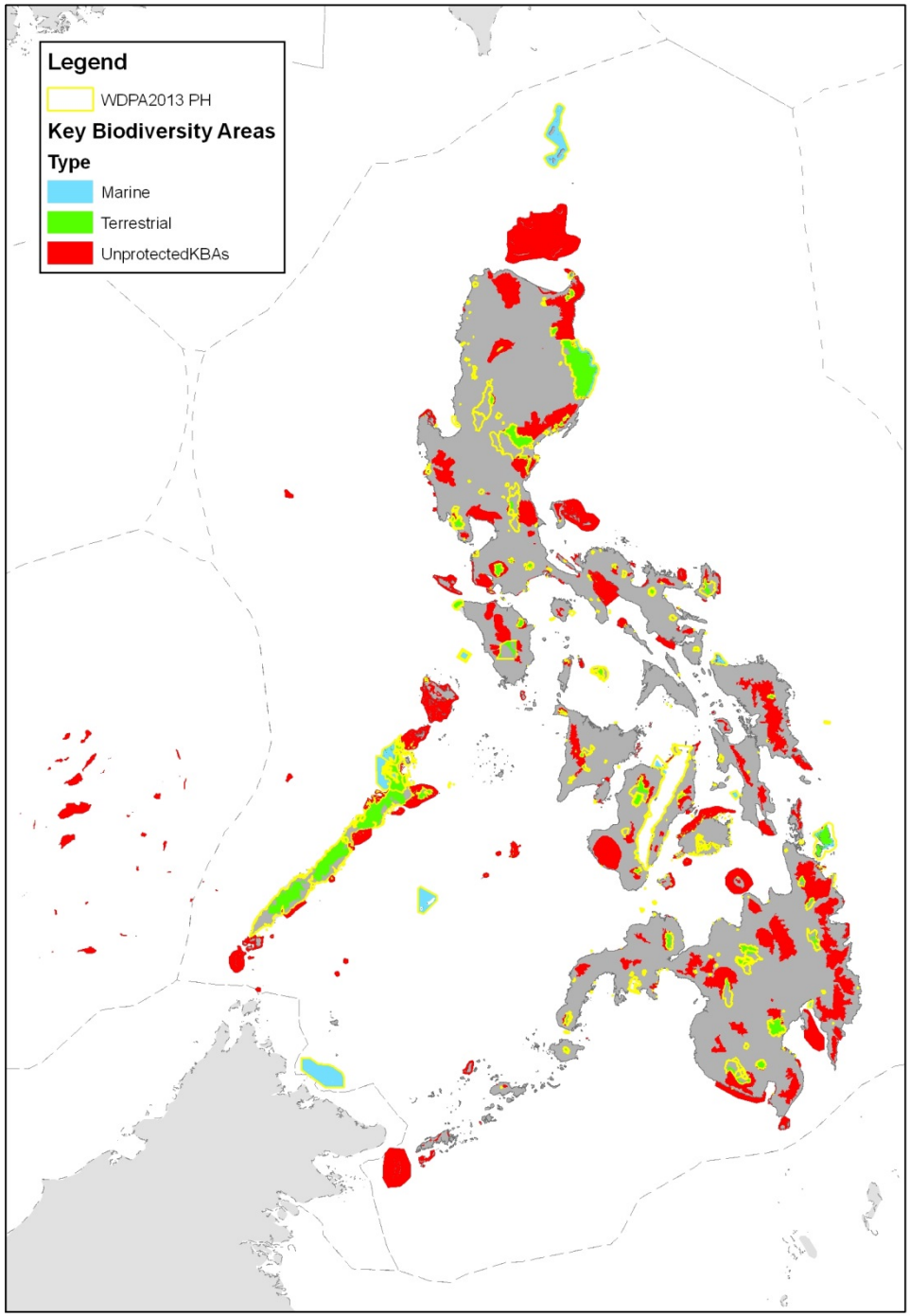
Results

- **Integrated KBA map**
- **228 KBAs**



