



Coordinators meeting, new SocMon node and manuals

By Peter Edwards

Hello All,

Happy New Year to the SocMon/SEM Pasifika Family! Things have been a bit quiet but I do believe we have all been working hard in our various regions. There are a few items I would like to highlight in this issue.

Regional Coordinators Planning Meeting

February 25 -27, 2014, Silver Spring, Maryland

As most of you should be aware, next month we will be having a very important strategic planning meeting for Global SocMon/SEM Pasifika. The three day meeting will be hosted at the NOAA Headquarters in Silver Spring. The meeting will be co-sponsored by the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), the Caribbean Regional SocMon Node. We hope to have good discussions and hopefully we can address some of the challenges and concerns that were highlighted in the survey that was sent to many of you last year. It will be cold so please remember to bring warm clothes, hats and gloves. The key word is "layers", as in layers of clothes!

Newest Member – Brazil SocMon Node

We would also like to welcome the newest "kid on the block" to the SocMon family. Our friends in Brasil who have been testing some aspects of the SocMon approach are now moving full speed ahead with plans to fully utilise the method to address

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some marine protected areas as well as supporting data needs for small scale fisheries issues in Brazil.

We are very excited to welcome Rodrigo Medeiros and Cristiana Seixas along with their enthusiastic students and colleagues to the family. We look forward to great things from South America.

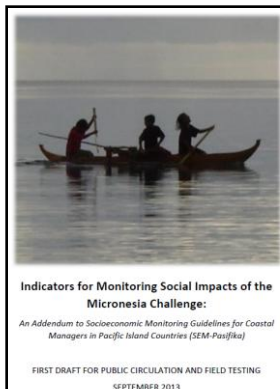
SocMon Manuals

Finally, I have some good news! Very often we hear that there is need for hard copies of the original Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management (Bunce et al 2000). I am happy to report that during some office cleaning here at NOAA Headquarters a few boxes were found to have some copies that we can distribute to those who need it. So Regional Coordinators who are planning to attend the meeting, please make some extra space in your luggage or pack a small empty bag so you can take a few copies back with you to your regions. There are also a handful (I mean a handful) of regional guidelines available – most for Southeast Asia, and very few Caribbean ones. There is also an old version in Vietnamese!

New SEM-Pasifika indicators

By Brooke Nevitt

Last fall, partners in Micronesia produced *Indicators for Monitoring Social Impacts of the Micronesia Challenge: An Addendum to SEM-Pasifika Regional Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines*. This document was developed to serve the Micronesia Challenge (MC) community and to be used in conjunction with the larger SEM-Pasifika guidelines. These indicators are not intended to stand alone, rather they are meant to be incorporated into the socioeconomic monitoring efforts taking place throughout the region.



This document was the result of the First MC Socioeconomic Workshop, held in Palau in August 2012. At this meeting representatives from all of the MC jurisdictions came together to identify a common set of indicators that each jurisdiction can monitor. These indicators focus on the aspects of human wellbeing that the participants agreed on as being most important for the Micronesia Challenge and the processes that are relevant to achieving them.

The guide was launched at the SEM-Pasifika workshop held in Kosrae late last year (see following article). It is the first draft for public circulation and field testing. Those who make use of this guide are asked to provide feedback.

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment made by the governments of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam to “effectively conserve at least thirty percent of near-shore marine resources and twenty

percent of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.”

SEM-Pasifika training

By Brooke Nevitt

From 23 September through to 3 October 2013, natural resource managers from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) took part in a Socioeconomic Monitoring in the Pacific (SEM-Pasifika) training on the island of Kosrae. Trainers for the workshop included Supin Wongbusarakum and Mae Adams of The Nature Conservancy, Peter Edwards of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Betty Sigrah of the Micronesia Conservation Trust and Brooke Nevitt of Pacific Marine Resources Institute. Working closely together, the trainers and the participants identified the following training objectives:

- To build socioeconomic monitoring capacity of the participants based on SEM-Pasifika
- To understand basic principles of data coding, management, and quality control
- Introduce quantitative data analysis using EXCEL, provide hands-on exercises of collected data when possible
- To understand principles of qualitative research and data analysis
- Complete a socio-economic assessment for a field site in Kosrae
- To communicate results of data analysis and effectively communicate data visually
- To be able to use analyzed data in conservation planning and adaptive management
- Produce an assessment report

In response to concerns related to climate change and community vulnerability, the team focused their efforts on the isolated village of Walung. Over the 10-day workshop, participants visited the site three times which is only accessible via boat. First, they travelled to Walung to conduct key

informant interviews. Then, after selecting assessment objectives and designing the household survey, the team broke into teams and visited every home in the village, surveying an adult representative from each. Questions addressed issues such as livelihoods, climate change knowledge, resource conditions and sustainable solutions. Following the survey implementation and data analysis, the team returned to Walung for a final visit to share the assessment results with the community.

