

# SocMONITOR

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



## One year already!

By Maria Pena



How quickly time flies! The SocMonitor celebrates one-year of publication this month. It has proven to be a great means of globally updating colleagues and partners about Global Socio-

economic Monitoring Initiatives. Colleagues from each of the six SocMon regions readily and faithfully submit articles for each quarterly issue. This surely wouldn't be possible without them. We all hope you continue to follow our socio-economic monitoring activities around the world. Here's to many more years for the SocMonitor!

## SocMon at ICRS 2012

By Christy Loper



12th International  
Coral Reef Symposium  
9-13 July 2012 • Cairns • Queensland • Australia

SocMon partners are advised that SocMon and Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network Partners have put

together a mini-symposium at the International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) in Australia, 9–13 July 2012. The panel will investigate the efficacy of monitoring to effect management change and will include presentations from both biophysical and socio-economic monitoring. The mini-symposium is number 18f: "Does Monitoring Lead to Improved Coral Reef Management?" SocMon partners are encouraged to submit presentations or posters via the ICRS website: <http://www.icrs2012.com/>.

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## SocMon in Honduras

By Arie Sanders

Communities in coastal areas of Northern Honduras often live under very difficult conditions. While many are fishing and/or cultivating a piece of land, the income is hardly ever sufficient to make a living for the household. In most of the fishery communities, the per capita income is among the lowest in the country. Demographic pressure, poor infrastructure, non-planned urbanization, and declining natural resources make securing livelihoods a true challenge, often demanding alternative means of income generation other than fishing. While many choose migration in order to escape the poverty trap, there are numerous other ways to make a living, depending on the local setting.

The SocMon analysis currently being undertaken is concentrated on coastal resource use (i.e. fisheries and tourism). Livelihood surveys have been and will be carried out in eight selected fishery communities. The survey should help to better understand the importance of fishery resources to coastal communities livelihoods, and serve as a means to analyse external shocks on coastal livelihoods.

The first survey round occurred from March to April in the La Ceiba area (five communities), with the second round to occur from September to October in the Tela area (three communities). In the La Ceiba area the communities were selected by considering the importance of artisanal fishery.



Fishing boats in Sambo Creek, La Ceiba

Initial field observations indicate some general tendencies of livelihood strategies in the communities. Participation of households in fishery activities varies among communities most probably due to the distance from the city of La Ceiba (labour market) and development of tourism. Fishery incomes vary by season and are irregular. No single household can generate regular cash income by fishing alone. Fishing incomes are often combined with other types of economic activities, and most households have at least one source of cash income from other kinds of labour, a regular salaried job and/or a self-employed business (services and commerce). In the more distant coastal communities fewer possibilities to generate cash income exist, so labour migration (national and international) and remittances are important livelihood strategies for the (fishery) households in these communities.

Our hypothesis is that fishery livelihoods as key coastal livelihoods in the selected communities are

difficult to sustain. Fisheries are of less importance as sources of cash income generation than expected, especially if compared with other regular cash incomes from remittances, tourism, or regular salaried jobs and self-employed businesses. Our main conclusion, to be confirmed by econometric and mathematical modeling, is that the households of fishery communities are already aware of the worsening environmental situation and therefore have started to adapt their livelihood strategies to both subsistence-oriented as well as cash income-oriented ones. This would at least explain the surprising small amount of households involved in cash income-oriented fishery-related strategies. See next the next issue of the SocMonitor for results of the quantitative analysis.

## ***MPA management, tourism perceptions and livelihoods in South Asia***

*By Vineeta Hoon*

The SocMon South Asia (SA) project supported by NOAA is well under way at all five sites. Preliminary analyses from three sites (the Maldives, Kalpitiya and Agatti) have been conducted with main highlights described below.

The Maldives – Preliminary analysis of the MPA management survey on perceptions of Maldivians has been completed. Results show that the majority of respondents (39%) feel that MPAs are areas of no access, while almost equal proportions believe they are areas with limited (27%) or open access (28%).

About 75% of the respondents were not aware of the protected status of Banana Reef and Nassimo Thila, Maldives SocMon study sites.

Greater than half of the respondents (56%) stated that bait fishing should not be allowed in MPAs compared with 42% who agreed with the activity within MPAs.

Kalpitiya, Srilanka – One of the main issues negatively affecting artisanal fishery livelihoods in Srilanka is bottom trawling which has attracted a larger number of fishermen since 1989. While these bottom trawling boats are issued for use in the deep sea, the owners often use them in nearshore waters and lagoons thereby depleting resources and affecting livelihoods of the artisanal fishermen.



Bottom trawler and catch, Srilanka

Agatti -The tourism perceptions and livelihood study has been completed and indicates that revenue from tourism and tourism-related livelihoods have taken a hit from the closure of the Bangaram Island Beach Resort due to litigation regarding lease renewal. Typically, land owners leased their land to the Island Administration, which further leased out the land to the resort. The landowners now no longer wish to lease their land via the Island Administration as they now regard it as a middleman and prefer to lease it directly to the resort owners. The verdict of the litigation case will have implications on stakeholder relations among landowners, the resort owner and the Lakshadweep Administration.

