

Brunei launches monitoring and MPA program

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Brunei is a small country located on the north coast of the island of Borneo and has historically been economically dependent upon marine based oil wells. As part of the coral triangle, Brunei has recently launched a major program to conserve coral reefs. This has included the training of 11 staff in Reef Check and other monitoring techniques, a taxonomic expedition resulting in the publication of a book on corals of Brunei, the banning of trawl fishing in most waters and the establishment of a marine protected area network encompassing most of Brunei's coral reefs. The establishment of the Reef Check monitoring program has resulted in a major increase in media coverage of the issue of coral reef conservation and has helped to build up government and public support for the new MPA network.

18F Does monitoring lead to improved coral reef management?

Friday 13 July, 1115, Hall B

Community based monitoring In Lakshadweep 2001-2011: lessons learnt, challenges and way forward

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This paper draws on Socioeconomic monitoring carried out at Agatti Island, Lakshadweep in 2011 and compares it with socioeconomic monitoring carried out in 2001. The paper synthesizes data from this and a catch monitoring project to quantify and qualify human dependence on coral reefs in small islands. Data has been collected using a combination of participatory appraisal methods, interviews and surveying 400 households and 200 individuals. The monitoring carried out in 2011, shows that the matrilineal society is further breaking down, household sizes are smaller, favoring the nuclear family. 68% of the homes are owned by women as against 74% in 2001. Dependence on the reef and lagoon for food continues to grow. 90% of the households state that reef gleaning, recreation and subsistence fishing provides a source of income/food. Speargun has become popular and around 25 people use this for recreation fishing. Longline is used to catch shark. The Administration wants to regulate tourism and the Islanders want to set up resorts and home stays to augment their income. The divide between the rich and poor is growing. 94% of the people have not completed high school, showing low resilience to diversify livelihoods.

These trends create challenges and reiterate the need for integrating socioeconomic with biophysical monitoring. It explains how the information is being used to encourage conservation and its usefulness to adaptive management and for developing policies for the management of tourism, artisanal and deep water fisheries, fresh water, welfare and development infrastructure.

18F Does monitoring lead to improved coral reef management?

Thursday 12 July, 1230, Hall B

Rapid reef health assessment by volunteers in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

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Bangka & Gangga islands are located at the northern end of Sulawesi (1°46' N 125°06' E). Currents and geomorphological features lead to the production of peculiar floro-faunistic assemblages, merging seascapes similar to those present in the Bunaken marine Park (with steep and deep walls) with those known for Lembeh Strait (with shallow volcanic sandy bottoms). The islands are also surrounded by mangroves and seagrass meadows attended by dugongs. Unfortunately the overfishing activities well known for the area compromise a very high percentage of the reef surrounding the islands, with wide portions of damaged corals. Surveys have been performed in four sites at 6 and 12 m depth following Reef Check protocol. The sites have been selected after interviews with local people to cover the full range between heavily damaged and almost pristine sites. Comparing data it is evident that there are not differences between depths but non-impacted areas showed higher percentages of living corals and lower amount of coral rubble. The method is informative and the patchy distribution of damaged reefs suggests that prompt and effective measures of management and conservation could still allow a good level of recovery of the reef ecosystem.

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P207

Monitoring as a tool to improve coral reef management

Joseph, Eugene