



SocMon regional managers and partners survey

By Peter Edwards

Hello All,

Thank you to those who took the time to fill out the survey. Thanks also to those, who were not able to complete it but sent me feedback.

The results are now in and I have begun to look at the data. This is a summary of the general findings from the survey. The sample size for this little exercise was as expected very small. A total of twelve respondents provided answers to most of the questions.

As you recall the purpose of this short survey was primarily to gain some feedback from you, the SocMon 'family', on general issues and challenges as well as ways or suggestions to improve human dimensions monitoring in coral reef and coastal communities.

The following gives a general overview of the findings. At a later date I will attempt to draw some conclusions. In a more comprehensive document.

Here goes....

Findings

Introduction to SocMon

Regarding how persons were introduced to or made aware of SocMon/SEM Pasifika, of the 12 respondents about 50% had participated in some form of SocMon/SEM Pasifika workshop or seminar. Two persons were introduced to SocMon via word of mouth while a few individuals received hands-on training in the approach including data collection.

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Eighty-three percent (10 respondents) reported the SocMon approach being used in their region.

Results dissemination

Of those that had conducted survey or data collection, 89% of the respondents indicated that results were used to produce some form of report. Dissemination of results from these efforts were primarily done via presentations at conferences (90% of respondents).

Use of data for decision making

Regarding the use of SocMon/SEM Pasifika results in decision making; approximately 50% indicated that they were aware of this occurring. Some of the examples provided included;

- Data was used to inform MPA planning
- Used in education and outreach
- Incorporated into climate adaptation work as well as fisheries management of spawning aggregations (Southern Kenya)
- Indications from local government officials that they will use the baseline information for local development planning
- Directly informed a social marketing campaign (Laolao Bay- Saipan)

Challenges

The main challenges faced by respondents were loss of human dimensions monitoring capacity due to personnel changes (people leave positions or change jobs). Another main challenge was with survey implementation and data collection. A few other particular concerns were raised, these included; not enough funds set aside for monitoring; reliability in reporting and maintaining data; selection and continuity of institutional partners who are involved in SocMon resulting in reduced ability to compare methodologies and results across countries and/or regions; lack of initial capacity at sites to conduct socio-economic monitoring in spite of training; and lack of synergy among projects. There were also challenges with data analysis.

Support needed

Respondents were also asked to indicate the types of support needed in order to address some of these challenges mentioned above. The number one type of support needed was increased funding. This was closely followed by data analysis support and more opportunities for training. Assistance with report/result dissemination also figured prominently in the responses.

Future uses of SocMon

Respondents were asked to give their opinion on social science monitoring data that could or should be used in the future. Some of the responses covered similar themes.

Social science monitoring data can and should be...

- Included in models of sustainable development

- used more effectively for management and decision making
- used to make the link to sustainable livelihoods and can help MPA managers prioritize their efforts with local communities
- emphasized and included as part of research and monitoring frameworks to coastal managers. Reduce marginalization of socio-economic approaches.
- used for local development planning, monitoring and evaluation of existing projects or programs
- used to update the data sets to fit into current issues affecting the society (flexibility of the data)
- used to inform the choices of the stakeholders as well as managers
- as part of adaptive management
- used to address specific coastal management issues for e.g. household level sanitation, cleaning products used (feeds into non-point source pollution information)

As I indicated, this is the initial reporting of the results, just to provide you all with an idea of the feedback. At a later date I will try to synthesise some of these comments and provide some themes for us to consider and discuss.

SocMon SA and reef resilience

By Vineeta Hoon

I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Milstein Science Symposium on Ecological and Social Resilience in Island Systems from 9–11 April, 2013 held at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York and jointly organized by The Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation and The Nature Conservancy. I made a presentation on “*Ecological and Social Resilience in Island Systems: A case study of Lakshadweep.*”

The symposium was very interesting and informative where both ecological and social resilience indicators were discussed. The poster session and reception was held at the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life. This is my most favourite hall in the AMNH; the coral reef and ocean exhibit is quite spectacular!



Looking at the SocMon indicators that can be used for reef resilience we have found that level of education as against literacy rate is an important indicator of social resilience. Literacy rate only

indicates whether the person can read or write and is not indicative of vocational skills. Level of education on the other hand can indicate whether the person will have the skills to explore other employment options.

It was pointed out that the cash economy and globalization is a threat to resilience. In earlier times a fisherman would return home to share his surplus indicating strong communal ties and social dependency on each other. Today fishermen return to sell their surplus and the fish goes to the highest bidder. The extended family is breaking down; this also lowers social resilience. Nuclear families only look out for themselves whereas in an extended family where resources are pooled, everyone's basic needs are met.

