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From the Global Coordinator

By Peter Edwards

Hello SocMon Family,

Welcome to the June Edition of our newsletter. We are well underway with various activities associated with our 2017 NOAA/NFWF Grant. In this edition, we provide some updates from our regional partners.



We are also hopeful that we will be able to secure additional funding support to expand the work we are doing in our various regions. One key goal that we highlighted as part of our strategic planning document was to improve coordination, and standardization of data sharing across our regions. To this end we must be reminded that part of the requirements associated with the funding we have received is that data be shared and used as part of overall capacity building. Obviously, this does not include data that can be used to identify persons or vulnerable groups. We however encourage all regional coordinators to work with partners in creating agreements for data storage and sharing. We are being increasingly asked to demonstrate how data are or can be used to influence decision making regarding coastal marine or aquatic resources. It is important that we work together to find ways to show how human dimensions information can be integrated with ecological and fisheries information. We cannot do this if we are afraid of sharing with each other. Exciting work is being done and we look forward to hearing more in the future!

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Global SocMon grant II

By Maria Pena

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, received a USD 40,500 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in late 2017 to continue work on the coordination and enhancement of the seven regional SocMon programmes around the world undertaken in a previously NFWF-funded project, *Coordination of a Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management*. The current project (phase II) continues to support regional capacity in socio-economic monitoring and is producing updates to a suite of printed and electronic SocMon training materials. The initial period of performance for the project was March 2017 to February 2018, but the project benefitted from a no-cost extension approved in January. The new period of performance is March 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

Project progress has been fairly steady due to the commitment of regional SocMon coordinators. Look out for information on project accomplishments in future issues of the SocMonitor. Project outputs will be shared on the global [SocMon](http://SocMon.org) website.

Regional coordinators promote SocMon globally in 2017-18

By Maria Pena

Regional SocMon coordinators have taken advantage of travel support available through the the NFWF-funded, UWI-CERMES implemented *Coordination of a Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management II Project* to further the promotion of the application of SocMon to coastal and marine management at national and international events in Brazil, Chile and the Seychelles in 2017. In 2018, the SEM-Pasifika coordinator will be supported by a travel grant to attend the 5th International Marine Conservation Congress, 24-29 June 2018, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. She has been accepted to organize and facilitate a symposium entitled *Integrating Social Sciences to Ensure Human Well-being in Marine Conservation*.

The Brazil SocMon coordinator, Rodrigo Pereira Medeiros, was able to support student participation in the Protected Areas and Social Inclusion (SAPIS) workshop and panel discussion on *Fisheries Management in MPAs: Contributions from Participatory Monitoring*, 18-21 October, Niteroi, Brazil. Students received support to present their papers from studies using SocMon data or from follow-up activities of SocMon Brazil interventions. The workshop comprised 31 participants from different marine protected areas in Brazil, including fishers, managers and researchers. The travel grant provided support for workshop participation of three fishers, six students, and the SocMon Brazil coordinator.



The SocMon Caribbean coordinator, Maria Pena, participated in the Fourth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 4), 4-8 September 2017, La Serena, Coquimbo, Chile. She presented a poster on *Capacity Building for Participatory Socio-economic Monitoring at Caribbean MPAs: A Glimpse at SocMon Caribbean*. The coordinator was also invited to participate in a side workshop, *Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting for Marine Protected Area Management: Innovative Ideas to Progress Current Approaches*, convened by Parks Victoria, University of Oxford and Environment Southland. She was able to share her experience with the SocMon approach to socio-economic monitoring at marine protected areas and its benefit to effective management.



The SocMon South Asia coordinator, Vineeta Hoon, participated in the Global Sustainable Council's Conference on *Sustainable Tourism in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*, 22-26 November, 2017, Seychelles. She presented a paper entitled, *Using SocMon as Tool to Involve Islanders in Developing Community-based Tourism and Providing Needs-based Training to Foster Sustainable Product Enhancement*.



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Cuba SocMon collaboration

By Maria Pena

One thing definitely leads to another. It all began after the Jackson *et al.* (2014) publication of the *Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs 1970 – 2012*, and one coral reef resilience workshop in Cuba in 2015 with a recommendation from Jeremy Jackson for participants to reach out to UWI-CERMES about the SocMon initiative. The US-based non-profit organization, Ocean Doctor, contacted CERMES based on interest in implementing and integrating the SocMon methodology in Cuba into conservation efforts given the historical changes in Cuba-US relations. So began the further building of partnerships with US-based non-profits working in Cuba and national Cuban agencies for bringing SocMon to Cuba.

