



Global Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management: Its Relevance to MPAs



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Outline

- Introduction
- SocMon 101
- Why SocMon?
- Examples from the regions
- Challenges
- Future plans

Introduction

- Reality: A world of increasing threats to ocean and coastal resources
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Natural resource management tool
- Management of natural (coastal) resources begins with managing PEOPLE
- Managing people requires understanding their needs, perceptions and vulnerabilities.
- Collection of human dimension information is critical to natural resource management



What is SocMon?

Global initiative for establishing site level socio-economic and marine monitoring programs

- Guidelines on how to do socio-economic monitoring useful for fisheries and coastal management at the site level
- The guidelines are used with the “Socio-economic Monitoring Manual for Coral Reef Management” that contains field methods
- Globally six regions are successfully conducting SocMon
 - English-speaking Caribbean, Central America, Western Indian Ocean, South Asia, Micronesia/Pacific
- SEM Pasifika



Primary Objectives

- Goal: Increase coastal managers' capacity to understand and incorporate the socioeconomic context into coastal management programs
- Household and community level data are collected to inform: dependence on coral reef resources, perceptions of resource conditions, threats to marine and coastal resources
- Data collected to support marine management strategies such as marine protected areas.
- Facilitate community-based socioeconomic monitoring
- Build regional capacity to sustain socioeconomic monitoring programs through training of coastal managers

Where is SocMon used?

- Focuses on tropical developing countries in 5 regions, each supported by regional coordinators:
 - Caribbean (University of the West Indies - CERMES, TNC)
 - Central America (Univ of Zamorano)
 - Southeast Asia (C.I. Phillipines, WorldFish Center, WWF, TNC)
 - South Asia (IUCN)
 - Pacific/Micronesia (Pacfic Marine Resources Institute)
 - Western Indian Ocean (CORDIO, WWF, IUCN)
- Coordinated by NOAA in partnership with GCRMN
 - World Fish Center, Reef Check, IUCN, CI, WCPA-Marine
- Funded through NOAA Coral Grants, U.S. State Department, and others

What's New

Regions

- Global
- Caribbean
- Central America
- Pacific Islands
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Western Indian Ocean

Home > Contact Us



Contact Us

Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like to:

- learning about upcoming training opportunities
- request SocMon training workshops
- hear about funding or partnership opportunities
- receive hard copies of regional SocMon guidelines