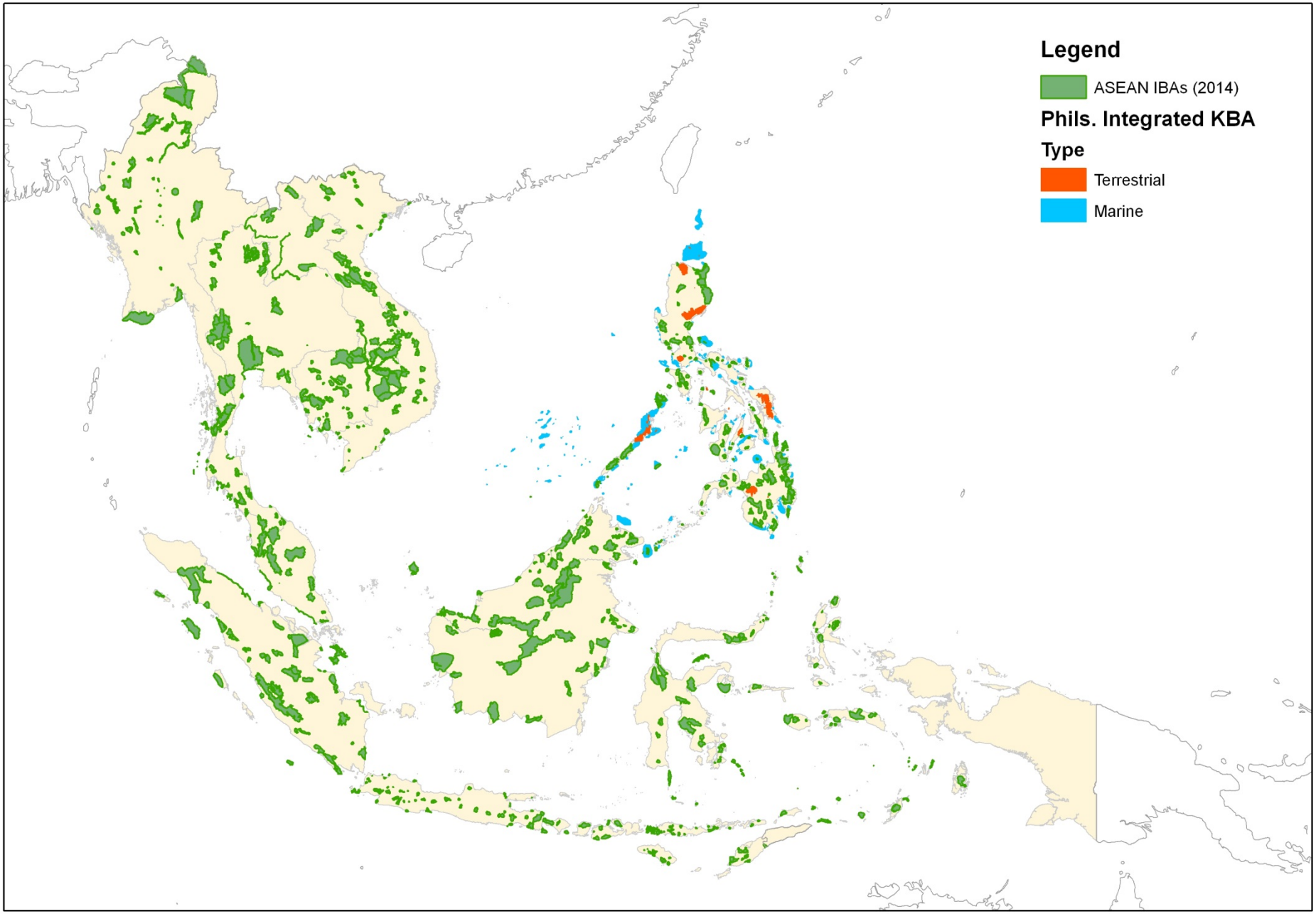


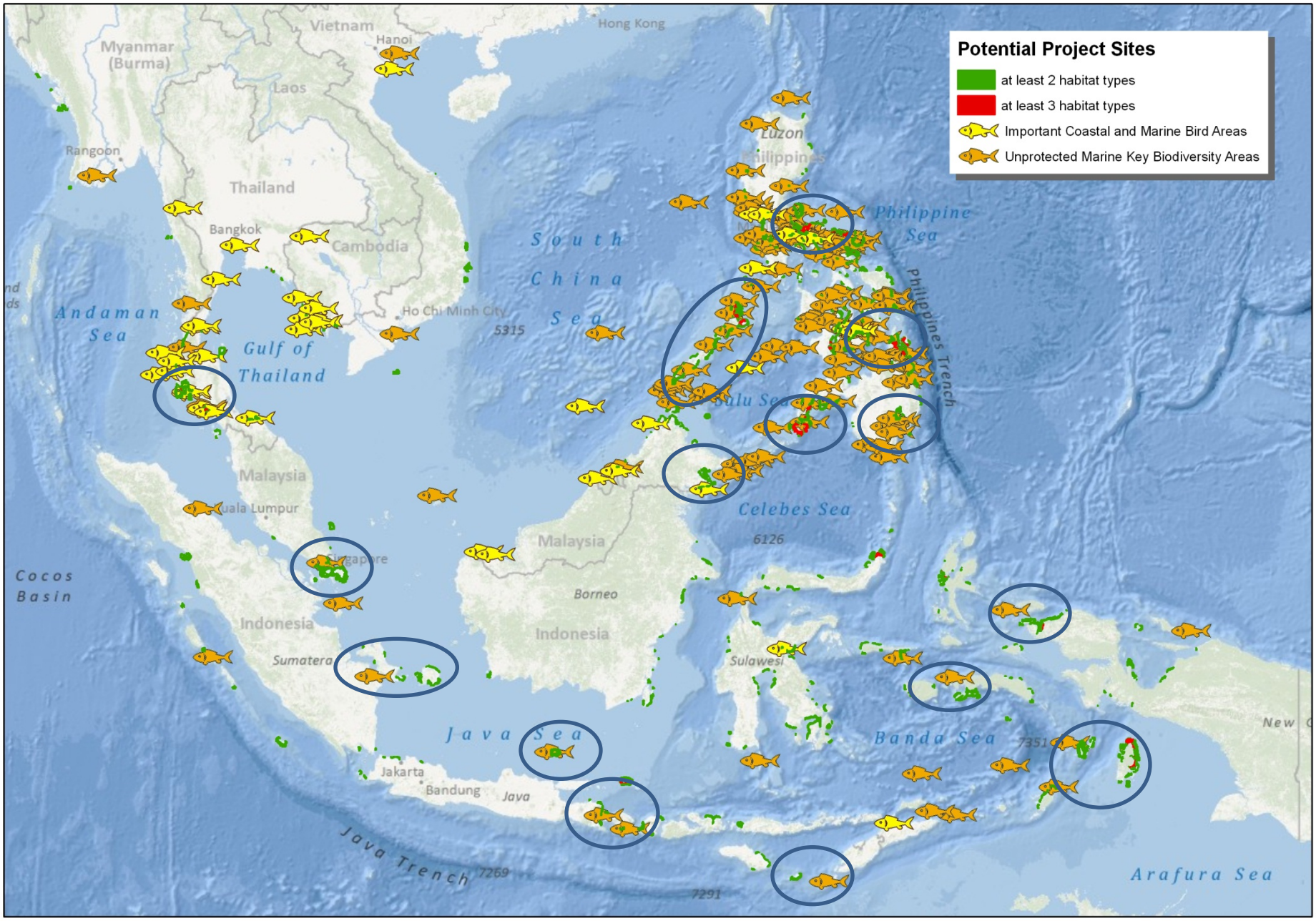
The information has since been used in the Protected Areas Gap Analysis in the Region



