



## **Global Coordinator's message**

By Christy Loper

### **Farewell from Christy**

After over six years as Global SocMon Coordinator, I am sorry to say that I am currently transitioning out of my current role. I am leaving NOAA and transitioning to become the Micronesia Program Director of Rare ([www.rareconservation.org](http://www.rareconservation.org)). It has been an incredible six years working with each of the SocMon regions and I will miss my colleagues very much. I'll be based in Palau and can be reached on my new email address at [cloper@rareconservation.org](mailto:cloper@rareconservation.org).

### **Welcome to Dr. Peter Edwards**

Please join me in welcoming my friend and colleague, Dr. Peter Edwards, as the new Social Science Coordinator for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program.



Dr. Edwards will be the new point of contact for social science & coral reefs. Dr. Edwards holds a BSc in Zoology as well as a Masters in Marine Sciences from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (Jamaica). He also holds a PhD in

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Global Coordinator's message	1
ICRS 2012 SocMon showing	1
South Asia SocMon ends	3
SocMon in the Miskito region	3
SocMon goes to Halifax	4

Marine Studies from the University of Delaware, where his dissertation work focused on the economics of Jamaica's coral reefs. Prior to working at NOAA, he had over 10 years of experience in private environmental consultancy and academia. His expertise includes economic valuation, survey development and implementation as well as economic impact analysis.

### **ICRS 2012 SocMon showing**

By Christy Loper

SocMon was well represented at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS), 9–13 July, Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Christy Loper (Global Coordinator), Innocent Wanyonyi (Western Indian Ocean Coordinator), Arie Sanders (Central America Coordinator) and Vineeta Hoon (South Asia Coordinator) were all in attendance and gave presentations on recent SocMon work during a mini-symposium, *Beyond Monitoring: Does monitoring lead to improved coral reef management?*. See below for summaries of presentations. The session was organized by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), Reef Check and the Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative (SocMon). The purpose of this mini-symposium was threefold: to present

advances in reef monitoring– including biophysical and socio–economic monitoring; to provide a venue for analyzing and discussing how monitoring findings can be used; and to share information on the status and outlook of coral reefs around the world.

The monumental career of Clive Wilkinson, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network Coordinator was also celebrated. ICRS was a great learning experience. The SocMon team has decided to come together to work on a paper discussing lessons learned from ten years of the SocMon initiative. Leah Bunce Karrer, SocMon founder and also in attendance, will collaborate on the paper.

### ***10 years of community–based socio–economic monitoring in Lakshadweep***

A presentation on a decade of community–based socio–economic monitoring (2001 – 2011) in Lakshadweep, India was made by Vineeta Hoon (South Asia SocMon Coordinator). This paper drew on socio–economic assessments and monitoring carried out at Agatti Island, Lakshadweep India in 2011 and compared it with monitoring conducted in 2001 as well as observations from 1990. The paper synthesized data to quantify and qualify human dependence on coral reefs in small islands and identify whether this dependence is sustainable in the long term. The presentation concluded that socio–economic monitoring lead to improved coral reef management, since management is about managing people’s activities and not managing nature.



### ***A quantitative SocMon approach in Northern Honduras***

Sound policy decisions in coastal areas require that coastal managers have objective and timely information on the socio–economic and environmental impacts of the policy and program alternatives being considered. Effective decision–making also calls for periodic assessments of the impact of socio–economic and environmental conditions in order to identify the fishery activities, coastal communities, and families experiencing economic stress. In this paper socio–economic variables were used to generate sets of socio–economic and environmental models based on realistic policy scenarios which were provided to coastal managers in order to inform decision–making processes. Data from the 2011 socio–economic monitoring (SocMon) survey in the Northern Coast of Honduras were used to develop a series of interacting rural household models nested within a general equilibrium model of eight fishing communities. The models are quantitative inputs for the current SocMon monitoring system and are developed together with our counterparts in the north shore of Honduras. This paper was presented by Arie Sanders (Central America SocMon Coordinator).

