



## **Global Coordinator's editorial**

By Peter Edwards

Hello SocMon colleagues! Thank you for the warm welcome. It has been just about two months since I assumed this role and I am still learning and absorbing day by day. I want to thank Christy for all the great work she has done over the years. Maintaining a network such as this, is challenging and I look forward to continuing the good work started by Christy and the rest of the Global SocMon family.

It is important to note that the Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative is approaching its ten-year anniversary. Ten years is a good point to take a moment for some introspection. It is also a good time to reflect on the past, examine the present and plan for the future. Over the coming months I will be seeking input from the wider network as we re-examine our mission and goals. We also need to decide if our current objectives support an overall vision for Global Coral Reef Socio-economic Monitoring. Articulating this vision is important. Do we have a vision? I urge us all to think about what a vision for SocMon might be. A vision can be articulated as an answer to the following question; "*What is the picture of the preferred future?*"

In light of the abovementioned I have begun jotting down a few thoughts of my own and will be sharing some of these ideas on the way forward over the coming months. I will most likely begin discussions with the Regional Coordinators and then based on their feedback and input we will share our thoughts with the wider network.

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These are fiscally challenging yet exciting times. Given this fact, it is even more imperative that we continue to remind the wider coral reef conservation community that a better understanding of human impacts on these precious ecosystems will lead to improved management and ecological outcomes. We also need to remind our partner networks that there is an equal role for the use of social sciences alongside the ecological sciences.

I will close by asking us all to think about SocMon's mission. The definition of "mission" being; *What we do, for whom we do it and the benefit*, OR asked in another way; *Why do we exist?* Based on information taken from our SocMon webpage I have provided an interpretation of the mission of Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative, which is:

*To facilitate community-based socio-economic monitoring for the purpose of advancing the understanding of human interactions with, and dependence on coastal resources, while simultaneously creating and building capacity that contributes to community-based ecosystem management*

Our challenge moving forward is to ensure that our current and future activities will satisfy this mission.

Thank You—Peter

## ***Philippines SocMon Project wraps up***

*By Michael Pido and Marissa Pontillas*

The Project titled, “Socio-economic 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” wrapped up with a series of community validations and stakeholder roundtable discussions in September 2012. The Palawan State University (PSU) led this project since October 2010.

The community validations were simultaneously held with the respective village leaders on 4 September 2012 in the four study sites – Barangay Kamuning and Barangay Inagawan in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan and Barangay Masaguisi and Barangay Cawayan in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro. During these events the research results generated out of the household interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions were presented to the village leaders and concerned stakeholders for their comments and/or concurrence.



A village leader provides his impression during the stakeholder roundtable discussion held in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, on 20 September 2012

The community validations served also as venues to clarify issues that came out during the data gathering phase.

Before the project officially closed on 28 September 2012, a stakeholder roundtable discussion was held on 20 September 2012 at the Mindoro State College of Agriculture (MinSCAT) – Bongabong Campus for the Bongabong project sites. A similar activity was also held at the PSU Main Campus in Puerto Princesa City on 27 September 2012 for the Puerto Princesa City project sites. The roundtable discussions aimed to communicate the research results and practical applications that can be derived from using SocMon as a tool for adaptive coastal management. Present during the respective roundtable discussions were municipal/city political leaders, community representatives, coastal managers, academics and local planners.



Local leaders and SocMon team during the stakeholder roundtable discussion held at the PSU Main Campus in Puerto Princesa City on 27 September 2012

Aside from the dissemination of the SocMon results, policy implications and recommendations some possible future steps were also presented.

Local leaders expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive data presented to them, saying that the SocMon results provided them with very instructive information that they can use to improve their coastal resource management activities. This SocMon project in the Philippines is an example of how academia can assist in local development planning and resource management.

## ***SocMon Honduras***

*By Arie Sanders*

In September we finished our project, “*The Use of SocMon for Decision-Making on the Caribbean Coast of Honduras.*” After four years working with the SocMon approach with local organizations at the Caribbean coast, the SocMon team of Zamorano identified the need for a more regional and quantitative approach to the socio-economic monitoring of the coastal areas of Central America. On the local level, the work up to this point has contributed to a greater knowledge of and support for socio-economic monitoring but thus far, it has not given rise to an integrated coastal monitoring system for the entire north coast of Honduras.



Based on the SocMon guidelines developed for the Caribbean area, we proposed to develop a monitoring system which will be

representative of coastal communities of the north coast of Honduras. The monitoring system allowed us not only to analyze the current size and state of development of the local fishing communities, but also permitted us to develop predictive scenarios and forecasts based on projected changes in the

environmental and socio-economic context. We developed a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for fishery dependent village economy in northern Honduras and examined relevant policy options in terms of their impact on output, household income, investments in human and environmental capital in eight communities. Using SAM multipliers, growth linkages of different sectors were explored and activities that best promoted growth and household income were identified. The results of the study and the methodology applied can be found at [www.zamorano.edu/](http://www.zamorano.edu/).



The SocMon project was successfully implemented. The goals formulated in our proposal were met and from the project implementation we can derive the following conclusions:

1. There is interest for new approaches in socio-economic monitoring. The quantitative SAM approach developed and promoted by Zamorano was well received by the coastal managers. For most of the participants in our workshop, this was the first time they worked with quantitative analyses. The “hands on” methodology applied during the SocMon workshops has contributed to the learning efficiency of our participants.

2. The SAM–village approach is a robust method to estimate external shocks at village level.

However, the data needs are relatively large and it is necessary for the investigators to have basic economic and/or mathematic skills. During the workshop with coastal managers we found that guide was very useful and easy to use. However, it will be difficult for them to get the data and do the analysis by themselves. Our work will be distributed and available online for broader use in our region.

3. The results of our project will be used by the Centre for Marine Ecology (CEM in Spanish) to establish/design a new Marine Protected Area in the Mosquito area. Our data and models will be used as baseline information for the development of the MPA plan. For the next year we will organize with CEM workshops on the SAM methodology for the coastal managers in northern Honduras.

## ***Sharing SocMon findings in South Asia***

By Vineeta Hoon

The NOAA supported “*Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Managers of South Asia: Field Trials and Baseline Surveys*” was successfully completed at all five sites in June 2012. The reports can be downloaded from [www.socmon.org](http://www.socmon.org). To download the reports please click on South Asia and the respective site. There are two reports on the Agatti site Lakshadweep for 2002 and 2012. SocMon was first conducted here in 2002 and then repeated in 2012. The reports have highlighted the issues

being faced at each of the sites. A common finding is that a transparent management plan is needed to manage the ecosystem goods and services and that enforcement and compliance can be made stronger by involving the community stakeholders in management.

The Peoples Action and Development (PAD) research team consisting of Dr. Marirajan, Mr. Rajendraprasad, Dr. Muniyandi, Mr. George and Mr. Asish met with Dr. Deepak, Scientific Advisor for Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Education and Research Trust (GOMBERT) deputed from UNDP and gave the report on 4 September 2012. The PAD team emphasized the management advice that should be discussed among GOMBERT officials and requested the need for feedback for discussion among the research team.

PDF copies of the Agatti Island, Lakshadweep Report have been shared with the Local Administration for further action. While the findings of the reports have been shared with stakeholders at the sites, printed copies of the report have yet to be distributed to the relevant Government departments at some of the sites.



PAD team meeting with the scientific advisor of GOMBERT



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