In addition to building the capacity of participants, the training was an opportunity to



build regional relationships between resource managers in Micronesia. It also provided support for the ongoing European Union Global Climate Change Alliance Project facilitated through the University of the South Pacific, Pacific Center for Sustainable Development.

The Kosrae training was the result of a partnership of several international and regional organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Micronesia Conservation Trust, Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community, Pacific Marine Resources Institute, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization, Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority, and Yela Environmental Landowners Authority.



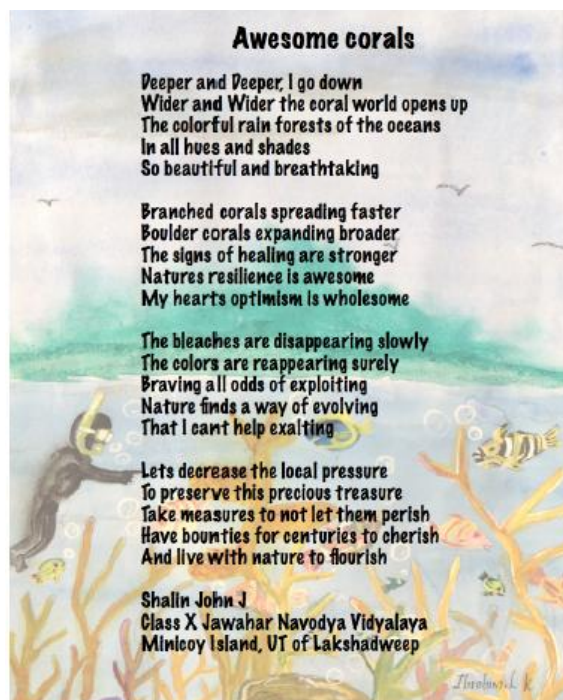
Outputs from South Asia

By Vineeta Hoon


SocMon studies in South Asia have identified the need for livelihood enhancement and a communication and outreach program to protect coastal and marine ecosystems. The Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society (CARESS) has developed a program called the Children's Perception of the Environment to address this need.

The theme chosen was for communicating ecological and social resilience in coral reef areas. The concept and activities for the program were developed by CARESS. The outreach program was held in Minicoy Island from 19–24 December 2013. It included a teachers orientation workshop, field activities and games with children.

The teachers and students developed creative outputs including charts, paintings, poems and puppets to communicate reef resilience to the public. An example of a poem and painting created by the students is shown here.



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A side event was held at the Navy compound where navy personnel and 30 students from the mainland learnt about reef resilience and Minicoy Island culture. A discussion was held with ten members of the fishermen's society to discuss factors that support reef resilience and to further refine and map resilient areas in Minicoy Island.

The Andaman and Nicobar site partner reports that on the livelihood front, a women's self help group has been formed with the Karen community in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the women have been trained in making bags and other material goods.

The Gulf of Mannar site partner reports that the Ramanathapuram District Fish Union (RFTU) took objection to the preparation of Coastal Zone Management maps for the district undertaken without taking the fisherfolk into confidence and demanded that new maps be prepared after consulting them.

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project of the FAO which includes eight countries situated around the Bay of Bengal has included SocMon guidelines in their program and invited SocMon SEA and SocMon SA coordinators to conduct SocMon training in member countries. The first training workshop was held in Myanmar earlier this month and others are planned for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (see following article).

Historic SocMon training

By Michael Pido, Marissa Pontillas, Eva Marie Ponce de Leon and Vineeta Hoon

For the first time in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's history, a SocMon training was held and successfully concluded. This regional collaborative activity was held from 9–19 January 2014. The opening ceremony was attended by several dignitaries that included Chief Minister, U Ohn Myint of Mon State.

The training workshop consisted of 27 sessions – 19 theory, two practical and six data analysis sessions. The theory and data analysis sessions were held at the Mawlamyine University, Mawlamyine District, Mon State, while field work activities were held at the Setse and Kyaikkami Villages – two coastal fishing villages within Thanpyuzayat Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State. This training was made possible through the invaluable contributions of various institutional partners – Mawlamyine University, the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and Flora and Fauna International (FFI). Palawan State University (PSU) in Palawan, Philippines, the SocMon Southeast Asia (SEA) centre, spearheaded the training.

Dr. Michael Pido, SEA Regional Coordinator, and PSU colleagues took the lead in design and development of the training. The BOBLME Project provided funds for the training and other logistical support. Dr. Rudolf Hermes, Chief Technical Advisor of the Project, provided the keynote address on the opening day.

The goal of this training course was to develop capacity to improve the understanding of the socio-economic drivers and situation of coastal communities in Myanmar. A total of 20 trainees participated from various stakeholder groups including academic institutions, government agencies, research agencies and civil society groups. This SocMon training may also be considered as a trail blazing initiative as both the SocMon Regional Coordinators for Southeast Asia (Dr. Pido) and South Asia (Dr. Hoon) were co-trainers in the same training event. More of this type of SocMon 'regional' collaboration is anticipated in the future.