### ***Risks, hazards, impacts, climate change and adaptation***

In recent years it has become increasingly difficult for coastal communities to prepare for climate events due to their increasing unpredictability in the face of climate change. Managing risks from extreme events will be a crucial component of climate change adaptation actions by community, state agents and non–state agents alike. This study demonstrated an approach to assess future risks



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Visit the SocMon website at [www.socmon.org](http://www.socmon.org)

and hazards and prioritisation of adaptation options from the local scale. Existing tools including the SocMon climate change addendum, Cristal, and the IUCN vulnerability assessment framework were integrated and employed at a local scale to assess social vulnerability of coastal people and their livelihood systems to climate and other threats focusing on vulnerability to short-term seasonal risk. The study demonstrates that natural conditions and local knowledge provide both constraints and opportunities for local communities. The study recommends incorporation of local knowledge and strategic development of a multi-stakeholder process in which the community is fully engaged and takes the lead. This paper was presented by Innocent Wanyonyi (Western Indian Ocean Coordinator)

## ***South Asia SocMon ends***

By Vineeta Hoon



The NOAA supported Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Managers of South Asia: Field Trials and Baseline Surveys has been completed satisfactorily at all five sites – Bar Reef in Sri Lanka; Nassimo Thila and Banana Reef in the North Male Atoll, Maldives; Havelock and

Neil Island in the Andamans; Nicobar, Agatti Island, Lakshadweep; and the Gulf of Mannar in Tamilnadu, India. The reports have been uploaded to the SocMon website ([www.socmon.org](http://www.socmon.org))

## ***SocMon in the Miskito Region***

By Arie Sanders and Denisse McLean

The second round of our SocMon analysis was done in the department of Gracias a Dios (Honduras). The department is thinly populated compared to other departments and includes the entire Miskito region of eastern Honduras. The region is both ecologically and culturally diverse and is considered a priority area for biodiversity protection. It forms part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.



We worked in four coastal Miskito communities along the Caratasca lagoon. The total population of these communities is approximately 7,000. The local economy is cash-oriented and main economic activities are fishery-related, and to a lesser extent subsistence agriculture.

The communities' 2011 per capita income was less than USD 1,105, and approximately 50% below the national average. Most goods are expensive in the communities because they are imported from outside the area. The low per capita income is a serious obstacle to meeting household needs for food, clothes, and other resources.

Since the early 1980s, men have worked as lobster divers aboard boats based out of the Bay Islands.

They earn substantial amounts of cash for their endeavours and contributed over USD2.5 million to their local economy (a third of the total Gross Domestic Product) in 2011. However, jobs are unavailable during the annual government-imposed moratorium on the extraction of marine resources from April to August. Given the extent to which the local economy is linked to money from lobster diving, even households not directly involved in the lobster industry experience hardship during the moratorium.

Due to the danger to both the divers and lobsters, the government of Honduras intends to ban lobster diving, effective in 2013. One of the objectives of the SocMon study was to analyze the possible economic impact of the ban on lobster diving on the communities. By using a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) and a multiplier analysis the economic linkages between the different households at the community level were quantified and the importance of sea wage labour by household and the overall community were estimated.

As expected, we found that a decrease in sea wage labour leads to a serious drop in gross domestic production of the four communities. A USD 2.5 million dollar decrease in sea wage income decreases the local GDP by USD 3.2 million since sea wage labour has relatively strong linkages to almost all sectors in the communities.

Besides the common consumption of food and other basic items, the divers are an important source for informal loans and local investments, including artisanal fisheries. For the communities,

the ban of lobster diving would have a disastrous impact on their livelihoods. Economic activities like tourism are incipient and very limited, and agriculture is mostly dedicated to subsistence farming. Additionally, there is little economic activity in the zone and people have few alternatives. Currently, the local government, national NGOs and grassroots organizations (including the lobster divers) are working on an alternative plan to develop sustainable economic alternatives to create jobs and foster conservation. The SocMon data will be used to analyze the economic impact on each type of household and to estimate how new economic activities will contribute to the overall local economy.

### ***SocMon goes to Halifax***

Maria Pena, was invited to participate in the 2012 Training Programme on Ocean Governance hosted by the International Ocean Institute (IOI), Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. Ms. Pena conducted a half-day workshop session on Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Managers (SocMon) in which the 17 participants were introduced to the purpose and benefits of SocMon, the implementation of SocMon globally, and use of SocMon outputs *inter alia*. This year's training programme, attracted a wide and varied group of



professionals from the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and Northern Europe.



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