

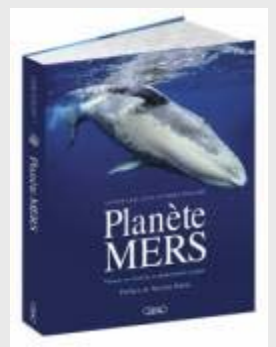
GMP News

Issue 2
December 2005

PLANÈTE MERS WINS PRESTIGIOUS PALME D'OR

Planète Mers, a co-production of IUCN, Editions Lafon and l'Oeil d'Andromède has been awarded the Palme d'Or (gold medal) at the 32nd Festival of Underwater Imagery in Antibes, France.

For details of how to purchase a copy, please contact: james.oliver@iucn.org



Editorial



Andrew Hurd
Senior Programme
Coordinator, IUCN Global
Marine Programme

A series of recent events point to an emerging convergence that deserves our attention: conservationists and fishery managers, more often at odds with each other than not, are starting to realize the need to work together. One of the key messages from the first International MPA Congress (IMPAC) in Geelong, Australia, is that marine biodiversity conservation can only succeed if fishers and other users are included in planning and management of resources. That same week, in nearby Hobart, the parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), a regional fisheries management organization, agreed that MPAs have considerable potential for marine conservation and management and committed to ramping up work on MPAs in the Southern Ocean. While we'll have to wait for these words to become actions, the chatter from both sides of the MPA/fisheries boundary certainly sounds promising.

IMPAC 1: EXPERTS CHART A COURSE FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

In his keynote speech at the inaugural International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC1), held from October 23-28 in Geelong, Australia, IUCN Director General Achim Steiner called on Conservation and fisheries communities to join forces in order to improve the state of the world's oceans:

"More often than not, conservation and fisheries authorities are at odds when it comes to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas. MPAs are not just a conservation priority – it is our shared mandate as a global community." he said.



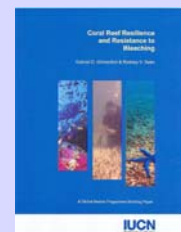
IUCN Director General Achim Steiner and GMP's Andrew Hurd welcome delegates at the IUCN booth at IMPAC

The Congress identified responsible fishing practices, international cooperation to improve ocean governance and greater investment in scientific research as the crucial strategies to address major threats to the marine environment posed by over-exploitation, pollution and climate change. For more info, please visit: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/news/archive2005.htm>

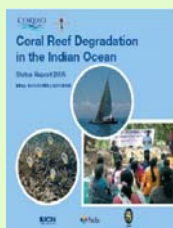
Latest IUCN Marine Publications

CORAL REEF RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE TO BLEACHING (G. GRIMSDITCH & R.SALM)

Published for the IMPAC Marine Protected Area (MPA) conference session on Building Resilient MPA networks, this IUCN GMP Working Paper looks at tools and strategies for enhancing coral reef resilience.



Last minute...



[Click here for download](#)

CORDIO and IUCN released the CORDIO Status Report 2005, which paints a rather bleak picture of the current status of Indian Ocean coral reefs and coastal resources. The report also includes two chapters on the effects of the Dec 2004 tsunami.



GAPS AND PRIORITIES IN ADDRESSING MARINE INVASIVE SPECIES (I.MELIANE & C.HEWITT)

This GMP Working Paper identifies the critical gaps to be addressed in relation to marine invasive species and outlines priority actions to be undertaken at global, regional and national levels in order to win the battle against the global spread of marine pests.

