

SOCMONITOR

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



A quantitative SocMon approach in the Central American Region

By Arie Sanders

During the last four years the Socioeconomic Development and the Environment (DSEA) Department of the University of Zamorano has been working on the implementation of the SocMon methodology in the Central American region by organizing workshops, providing online courses, and implementing practical applications of the methodology in countries including Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Belize. More than 90 people, including technicians in the public and private sector, have been trained in the SocMon methodology, and much of the resulting data from onsite implementations has already effectively informed local policy and management plans, and supported project proposals.



After four years working at the local level, the SocMon team of Zamorano identified the need for a more regional approach to socio-economic monitoring of the coastal areas of Central America.

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On the local level, the work up to this point has contributed to a greater knowledge of and support for socio-economic monitoring, but thus far, it has not given rise to an integrated coastal monitoring system for the entire north coast of Honduras.

Based on the SocMon guidelines developed for the Caribbean area, we propose to develop a monitoring system which will be statistically representative of the north coast of Honduras. The monitoring system will allow us not only to analyze the current size and state of development of the local fishing communities, but will also permit us to develop predictive scenarios and forecasts based on projected changes in the environmental and socio-economic context.

The conceptual framework for this approach involves generating sets of socioeconomic and environmental models based on realistic policy scenarios and providing these to coastal managers in order to inform their decision-making processes. We will use an adaptation of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) techniques to explore the impacts of policy changes on fishing communities. Our model represents an amalgamation of two research approaches: village-wide modeling based on social accounting, and microeconomic household-modeling. In the

following issue of *SocMonitor* we will explain the theoretical background of our approach.

Update on SocMon WIO activities

By Susan Mungo and Brigid Mibei

From the month of June, SocMon activities have been focused on report compilation of socio-economic assessments that have been carried out in different sites both in Kenya and Tanzania.



Data collection in Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP), Tanzania (Photo courtesy Susan Mungo)

The preparation of these summary reports will necessitate and act as a guideline for the planned national workshops proposed to take place during the year. They will also help to deliver SocMon information to top policy makers in raising awareness to ensure human aspects are considered in national planning processes hence promoting national level sharing of socio-economic information and sustaining the use of information and integration by national institutions into planning.

In addition, to report compilation, a newsletter 'SocMoNews', has been produced which has covered past activities in the WIO region. The newsletter is intended to keep track of the socio-economic activities of 17 sites implemented by the relevant institutions in different countries of WIO region. Major changes on the SocMon WIO website hosted by both the WIOMSA (<http://www.wiomsa.org/?id=732>) and CORDIO EA

(<http://www.cordioea.org/socmon/>) websites were made to keep our information up-to-date and relevant. Currently, the information on the CORDIO website is in the process of update while WIOMSA website will be updated soon.

To promote sharing of socio-economic information in the WIO region, posters were produced and distributed both in English and Swahili on the importance of monitoring coastal resources. The posters specifically targeted coastal managers, community organizations, academic and research institutions just to mention a few.

The SocMon guidelines were published for the first time in Portuguese in April this year. This was good news for Mozambique sites as SocMon activities will now be conducted with ease. This was not possible without funding from NOAA.

Gearing up for latest SocMon project in South Asia

By Vineeta Hoon

South Asia (SA), Srilanka, organized a SocMon SA orientation meeting in Colombo in the last week of July. All five site partners from the region met and discussed implementation of the SocMon project at their sites. The site partners decided that SocMon at each site would address a site specific issue as well as address the common regional goal of "Assessing the positive and negative impacts of management measures." We are currently awaiting release of the 2010 NOAA grant to initiate project work at each site.

Additionally, the SocMon SA guidelines have been translated into Tamil and published by IUCN SA. This will be very helpful in implementation of SocMon at the Gulf of Mannar site, where Tamil is the vernacular language.



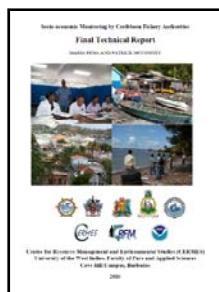
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Celebrating the completion of Fisheries SocMon

By Patrick McConney and Maria Pena

The *Socio-economic Monitoring by Caribbean Fishery Authorities* (Fisheries SocMon) project ended in June with submission of final monitoring reports by each of the five project sites to the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados (SocMon lead organisation for the English-speaking Caribbean). At the end of September, CERMES submitted these monitoring reports along with its final technical report to NOAA officially closing the project.



Details on what was attempted, what was achieved, some of the challenges and lessons learned are addressed in greater detail in the site monitoring reports and other products created as outputs throughout implementation. The final report and the entire series of project site reports will be available by month end from the CERMES web site (www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes). Compatible data was, and will be, submitted to the Global SocMon database at www.socmon.org.

What's up in SEA?

By Michael Pido

Preparatory activities have been initiated by the Palawan State University (PSU) in conjunction with its recent grant of US\$24,900 awarded by the NOAA International Coral Reef Conservation

program for its project, *Socioeconomic Monitoring (SocMon) Program in the Philippines to Support Effective Coral Reef Conservation and Coastal Resources Management: Initiation in Oriental Mindoro Province and Continuation in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Province*. A work planning workshop with representatives from four institutional partners will be held between October and December 2010 to map out project activities until 2012.

The Regional Plan for SocMon Southeast Asia (SEA) drafted in 2009 is being updated. This plan comprises four major parts – background of SocMon SEA Methodology, past accomplishments and recent activities; SocMon SEA directions for the next two years in terms of thematic visions, regional program thrusts and regional needs; the proposed management structure for SocMon SEA, including institutional roles and responsibilities; and individual country work plans.

Dr Michael Pido, as the SocMon SEA Regional Coordinator, has continued communicating with partners from Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam as well as exploring possible links with Thailand. He continues networking with the SocMon practitioners in the Philippines.

Until 2011

The next quarterly SocMonitor issue will be out in January 2011. Thanks to all the global SocMon coordinators and their associates for submitting articles that have made the first two issues of this e-newsletter so very informative! I look forward to your continued support in 2011. Here's to more SocMon news sharing in the new year!



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