



From the Global Coordinator

By Peter Edwards

Hello Global SocMonners!

As we come to the end of another year I hope it finds you all well. As a Global Network we have a few things to be thankful for this past year. Many regions were provided with grant funds (NFWF–NOAA) to conduct various training and monitoring activities. We will be hearing from a few regions in this issue on their progress and expectations from these activities.

As many will recall we had set a few goals for SocMon at our Global Coordination meeting last year. One of our goals was to improve or increase capacity building via improved sustainable financing and building stronger regional networks and partnerships. Another important goal was to move towards integrated monitoring for improved decision and policymaking at community, regional and national scales. This latter goal a lofty one and requires us to think about new partnerships including sitting at the table with our biophysical colleagues who are engaged in coral reef and coastal ecosystem monitoring. Integrated research that combines the human and ecological should lead to outcomes that benefit the resources as well as the people who depend on them. To this end the Caribbean GCRMN are working on implementing this approach in the region. We encourage all to reconnect with GCRMN partners in your respective regions. In this issue we provide stories from the Gulf of Mannar to Guam as well as Dominica and Honduras.

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Please also remember that the International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 2016. Kindly check out the conference web site. Session 64 is chaired by me and will be focused on *Social Science Applications to Coral Reef Management*. In other words the session is tailor made for SocMon and SEM–Pasifika research!! [See link here:

<https://www.sgmeet.com/icrs2016/sessionschedule.asp?SessionID=64>]

Happy Holidays and Good Luck in 2016!

– Peter Edwards, Global Coordinator

Coastal fishing villages re-assessed in Dominica

By Elsa Tokunaga

From to June to July 2015, a SocMon re-assessment – funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant via the *Coordination of a Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management project* – was conducted in three coastal fishing villages in Dominica: Colihaut,

Dublanc, and Bioche. The original study was carried out in 2008 but due to the importance of the data collected a re-assessment of the socio-economic characteristics of the area was deemed necessary.



Dominica places great importance on eco-tourism, demonstrating the necessity of maintaining its natural resources both for livelihood and tourism purposes. The villages of Colihaut, Dublanc, and Bioche were chosen as study areas since each displays livelihoods within the fishing industry, and thus are vulnerable to any changes in the condition of their resources. The re-assessment, conducted seven years after the initial SocMon assessment was carried out, gathered similar information to the original, allowing us a proper comparison between the years. Data were collected concerning the level of activity on the bayfront and any changes perceived in resources as well as any problems and solutions regarding the resources and resource management. Since all three villages are within three-miles of each other and practice similar livelihoods, comparable disruptions are experienced. In the last 30 years, a quarry has been under operation less than one mile from Colihaut. Participants were asked to convey any changes faced due to the quarry. Fisher experiences were

also discussed, regarding their problems faced with hunting or selling catch.

e found that although fishing continues to be vital in each village, it is a declining practice. Fishers mentioned their increasing difficulties of selling and catching fish. Resources were generally thought to be in poorer condition than they were five years ago, and a common perception was that the quarry played a role in this decline. Garbage, human waste disposal and quarry waste were the most often repeated problems, while suggested solutions were a combination of community unity, education, and law enforcement.

We believe that taking the suggestions from the villagers and implementing those which are feasible (such as organising an educational workshop on the importance of proper garbage disposal) will have very positive results and reveal noteworthy alleviation of the most prominent issues with the next round of SocMon.

Elsa Tokunaga, CERMES intern from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, assisted with the data collection and drafting of the site monitoring report.

Look out for the site monitoring report of this re-assessment within the first quarter of next year.



Elsa Tokunaga (CERMES intern, far right) and Derick Theophile (second from right) chatting about the SocMon re-assessment findings on a local Dominica radio program

Towards integrated monitoring in Guam

By Brooke Nevitt

Through the support of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA), Guam hosted its first SEM-Pasifika training from 28 September through 2 October, 2015. Trainees included participants from Guam's local government agencies, federal government agencies, community-based NGOs, and the University of Guam.

The Guam Socio-economic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in Pacific Countries (SEM-Pasifika) training workshop is one in a series of ongoing trainings that have been facilitated throughout the region to build capacity of coastal management and conservation partners to understand, appreciate and implement socio-economic monitoring in their home jurisdictions.

In Guam, the socio-economic assessment that is being developed for Merizo under NOAA's Habitat Blueprint project in the Manell-Geus watershed is being coordinated by the local NOAA team with guidance from Supin Wongbusarakum (NOAA). The lead trainers, Supin Wongbusarakum, Brooke Nevitt (MINA) and Marybelle Quinata (NOAA) were supported by the Micronesia Socio-economic Monitoring Team with representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Guam and the CNMI. This diverse group of trainers brought with them extensive field work experience that they were able to share with Guam participants.

During the Guam workshop, the trainers took the Guam participants through the steps of conducting a socio-economic monitoring assessment using real and hypothetical situations. Hands-on activities were a critical aspect of the week-long training as the team was lead through the steps of developing, implementing, and communicating a socio-economic assessment. Special attention was paid to areas of need as identified through the capacity assessment conducted prior to the workshop.