SocMon Coordinators

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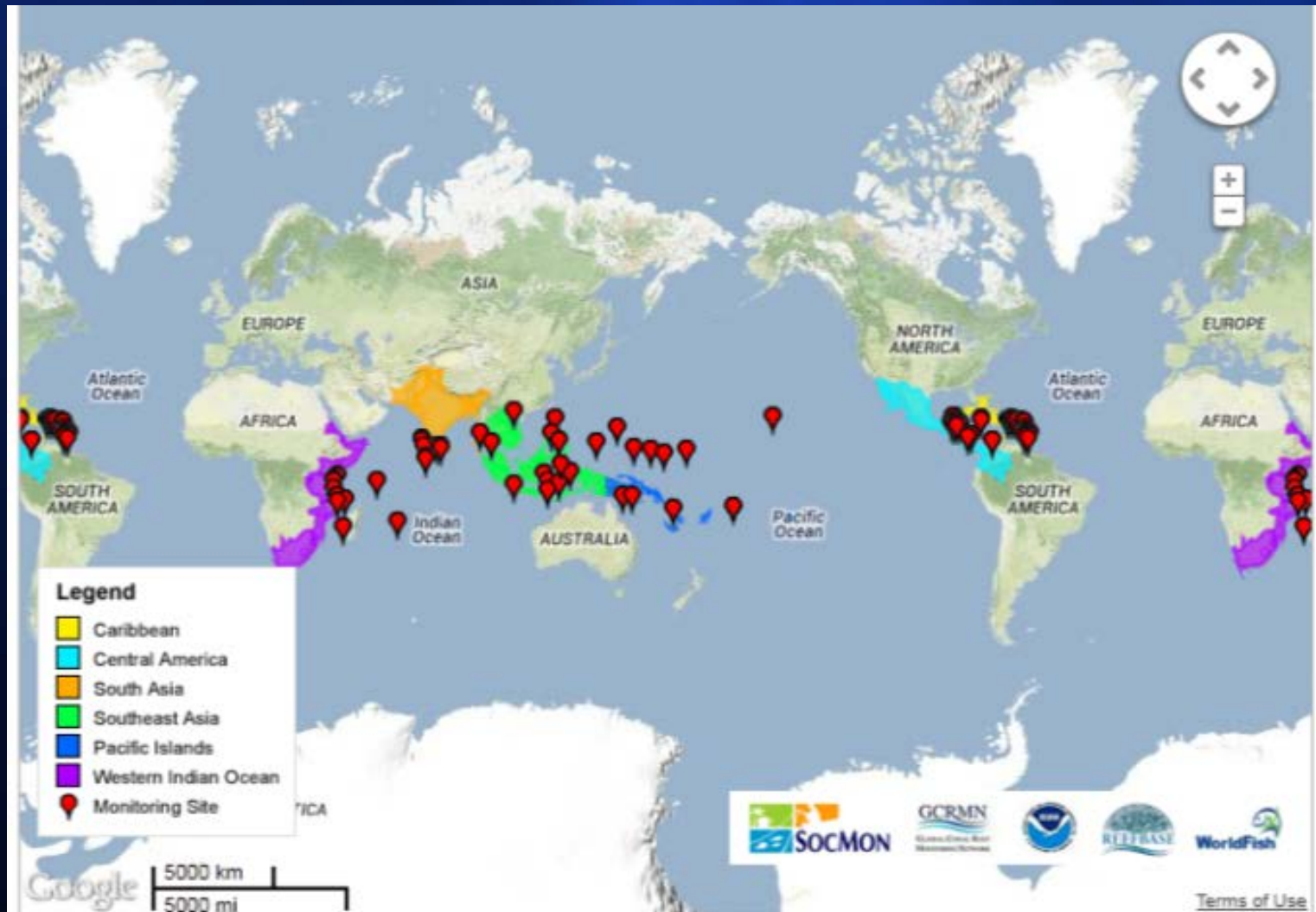
Micronesia



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Where in the world is SocMon?



www.socmon.org



Objectives for Conducting Socioeconomic Monitoring



- Identify threats, problems, solutions and opportunities
- Determine the importance of resources and their uses
- Assess costs and benefits of management measures to community (e.g. alternative livelihoods)
- Assess/monitor management effectiveness
- Facilitate stakeholder participation
- Verify assumptions of socioeconomic conditions

Socioeconomic Indicators

- Coastal and marine activities (types of use, locations...)
 - *What are the threats? How dependent are people on the resources?*
- Demographics (population, ethnic groups, education levels...)
 - *Who will be impacted?*
- Attitudes and perceptions (perceptions of resource conditions, threats, management, ...)
 - *Are people supportive?*
- Community infrastructure (roads, type of houses...)
 - *How has the standard of living changed?*
- Governance (management plan, stakeholder participation...)
 - *Are the resources protected?*

Socioeconomic Monitoring / Long-term Trends

Data Collection Methods

- Secondary sources
- Semi-structured interviews
- Structured questionnaires
- Focus groups
- Observations
- Tailored to the site needs
- <http://www.socmon.org/publications.aspx>



Required SocMon Activities

What activities are most important?