The Caribbean node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN-Caribbean) provided the first opportunity for training representatives from Ocean Doctor and the Cuba Centro Nacional de Areas Protegidas (CNAP) in SocMon at its inaugural *Towards Integrated Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop* in Jamaica in 2016. The following year, two more representatives from CNAP joined the second GCRMN-Caribbean integrated training workshop, also held in Jamaica. Sponsorship for participation being provided by UNEP-CEP SPAW-RAC, CERMES, Ocean Doctor and LACEEP. The 2017 Cuban participants, Yunaika Alvarez Carrazana and Carlos Gallardo Toirac, drafted the first SocMon site monitoring plan for Cocodrilo, Isla de Juventud, to be later revised and refined by protected area specialists and participating communities. Initiation of SocMon at Cocodrilo was proposed for late 2018 after typical governance processes had been completed. The process is still ongoing but the story doesn't end there.

Earlier this year, CERMES was contacted by TNC's Cuba Program Manager (formerly of Ocean Doctor) to further the progress of implementing SocMon in Cuba via the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Regional Coordinator for SocMon Caribbean, Maria Pena, and Bertha Simmons, soon-to-be Lead Coordinator for SocMon in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, were invited by WCS to attend and participate in "Pesca, Contaminacion y Medio Ambiente" [Fishing, Pollution and Environment] conference, 4-6 April, organized by the Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras (CIP). Pena and

Simmons presented on SocMon Caribbean to relevant national Cuban institutional representatives during the conference and held a one-day introductory workshop for representatives from the Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez (FANJ) and Refugio de Fauna. Carlos Gallardo Toirac, CNAP, who had been previously trained in SocMon assisted the participants in practical SocMon exercises during the training.



Participants realize the value of SocMon for human dimensions monitoring and resource conservation, and are positive that SocMon or a Cuban adaptation of the methodology will be implemented for socio-economic monitoring at protected areas and coastal management sites there. They note however that a larger workshop, targeting wide stakeholder representation, and more in-depth training is needed to build greater support for SocMon among national agencies. Plans are afoot for such.

SocMon in northern Honduras

By Sara Bonilla, Centre for Marine Studies (CEM)

The Centre for Marine Studies (CEM) as part of its initiative to create a Fish Stock Recovery Area conducted a socio-economic baseline survey in 24 coastal communities in the counties of Omoa and Puerto Cortes in northern Honduras. The objective of the research was to gain a better understanding of fishermen's style of fishing and living using a perspective from the livelihood approach. The collected information will be used to design and establish management strategies that not only will benefit fishers but also will contribute to ensure the sustainability of

marine ecosystems.



Marine fishing is an important livelihood option for many coastal households in northern Honduras, supporting around 2,000 households in the counties of Puerto Cortes and Omoa alone. The fishery activities contribute to food security, employment generation and to the local economy in general. Although all fishing communities are continuously located along the coastline and some share the same fishing areas, each of the fishing communities has its own social, cultural and economic characteristics. This difference extends to how fishermen develop their fishery activities, which result in different fishing styles and marketing integration.

The present study considered the type of vessel and fishing gear used, the target species caught, the commercial orientation and the number of fishermen directly involved in the operation, to characterize and differentiate fishery styles. Five styles of artisanal fisheries in the area were identified: (i) traditional artisanal fisheries, (ii) artisanal trammel fisheries, (iii) artisanal fisheries using hulls, (iv) commercial artisanal fisheries, and (v) artisanal fisheries in partnership.



The data collected highlight three relevant differences in styles of artisanal fishing (see Table). The first

significant difference is linked to fishing effort, which is reflected in the length of a fishing trip, with commercial fishermen and associations travelling longer (28-30 hours/trip) because they travel to more distant fishing areas (Belize Keys).

The second relevant difference is related to the productive assets, the size of the vessels and the engine vary depending on the type of fishing activity.

Traditional artisanal fishing uses boats smaller than 15 feet, driven mainly by paddles or channels. Meanwhile, commercial artisanal fishing uses boats of 22 feet long with engines of 40hp, on average. The last key difference between the artisanal fishing styles is the average catch per trip, which for commercial artisanal fishing is eight times the average catch of traditional artisanal fishing (50 pounds).

In our opinion, a better way to understand fishing practice is to focus on fishing as a social process, taking in account cultural, institutional, and fishery management components. By identifying uniformities in these social goals of fishermen, we can create an appropriate grouping of fishing styles that allow better targeting of the conservation policies.