The Agatti Islanders now perceive tourism as a lucrative livelihood. They have invested in home-stays, resorts and dive centers but their operation

is hampered by Lakshadweep entry permit rules. Permits are required by non-islanders to enter Lakshadweep, with the Administration controlling permit issuance to visitors (Indian and international) to the islands. Another emerging issue that could have long term consequences for the islanders is that the new resorts are purchasing water from well owners on the inhabited side of the island, drawing on the limited fresh water lens of the island.



3000L tank of fresh water being transported to the resort

## ***Programme evaluation, vulnerability assessment and decision network analysis in the Western Indian Ocean***

*By Innocent Wanyonyi*

An evaluation of the SocMon WIO programme and an assessment of opportunities for partnerships with other regional SocMon initiatives was conducted in 2010 with the aim of developing a new Regional Strategic Plan for SocMon WIO and improving SocMon implementation at WIO sites.

A desktop evaluation of programme activities and results was done using an audit procedure. SocMon WIO activities and implementation progress was checked against the broad objectives of the SocMon WIO initiative to determine level of

progress. SocMon tools were also evaluated to determine their effectiveness based on available information (particularly progress reports) from the regional coordinator.

In addition, a WIO-wide survey focused on site coordinators was undertaken to assess implementation progress, challenges, weaknesses and recommendations.

Evaluation results highlight the need to put structures in place that will ensure systematic and consecutive monitoring procedures in a way that will ensure timely uptake of monitoring results. More information on the findings of the evaluation can be found at [www.cordioea.org](http://www.cordioea.org) or from the regional coordinator.

SocMon WIO under CORDIO EA in collaboration with the IUCN Global Marine Program, CSIR and IUCN ESARO Water program, is conducting an assessment on how coastal communities along the Kenyan and Tanzania coastline region of Tanga are responding to the effects of climate change.

A practical and relevant tool for carrying out the assessment has been developed from several available methods and tools namely: the SLED manual, SocMon Addendum, CRISTAL manual and CARE CVCA handbook.

The Whole Decision Network Analysis tool for Coastal Ecosystems (WD-NACE) research project implemented in Kenya and Bangladesh in August 2010 and continuing until March 2012, assesses governance, power, and knowledge structures and how they influence behaviour, actions and decision-making for sustainable ecosystems. The project will provide decision-makers with an understanding of both local stakeholder and scientific perceptions of critical elements regarding

the use of coastal ecosystem services and of the complex interrelationship between them. The WD-NACE concept is coupled with social-ecological system perspectives in understanding better how ecosystems can be managed. This coupling relates to how knowledge is produced and gets filtered and repackaged for decision-making. Different patterns of knowledge production, use and circulation (which can be related to dominant belief systems or norms) have different implications for resource management. Put simply, knowledge may exist on its own but to use that knowledge involves power. Thus to understand the system we need to understand not only knowledge, but also the power relationships between people who invoke knowledge and use it. The results of the project are currently being compiled.



Some of the participants during the WD-NACE model workshop in Mombasa Kenya

## **Philippines SocMon Trainings**

*By Marissa Pontillas and Michael Pido*

As part of the 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*", two SocMon methodology trainings were conducted in May 2011 by the Palawan State University (PSU) as the Regional SocMon Center for Southeast Asia. The first training was held from 9–13 May at the Mindoro State College of Agriculture & Technology (MinSCAT) with 28 participants. These included 22 faculty members of MinSCAT and 6 stakeholders from local government units (LGUs) of the Municipality of Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro. The municipality of Bongabong is one of the two research sites of the project, specifically the villages of Masaguisi and Cauayan.

The other training conducted from 24–27 May at the Puerto Princesa City Campus of PSU involved 30 participants comprising faculty researchers of PSU, City Agriculture Office of the City Government of Puerto Princesa City and the LGU officials of the villages of Inagawan and Kamuning. The multi-disciplinary SocMon training team was composed of: Prof. Marissa Pontillas, social researcher/statistician; Dr. Michael Pido, environment specialist/policy analyst; Dr. Nelly Mendoza, economist; and Ms. Eva Marie Ponce de Leon, data quality assurance specialist.



SocMon trainers and trainees, Mindoro

The training aims to build capacity and capabilities of academic researchers and LGU workers and stakeholders in the SocMon methodology. The participants knowledge and skills gained from the two trainings were immediately applied when they gathered data at the two research sites through household interviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. The participants will participate in further training on data analysis and report writing in August 2011.

## ***SocMon for MPA Managers***

By Maria Pena



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) this month approved a grant of just over USD 68,000 to the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), The University of the West Indies, to support *Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean Challenge MPA managers*. The project's long-term conservation outcome is increased capacity for effective MPA management among Caribbean Challenge (CC) countries through the use of social and economic monitoring data in MPA decision-making. The project will involve eight MPAs across three CC countries – Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Lucia.

The CC Initiative is an unprecedented commitment by Caribbean governments to support and manage national parks and protected areas throughout the region. Capacity-building in socio-economic monitoring for the development of an effective regional system of MPAs has been identified as a major need by CC MPA representatives.



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