

SocMONITOR

An electronic bulletin about the Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative
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Happy 2011

By Maria Pena

It's the first SocMonitor for the year and on behalf of all the regional SocMon coordinators and our global coordinator, I would like to wish our *SocMonitor* readers a very happy and healthy 2011. The new year is expected to bring more socio-economic monitoring globally with many unique local, national and region-wide results and lessons to be learned. We look forward to bringing this up-to-date information to you and hope you continue to follow the progress of the Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative through the SocMonitor!

SOCMON launched at Havelock and Agatti islands, India

By Vineeta Hoon

In the SocMon South Asia (SA) region, we have completed two of five training workshops for our 2010 SocMon project. One workshop was held at Havelock Island, Andamans from 25-30 November and at Agatti Island, UT of Lakshadweep from 16-26 December 2010.



Left to right: Adamans SocMon team at Havelock Island; SocMon team preparing a chart on the different types of fisheries in Agatti Island, Lakshadweep, India

Prior to commencing the training workshops, an introductory meeting was hosted with invited

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guests including officials from various government departments and stakeholders from the local communities. This meeting provided a platform to inform all the stakeholders and government departments about SocMon and its purpose. Government departments and stakeholder organisations were informed that the workshop trainees would be approaching them for data collection and they were asked to help the trainees by providing relevant information. Three more training workshops are planned for this year at Vembar, India in January, and Sri Lanka and the Maldives in February.



Agatti SocMon team field trip to Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep, India

Spreading the word of SocMon

By Maria Pena

Patrick McConney and Maria Pena participated in the second session of the Regional Consultation on the "Regional coordination mechanism to build

Marine Protected Area (MPA) capacity of the Insular Caribbean countries associated with the Caribbean Challenge” at the 63rd Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), 5 November 2010, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The purpose of this session was *inter alia* to highlight existing training programmes in the region for increasing MPA capacity development, to discuss the priority needs compiled by country representatives and plan the way forward.

Dr. McConney provided an overview of capacity development training opportunities related to MPAs available through the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus via workshops, short-courses, and parts of MSc courses covering socio-economic monitoring for coastal management; evaluation of MPA management effectiveness; NGO board effectiveness and co-management.

The Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CC) officially launched in 2008 during the ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Bonn, Germany is a commitment by Caribbean governments to support and manage new and existing national parks and protected areas throughout the region. Eight countries – Antigua, The Bahamas, The Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – have officially joined the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. The overall goal of the CC is the protection by Caribbean governments of 20% of their marine and terrestrial habitats. This is an ambitious goal since most Caribbean countries have limited resources, both human and financial, to allocate to adequate and effective management of protected areas.

Consultation with representatives of the MPA community in the eight islands associated with the CC at the regional consultation meeting hosted by

the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management (CaMPAM) Network indicated the need for capacity building in socio-economic monitoring in support of the development of an effective national MPA system. Future opportunities for SocMon training may arise as the CC progresses.

Southeast Asia update

By Michael Pido

Philippines SocMon planning underway

Representatives of the Palawan State University (PSU) – with key partners from the City Government of Puerto Princesa, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) and Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (MinSCAT) – held a Planning Workshop in Puerto Princesa City, Philippines from 2–3 December 2010. This is in connection with 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”*.



Planning workshop participants, Puerto Princesa City

Objectives of the workshop were to review the approved project proposal; present the profiles of the research sites; determine most relevant future uses of SocMon data; draw lessons from partners’ initial SocMon experiences; delineate

roles/responsibilities of research partners and individual proponents; and prepare the detailed workplan and budget for conducting the Palawan/Mindoro SocMon Research Project.

Aside from coming up with a detailed workplan and budget, the relevant research indicators were also selected using the SocMon SEA guide. Prior to the workshop, Dr Michael Pido (as Principal Investigator and Regional Coordinator) visited the MinSCAT campus and the two research sites on 24 November 2010. Dr. Pido briefed the key officers of MinSCAT and coordinated with the local officials of the municipality of Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro. Preparation of the SocMon training protocols is underway.

Future SocMon uptake in Indonesia and Vietnam

In Indonesia, Ms. Silvianita Timotius of The Indonesian Coral Reef Foundation (TERANGI) has started to explore the possible integration of the SocMon methodology in the academy. She has specifically contacted Dr. Luky Adrianto from Bogor Agriculture University and the Indonesian Marine and Fisheries Social Economic Research Network.

In the case of Vietnam, Mr. Hoang Minh reported that a new proposal was developed by the Center for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development to improve the MPA management in Vietnam through training coastal resource managers and community members on the methodology and implementation of socio-economic monitoring. The achievements of SocMon activities implemented during 2008-2010 are expected to be promoted and improved via this coming project. The new pre-proposal was

submitted for possible funding through Coral Reef Conservation Fund for 2011-2013.

SEM-Pasifika training in Chuuk State, Micronesia

By Christy Loper

Ran Annim from Chuuk! As I write this, we are halfway through a two week SEM-Pasifika training, working with the Parem Community here in Chuuk State, Micronesia. The training is being led by the Chuuk Conservation Society and the Brothers and Sisters Organization of Parem.

The training aims to accomplish three objectives: (1) Completion of a socio-economic assessment for the island of Parem, which is being considered for Chuuk's first legislated marine protected area (there are many traditional MPAs here, but this would be the first recognized under Chuuk State law); (2) Training of 14 community leaders, NGO and local agency staff on how to use SEM-Pasifika to carry out a socio-economic assessment; and (3) Working with four new regional trainers from Pohnpei and Palau to increase capacity for training within Micronesia. We'll share the results in the next issue of SocMonitor!



Chuuk survey being pre-tested by workshop participant



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