

SocMONITOR

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



Global coordinator's message

By Christy Loper

Welcome to the first issue of *SocMonitor*! Many thanks to Maria Pena for developing this new publication to update everyone on what is happening with socio-economic monitoring through the SocMon and SEM-Pasifika initiatives.



First of all, we have an updated webpage that can now be found at www.socmon.org or www.sem-pasifika.org. Also, in

April, we created a facebook group. Just search for it by typing "socmon" into the search field This is a great way to stay in touch with SocMon and SEM-Pasifika colleagues.

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles. To submit information for future quarterly editions, please contact Maria Pena at maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu.

SocMon West Africa under development

By Christy Loper and Ambroise Brenier

A new region of SocMon is now under development thanks to funding from the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM). The effort is being led by the Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin (www.lafiba.org) which has hired consultant Ms. Delphine Malleret-King to develop SocMon West Africa Guidelines in consultation with local partners. The guidelines will initially be produced

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in French and are based on those used in the Western Indian Ocean, where Ms. Malleret-King serves as technical advisor.

The process is consultative and kicked off with a workshop from 5-7 July in Dakar, Senegal. Participants came from Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, the Gambia, Mauritania, and Cape Verde.

For more information, please contact Ms. Malleret-King (delphine@malleretking.fsnet.co.uk) or Ambroise Brenier (brenier@lafiba.org).



SocMon West Africa organizational workshop participants

Strategic planning meeting for wider SocMon Caribbean region held in Barbados

By Maria Pena



Talking SocMon in the wider Caribbean.

Clockwise: Maria Pena, Patrick McConney, Arie Sanders and Christy Loper

From 12–16 April, the NOAA Global Socio-economic Monitoring Coordinator, Dr. Christy Loper, met with regional wider Caribbean SocMon coordinators, Dr. Patrick McConney and Ms. Maria Pena (English-speaking Caribbean) and Mr. Arie Sanders (Central America) at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), the University of the West Indies (UWI), Barbados, for a strategic planning meeting on the way forward for SocMon in the region.

Meeting objectives included, but were not limited to discussion of the SocMon Caribbean/Central America status and accomplishments to date; outlining the vision of SocMon Caribbean/Central America for the next 3–5 years; development of a strategic plan for SocMon Caribbean/Central America; discussion of networking and mutual support systems among the regions, between regions and NOAA/donor agencies and among the “alumni”; sharing of successful training options that have worked in other regions; and the drafting of successful monitoring case studies from SocMon Caribbean/Central America to chart the way forward for SocMon in the region.

Fisheries SocMon nears completion

By Maria Pena and Patrick McConney

The *Socio-economic Monitoring by Caribbean Fisheries Authorities (Fisheries SocMon)* project implemented in October 2007 by 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) is close to wrapping up.

The project intended to increase and improve the use of site-specific socio-economic information in fisheries and coastal management decision-making by fisheries stakeholders in five locations in the region. Originally an 18-month project (October 2007 – March 2009), it benefitted from two no-cost extensions, December 2009 and June 2010. The monitoring sites are primarily fishing towns or villages: Oistins in Barbados; Dublanc, Bioche and Colihaut in Dominica; Booby Island in Nevis; Grenville in Grenada; and Rose Place in St. Vincent.

Stay in touch for results and lessons learned from monitoring and the SocMon process, and recommendations for management and future monitoring.



The town of Rose Place, St. Vincent, where baseline socio-economic data is being collected to inform development decision-making

South and South East Asia get 2010 NOAA grants

By Vineeta Hoon and Michael Pido

Socio-economic monitoring in South Asia was first carried out in 2002 and from then non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from coral reef sites in the region have shown great interest and enthusiasm in participating in socio-economic monitoring so much so, that they worked together with IUCN South Asia (SA) under the CORALI project to produce the SocMon SA guidelines in 2008.

Keen to test out the guidelines at various sites, we submitted a proposal to NOAA for a 2010 NOAA International Coral Reef Conservation grant and have been successful in receiving it. IUCN SA, located in Srilanka, will provide the regional coordination for the project while the Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society (CARESS), Chennai India, will provide the technical coordination.



SocMon interview being conducted on Agatti Island, India

The SocMon project will be carried out by local NGOs at five sites – Havelock Island (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India); Agatti Island (Union Territory of Lakshadweep, India); villages of Gulf of Mannar in India; select villages around bar reef in Srilanka; and Nassimo and Banana reefs in North Male Atoll in the Maldives.