The draft household questionnaire for Merizo was also pre-tested during the training. Following the workshop, household surveys are planned for the community in early 2016. This assessment is the first effort of SEM-Pasifika to integrate socio-economic monitoring with biological monitoring work for a more comprehensive integrated monitoring approach. Through this effort, managers may better understand impacts to both the natural environment and the people of Merizo that will inform management decisions aimed to improve the community's resilience to impacts of climate change.



Addressing trans-boundary issues in the Gulf of Mannar

By Vineeta Hoon



In 2015, we have been focused on carrying out a holistic study of the Gulf of Mannar ecosystem, which is shared by Sri Lanka and India. Earlier a complete study was not possible because of the civil situation in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The SocMon training workshops supported by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project in March 2015 led to the formation of the SocMon Mannar Self Help Group which was interested in doing a comprehensive study of the Mannar ecosystems. In May 2015 BOBLME supported a second workshop to help the group consolidate the data and produce a report.

Following this, the Coast Conservation Department, Mannar, and the Mannar SocMon group wanted some more assistance hence we took up the site under the CERMES supported SocMon Project (*Coordination of a Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management*). SocMon co-trainer, Marirajan, went a third time to help them finalise the comprehensive Mannar report. Marirajan who has been working in Gulf of Mannar, India, for more than a decade and is

carrying out SocMon studies for four sites in the Gulf of Mannar (Indian side) was thrilled to be able to co-ordinate SocMon in Mannar, Sri Lanka. He returned last month after completing the project field work on the Sri Lankan side stating the following, "Now I can say that we have a complete picture of how the Gulf of Mannar ecosystem is used by both Sri Lanka and India, we will now have a better understanding of trans-boundary issues relating to resource extraction and suggest ways to address them." The map prepared by the Mannar team provides an overview of the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay ecosystems and the coveted ecological resources being accessed by both countries. Four villages in Mannar Sri Lanka and four in Mannar India have been selected for detailed SocMon study. Once the study is completed we plan to prepare a policy brief to address the transboundary issues.

Prioritising management objectives using "Conjoint Analysis"

By Deyvi Bonilla

One of the main challenges in coastal management is simultaneously optimising economic, social and environmental objectives. However stakeholders with different interests make it difficult to establish a coherent management plan for Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

We are currently ending a study of "Conjoint Analysis," a useful tool for coastal management. This tool has been widely used in market research and has become popular in the environmental and social sciences. Conjoint analysis enables us to

understand how different stakeholders (administrators/co-drivers, fishermen, NGOs,



academia, tour operators etc.) respond to different combinations of management objectives for a MPA.

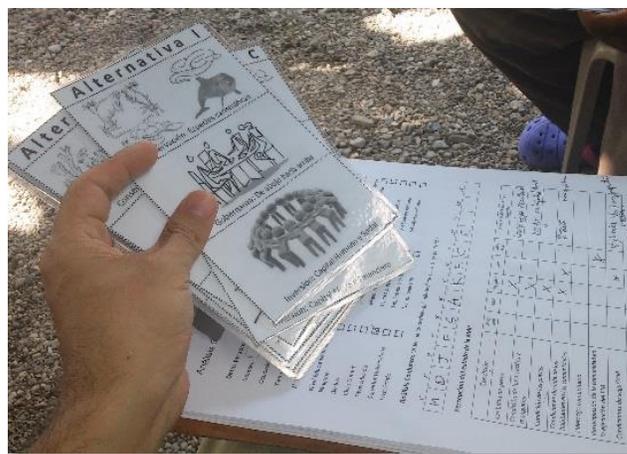
The purpose of this research is to analyse stakeholder priorities for MPA management policies. For this purpose we studied the cases of "Cuyamel-Omoa Marino Natural Park" and "Marino Cayos Cochinos Natural Monument" in the Honduran Caribbean. In early November 2015 we visited both areas; interviews were conducted with various stakeholders, who from their knowledge and experience established a sequence of preferences of management alternatives.

In this case three attributes were used with different levels related to investment (economic), governance (social) and conservation (environmental). The investment attribute established two options to prioritise grouping sustainable livelihoods: human capital + social capital and financial capital + physical capital. The governance attribute presented three ways: top-down, bottom-up and market incentives, and the conservation attribute was categorised according to

three levels: charismatic species, critical ecosystems, and species of commercial interest.

The exercise consisted of presenting to thirteen cards showing combinations or alternatives resulting from orthogonal design to respondents.

Lessons learned from the experience are being documented with the intention of developing a manual that explains the tool and can be applied in different MPA situations. This methodology is intended to contribute to the prioritisation of the MPA political agenda in the coming years.



Until 2016

By Maria Pena

On behalf of Dr. Peter Edwards, Global SocMon/SEM-Pasifika Coordinator, and all of the other Regional SocMon Coordinators, I would like to thank you all for following our socio-economic monitoring news this year. We look forward to bringing you even more interesting updates in 2016. For sure, look out for our special *SocMonitor* issue on each region's "celebrations and challenges" in working towards our Strategic Plan goals and objectives. Until 2016...



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