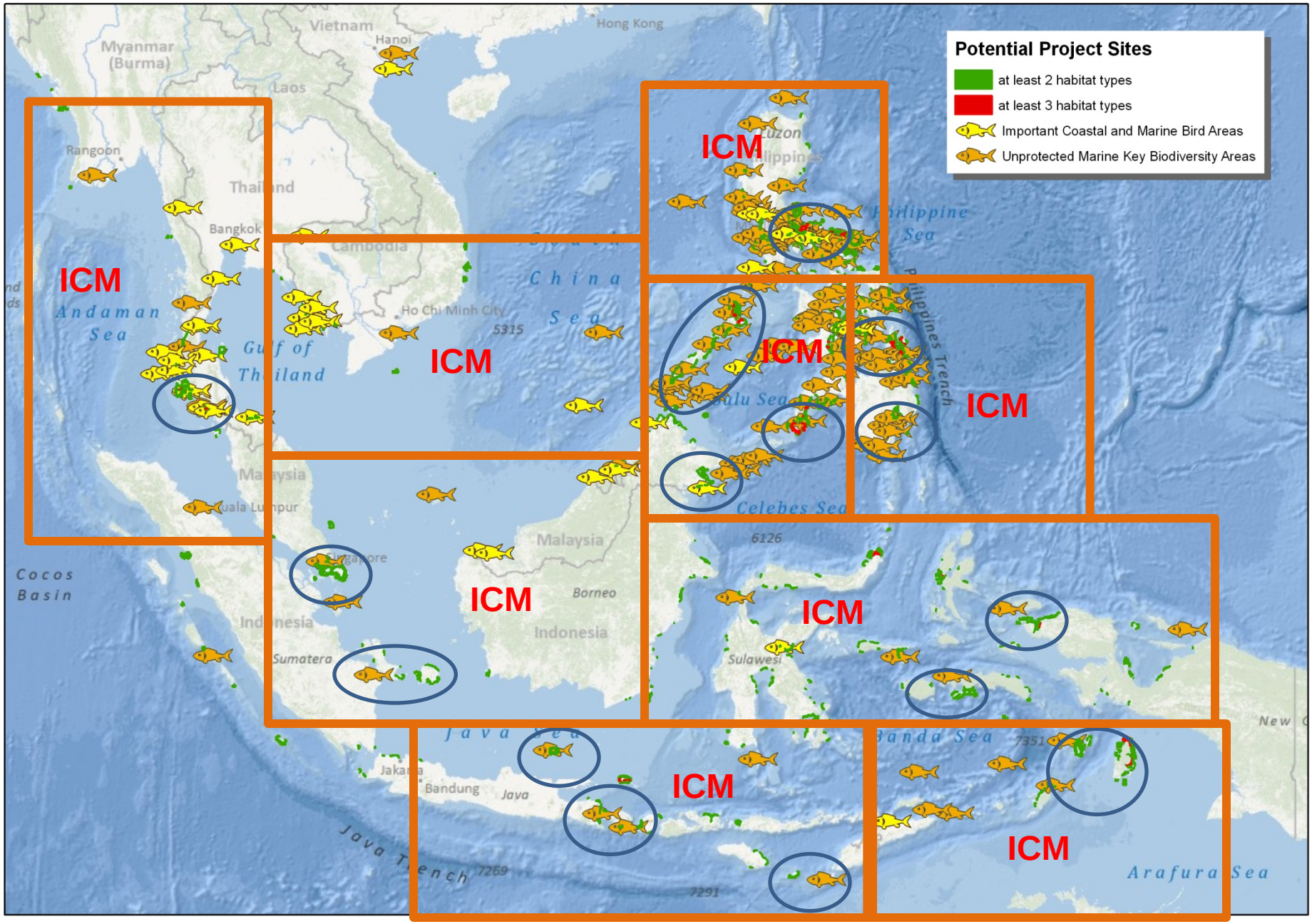
KBAs in PA identification

- Cost effective first cut in identifying sites critical to ridge to reef biodiversity conservation in the Philippines
- Next steps
  - Social and economic perception mapping
  - Ground truthing of developments
  - Community Validation
  - Other delineation and declaration processes