In the South East Asia (SEA) region, the Palawan State University (PSU) was also awarded a grant (US\$24,900) for its project proposal submitted to the NOAA International Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program. The 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*, has as its goal the promotion of the use of SocMon among academics, researchers, policy makers and coastal managers to enhance coral reef conservation and coastal resources management. This project also aims to highlight the utility and practical applications that can be derived from using SocMon as a tool for adaptive management. The project is quite unique in terms of geography and institutional partners. It will be undertaken in two island provinces in the Philippines: Mindoro and Palawan and The PSU will collaborate with several partner institutions. Matching in-kind funds will be provided by the institutional partners. The project is anticipated to commence on October 2010 and will end on March 2012.

Keep up-to-date on the progress of these projects in subsequent issues.

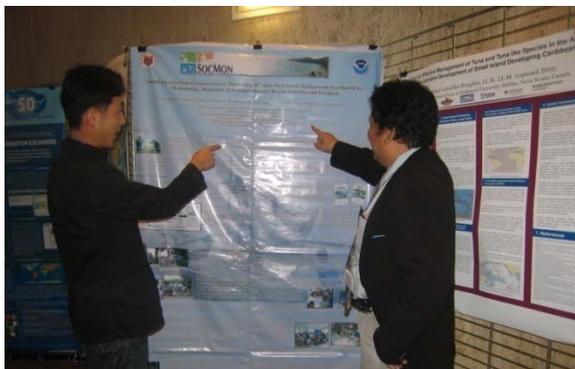
SocMon SEA represented at global oceans conference

By Michael Pido

Dr Michael Pido SocMon SEA Regional Coordinator and Director of the Center for Strategic Policy and Governance (CSPG) of the Palawan State University (PSU), Philippines, participated in the *Fifth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands: Ensuring Survival, Preserving Life, Improving Governance*. Attended by close to 500 participants from all over the world, this conference was held at

UNESCO, Paris, France from 3–7 May 2010. The event provided a venue to discuss the many and complex problems confronting the oceans, coasts and islands as well as offer innovative solutions to these issues including the role of bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring.

Dr. Pido presented a poster, *Southeast Asia Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management (SocMon SEA): Methodology, highlights of accomplishments, recent activities and Prospects*.



Kohei Hibino, Japan Wildlife Research Center, and Mike Pido, chatting about the SocMon SEA poster

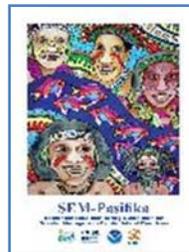
Dr. Pido also served as a panelist in *Session 17, Protecting Biodiversity starts with the Capacity of MPA Professionals: Connecting Training with Certification*. This session was organized by the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)

Overall, the conference enabled Dr. Pido to undertake institutional networking and initiate exploratory discussions to promote SocMon.



The Pacific completes first two assessments!

By Caroline Vieux



Since the publication of socio-economic monitoring guidelines for the Pacific, *SEM-Pasifika*, in 2008 – due to the fruitful collaboration between NOAA and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) through the

Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific (CRISP) – the region has conducted two successful SocMon assessments.

Two regional trainings were conducted in Papua New Guinea and the Marshall Islands as well as two national trainings in Papua New Guinea and American Samoa in 2008 and 2009. The two first official reports were completed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and American Samoa earlier this year.

The socio-economic assessment in CNMI looked at coastal use and management at Laolao Bay and was conducted by the Division of Environmental Quality and the Coastal Resources Management Office. This survey sought to understand the nature and driving forces behind damaging activities occurring in Laolao Bay to inform a social marketing campaign. A team of surveyors conducted a 7-day intercept survey and key informant interviews. The survey results suggest that respondents are aware of the environmental threats facing Laolao Bay, and that they understand the nature of those threats – namely erosion and runoff. Moreover, they appear to understand and support the need for effective management of the Bay's resources.

The American Samoa socio-economic assessment was conducted by the Department of Wildlife and



LaoLao Bay, CNMI



Interviews with a community member of Aunu'u

Marine Resources in the small island of Aunu'u that is being considered as a priority site for potential Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation. A household survey was created as part of a larger socio-economic assessment of the community to attempt to answer assessment objectives relating to: dependency on, use of, perceptions of, knowledge of and attitudes towards marine resources as well as management structures and receptiveness to new management. However, the majority of households have sources of income from the Government and do not have a solely subsistence based lifestyle.

Approximately one third of households perceived environmental problems and the issue of sand extraction was highlighted. Overall, households were very receptive to new management but the need for money from the Government was highlighted.

More assessment results in the next issue!! And congratulations to American Samoa and CNMI! The assessment reports can be found on the SocMon (www.socmon.org) and the SPREP (www.sprep.org) websites.

SocMon Coordinators at a glance



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