



GLOBAL
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ALLIANCE

GMA NATIONAL CHAPTERS



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The GMA Indonesia National Chapter participated in a Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration Training, led by Mangrove Action Project © Leo Thom, MAP, October 2023

GMA National Chapters

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New initiatives for mangrove conservation

As the GMA expands its global reach and conservation ambitions, it is increasingly clear that national and local stakeholders will be the catalyst in implementing improved management, conservation, and restoration of mangroves.

Though a new initiative, nine GMA national chapters are formally established, two more are in development, and eighteen more countries or regions are showing interest. A national chapter brings together all GMA members in a country, as well as other local groups involved or interested in supporting mangrove conservation and restoration. GMA membership is encouraged, but not a prerequisite for inclusion.

A chapter can facilitate coordination between different actors under a neutral banner, and help connect the broader GMA goals to a more targeted local context.

Specifically, a national chapter benefits from the following opportunities:

- Coordinated agenda setting and strategy development
- Alignment of the partners' individual project portfolios and activities, and opportunities to identify synergies and avoid duplicative work
- Enhanced exchange of knowledge, experience, and skills
- Establishment and management of a shared knowledge base
- Joint program development, including opportunities for fundraising and donor outreach
- Coordinated public outreach and policy dialogue with government and corporate partners

The GMA has a wide array of experts and resources, and the national chapters will be supported by the wider GMA community through:



Best practices

Mangrove restoration guidelines; protected area design and implementation; and restoration guidelines for associated ecosystems, e.g., seagrass.



Alternative livelihoods toolboxes

E.g., mangrove forestry/silviculture; mangrove apiculture (honey production); and sea cucumber farming.



Policy briefs

That link mangroves to national and international policy frameworks and agreements: e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions.



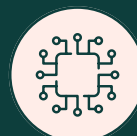
Links with others

Including other national chapters, both regional and global, for information and knowledge exchange.



Access to tools

To help design successful campaigns around mangrove management, conservation, and restoration.



Rich information resources

Including data held on the Global Mangrove Watch platform, and associated tools such as the Mangrove Restoration Tracker Tool.



Notification of financing opportunities

Potential to leverage existing projects; updates on relevant grant calls (IKI, GEF, GCF, Mangrove Breakthrough, BEF, etc.); and links to colleagues that can review grant applications and assist in proposal applications.



Access to a global expert network

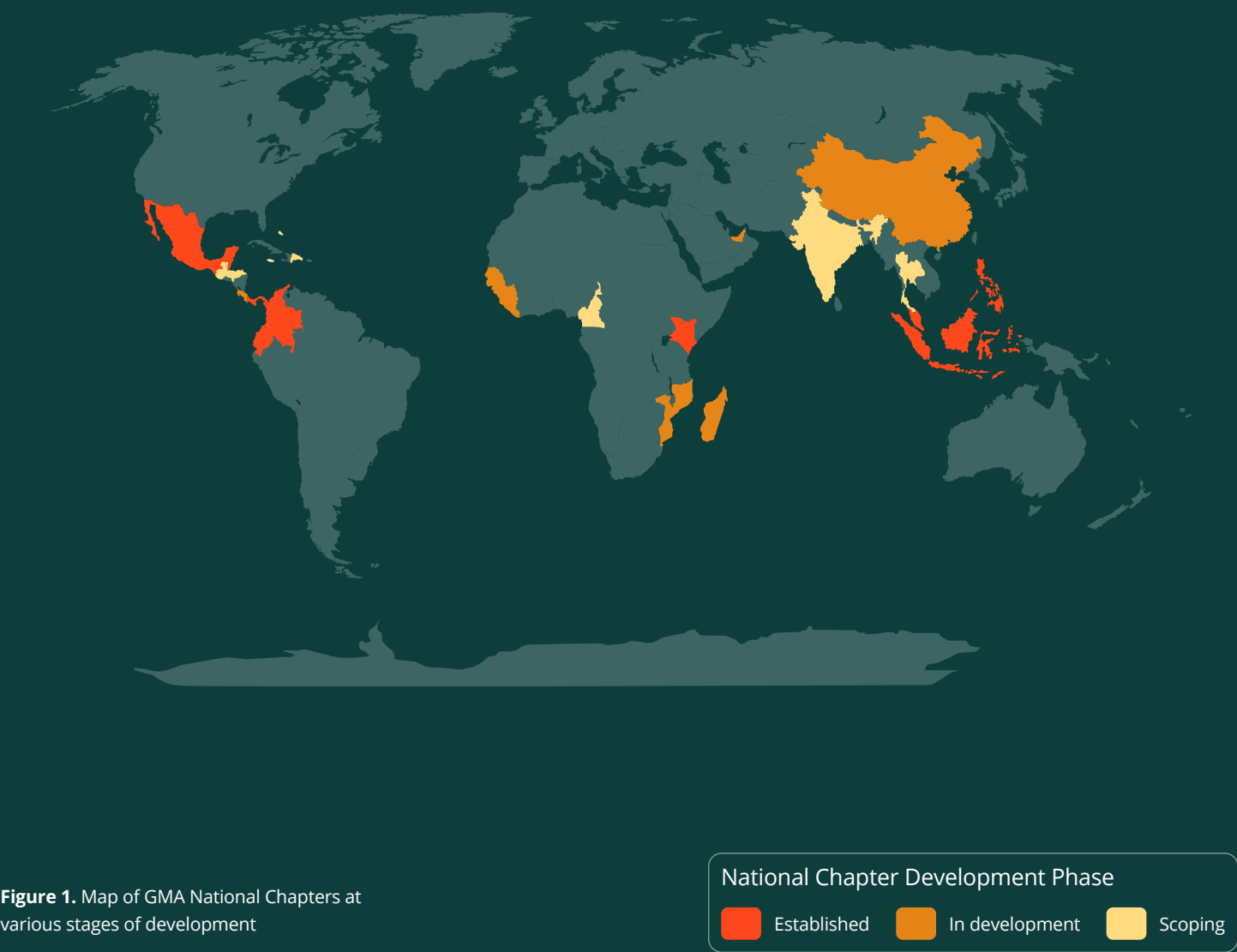
Leading mangrove scientists and specialists that can provide technical expertise and assistance in the development of regional strategies and plans for mangrove conservation.

