

SocMONITOR

An electronic bulletin about the Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative
Editors: Maria Pena and Christy Loper



Steady progress with SocMon South Asia project

By Vineeta Hoon

SocMon South Asia Regional Coordinator Vineeta Hoon reports that the SocMon South Asia (SA) project supported by NOAA is now well under way at all five sites in South Asia. A SocMon orientation and training workshop was held in the Maldives from 21-26 February. The workshop was organised by the local partner SEAMARC and training was conducted by Marie Saleem (Maldives Country Coordinator) and Vineeta Hoon. The workshop was attended by 16 participants with representation from Government departments and youth groups. During the workshop the participants were introduced to SocMon and presentations were made on the different data collection methods and MPA management. They also learnt about the applicability of PRA and visualization techniques.



Maldives SocMon training workshop participants

Practical sessions included a focus group discussion at the Island Chief's office and

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visualization techniques were used to establish baseline information. Participants conducted a survey on the perceptions and awareness of MPAs amongst respondents at Male, Hule Male, Vilingli (suburbs of Male) and two inhabited islands - Himmafushi and Bodu Hurra - in the Kaafu atoll, which are located adjacent to the selected MPA sites. The participants were given a certificate of participation at the close of the workshop.

SocMon teams from all five sites report that they have initiated data collection and the data collected is now being compiled.



Workshop participants hold focus group discussion at Island Chief's Office

Keeping busy in Southeast Asia

By Michael Pido

A collaborative policy brief entitled *Targeted Research and Monitoring Programs for Enhanced*



Management of the Seas of East and Southeast Asia was recently published. Led by Dr. Michael Pido of the Palawan State University (PSU), this document was prepared in collaboration with three international

partners: Conservation International (CI), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and WorldFish Center/ICLARM. This policy brief contains highlights of the 2008 Global SocMon report. For a copy of the Policy Brief, please contact Dr. Pido at mdpido@yahoo.com.

Most of the current regional activities are focused in the Philippines. Preparatory activities for the NOAA-funded project, *"Socioeconomic Monitoring (SocMon) Program in the Philippines to Support Effective Coral Reef Conservation and Coastal Resources Management: Initiation in Occidental Mindoro Province and Continuation in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Province, Philippines"* are on-going. These include packaging of training materials and site coordination. Two SocMon trainings in the Philippines will be undertaken in May 2011. The training in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, will be held from 9-13 May 2011 in collaboration with the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology. The training in Puerto Princesa City will be held from 23-27 May 2011 in collaboration with the City Government of Puerto Princesa and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff.

Dr. Pido and Professor Marissa Pontillas (also of PSU) assisted in project development in the Municipality of Taytay in northern mainland Palawan. The local government unit there has submitted a SocMon-related proposal to the US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for funding. Mr Ryan Goehrung, a US Peace Corp Volunteer, served as the liaison between the PSU and the government unit.

Mr Chourn Bunnara, Program Coordinator of the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) has resigned from his post. He has moved to a post in Food and Agriculture Administration. Mr Bunnara serves as the point person in Cambodia and FACT has been the organizational partner. He has promised to remain part of the SocMon network. The search is on for a new point person in Cambodia.

SEM-Pasifika training held in Marshall Islands

By Christy Loper

NOAA, in partnership with the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS), Microensia Conservation Trust, and Pacific Islands Marine Protected Areas Community, led a SEM-Pasifika training and assessment for conservation practitioners in the Marshall Islands, 14-25 March.



Marshall Islands SEM-Pasifika participants and training team

This two week training included participants from MICS, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, the Marshall Islands Visitors Authority, and Marshall Islands EPA. Participants undertook all of the steps of conducting a socio-economic assessment for Jenrok community, including identifying assessment objectives, conducting key informant and focus group interviews, developing and pre-testing a household survey, interviewing 140 Jenrok residents, entering survey data, analyzing survey data and presenting the results to the local resource agency and clan heads.

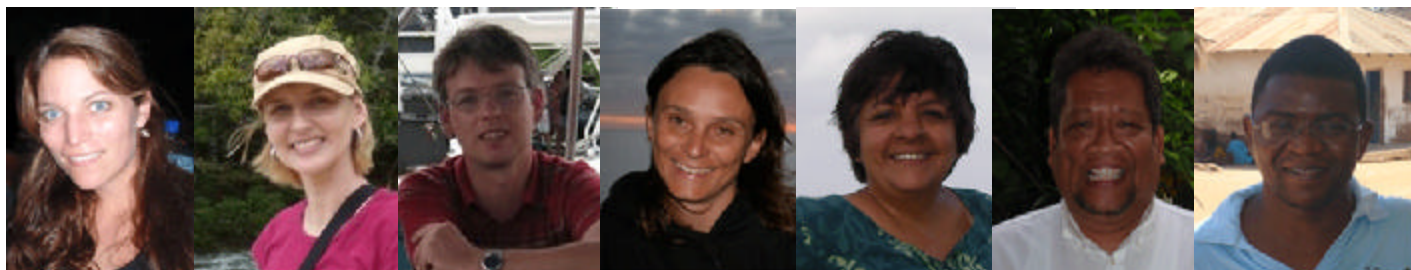
The survey revealed that Jenrok residents are painfully aware of the resource degradation that has occurred in this urbanized area of Majuro. The assessment also highlighted the extreme vulnerability to climate change that this community is faced with and showed that local residents would support moving the Majuro garbage dump to Jenrok in order to create more land and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The local clan leaders from Jenrok were very grateful for the information provided by the survey.

SocMon Climate Change Guidelines complete!

By Christy Loper

In response to numerous requests for a better way to address climate change through SocMon, a number of partners collaborated to produce a climate change addendum to the SocMon/SEM-Pasifika Guidelines. Co-authored by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) partner Supin Wongbusarakum, this effort was fully funded by SPREP and IUCN with in-kind support from the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). These guidelines provide ten indicators to assess climate change social vulnerability. The guidelines will be launched at the International Marine Conservation Congress in May 2011 and will soon be available for download at www.socmon.org. The guidelines are a useful first step but will require field testing before finalization.

SocMon Coordinators at a glance



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