- ✔ SocMon Manual (*Bunce et al 2000*)
- ✔ SocMon/SEM Pasifika guidebook
- ✔ Training
- ✔ Technical assistance to sites (e.g. expert team)
- ✔ Site funding to implement
- ✔ Translation

Other:

- ✔ Annual meetings
- ✔ Website
- ✔ Regional database
- ✔ Incorporation into university curricula
- ✔ Other topics – e.g. economic indicators

SocMon and MPAs



- MPAs have different objectives
 - Mixed use, no take zone, fishing, tourism
 - Tensions between user groups



- SocMon used as a tool for data collection
 - Data can then feed into management



- Caribbean and Micronesia Challenges
 - Most of the SocMon pilot sites were MPA focussed

Socioeconomic Monitoring 6 Step Process



Preparatory activities

Planning & scoping

Data collection

Data analysis & validation

Key learning & communication

Decisions & adaptive management



Socioeconomic Information – Potential Uses



Types of Data – Fishing Communities



Other Applications: Community Development



Employment



Standard of Living



Environmental Awareness



Shoreline Protection

SocMon Data Can: Inform MPA Design



& Enhance Public Consultation Process

Selected Examples

LAPU—PHILIPPINES (2005)

- First local socioeconomic data collection effort
- Management questions and findings:
 - 68% say that illegal/destructive fishing methods are primary factor destroying reefs
 - 96% of local residents willing to support MPAs
 - 44% say education, 36% say more enforcement, 12% say provision of alternative livelihoods is the solution to marine resource degradation
- Lapu Department of Agriculture adopted SocMon questions regular use



CASE STUDY—CORN ISLAND, NICARAGUA

(2002-2005)

- Management questions
 - How is closed season for affecting local fishermen?
- Cost of study: US \$1,000
- Findings:
 - Local fishermen support seasonal closures and believe that closures will increase lobster stocks
 - During closed periods, Corn Island experienced increased drug trafficking, alcohol abuse, and delinquency
- Recommendation: local government needs to provide alternative livelihood options during seasonal closures



CASE STUDY—LAKSHADWEEP, INDIA (2002)

- Management questions
 - How do customary traditions in reef management fit with governance laws?
 - How do islanders interact with the reef?
- Cost of study: US \$10,000
- Findings:
 - Coral boulder collection continues after Ministry of Environment has banned this practice
 - Islanders don't believe debris collection harms coral growth
 - Illegal activity: some collectors break coral boulders into debris in order to “legally” harvest it
- Results of study presented to Lakshadweep Administration for management planning
- **Management actions?????**



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Caribbean SocMon studies

Socio-economic profiles of fisheries

- *St. Louis, A. et al. 2010.*
Socio-economic monitoring assessment of coastal management in the Colihaut, Dublanc and Bioche villages of Dominica
- *Gill, D. et al. 2007.*
Socio-economic profile of fisheries in the Grenadine Islands
- *Franklin. 2007.*
Socio-economic importance of the lobster fishery of the British Virgin Islands

Type of information

- Fisher demographics
- Temporal & spatial fishing practices
- Market orientation
- Revenue
- Expenditures
- Attitudes towards and perceptions of resources and management
- Material style of life

Benefits of SocMon

- Understanding the socio-economic contexts of coastal resource use by various stakeholders
- Assessing, predicting and managing coastal resource use over time
- National and regional fisheries, MPA and other management plans call for socio-economic data
- Assists social and institutional learning and decisions that develop adaptive capacity and resilience, reduce vulnerability



Benefits of Establishing a SocMon Program

- Provides tools (e.g. guidelines, training) to assist coastal management sites
- Provides a framework of activities for building capacity (e.g. manual, training, site implementation, etc), which organizations can tap into as interested
- Provides a mechanism to share results and lessons learned
- Establishes standard guidelines, so can compare site conditions and determine regional trends

Benefits of participating in SocMon

- ✔ Build on existing global and regional tools and experiences (e.g. training agendas, SocMon publications) as well as frameworks for planning
- ✔ Builds local capacity
- ✔ Tie into global network of sites – compare results and lessons learned
- ✔ Leverage sources of funding (if available)
- ✔ Be part of the global marine conservation community – e.g. International Coral Reef Action Network, WorldFish Centre, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, United Nations