Legend
ASEAN IBAs (2014)
Phils. Integrated KBA
Type
Terrestrial
Marine



Map – based selection of potential project areas



Planning Areas for Potential Project Areas

Challenges

Data

- Availability and Access to holdings
- Not in consistent format

Funds

- Unsustained sources (personnel, rate of updating and development)
- Limited investment in organized updating

Uptake and use of information

- Not optimized
- Incomplete, weak analysis

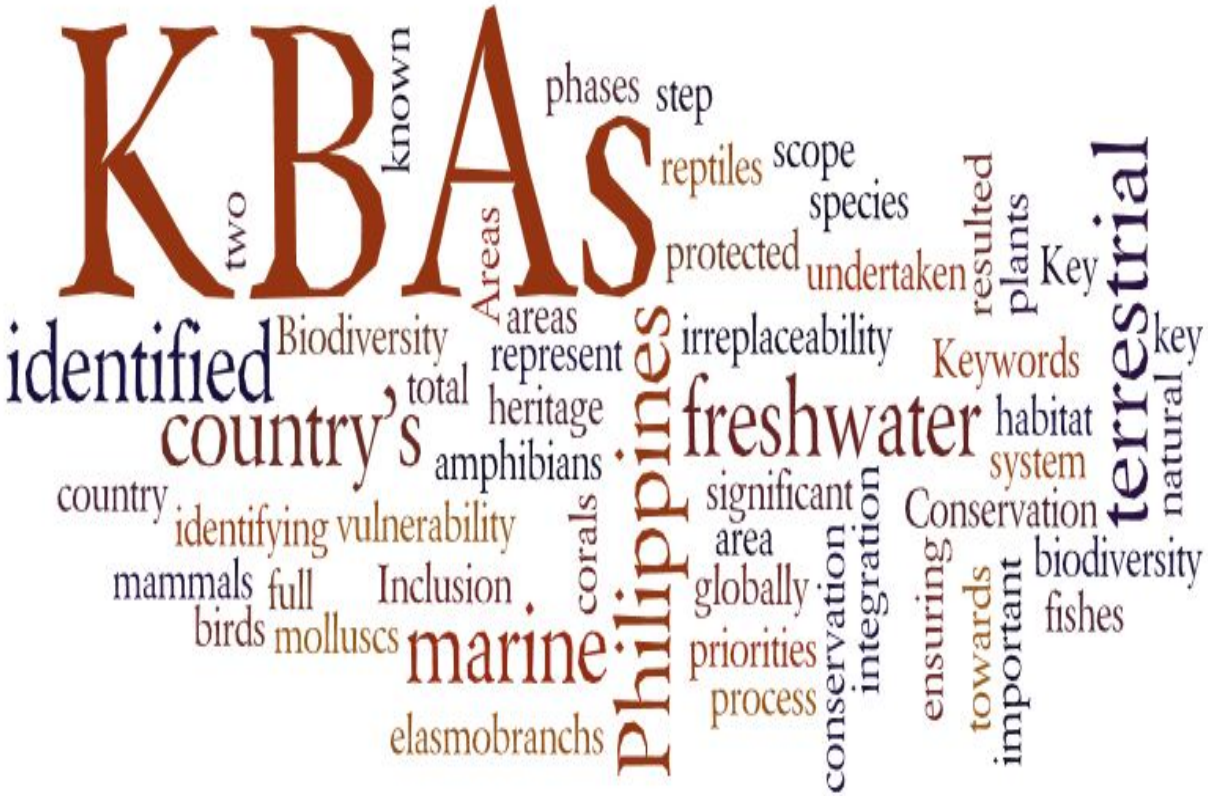
Capacity

- Variable IT capacity in the region
- Personnel, Equipment

Lessons Learned

- A devoted constituency, that is willing to share and validate information assures quality in a KBA process
- A good KBA process and outcome does not automatically become policy;
- A CHAMPION is necessary to communicate knowledge generated from a KBA process

Thank You



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