Another aspect that was emphasized is the way resilience is being used in management. In some instances, managers have found the broad concept of resilience very helpful just in communicating the need for a shift in the approach to management. Resilience is helping managers think more about processes that are crucial to the ability of reefs to cope with disturbances, rather than just trying to maintain reefs in a certain condition: which is impossible in the face of major disturbances, like storms or coral bleaching. Examples were cited of efforts to protect the herbivorous fish and of some instances where they have banned collection in an effort to restore system resilience. Management effectiveness and compliance are two very essential indicators for resilience and it was noted by several presenters that this can be achieved with more communication, involving local communities in management and having a mechanism where newly available information can be used for adaptive management.

Philippines SocMon group gears up for rest of 2013

By Michael D Pido and Marissa S Pontillas

The Palawan State University (PSU) group is currently preparing various publication manuscripts for its recently completed project titled “*Socio-economic 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.*” These include a policy brief, lessons learned paper and journal article.

During the Global SocMon Survey spearheaded by Dr Peter Edwards (NOAA), the PSU group provided some suggestions both for methodological improvement and institutional partnerships. The group hopes to be actively involved in moving SocMon forward for the improved use of global SocMon and human dimensions data for management and decision-making in coral and coastal ecosystem management.

Dr Michael Pido, as the SocMon Southeast Asia Coordinator, has been expanding SocMon’s reach by linking with partners. He participated in the roundtable scoping discussion of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) team with key stakeholders in the Philippines held at Quezon City, Philippines, on 5 April 2013. Two key questions posed were: (1) What are the needs and gaps linking research/science and policy development/decision-making related to ecosystems approach to fisheries management, marine protected areas and climate change adaptation?; and (2) What are the potential areas of collaboration with regard to the identified

needs/gaps that match the resources and expertise of NOAA and other USG institutions? The NOAA team included Dr Janna Shackeroff, Manager, International Program of NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program and Dr Russell Brainard, Lead for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, who is based in Hawaii. Socio-economic monitoring was one of the key issues that was tackled during this event.

On 30 Jan 2013, Dr Pido also met with Dr Rudi Hermes of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and Dr Robert Pomeroy of the University of Connecticut, USA in Makati City, Philippines. The BOBLME Project has requested the PSU group to provide a ‘SocMon Methodology Training Course in Myanmar’ in recognition of the usefulness of SocMon as a methodological tool. The BOBLME Project considers promoting SocMon in the eight countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) as an important activity under the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) to improve the understanding of the socio-economic drivers and situation of coastal communities. The training is provisionally scheduled towards the last week of May up to the first week of June 2013. Prof Marissa Pontillas and Ms Eva Marie Ponce de Leon will be part of the team of trainers.

Common SocMon variables for Caribbean Challenge MPAs

By Maria Pena

The Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean Challenge MPA Managers project (CC SocMon project) implemented by the Centre for Resource



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Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, has been increasing the capacity for effective Marine Protected Area (MPA) management among Caribbean Challenge countries through promoting the use of social and economic monitoring data in MPA decision-making.

Preferred methods used for data collection were key informant interviews (at four sites) and household surveys (at five sites). Based on the goals and objectives of the site assessments or monitoring programmes, SocMon site teams determined the most appropriate SocMon Caribbean variables to be measured. Variables were chosen from the original set of 60 SocMon Caribbean variables, however, for all sites, new variables had to be designed and developed in order to accurately capture information that could not have been obtained using the original key informant and survey SocMon variables provided in the guidelines. Pena et al. (In press) report on common socio-economic variables chosen and developed by the CC SocMon project sites and assess those which stand out as being the most useful or feasible to measure. The following is an extract from the this paper.

A total of 57 variables were chosen for assessment among the seven sites, 24 key informant variables and 33 survey variables. Of these, 14 new key informant variables and 15 new survey variables were developed. Revision and adaptation of two original key informant variables and three survey variables was recommended for collecting and measuring some of data required for the studies. Twelve key informant variables and 18 survey variables were shared among sites. Six newly developed variables were applicable as both key

informant and survey variables and were used to collect similar data.

Following the format used to present the SocMon variables in the SocMon Caribbean guidelines (Bunce *et al.* 2003), the development of new SocMon variables involved defining the variables by name, developing descriptions of the variable and how to collect the data, providing an explanation of how to analyze the data and discussion of how the information could be useful to MPA managers. For revision of original variables, variable names were not changed but instead descriptions, methods of data collection, explanations for data analysis and importance of the data to managers were modified.