Both the above publications are available for download at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pubs/pubs.htm>

Global Issues

LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

GEF INTERNATIONAL WATERS: STIMULATING DIALOGUE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

The International Waters (IW) Conference, hosted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil on June 20-25, 2005 was convened to review the GEF IW project portfolio worth nearly US\$3 billion. The World Conservation Union is coordinating two thematic tracks on Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) and River Basins. The main objective of the conference was to share successes, pitfalls and experiences, as well as encouraging collaboration across International Waters. "People working on projects from over 130 countries are engaged in this week's discussions, learning new approaches from different places and looking at ways of implementing them in their own regions," said Carl Gustaf Lundin, Head of the IUCN Global Marine Programme and Head of the IUCN IWC delegation in Salvador. As part of the IW-Learn project, IUCN has launched a web-based lecture series; the first one looks at the economic valuation of transboundary marine and coastal resources. For more information, go to: <http://earthmind.net/marine/>

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT



The third "Entretiens de Port-Cros" round of discussions, sponsored by the Total Foundation for Biodiversity and the Seas, was held from October 5-7, 2005 on "Biodiversity of the Deep Seas". Sixty marine experts looked at new approaches for the private sector to engage with public institutions to facilitate scientific research, monitoring and the promotion of sustainable use. The meeting was co-hosted by IUCN, Ifremer, the National Park of Port-Cros, the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton, and the Total Foundation for Biodiversity and the Seas.

GOVERNANCE

IUCN GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY



On August 15 2005, the 11th Session of the International Seabed Authority made IUCN an official IGO Observer (Intergovernmental Organisation observer) within their organisation. Scott Hajost, Executive Director of the IUCN USA Multilateral Office, welcomed the news, "This is an important achievement and feeds into many of our larger marine conservation efforts. The IUCN Global Marine Programme is really on the cutting edge of global conservation policy work on the high seas."

STATES URGED TO HEED ADVICE ON DEEP-SEA FISHERIES



Over-capacity? Industrial-scale tuna fishing in Samoa
Photo: © Wolcott Henry 2001

In an advisory note circulated 24 October to all country missions at the United Nations, IUCN urged States to heed scientific advice on deep-sea fisheries developed by scientists from ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea). They recommended a complete overhaul of deep-sea fisheries, including that:

- No new fisheries for deep-sea fish should be allowed, and
- Existing deep-sea fisheries should be reduced to low levels

until data collection and assessment programmes indicate that increased harvests can be sustainable. The particular vulnerability of deep-sea fish stocks and other impacted species like cold-water corals must be taken into account in designing new approaches to these fisheries.

LINKS (see GMP website news archive)

- Steps to Achieving Sustainable and Equitable High Seas Fisheries: IUCN Recommendations on High Seas Fisheries
- High Seas Deep-water Fisheries and their Contribution to Sustainable Development

AQUACULTURE



Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture: Conclusions of the Sidi Fredj workshop, June 25-27, 2005
[Click here to download](#)

Aquaculture is on the rise in a number of Mediterranean countries and, although often seen as a way of relieving pressure on wild fish stocks, this production brings with it a number of complex socioeconomic and environmental problems. A new IUCN brochure highlights the tools and strategies that could make aquaculture a more sustainable industry.

FOCUS ON IUCN MEMBERS

EBCD (EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION)

Policy makers, fisheries representatives and environmental organisations debated the use of marine protected areas as a management tool for sustainable fisheries at a recent hearing of the European Union on Marine Biodiversity, Fisheries Management and Marine Protected Areas. The meeting, organised by EBCD and IUCN, sought to balance fishing and biodiversity protection interests. IUCN-GMP presented initial findings of an ongoing study of the role of MPAs for fisheries management. This initiative links into IUCN's wider efforts to enhance dialogue between fisheries stakeholders, especially with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

More info: www.ebcd.org

News from the Regions

East Africa

NEW PUBLICATION RELEASED: ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

Most countries in the Western Indian Ocean have one or more MPAs, dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biodiversity, natural resources and cultural heritage values. Two regional MPAs - Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park in South Africa and Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles - are listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in recognition of their global value. At the same time, regional and international experience has shown that it is not enough to simply declare or legally gazette an MPA - its long-term success depends on whether or not it is managed effectively. The "Workbook for Assessing Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in the Western Indian Ocean" is being published by IUCN East Africa Regional Office.

[Click here for download](#)

West Africa

PROGRESS ON THE CCLME PROJECT

The Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) Project made good progress in October at its first sub-regional workshop in Saly, Senegal, towards the establishment of a multi-country cross-sectoral regional management initiative.



