

# Socio Economic Monitoring for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Skills Training Workshop



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Rang Manch & Maliku Museum Training Hall, Minicoy Island, U T of Lakshadweep July 3rd to 9, 2019



## Executive Summary

A weeklong Socioeconomic Monitoring for Coastal & Marine Ecosystems Skills Training Workshop was conducted in Minicoy from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 under the joint auspices of CARESS, Chennai and MDS, Minicoy in collaboration with the Science & Technology Unit and Environment Unit.

SocMon is an approach and set of tools for conducting socio-economic monitoring of changes in coastal communities which has been adopted, and adapted, worldwide through the Global SocMon network and specifically in South Asia, through the SocMon South Asia node. It has gained increasing acceptance and use over the past two decades. The SocMon South Asia node has been active in promoting the approach over the last 14 years in several locations throughout the region and has contributed to creating a significant body of experience and expertise in coral reef regions within India (UT of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, Gulf of Mannar and Gulf of Kutch), the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

### Training Objectives

The **Global Objective** was:

To improve the lives of the coastal populations through better management of their coral reef resources and its fisheries.

The **Development Objective** was:

To ensure that socioeconomic monitoring contributes to improved decision-making processes for coastal management in India and specifically Minicoy Islands in the UT of Lakshadweep.

The planned Outputs of the training program Work plan were:

1. Participants from Minicoy trained in SocMon methodologies and capable of implementing SocMon programs.
2. Participants to take ownership of the program and form a SOCMON Minicoy group
3. A Work plan for implementing SocMon in Minicoy developed and agreed upon.
4. A communication strategy for Minicoy Island developed aiming at informing and influencing key decision-makers regarding the outputs of the SocMon process.

### Methodology

The methodology adopted for the workshop emphasized a participatory approach of learning by doing. Classroom lectures were followed by group work and field work. Workshop participants were encouraged to develop their understanding of SocMon and the various methods that can be used for SocMon by analyzing the context of Minicoy Island and the people that live there.

Participants were asked to draw on their own experience from working and living in the area to develop a SocMon approach that would be specifically tailored to the demands of their work and the characteristics of the villages in Minicoy Island

### Reflections on Workshop Process and Outcomes

The **Workshop Process** focused on ensuring that participants developed a good overall understanding of **what** SocMon deals with and **why** they should be doing it, as well as providing them with familiarity with the key tools and methods that can be employed and techniques to be used in the field.

Participants were introduced to the Livelihood Framework to help them develop an understanding of the complexity of **how livelihood choices are made**. Participants reflected on their own livelihood choices and related all the enabling and disabling factors that helped them reach where they are now.

They were then introduced to the terms **ecosystem goods and services** and were asked to reflect on the linkages between livelihoods and ecosystem goods and services. A presentation on the Economic Valuation of ecosystem goods and services in the Maldives was given to emphasize its importance.

Time was then devoted to developing a clear **Goal, Purpose and Outputs** for SocMon in Minicoy which reflect the priorities of the people of Minicoy.

Participants were asked to reflect on the audience for SocMon outputs; the stakeholders and institutions they wanted to inform and influence, reflect on what behavioral change they wanted and develop a strategy on what media to use to inform and influence to achieve this behavioural change.

### Challenges Faced.

The main challenge was getting the entry Permit to travel to Lakshadweep. We had earlier discussed with MDS and ZSI to hold the training workshop in May or early June. The uncertainty caused by not knowing when we would get the entry permit or the ship sailing schedule in advance we were unable to fix dates and in the end had to make do with training volunteers who were available while we were in Minicoy from 3rd to 9th of July. Since some of the volunteers were working and were unable to devote the whole day to the workshop we had to be very flexible with the workshop timings and Venue.

We managed to face all the challenges by remaining flexible and managed to form a Minicoy SocMon Group who call themselves **VerihiFaraah-(Environment watchers)**.

*Ms Rebekah Padget will continue to supervise them and receive their support in completing the Socio-economic Monitoring 2019-20 report as part of her research activities in Lakshadweep.*

## 2. Workshop Report

### *Day 1 Inaugural session*

The inaugural function held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July at Rangmanch was attended by DP/VDP members, Village Moopans, representatives of Minicoy Fishermen Society and others. Indian Coastguard personnel, principal JNV and 40 members and teacher in charge of Lagoon Club, GSSS were also present in the function.

Delivering the presidential address acting VDP Chairperson Mr. A. Shamsuddeen exhorted people to abstain from activities that may pollute the environment. DC in charge Mr. A.E. Naseem Manikfan, in his inaugural address, stressed the need to create awareness among the people regarding the fragile ecology of the island. They also highlighted the importance of protecting and preserving the natural resources and the hazards of non-degradable waste.