The frequency of the variables chosen by each site was quantified by rating each variable. A rating score of 1–5 was used to indicate the number of sites using the variable of relevance. Based on the “popularity” ratings for the variables, the key informant variables that stand out as most feasible to compare are those related to coastal and marine activities, governance, knowledge and awareness, business and service provision. See below.

Key informant variables most feasible to measure by type

Category	Variable
<i>Coastal and marine activities</i>	K14 Activities K17 Value of goods and services K20 Levels and types of impacts K23* Stakeholders K33** Management changes or impacts
<i>Governance</i>	K31* Stakeholder participation K34** Management support K36** Perceptions of resource conditions K37** Perceived threats K38** Perceived changes in activities and uses
<i>Knowledge and awareness</i>	K40** MPA knowledge and awareness
<i>Business and service provision</i>	K41** Business and service provision

* Original SocMon variables recommended for revision

**New variables

For surveys, the variables most feasible to compare are those related to household demographics, coastal and marine activities, attitudes and perceptions, knowledge and awareness, livelihoods and governance. See below.

Survey variables most feasible to measure by type

Category	Variable
<i>Household demographics</i>	S1 Age S2 Gender S4 Education S7 Occupation S8 Household size S9 Household income
<i>Coastal and marine activities</i>	S10 Household activities S41** MPA user frequency and type of MPA use(s)
<i>Attitudes and perceptions</i>	S16 Perceptions of resource conditions S17 Perceived threats S18 Awareness of rules and regulations S19 Compliance S23 Perceived coastal management problems S24 Perceived coastal management solutions S26 Successes in coastal management
<i>Knowledge and awareness</i>	S29** MPA knowledge and awareness
<i>Livelihoods</i>	S30** Types of and changes in MPA livelihoods S32** Household MPA livelihoods
<i>Governance</i>	S33** MPA changes or impacts

* Original SocMon variables recommended for revision

**New variables

Due to similarity in variables chosen, questions asked and sampling designs that include similar stakeholders among the Caribbean Challenge MPA sites, there are a number of variables that can be potentially qualitatively and quantitatively compared. The opportunity therefore exists for building a sub-regional socio-economic picture of Caribbean Challenge MPAs and regional MPAs in general.

Generally, goals and objectives for monitoring vary according to site and as such drive the selection of variables for the SocMon process. However based on the “popularity” of specific variables identified in this project, the potential exists for development of

a core set of variables or indicators that can be rapidly monitored in future rounds of SocMon by each site in addition to other goals and objectives. A standardized key informant interview and survey could be developed for rapid SocMon assessment or monitoring (“SocCheck”) using the most popular variables as a base. Sustained monitoring using this core set of variables will provide valuable data for determination of trends, changes, and MPA management effectiveness within and among sites. All of these can be used to inform and adapt MPA management.

New regional coordinators

Meet Brooke Nevitt, the SEM-Pasifika Coordinator for Micronesia. Brooke has over thirty years experience living, working and being educated in Micronesia. Raised in the Federated States of Micronesia and The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), she developed a deep connection to and concern for the natural resources and the communities of the region.



Brooke has her BA from Whitman College, MA in Pacific Island Studies from the University of Hawaii, Manoa and a diploma in Conservation Education from the University of Kent, Canterbury which she

earned while managing a Rare Pride Campaign (CNMI). Prior to joining the Pacific Marine Resources Institute (PMRI), Saipan, she worked for five years as the Coral Reef Education and Outreach Coordinator with Coastal Resources Management Office, CNMI. Today, Brooke works with PMRI as Science Communications Coordinator.



Brigid Mibei replaces Mr. Innocent Wanyonyi as the Western Indian Ocean Regional SocMon Coordinator. Currently Brigid has been trying to incorporate skills she has acquired on how to facilitate relevant stakeholders of different levels in using climate information for adaptation and policy development. Therefore with the information that is available from the WIO sites database there is a possibility of using the already available climate information to address livelihood situations, resource conditions and ecosystem services. This can further lead to proper management of coral reefs for conservation, fisheries and tourism benefits as well as for building capacity and understanding climate change impacts.

In coming up with management decisions and policies it is important to include climate information to necessitate proper and timely decisions. In addition, having accurate prediction raises the possibilities for reducing vulnerability to impacts by forward planning and pre-emptive building of resilience. As such CORDIO EA has been involved in the production of monthly climate outlooks which can be accessed at <http://www.cordioea.net/bleachingalert>.



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