Fishermen in Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania. Photo by Jim Thorsell.

The Canary Current spans a region of highly productive fisheries, critical to the food security of the coastal populations of Morocco, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. Unfortunately, the fisheries are severely threatened by excessive fishing, urban runoff and offshore petroleum exploitation.

For more information, go to:
www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/CCLME.pdf

Mediterranean

IUCN/WWF REPORT CONTRIBUTES TO THE DECISION TO BAN DEEP SEA TRAWLING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

A Mediterranean-wide ban on the use of towed dredges and trawl net fisheries at depths beyond 1000m came into force in September 2005. This important measure was based on a comprehensive study of the status of deep sea fishing in the Mediterranean developed by IUCN and WWF in a wide-reaching consultation process with regional specialists. This recommendation is part of the eight measures that have been adopted in the second week of September 2005 by the 24 countries of FAO'S General Fisheries Commission (GFCM) and are now to be enforced at national level by all GFCM members. A second important recommendation was in regard to a minimum mesh-size opening of 40mm in the 'cod end' section of trawlers nets, a centralised registry listing all ships over 15 metres long authorized to fish in their own countries, and a number of steps to tighten reporting on tuna-fattening operations, known as capture-based aquaculture.

Full story:

http://iucn.org/places/medoffice/noticias/ban_fisheries_en.html

Asia

IUCN JOINS FORCES TO CONDUCT ASSESSMENT OF INDONESIAN CORALS

Three leading marine conservation organisations, including the World Conservation Union (IUCN), completed an extensive survey in October along the west coast of Aceh Province, Indonesia, to determine the impact of last year's devastating earthquake and tsunami on the region's coral reefs, upon which so many local people depend for their livelihoods. The survey outcomes will be incorporated into the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network's (GCRMN) "Post-Tsunami Status of Coral Reef Report" – a special report in the "Status of Coral Reefs of the World" series, which provides the present state of coral reef health around the world. The complete status report, co-funded by IUCN, will be released in early 2006.

For more information on the Regional Marine Programme, go to:
www.iucn.org/places/asia/marineprog.htm

South America

TOWARD THE CONSERVATION OF THE PATAGONIAN SEA

The south west part of the Atlantic Ocean lacks a formal cooperation forum where countries can agree on common management measures to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of their shared marine species and resources. This lack of coordination at governmental level did not stop the organisations currently working in the greater Patagonian region (Southern Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Southern Brazil) from sharing a common vision. This vision is of "an ecologically healthy and diverse Patagonian Sea, meeting the needs and aspirations of people whilst maintaining one of the world's greatest wildlife spectacles and most productive marine ecosystems, through a genuine partnership amongst all interested sectors". The Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea provides opportunities to discuss solutions to the common problems occurring in the area, and creates opportunities for an exchange of information and experiences on issues like Marine Protected Areas, fisheries management and by-catch reduction. IUCN has been involved from the start of this innovative idea and is continuing to support this forum.

Oceania

IUCN INVESTS IN OCEANIA

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is opening a new chapter in its long history of collaboration with environmental institutions in the South Pacific with the establishment of its Oceania Programme, launched by IUCN Director General Achim Steiner in Suva, Fiji on October 18, 2005.

"IUCN will initially invest in the Pacific Islands region, where its members have identified the greatest priority for conservation action" said Steiner, "more than half of the world's seamounts, which are the underwater strongholds of biodiversity, are located in the Pacific".

The marine-orientated focus of the IUCN Oceania Programme will be centred on ecosystem and species management, climate change, improved governance, and the fight against alien marine species.

For more information, go to:
www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2005/10/oceania_brochure_lr.pdf

SPECIAL FEATURE

SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE IUCN HON MUN MPA PROJECT, VIETNAM

Interview with **Bernard O'Callaghan**, Chief Technical Advisor to the project



The Hon Mun MPA Pilot Project was set up to establish the Nha Trang Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA). Funded by the GEF/World Bank and implemented by IUCN, the project operated from 2001 to 2005 with the aim of protecting marine biodiversity, including coral reefs and fish spawning grounds, and to promote alternative livelihoods, such as sustainable tourism. GMP News spoke to the project's CTA.

The Hon Mun MPA project has now drawn to a close. How successful was the project in promoting alternative livelihoods?

The project identified a pressing need to relieve the pressure on the local marine environment, which is under significant stress, and to help protect the natural resources of the area by diversification of income for local people. One example was the development of a tourism operation by local fishermen using glass bottom basket boats. The project assisted in the design of boats, provision of credit to purchase the boats and safety equipment, and provided training on basic English language, customer service and safety skills. By March 2005, boat operators were generating monthly income of over US\$ 100, with encouraging signs that the activity would provide sustainable income in the future. Even though at present, many local villagers still prefer fishing, it is hoped that with such sustainable income on offer, more people will release the potential of tourist related activities.

Is there evidence that the development of a zoned, multiple-use MPA protecting coral reef, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems has improved environmental productivity?

One of the many achievements of the project was the establishment of a trained *Community Monitoring Team* of six local villagers to monitor changes in the biodiversity and marine life three times a year. Survey results indicated that where there was good enforcement of the sanctuary zones, there has been a recovery of corals and an increase in the number of fish. This is the case around Hon Mun Island, for example. The elimination of dynamite fishing will also help in other zones. However, substantial increases in productivity will take time.

What was the approach to ensure local participation in the project and to achieve their buy-in?

As decisions relating to the management of the protected area would impact the use of resources by people living within the MPA, it was essential that the island residents take part in the management process. The local people were happy to participate in the planning process when anticipated benefits, such as increased fisheries stocks and improved living conditions in the villages, could be identified.

The project established Village MPA Communities in each village in the MPA that contributed actively to the management of the Nha Trang Bay and culminated in over 50 consultation meetings with local communities during the life of the project.

What were some of the lessons learnt from the implementation of the Hon Mun project?

Firstly, that the establishment and effective implementation of an MPA takes time and requires the support of all levels of government: local, provincial and national. Developing the trust of local people is also a lengthy process but is crucial to the long-term success of an MPA, as is their involvement in the planning and management process.

Management of MPAs can be achieved within the MPA boundaries but is difficult to implement outside of those boundaries. Therefore, a broader integrated coastal zone management and a national strategy and supporting legislation for MPAs is crucial for maintaining MPA values and environmental quality. Finally, the establishment of a functional MPA authority with appropriate powers is essential for the successful operation of an MPA such as the Nha Trang Bay MPA.

What does the future hold for Nha Trang Bay MPA and Hon Mun Island?

Efforts towards the protection and management of Nha Trang Bay have just begun. The work of the past four years has established an important foundation for the future management of the Bay. However, there remain a number of serious challenges, such as pollution and over-use of resources that, unless addressed over the next few years, will result in a decline in the quality of the Bay and a loss in benefits for future generations. The project established a system for sustainable financing and it is important that the funds generated from user fees are put back into the sustainable management of the Bay. Only the commitment of the local people and government will help preserve what is still one of the most beautiful bays in the world.

More info:
<http://www.iucn.org/en/projects/vietnam.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 23-27, 2006

Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands
UNESCO, Paris, France

Feb 13-17, 2006

UNGA Working Group on issues relating to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction
New York, USA

Feb 14-17, 2006

1st Intergovernmental meeting on the establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
Wellington, New Zealand
www.southpacificrfmo.org/Event.first-meeting

Feb 26-Mar 2, 2006

Sharing the Fish - Allocation Issues in Fisheries Management 2006
Perth, Australia
www.fishallocation.com/

Mar 6-10, 2006

World Maritime Technology Conference
Westminster, London
www.wmtc2006.com

Mar 20-31, 2006

Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP8)
Curitiba, Brazil

Apr 24-26, 2006

97th Session of the OECD Committee on Fisheries
Paris, France

May 22-26, 2006

Review Conference for the UN Fish Stocks Agreement
New York, USA

CREDITS

Compiled by

James Oliver & Claire Warmenbol with input from the Global Marine Programme

Edited & designed by

James Oliver