Dr. Haneefa Koya, NITI AAYOG, in his felicitation speech, briefly explained the importance of promoting best practices for better management and sustainable utilization of resources. He also highlighted the need to recognize the traditional wisdom and the Customary Law for protection and conservation of resources.

Dr. Vineeta Hoon, SOCMON Regional Coordinator for South Asia, Gave an introduction to SocMon and explained what the workshop was about. Research scholar Dr. Rebekah from USA presented a paper on the importance of collecting data on marine debris.

In the function Shri P.V.Mohammed Ismail, Retd. HEO & Vice Chairman MDS, welcomed the gathering and Shri K.G.Mohammed, Retd. SPO, proposed vote of thanks.



### **Day 2 at Rang Manch**

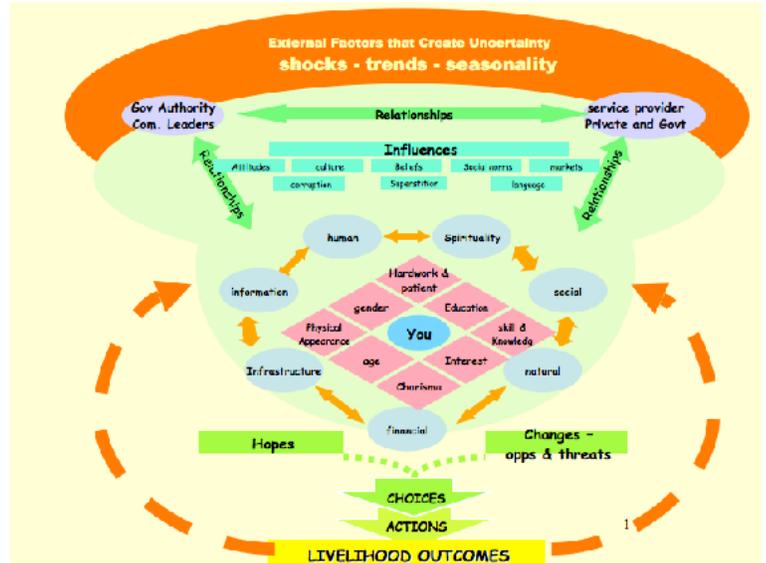
Sixteen trainees who volunteered to participate in the proposed field survey actively participated in the workshop. In addition to the regular trainees half a dozen well-wishers wanting to involve in social service also turned up at their convenience.

#### *2.1 Understanding the livelihood framework*

The aim of the SocMon skill training workshop was to build capacity amongst the Minicoy youth and support them to realise they can do anything with team work and commitment. We began the training session by introducing the livelihoods framework based on participants' own experience. This encouraged the trainees to reflect on the different elements that affect people's "livelihood opportunities" and the complexity of the social and economic aspects of people's lives. In particular, this aimed to

Figure 2. Livelihood Framework

broaden participants' understanding of what we mean by "socio-economic" aspects, incorporating not just the different assets that people use to make a living, but also the key characteristics of people that result in different levels of access to livelihood assets, and also the various external factors that can influence the livelihood outcome of a person. Hereafter reference was made to the livelihood framework to understand livelihood opportunities in Minicoy Island.



### 2.2 Understanding Ecological goods and services

We next introduced the terms Ecological goods and services as used in the SocMon Guidelines and Manual so that the participants would be clear on what was meant by these terms. The participants understood that everything they extracted from the lagoon and sea (fish, cowries, octopus etc) were referred to as goods and that the ecosystem provided by the coral reefs, the lagoon, shoreline protection, a place for fish and other marine organisms to hide and live were services

### 2.3 Clarifying goals, purpose, outputs and audience for SOCMON in Minicoy

Once the participants were clear on the key concepts of livelihoods and between ecological goods and services, time was spent on discussing what should be the goal, purpose, outputs and audience for SocMon in Minicoy.

#### SocMon Minicoy Goal

Management and conservation of the ecological resources of Minicoy Island for a better life for the people of Minicoy.

#### Purpose

**Manage:** help determine how to manage the natural resources to achieve our goal.

**Assess:** establish baseline data to use for monitoring changes in social & economic conditions, peoples perceptions and involvement in decision making.

**Inform:** Minicoy community, Lakshadweep managers and decision makers with the expectation of adaptive management and behavioral change

#### Outputs

- A livelihood and resource profile of the people (primary stakeholders) who live in Minicoy developed.

## 2.4 Marine Debris and SocMon

Taking into consideration the impact Marine debris is having on both Human wellbeing and the health of Marine species we have included this in our activities in Minicoy.

on the 5th July a field activity was organised at Kodi beach. 20 volunteers participated in the data collection activity. They first marked out a quadrat measuring 100 metres long and 22 m wide within the high tide and low tide marks. participants were divided into 10 pairs and were given the task of collecting all the debris within their 10 m 'mark and putting it into sacks provided for the purpose.