The Philippines national chapter was officially created in 2022. Seen here is a proud Philippine sail fin lizard, mostly found in mangrove areas
© Dominador Jr Asis, TNC Photo Contest 2021

Requirements and goals

Each national chapter requires a coordinator from an existing GMA member organization with an expectation that the chapter would convene quarterly. This coordinator/leading organization works with local NGOs, government, academia, community organizations, and civil society to help form the chapter.

Together they can work to take stock of completed and current mangrove projects and identify opportunities to combine forces in upcoming projects. The national chapters act as a bridge connecting country goals and ambition with the global GMA goals, while having the resources and expertise of the full GMA network at their disposal.





The Ecuador National Chapter members conduct a field visit as they participate in a CBEMR training led by MAP
© Dom Wodehouse. MAP August 2023

The chapter conducted a training session for Global Mangrove Watch, participated in the Blue Carbon Symposium, delivered a keynote address on ‘Strategic Alliances for Mexico’s Mangroves,’ and sponsored several community members to attend the Congress and partake in the ‘Dialogue on Mangrove Restoration Communities’ organized by the chapter. They have now more than 70 active members focusing on six key pillars: information, positioning, advocacy, capacity building, financing, and markets.

Ecuador

The Ecuador Chapter has actively engaged in raising awareness about GMA and the significance of mangroves at events led by the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition. These events have seen participation from universities, communities, environmental organizations, and local governments. Like many other chapters, members of the Ecuador Chapter juggle multiple responsibilities, making it challenging to devote the requisite time to coordinate chapter meetings and activities. In response to this issue, the chapter has enlisted Casa Grande University as a consulting partner. The university will assist in formalizing the chapter’s structure, establish a Citizen Observatory for monitoring mangroves, create a technical assistance group, and assemble a board of custodians for the National Plan for the Conservation of Mangroves. Furthermore, the university will develop training programs and facilitate knowledge exchange opportunities.

The Ecuador Chapter has conducted several training sessions focused on the utilization of the Global Mangrove Watch platform, catering to university students and chapter members. Led by the Mangrove Action Project, and with the participation of INVEMAR from Colombia, the chapter participated in Community-based Ecological Mangrove Restoration training. They have more than 46 organizations as part of the Chapter, so they started a formalization process to ensure active participation.

Successes around the world

The activities of these national chapters are impressive, with many having specific and ambitious objectives or timelines, or working to meet or surpass their 2030 goals.

Mexico

Since its inception in late 2022, the GMA Mexico Chapter has achieved significant milestones in the formulation of an action plan and the enhancement of its governance and communication structures. Collaborating with the Mexican Alliance for Ecosystem Restoration (AMERE), the chapter is actively engaged in crafting a national strategy for mangrove restoration, drawing on input from a diverse array of stakeholders. Chapter members are exerting influence on policy, channeling investment towards equitable restoration efforts, and backing the establishment of a national system for monitoring restoration initiatives.

Philippines

Wetlands International Philippines (WIP) has taken on the role of lead convenor for the Global Mangrove Alliance Philippines Chapter, a responsibility they will hold from July 2023 to June 2024. This role was established through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 14, 2022. On September 12, 2023, members of the GMA Philippines Chapter introduced themselves to the public as an alliance dedicated to the objectives of “halting loss, restoring half, and doubling protection” for Philippine mangroves.

Dr. Annadel Cabanban, Country Manager of Wetlands International Philippines and Lead Convenor of the Global Mangrove Alliance Philippines, highlighted the importance of collaboration among diverse organizations, emphasizing their unique strengths and how they complement each other. She noted, “We are different organizations with different strengths. We complement each other. By harnessing synergy from various organizations with distinct strengths, we can collectively progress towards achieving the national goals for mangrove restoration in the Philippines.”

The GMA National Chapters have all followed different paths in their formation and implementation activities. The successes and diversity of these activities can become case-studies through which scaling can be simplified in other countries with similar challenges. Updates on the successes and challenges of our national chapters will be shared through the official GMA Newsletter, which you can sign up for [here](#).

The Silonay community is working together to plant a mangrove forest that will protect the ecology and their future.

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