Indicators to differentiate artisanal fishing styles.					
	Traditional	Trammel (Nets)	Hammock	Commercial	In association
Fishing gear	Hook 100% Nets 25%	Nets 100%	Nets 100%	Hook 100%	Hook 100%
Species	Yellow Tail Snapper, Lutianus analis, Cynoscion spp, Scomberomus	Centropomus spp., Megalops, Caranx spp., Lutianus analis	Centropomus spp., Megalops, Caranx spp., Scomberomus	Yellow Tail Snapper	Yellow Tail Snapper
Type of boat	Owned Canoe 55% Boat 45%	Not owned Boat 70% Canoe 30%	Not owned Boat 60% Canoe 40%	Not owned Boat 100%	In group Boat 100%
Fishing strategy	Subsistence Local commerce	Local commerce	Local commerce	Local and regional commerce	Local and regional commerce
No. of fishermen involved	Individual	2-3	5-6	2-3	2-3
Fisherman age (years)	42.92	39.34	38.47	38.13	43.62

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Indicators to differentiate artisanal fishing styles.					
	Traditional	Trammel (Nets)	Hammock	Commercial	In association
Fishing experience (years)	22.08	19.09	18.73	19.49	19.23
Hours/fishing trip	7.81	8.55	9.64	30.15	28.46
Fishing trips/week	3.40	3.69	3.36	3.09	3.85
Months/year	10.10	7.56	9.66	10.87	9.31
Boat size (ft.)	15.11	19.69	22.02	21.79	21.62
Engine power (hp.)	12.92	26.48	25.29	39.90	33.08
Average catch (pounds)	49.96	64.99	117.36	418.48	171.67
Average trip expenses (Lps.)	305.09	497.67	713.38	4,034.11	3,048.08
Average income per trip (Lps.)	834.48	430.24	325.40	2,801.39	1,063.83

Using SocMon to profile octopus hunters in Lakshadweep

By Vineeta Hoon

In South Asia we have been busy trying to incorporate SocMon with various ongoing projects that deal with enhancing livelihoods of the coastal poor.

Recently, the Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society (CARESS) received a grant from Blue ventures, U.K, to profile the octopus hunters in Lakshadweep and establish community-based catch monitoring of octopus with a goal to implement octopus hunting closures or promote Locally Managed Marine Areas.

The true impact of the octopus fishery remains undocumented as most of the octopus catch is for home consumption (food and bait) or given as gifts to friends and extended family. Only a small proportion of the octopus hunters focus on the market value of octopus and catch it for local and inter-island sale.

Therefore, this study has tried to profile the octopus hunters and their socio-economic status, motivation to hunt and their perceptions with regard to octopus availability and status of the reef habitat.



Volunteers from three Islands were trained in using the SocMon South Asia guidelines and selecting tools to successfully complete the profiling of the octopus fishery in Lakshadweep.

An interesting finding from the profiling study was that the octopus hunters did not know how to differentiate between a male and female octopus. To address this gap, CARESS teamed up with Dakshin foundation to conduct a catch monitoring and octopus sex identification workshop at Agatti Island in April 2018.

To further widen the reach of SocMon, Vineeta Hoon, SocMon South Asia regional coordinator attended the Sustainable Tourism in SIDS Conference held in the Seychelles in November 2017 and presented a paper on Using SocMon as a tool to involve islanders in community-based tourism and provide needs based training to foster sustainable product enhancement. The paper was well received as most of the tourism practitioners were keen to learn about how to involve the local community in enhancing and obtaining the economic benefits from tourism.

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Using socio-economic assessment to support marine and coastal resource management and climate adaptation in Weloy, Yap

By Supin Wongbusarakum

Initiated as a community management effort and formally endorsed by the traditional leaders of Okaw and Kaday villages in Weloy Municipality in 2008, the Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area (Nimpal MCA) in Yap is intended to protect and maintain the biological productivity of the Nimpal Channel, a marine area of over 275 hectares with special significance due to the abundance of marine resources and fish that are culturally important to the people of Yap. See case study video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqJR9-tbTWM&t=64s>



While biophysical data have been collected and used to track changes in marine life, there has been no data collected from the Weloy coastal communities aimed at understanding their natural resource uses and their perception of the Nimpal MCA management. There is also no baseline social information on climate change preparedness, on the social adaptive capacity of the communities, or on their perceptions regarding climate change threats and their impacts on natural resources or socio-economic conditions. To help address this knowledge gap and generate socio-economic information for better understanding of these topics, a

household survey with a stratified random sampling design has been recently conducted in all 10 villages in Weloy municipality: Adubwee, Dugor, Kaday, Keng, Maa, Mabuu, Mulroo, Nimar, Nummung and Okaw.



The participation and input of local partners and Weloy community representatives in Yap have been crucial in making sure that the socio-economic assessment addressed the community's informational needs and could be implemented in ways that are both culturally appropriate and engaging. The interest and support of the local communities and conservation partners enabled the project's social scientists to conduct actionable research that is now being used by the Council in decision-making related to adaptive management of marine conservation areas. The socio-economic data, along with biophysical coral reef monitoring data and local knowledge and experience in managing the site were integral to updating the management plan.



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Western Indian Ocean: Currently Vacant