A second session was organised the day after at the coastguards campus to explain the purpose of including marine debris as part of the study and the steps involved in categorising and recording the data scientifically. A total 12000 pieces of debris comprising of various non-degradable materials were collected within two hours. The debris was patiently sorted and categorized by the trainees under the expert guidance of the trainers. It took nearly two days to complete the scientific analysis of the debris.



## 2.5 Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with Fishermen

Participants were taught how to plan and facilitate a FGD with stake holder groups. They were divided into 3 groups and were asked to plan out the goal of the FGD and make a list of guiding questions to ask the Fisher stake holder group. The objective of the activity was to equip the trainees with necessary skills to organize group discussions and conduct field survey for the purpose of updating the Minicoy report Prepared in 2004.

Traditional fishers were invited in the afternoon session and a lively interaction took place.



## *2.6 questionnaire survey Perceptions of Marine Protected Area*

Participants were introduced to conducting surveys using questionnaires. They first practiced using the questionnaire and later were given the task of data collection.

## *2.6 Valedictory Function*

The valedictory function was held on 9<sup>th</sup> July at the Natural & Cultural Heritage Museum. Dr.Vineeta Hoon gave a brief summary of the activities organized during the workshop and the field work to be carried out by the volunteers. She expressed sincere thanks to Science & Technology Unit and Environment Unit for extending wholehearted cooperation for the smooth and successful conduct of the workshop. She also thanked the Deputy Collector, VDP Chairperson, OIC Indian Coastguard Station, Principals of GSSS and JNV for their support and encouragement. She expressed thanks to the trainees and all individuals whose courtesy and hospitality will be remembered for ever.

Mr. Asif Maridage, one of the trainees , gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed socioeconomic survey and the scientific analysis of marine debris in the light of the knowledge gained during the weeklong training workshop. The presentation was appreciated by everyone.

Ms Rifasha M Perveen, presented the Livelihood Framework and explained what factors that governed livelihood opportunity and how personal choices are affected by these factors.

Mrs.Shamshad begum, Physics Teacher GSSS gave a feedback. She narrated how beneficial the training has been as a teacher who guides students in preparing projects for UT level competitions. She assured that she would spread the message of ‘ Clean Lakshadweep’ through her students.

Speaking on the occasion, JNV principal Mrs. Pramela appreciated the organizers and the trainers for imparting the training successfully. She said that decision has been taken to make the JNV, Minicoy a plastic free school and that the students and parents have been advised to follow the instructions strictly in order to achieve the goal. She also explained how a skit on hazards of plastic was prepared and staged during the last Parent Teacher Council meeting. Later she distributed certificates to the trainees.

The participants were invited to see the artefacts displayed in the museum. Mr. K.G.Mohammed , Retd. SPO explained the historical and cultural significance of each and every item. The programme came to an end with evening tea.



Table 1

<b>Participants list of SOCMON Skill training workshop , Minicoy 3-9th July 2019 Verhi Faarah /Environment Watchers</b>			
	<b>Name</b>	<b>designation</b>	<b>contact</b>
<b>1</b>	Asif KK	ZSI Monitoring STAFF E7F	9496576755
<b>2</b>	Mohammed Asees. I	ZSI Monitoring STAFF E7F	9447930719
<b>3</b>	Akram Al" Rasheed	Student +2 diploma	9495122181
<b>4</b>	Ali Manikfan HMG	DEO VDP	9447964461
<b>5</b>	Haneef F	Program Asst LKA	9447984111
<b>6</b>	Jameela TD	Technical Asst DST	9497366483
<b>7</b>	Farhima Hassan	Graduate HW	8078940679
<b>8</b>	Mohammed Sharif	Merchant Navy	9447373548
<b>9</b>	Moosa A.B	Teacher Contract	9496362992
<b>10</b>	Mahesh B	Coast Guard	9609385200
<b>11</b>	Saleema T.K	MDS member	8281567194
<b>12</b>	Rifasha M Perveen	Student	8547275279
<b>13</b>	Shamshad Begum D	TGT High school	9497682281
<b>14</b>	Ishaque Fenfuri	Student	9496565227
	<b>Resource people</b>		
<b>15</b>	K.G Mohammed	Resource person MDS	9446135176
<b>16</b>	Akeel A.R	Resource person MDS	
<b>17</b>	P.V Mohammed Ismail	Resource person MDS	
<b>18</b>	Vineeta Hoon	Trainer CARESS	
<b>19</b>	Rebekah Padget	Researcher CARESS	