Challenges

- Funding challenges
 - Include in future RFPs
- Repeat monitoring exercises needed
- Loss of regional capacity (personnel changes)
- Little evidence of SocMon Data incorporation into actual decision/policy making
- Dissemination of findings

Next Steps

- Survey of regional managers (completed)
- Scheduled SocMon trainings (Caribbean & Micronesia)
- New variable development
- Possible GCRMN and SocMon Meeting
 - Combining Bio-Physical Science and Social Sciences
- Dissemination of monitoring information
 - SocMon data in actual decision making and planning
 - Demonstrate usefulness of data
- Expansion of Regional SocMon nodes (Brazil)
- Climate change and social vulnerability -addendum

Climate Change - Addendum

EXPOSURE

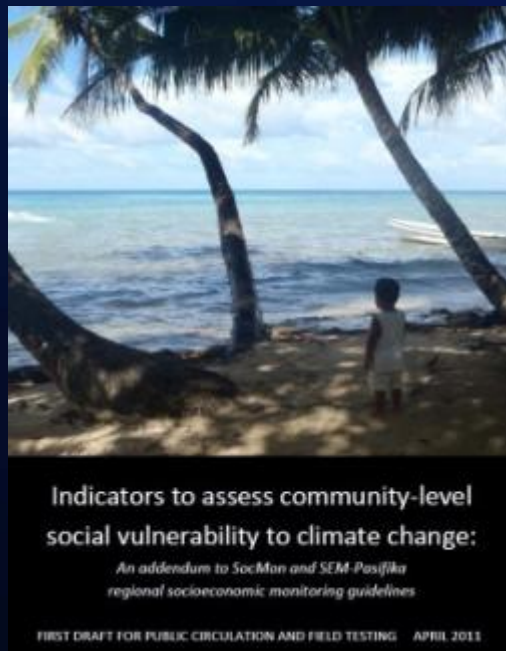
Demographically vulnerable groups

SENSITIVITY

Dependence on resources and services vulnerable to CC impacts

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

- Current livelihood and income diversity of household
- Perceived alternative and supplemental livelihoods
- Awareness of household vulnerability to climate hazards
- Access and use of climate-related knowledge
- Formal and informal networks supporting climate hazard reduction and climate adaptation
- Ability of community to reorganize
- Leadership and governance
- Equitable access to resources



<http://www.socmon.org/publications.aspx>



www.socmon.org

The screenshot shows the SocMon website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About SocMon, Publications, Database, and Contact Us. Below this is a 'What's New' section with a 'Regions' sidebar listing Global, Caribbean, Central America, Pacific Islands, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Western Indian Ocean. The main content area features a 'Welcome to SocMon' section with a photo of a woman with fish and a 'What's New' section titled 'New tool available for assessing social vulnerability to climate change' with a photo of a coastal scene. Below that is a 'Regions Where We Operate' section with a world map. The footer contains the text 'The Global Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative is'.

The newsletter cover features the SocMON logo and the title 'Caribbean Challenge SocMon vulnerability'. The main text discusses the National Trust and Wildlife Foundation (NTWF) funded project, the Caribbean Challenge SocMon vulnerability assessment, and the results of the assessment. It mentions that the assessment was conducted in 2008 and that the results are available in the SocMON database. The cover also includes a photo of a group of people and a small inset titled 'SVC coastal life'.

The report cover features the title 'SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS ALONG THE WORLD'S TROPICAL COASTS: 2008' and the SocMON logo. The cover includes a photo of people on a beach and a small inset titled 'SVC coastal life'.

The screenshot shows the SocMon & SEM-Pasifika Facebook page. The page features the SocMON logo and the title 'SocMon & SEM-Pasifika'. The main content area includes a post from 'Ranga Pava' dated 11 May 2012, which discusses the assessment of the opening validation meeting. The post includes a photo of a car and a photo of a boat. The page also shows the number of likes and shares for the post.



Thank you!



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SCIENCE, SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP: