

GMP News

Issue 3
August 2006

The IUCN Global Marine Programme Newsletter

Editorial



GMP News has evolved, not only to reflect the new look of IUCN publications in general, but also to bring more news and images from

our work around the world. We welcome your feedback as well as input into future issues.

Up to 95% of the Black Sea's biomass is now made up of a single invasive species introduced by ballast water. In parts of the Central Pacific, there are six kilos of marine litter to every kilo of plankton. These are just two of the frightening statistics drawn from the IUCN-UNEP publication *Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Deep Waters and High Seas*. The book, one of six published by IUCN and its partners in the first part of 2006, goes on to outline the options, tools and good practices available to help put decision makers on a sustainable path.

Raising awareness is one of GMP's key goals and in 2006, the message has been taken from classrooms in Thai villages right up to the United Nations General Assembly. This year's IUCN Red List update achieved unprecedented media coverage, but it is equally important to present the good news and demonstrate what can be achieved through sound environmental management and use of tools such as marine protected areas and codes of conduct. Some examples can be found in the pages of this newsletter as the marine community, including IUCN and its member organisations, strive to foster a sustainable future for our seas and oceans.

James Oliver, Project Officer

In this issue...



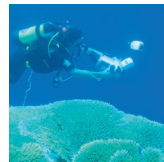
New Publications and Reports - page 2

The new publications from IUCN and its network of partners include three reports on high seas-related issues and two on coral reefs covering their status in tsunami affected countries and their role in providing shoreline protection and ecosystem services.



Global Issues - pages 3-5

The first six months of 2006 have seen an unprecedented concentration of IUCN activity on the issue of high seas and the preservation of its biodiversity. The period was also marked by a new update of the IUCN Red List with plenty of news on the status of marine species.



News from the Regions - pages 6-10

Features include Sharks in Ecuador, Invasives in the Indian Ocean, Fish Agreements in West Africa, Marine Protected Areas in Sudan, Coral Reef Resilience to Climate Change in East Africa, IUCN-CORDIO's education programme on corals in Asia, and Management Recommendations for the humphead wrasse in Indonesia.



Special Feature - page 11

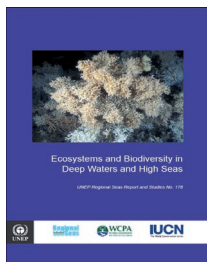
Dolphin habitat conservation and sustainable ecotourism in the Red Sea aims to boost the plight of the Spinner Dolphin and other threatened species.



Events and Additional Information - back page

Staff announcements, main marine events in the coming six months and other additional information.

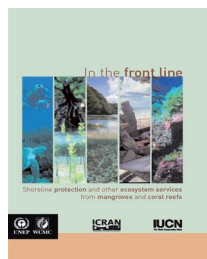
New Publications and Reports



Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Deep Waters and High Seas

This publication highlights recent scientific advances and their implications for management, as well as identifying policy principles, tools and options for charting a course for the conservation and sustainable use of marine habitats and life forms in deep waters and the open ocean. It has a special focus on areas beyond national jurisdiction.

LINK: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/unep_high_seas130606_screen.pdf



In the Front Line: Shoreline protection and other ecosystem services from mangroves and coral reefs

This report has gathered lessons learnt from recent natural events that will be relevant to future management of the coasts in the context of severe weather events and other potential consequences of global warming. More than ever, it is essential to consider the full value of ecosystem services when making decisions about coastal development.

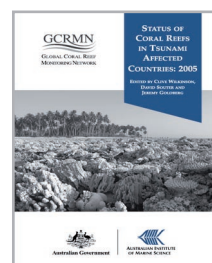
LINK: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/in_the_front_line.pdf



PARKS Vol 15 No 3 High Seas Marine Protected Areas 2005

This edition of PARKS recognises the critical roles played by the world's oceans in maintaining the biosphere and the rapidly increasing stresses being applied to them by human activities. It addresses the opportunities and challenges of achieving the High Seas component of the target of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and other fora: representative networks of MPAs by 2012.

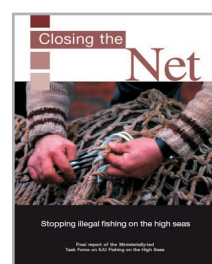
LINK: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/parks_hsmppajun06.pdf



Status of Coral Reefs in Tsunami affected Countries 2005

This book has been written to collate and synthesise the summaries of the many surveys of reef damage performed throughout the region for the benefit of decision makers; it also summarises some of the responses.

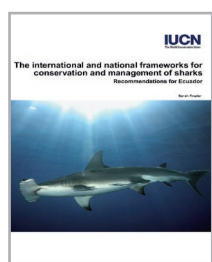
LINK: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/scr-tac2005-low.pdf>



Closing the Net: Stopping Illegal Fishing on the High Seas. Final report of the Ministerially-led Task Force on IUU Fishing on the High Seas

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a serious global problem. It is increasingly seen as one of the main obstacles to the achievement of sustainable world fisheries. The Ministerially-led Task Force on IUU Fishing on the High Seas has therefore devised a set of practical proposals intended to tackle the root causes of IUU fishing.

LINK: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/hstf06.pdf>



The international and national frameworks for conservation and management of sharks

This document presents a summary of the evolving status of implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks internationally. It outlines the international context for shark conservation and management, particularly in those conservation and management fora applicable to Ecuador.

LINK: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/ecuador_npoa-fowler.pdf

Momentum builds for High Seas protection

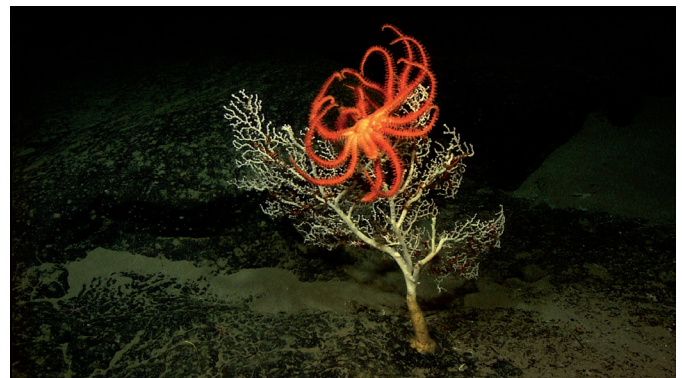
Efforts to conserve and sustainably use the world's most remote areas are gaining momentum. The first 6 months of 2006 saw high and deep-sea issues firmly on the international political agenda. Covering some 64% of our oceans, the high seas are faced with increasing pressures, of which fishing activities represent the most severe and immediate threat. The international community is starting to recognise the need to urgently improve high seas biodiversity protection whilst the implementation of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean and the Southern Indian Ocean gave an excellent starting point for enhanced protection of deep-sea habitats from destructive fishing practices.

IUCN has maintained its position at the forefront of policy developments. In January, at the [Global Oceans Conference](#) in Paris, GMP participated in a Panel Session on high seas governance, where it reiterated its call for the sustainable use of high seas resources. GMP also provided a presentation on high seas fisheries, and both helped make high seas governance one of the Conference's priorities. GMP provided essential background information for constructive government level discussions in February in New York, at the [UN Ad Hoc Working Group on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction](#). There, in its role as permanent observer, IUCN delivered its message on the principles and approaches applicable to human activities in the high seas, and restated the need to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems through a halt to destructive fishing practices amongst other means. Clearly recognising the duty of states to protect the resources of the high seas, at the [8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) in March in Brazil, there was further discussion of the need for an interim prohibition of deep sea bottom trawling on the high seas as well as the creation of high seas MPAs. IUCN's contribution of information and position papers has helped transform the discussion from whether high seas MPAs are legal or desirable, to the criteria for their establishment.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, a major threat to the long-term sustainability of fish stocks, received international attention in March when the [High Seas Task Force](#), comprising six fisheries ministers and the Directors-General of the IUCN, WWF and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, launched its final report. Providing practical solutions, the report calls on states to improve collaboration and cooperation to combat what has come to be seen as modern piracy. GMP also contributed to advancing actions against IUU fishing by presenting a prototype of a global list of irresponsible fishing vessels under the PROFISH partnership for sustainable fisheries at a meeting during the [UN Fish Stocks Agreement Review Conference](#) held in May in New York. IUCN made several interventions on the need to adopt precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. IUCN noted that current Regional Fisheries Management Organisations' (RFMOs) mandates' should be expanded and new RFMOs created to close gaps in coverage of species and areas in order to ensure the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of fisheries resources across the world's oceans. The ecosystem approach was further discussed at the [UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea](#) in June in New York. IUCN noted that the ecosystem approach implied a shift in the way we think, from managing what we know to managing what we do not know. IUCN reiterated a call for an interim prohibition on high seas bottom trawling until such time as management regimes capable of conserving and managing human activities in the high seas are put into place.

Alongside discussions taking place at high-level international meetings, concrete actions were taken on a regional basis to protect vulnerable areas of the seas. In February, the [General Fish-](#)

[eries Commission for the Mediterranean \(GFCM\)](#) decided to close three sensitive deep-sea ecosystems to bottom trawling, off Italy, Cyprus and Egypt. Marine Protected Areas, considered by IUCN as a key tool for the management of the oceans, were discussed again in the context of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Scotland in June. Elsewhere, in a global first, four major fishing companies announced the voluntary halt to high seas bottom trawling in eleven deep-sea areas in the [Southern Indian Ocean](#). They will cover an area approximately the size of Norway. These decisions represent a promising step towards sustainability and the sound management of our oceans, as called for by IUCN.



A brisingid sea star feeds off a stony coral. Photo courtesy of Deep Atlantic Stepping Stones Team/IFE/URI/NOAA.

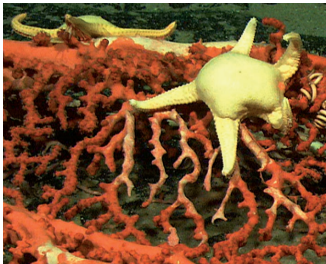
While the promotion of improved ocean governance in international and regional fora represents an essential step to progress, collaboration with key stakeholders, scientific research, and awareness-raising are considered as equally crucial to achieve much-needed reforms. To improve our understanding of seamounts and their interactions with the surrounding environment and pelagic fisheries, GMP is initiating scientific expeditions to explore these remote mountains of the deep. An expert scientific team will conduct ground-breaking research on seamount ecosystems around the world to enhance our knowledge of these ecosystems and promote their conservation. To raise public awareness, IUCN issued two publications on high seas MPAs and the ecosystems of the high and deep seas, which received wide attention in the world press (see Publications section).

It is only through a concerted effort among political leaders, scientists, industrial leaders, the conservation community, indigenous communities and the wider public that our oceans can be managed sustainably. IUCN strongly believes that all stakeholders have a key role to play in this process and strives to encourage best principles and practical actions on different fronts to achieve a comprehensive and coherent approach to ocean governance.

NB: Each hyperlink provides access to more information on IUCN activities

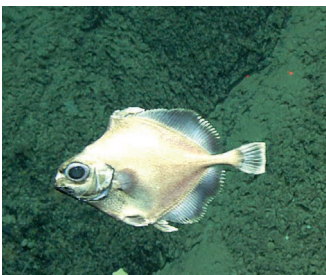
Successful Conclusion of United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement Review Conference

The Fish Stocks Agreement Review Conference (UNFSA)*, held in New York from 22 to 26 May 2006, reviewed the effectiveness of the Agreement and agreed on a number of steps to strengthen its implementation. It was recognized that the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach should be incorporated more fully into fisheries management measures; new RFMOs (Regional Fisheries Management Organizations) should be established to manage stocks and areas not now covered; RFMOs should undertake performance reviews and steps should be taken to assist developing countries. It was also recognised that more should be done to combat IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) Fishing.



The Conference had as its mandate a review of the effectiveness of the Agreement and the provision of advice on means to strengthen the substance and implementation of this Agreement. The Conference adopted a report describing steps that have been taken to implement the Agreement and certain steps that could be taken to strengthen it.

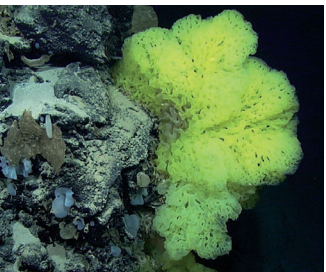
The Conference spent each of four days reviewing sections of the Agreement as divided into clusters. These included the conservation and management of stocks, including the effects of fishing on the marine environment; mechanisms for cooperation, including the integrity and functioning of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), fishing activity by non-members and participatory rights; monitoring, control and surveillance, including compliance and enforcement activities and international cooperation; and developing States and non-parties issues, including recognition of special requirements, provision of assistance and capacity building, and increased adherence to the Agreement. IUCN made statements with respect to each cluster [IUCN Statement]. It was agreed that RFMOs are a main mechanism through which the Agreement is implemented. Many speakers noted that it would be important to consider measures to strengthen RFMOs. To help to inform this discussion, IUCN presented an Information Paper entitled “Regional Fisheries Management Organizations: Practical Steps for Improvement”. Mornings, evenings, lunchtimes and the fifth day were largely devoted to work by an open-ended drafting committee that was charged with developing a conference report to include assessment of the current implementation of the Agreement and ways to strengthen implementation. GMP is currently developing a strategy for engaging RFMOs in this process.



The Fish Stocks Agreement provided in its text for one Review Conference five years after the entry into force of the Agreement. Because states agreed that the Review Conference was a useful forum, it was agreed that informal consultations of states parties should continue on a regular basis and that the Review Conference itself would be suspended rather than closed, to allow for a resumption of the Review Conference at a later date, but not later than 2011.

Full story: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/htm/unfsa_050606.htm

*Full name: The Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks



Marine Conservation in the Southern Ocean: CCAMLR moves forward

Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) at their annual meeting late in 2005 adopted a number of revised or new conservation measures for marine living resources in the Southern Ocean. They also agreed that work should continue to identify key tasks necessary for a system of marine protected areas that would provide protection for representative and scientific areas and areas potentially vulnerable to the impacts of human activities. It was agreed that work should be done to identify a bioregionalisation of the Southern Ocean. IUCN participated in this meeting and subsequently, with the support of the Belgian government provided a report on MPAs in the CCAMLR context to a UN informal meeting on marine biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction. To inform discussion and also to make better known work done under CCAMLR, IUCN, again with Belgian support, provided a report on area-based conservation and management measures adopted under CCAMLR to the UN Fish Stocks agreement meetings.

IUCN was represented at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held in Edinburgh in June, and noted the importance of establishing MPAs to promote the protection of the marine environment and to fulfil an obligation under Annex V of the Antarctic Environmental Protection Protocol to identify within a systematic environmental-geographic framework a series of protected areas. IUCN noted the importance of the bioregionalisation process, both to assist in identifying areas suitable for protection and as an example of what can be done to protect vulnerable ecosystems on the high seas. Antarctic Treaty Parties welcomed CCAMLR's work to date on bioregionalisation.

IUCN Red List Update reveals that our oceans are under increasing stress

In May 2006, the latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species enjoyed unprecedented media coverage, mainly due to the appearance of the hippopotamus and polar bear in the Red List for the first time. However, a key addition to the 2006 Red List was the first comprehensive regional assessment of selected marine groups.

Sharks and rays are among the first marine groups to be systematically assessed, and of the 547 species listed, 20% are threatened with extinction. This confirms suspicions that these mainly slow-growing species are exceptionally susceptible to over-fishing and are disappearing at an unprecedented rate across the globe.

Of 16,119 species threatened with extinction appearing on the 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 369 use the marine environment, with a further 16 marine species listed as Extinct. Once believed to be resilient to extinction, today marine species are disappearing at a rate often superior to that of their terrestrial counterparts. IUCN and partners have recently launched the Global Marine Assessment in order to get a more comprehensive view of the state of conservation of marine species, particularly commercial fishes and invertebrates.



The status of the now inappropriately named "common skate" has jumped from Endangered to Critically Endangered over a short period. Photo courtesy of Davey Benson.

The plight of the angel shark (*Squatina squatina*) and common skate (*Dipturus batis*), once familiar sights in European fish-markets, illustrates dramatically the recent rapid deterioration of many sharks and rays. They have all but disappeared from sale. The angel shark (upgraded from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered) has been declared extinct in the North Sea and the common skate (upgraded from Endangered to Critically Endangered) is now very scarce in the Irish Sea and southern North Sea. In the past, sharks and rays were discarded whilst nowadays they are purposefully tar-

geted for their fins and meat. This change however has not prompted governments to manage these fisheries accordingly, hence IUCN's call to all states to develop national action plans to conserve and manage such species and pay closer attention to this valuable and highly vulnerable resource.

As fisheries extend into ever deeper waters, the deep bottom-dwelling gulper shark (*Centrophorus granulosus*) is listed as Vulnerable with local population declines of up to 95%. This fishing pressure, for its meat and rich liver oil, is well beyond their reproductive capacity and sustainable fishing. Populations are destined to decline in the absence of international catch limits.

Notwithstanding the daunting statistics unveiled in this year's IUCN Red List, there is light at the end of the tunnel for some endangered species. The Goliath grouper, which is the largest of all coral reef fishes attaining some two metres in length, was listed as Critically Endangered in 1996. While it is still in the same category today, encouraging signs of recovery have been reported in southeastern USA, with juvenile densities relatively high in key mangrove areas. This trend could be attributed to the availability of good-quality habitat and to the effects of a fishing moratorium introduced by the USA in 1990.

Links:

IUCN Red List home page: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/redlist.htm>

GMP Species webpage: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/marine_species.htm

IN BRIEF

WCPA-Marine Strategic Action Plan in the making

Over the next few years an enormous increase in the world's marine protection efforts is going to be needed. Such an increase will require that many more Marine Protected Areas be created and that a significantly larger area of waters, including in the High Seas, comes under protection as part of integrated ocean and sea management. A wider range of ecosystems, ecological processes, habitats, and species will need to be represented within protected areas and effectively networked with one another.

To meet this challenge, the Marine section of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) is preparing a Strategic Action Plan whose conclusions will be available early next year following a five month consultation within WCPA/IUCN and with partners around the world. The key actions will include strengthening the membership of WCPA, providing enhanced communication mechanisms for members to communicate through the network, developing future priorities for the Commission and identifying priority work areas where a real difference could be made.

WCPA-Marine website: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/programme.htm>

IUCN join Consortium for Education and Research on Marine Alien Invasive Species

A new Consortium for Marine Biosecurity Education and Research has been established between providers of higher education. The aim is to provide an opportunity to align marine biosecurity education and training, including development of cross-accredited higher degrees between institutions and the promotion of student and staff exchanges to provide a wider array of educational opportunities.

Full story: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/hm/marine_biosecurity_180706.htm

Paris meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems

The support for Large Marine Ecosystems programmes has progressed; recent events include a meeting with most of the GEF-supported LME project leaders in Paris at the beginning of July. In November this year a training session on economic evaluation is scheduled in Cape Town for African LME practitioners. It builds on the work of an e-training programme developed by Frank Vorhies, the former head of IUCN's Programme on Business and Biodiversity. This work is supported under a project with IW-Learn funded by GEF and will be conducted by Charlotte de Fontaubert.

East Africa

IUCN join African Parks Foundation and the Federal Government of Sudan on expedition to assess Sudan's two Marine Protected Areas



An expedition was launched by the African Parks Foundation on June 18th to assess the biodiversity of the two Sudanese Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - Sanganeb atoll and Dugonab Bay and Mukkawar Island - and to analyse the impacts on them, both natural and anthropogenic (human-induced). The work will establish the first baselines of the status of fauna and flora, and will initiate a long-term monitoring programme for the Marine Park staff. The expedition will also involve photograph and video recording to develop a photographic library for the Parks. IUCN is providing technical expertise in the coral reef surveys and fish species assessments, as well as advice on MPA management and long-term monitoring. Monitoring and assessment of MPAs is a central strategy in

IUCN's approach to marine conservation.

Sanganeb is the only atoll in the Red Sea and is a 6x1 km offshore coral reef MPA. Dugonab Bay and Mukkawar Island MPA is a 3000 km² coastal zone with an extensive mosaic of different habitats such as coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds and islands. The coral reefs of Sudan are in very good condition with cover up to 80%. Large animals such as dugongs, whale sharks, mantas, hammerheads and turtles abound. The islands within the parks are internationally significant breeding areas for turtles and seabirds.

More info: <http://www.africanparks-conservation.com/sudan-expedition.php>



IUCN teams up with TNC to hold workshop on Building Resilience into Coral Reef Conservation and MPA



Design

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office (EARO) held a four-day training workshop for Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Marine Protected Area (MPA) managers, on building resilience into Coral Reef Conservation and MPA design, held on the 9th -12th May 2006 in Malindi on the northern coastline of Kenya. Kenya auspiciously hosted this workshop, the first of its kind in the WIO.

Kenya, Somalia, Mauritius, Rodrigues Island, Tanzania, Zanzibar and Seychelles were represented at the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the concept of resilience as a response to global threats such as climate change and coral bleaching. Fish Spawning Aggregations was also dealt with as a major contributory factor of resilience.

The workshop was further enriched with diverse international and regional expertise from TNC, IUCN, SCIFO, WCS and CORDIO who co-facilitated and coached various sessions of the workshop. Each country represented formed a team to look into specific national case studies in detail. In addition to interactive training sessions on coral reef bleaching and fish spawning aggregations, a practical field study was undertaken of Malindi National Park, Kenya's oldest Marine National Park that has proven to be resilient after a bleaching event that occurred approximately ten years ago.

CORDIO East Africa: Coastal Ecology IV: People, Processes and Ecosystems

The fourth Coastal Ecology Conference (focusing on the region of East Africa) was held on May 29-30, 2006 in Mombasa, Kenya. The conference, part of a series launched in 1996, brought together local scientists from across the Kenyan coast to present work on crucial marine issues such as marine ecology, resource management and climate change. For the first time, regional scientists from other East African coastal countries such as Somalia, Tanzania and Mozambique were also represented. A total of 132 participants (including 20 local university students) from 31 national institutions were involved covering the themes Marine Ecosystems, Mangroves, Hydrodynamics, Land-based Studies, Climate Change, Fisheries and Resource Management.

CORDIO East Africa, a non-governmental coral reef research organisation partially funded by IUCN, presented on a range of topics including fisheries management, the tsunami, crown-of-thorns starfish, coral bleaching and socio-economic monitoring. The IUCN Global Marine Programme was also represented by an oral presentation by Gabriel Grimsditch on 'Seasonal fluctuations in zooxanthellae densities in corals in the Mombasa Marine Park 1998-2006'. This long-term monitoring study was conducted by CORDIO East Africa and supported by IUCN-GMP and Swedish International Cooperation Agency SIDA. Its findings are relevant to recent research on coral bleaching and zooxanthellae populations, and it is the first time that such a study has been conducted on low-latitude equatorial corals.

Dr. David Obura, head of CORDIO East Africa, was pleased with the outcomes of the conference and affirmed that "these local conferences are a great opportunity for building the confidence and studies of students and research staff and the best part was to see new and fresh data and ideas coming out from the various institutions and participants at the conference".

West Africa

Fisheries Director's Regional Working Group lay foundations for Manual on Best Practices to Negotiate Fisheries Agreements

West Africa is home to one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world, driven by a prolific upwelling system nurturing coastal waters, and fuelling a food chain diverse in species and abundant in biomass. The richness of these waters has come to attract numerous industrialised fishing nations to negotiate fisheries access agreements. Targeted species include oceanic tunas, shrimp, octopus, hake, horse mackerel and sardines.

However, with resources dwindling, and conflicts between foreign and national operators multiplying, fisheries agreements, and the terms under which they are negotiated and signed, have increasingly come under attack. It was acknowledged during a planning workshop organised by IUCN in Saly, Senegal, back in 2005, that there was a pressing need to build technical capacity and enhance competencies to undertake successful fisheries negotiations.



Based on these findings, the IUCN/WWF Fisheries Agreements project launched an initiative in 2006 to develop a Manual on Best Practices to Negotiate Fisheries Agreements. The outline of the manual was presented, discussed, enhanced and validated during a two-day working group meeting in Dakar, Senegal. The manual's main objective is to enable negotiators from the region to efficiently prepare and implement negotiations, by making use of the full array of relevant negotiation tools developed for bi-lateral commercial negotiations that target these type of resources. The manual will cover domains including preparing for negotiations, negotiation styles, cultures, techniques and strategies, a wide array of pointers on securing successful closure, and related information relevant to fisheries negotiations. The manual is expected to be released before the end of 2006 and become a foremost practical resource for regional administrations to better prepare and negotiate fisheries agreements in the future.

Full story: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/htm/dakar_fisheries_180706.htm

IUCN organise West African marine protected area training course in Cape Verde



The project on the strengthening of co-management in marine protected areas of the West African coast (RAMAO) has completed its 2nd regional training course on Saturday, 27th May in Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde. The training event, attended by 36 government, civil society and community stakeholders from twelve West African Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was organised by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), with the WWF office in Mindelo providing the necessary local organisational and logistical support. Participants exchanged and learnt about social communication, one of the fundamental elements in the preparation phase of a protected area co-management project.

The event was facilitated by Yves Renard, as lead trainer and co-author of "Sharing Power", one of the most authoritative text books on Participatory Governance currently in print. The event followed up on the November 2005 Bamboung (Senegal) training course, which had formally introduced regional MPA practitioners to the participatory governance process as a whole.

The structure of the six-day training and mutual learning event closely emulated that of the 2005 Bamboung event, covering theory, field work, analysis thereof, presentation and debate of findings, and finally in-depth planning of social communication strategies and campaigns for nascent MPAs of the RAMAO network.

Asia

IUCN-CORDIO message on coral reefs taken to Thai classrooms: Update on the CORDIO Andaman Sea project



In the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami, IUCN and CORDIO (the Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean project) initiated programmes in the Andaman Sea, with Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) in Phuket, Thailand as primary partner and with support from SIDA.

A Workshop on Strengthening Capacity for Coral Reef Monitoring and Assessment in the Andaman Sea was held 2-10 April, 2006 at PMBC. The training course was attended by participants from Thailand and Indonesia, representing government agencies, universities and NGOs. Covering primarily benthic line intercept transect as well as fish underwater visual census, the course also included training in measuring other key environmental parameters, as well as exercises in using data sheets, data entry and basic analysis. Regular bio-physical monitoring has been carried out at four sites in Thailand in the first half of 2006. Sites around Aceh province in Indonesia will be surveyed late in 2006 and early 2007.

A public education and awareness building programme focusing on secondary schools has also been initiated in partnership with Rajapath University. The project seeks to provide relevant information on reefs and associated ecosystems, the resources they provide as well as status and threats, responding to the new school syllabus in Thailand. A teaching manual is being drafted, and, when it is finalized, training courses will be organized for teachers on the Andaman Sea coast in Thailand.

The first session of an educational programme for secondary school children was held at PMBC on 20 June, 2006. Utilising the facilities of the Phuket Aquarium the programme includes lectures, videos, discussions, a tour around the aquarium and a nature trail as well as activities on the beach. Held approximately twice a week with 20-40 students participating at a time, the programme will include over 30 schools in the province.

Other projects under way focus on strengthening community participation in reef management, a review of alternative livelihoods initiatives among indigenous people in Phuket, and research into the local coral reef fishery, including the mapping of gear use and fishing effort among indigenous communities. The projects, to be finished by the end of 2006, will provide guidance on future activities under CORDIO and at its partner institutions.

IUCN report recommends building capacity for better management, monitoring and law enforcement to maintain populations of humphead wrasse in Indonesia

As part of an IUCN project in collaboration with CITES and the IUCN SSC Specialist Group for Groupers & Wrasses, and input from TRAFFIC – Southeast Asia, a report has been released with a list of recommendations for the development of fisheries management tools for sustainable management and trade in humphead wrasse (HHW). Following a dramatic decline in its population across its geographical range, largely due to demand for juvenile specimens for the international live food-fish trade, some countries have taken steps to avert its disappearance from the wild. Indonesia, its major exporting country, has reduced by tenfold its export quota to an interim measure (pending more scientific data) of 8,000 fish per year, whilst Hong Kong, a major market for live reef fish, plans to introduce legislation even more restrictive than that of CITES.



Improved policy and regulatory measures, and a substantial increase in enforcement capability, are needed in greater measure, however, to improve the prospects for this majestic fish in Indonesia, the major exporter of HHW. The report recommends, for instance, the creation of a central permitting authority for the monitoring and issuing of export permits for HHW. Greater levels of cooperation and communication need to be established not only between government fisheries departments, police and customs, but also between NGOs, IGOs, universities, fishing communities and the government in order to provide a balanced and integrated approach for reducing the pressure of fishing activity on HHW populations.

A lack of capacity remains a major obstacle to good management. Efforts are further challenged by a lack of competency and organisation in basic record-keeping. In most offices visited, data were only available from the last few months, or year, and most had no records of HHW export or internal movements at all. Similarly, the international airport in Jakarta did not have available records of HHW exports. Overall, there unfortunately appears to be very little information on, or awareness of, inshore reef fish fisheries, including for HHW.

On the other hand, there is a growing interest and awareness within the government, as a result of the report and its associated work, including three workshops (one on Hong Kong and one in Jakarta, of the important issues and challenges of managing this species, the first fish on CITES to be addressed by the Indonesian government. There is also a growing participation by government staff in the assessment process for this species and the newly-added participation of FAO, which is involved in developing a sustainable management plan for this species. This plan will be presented to the Indonesian government in October 2006 for consideration in the process of quota-setting. Indonesia is the first exporting country of this species to set an export quota for the HHW in response to its CITES Appendix II listing.

Full report: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/hhw_finalreport.pdf

Indian Ocean

IUCN undertakes invasive species baseline survey of Chagos



GMP's Carl Gustaf Lundin takes samples for taxonomic analysis as part of baseline survey.

In February 2006, GMP carried out a baseline survey of alien invasive species in the Chagos Archipelago (British Indian Ocean Territories) as a part of the expedition "Chagos 2006", organized by University of Warwick with the support of FCO, BIOT Administration, OTEP and the Chagos Conservation Trust.

Chagos is the most isolated atoll archipelago in the world, with a highly diverse marine environment and very low levels of direct impact from human activities. This makes it invaluable as a stepping-stone and a source of larvae for reseeding reefs in many parts of the Indian Ocean, where degradation as a result of human activities is frequently recorded as significant.

Reefs on the Great Chagos Bank, Peros Banhos, Salomon and Diego Garcia atolls were surveyed, with special attention to the port and lagoon areas of Diego Garcia, which is host to a harbour and a military base. Samples are currently being analysed. Preliminary results from the Chagos survey will be released during the course of the year.

The survey was carried out under the GMP project "Detecting Marine Bioinvasions on Bleached and Tsunami-affected Coral Reefs in Small Islands of the Indian Ocean", funded by Total Foundation for Biodiversity and the Seas. Building on previous work carried out by GMP in the Seychelles granitic islands, the project will also carry out marine invasive species baseline surveys in the Aldabra Group. These surveys are likely to take place in early 2007, and final results from both surveys will be available by the end of 2007.

Advancing Marine Taxonomy in East Africa and the Indian Ocean

A workshop was held in Mombasa, Kenya aimed at addressing the need for further training in marine taxonomy in the East African region, as part of an ongoing effort to build up records of existing species, both alien and native. The event was planned and organized by the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) with funding and technical input from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the IUCN Global Marine Programme, the South African Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the host institution Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI).

As a follow-up to previous training conducted under the IMO - GloBallast Programme, specialists from IUCN, CSIR and the Kenyan Wildlife Service conducted training sessions on important local taxa, with a focus on regional marine fish and sponges, using both fresh and preserved specimens. The workshop also served to assess the need for further taxonomic training in the region, and the most appropriate means for this to come about. Recommendations from the workshop suggested a focus on building relationships between local researchers and the existing network of specialists worldwide such as GISP and the IUCN SSC Marine Invasives Specialist Group, and seeking means to engage new specialists by developing local technical capacity.

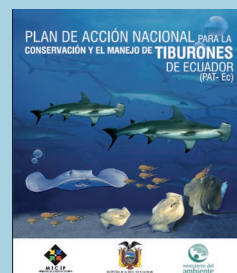
South America

Ecuador now has its Shark National Plan of Action

IUCN, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Industrialization, Fisheries and Competitiveness, and the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, have brought together all stakeholders in a unique consultative process to discuss the future of Ecuadorian Sharks.

Decision-makers, managers, fishermen, fin exporters, tourist operators, conservation organisations and the research sector gathered on 20-21 February 2006 to agree on common actions for the conservation and management of sharks and rays in Ecuador.

The "National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in Ecuador" is the product of the consensus of the over 60 participants of the workshop.



IUCN is now working with the Ecuadorian Government to develop strategies and secure funding to implement the NPOA-Shark.

Story in Spanish at <http://www.sur.iucn.org/marino>

For copies of the Ecuadorian NPOA, please contact imene.meliane@iucn.org

Focus on IUCN Members

Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Areas of Influence

As announced in GMP News Issue 2, the Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Areas of Influence is composed of several NGOs committed to the conservation of the Patagonian Sea, amongst them various IUCN members such as BirdLife International, Conservation International, WWF, Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina, and Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales.

Following a general agreement that a suite of indicators will be needed to adequately report on ecosystem health, structure and function, the Forum members have tackled a rather challenging task: undertaking an analysis of potential indicators for the review of the status of the Patagonian shelf marine system. The analysis considered a wide array of indicators including some relating to pollution and bycatch and suggested a way forward on indicators relating to fisheries.

This work is critical to achieve the Forum's goal to develop a model for the management of the Patagonian Sea marine resources and biodiversity that takes into account the ecosystem as a whole going beyond political boundaries. Nice progress!

News from the Regions

Mediterranean Sea

Sustainable Use of Fisheries: all sectors working together



The ecosystem approach is a concept promoted by the Convention of Biological Diversity and widely discussed by conservationists. However, it is not always obvious how it can be applied. The Fisheries Working Group of the Sustainable Use Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission proposes simple and rational management solutions as promoted within the fishing sector.

A group of specialists and fishermen met in Battleby, near Edinburgh, on 24-26 April 2006, to discuss the tools and methodology to reduce the negative impacts of their activities in the ecosystems they use.

Discussions on practical examples such as gastropod fisheries in the Adriatic or swordfish in Spain have demonstrated that collaboration among scientists, fishermen, governments and environmentalists can reduce negative impacts. Practical measures highlighted included the change of size in fishing nets or the use of specific hooks to minimise bycatch, and the creation of management plans and protected areas. A second meeting has been requested between Mediterranean scientists and fishermen to jointly promote sustainable fisheries.

For more information, contact francois.simard@iucn.org

IUCN responds to environmental crisis in Lebanon

The current crisis in Lebanon has caused tragic loss of life and damage to infrastructure. Of increasing concern is the environmental destruction on land and sea that supports many livelihoods in the region. The oil spill along the coast of Lebanon and neighbouring countries has been the environmental tragedy that has received most attention, not least because it has the potential to cause widespread damage. But the conflict has also affected terrestrial areas as well, including protected areas, World Heritage sites, and other important natural habitats. Action is needed now to assess the scale of environmental destruction and restoration of damaged ecosystems so that they can support important biodiversity.

IUCN will provide technical advice for the rehabilitation effort covering:

- Assessment of the ecological damage and the needs for rehabilitation/restoration
- Setting of priorities for rehabilitation based on assessments,
- Implementation of rehabilitation programmes for natural resources and ecosystems in the region

At Palm Islands Nature Reserve, IUCN will undertake a rapid assessment of extent of oil pollution, inventory of habitats and species vulnerable to the oil, and description of potential ecological and physiological impacts on marine biodiversity of the area.

For more information, contact ameer.abdulla@iucn.org

Europe

Green Paper on a future EU Maritime Policy

The very first Conference on the Green Paper on a Future EU Maritime Policy took place in Brussels on the 8th of June; just one day after the Green Paper was released. The Conference was organised by IUCN member organisation EBCD (European Bureau for Conservation and Development) and the Secretariat of the European Parliament Intergroup on Sustainable Development (EPISD), with the support of the Committee of the Regions (COR). The conference gave an overview of stakeholders' first impressions of the document in the presence of Members of the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and representatives of the European Commission. The Green Paper "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas" defines a new, holistic approach to the management of all human activities related to marine environment.

As one of the 25 speakers representing stakeholders from different sectors (fisheries and aquaculture, shipping and transport industries, regional bodies, trade unions, environmental NGOs and others), Carl Gustaf Lundin, Head of the IUCN Global Marine Programme, underlined how important this initiative is and how it will get people around Europe to think about what kind of Europe they want and how they should use natural resources. He found the Paper very valuable, with a comprehensive approach, and written in a very concrete and practical way.

Dr. Lundin suggested that the Green Paper could be strengthened in relation to the following issues:

- Marine environment protection: most countries are not doing well with marine conservation;
- Ocean governance: the basis for the development of ecosystem management is promising but needs more concrete action;
- Science and technologies; an issue that should be underlined;
- Tourism: should be addressed more, in terms of workers it is a bigger industry than fishing;
- Spatial planning: oceans should be approached from a three (geographic) dimensional perspective;
- Marine Protected Areas: more work on creating a representative network across the European waters is necessary;
- The role of the Commission: the belief that a strong Europe requires a more extensive Commission may not be right; "improve what you do before you extend yourself into the other areas";
- Competition: prosperity is not planned; it is created by entrepreneurs in a very large degree, people need the opportunity to be creative, there is no need to be afraid of competitiveness;
- High seas: should also be more addressed (issues like bottom trawling, IUU fishing), there is a role for Europe to take worldwide leadership.

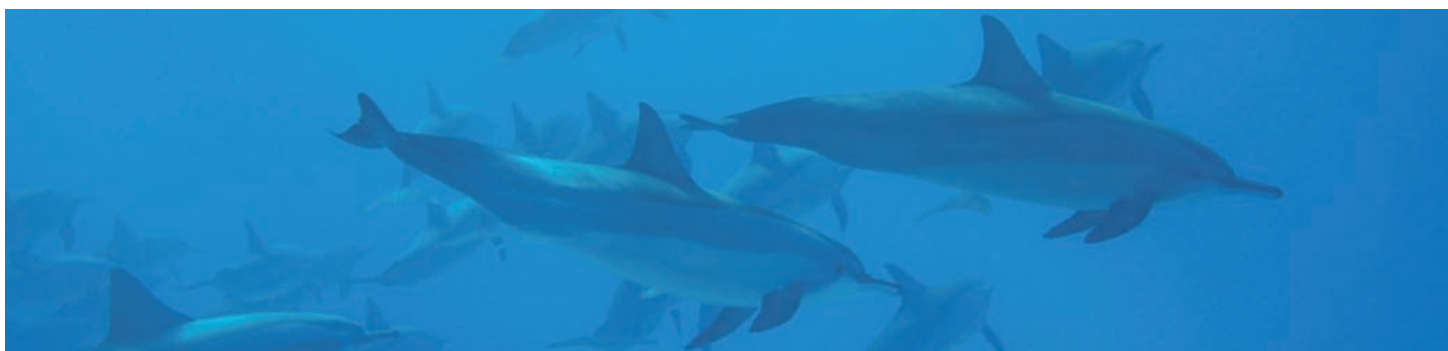
In conclusion, Dr. Lundin highlighted that the IUCN would be very happy to be engaged in this dialogue and hoped to be able to continue with a number of other events providing further technical input into the Paper.

Link to full report: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/green-paper-eu-maritime-policy.pdf>

For more information: contact despina.symons@ebcd.org

Dolphin habitat conservation and sustainable ecotourism in the Red Sea

Our voice from the field in this issue is Dr. Ameer Abdulla. Dr. Abdulla is a marine conservation biologist working with the IUCN Global Marine Programme on projects in the Red Sea, Mediterranean, Arabian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean. He joins us this time from a field site in Marsa Alam on the Egyptian Red Sea Coast.



Can you tell us a little about the fascinating natural history behind this project?

In the Red Sea at least 13 species of marine mammals have been recorded, mostly dolphins, whales and dugongs; but the actual number of species may be greater as information is incomplete. This makes the Red Sea a region of very high value as far as marine mammal biodiversity is concerned. The off shore waters of Marsa Alam in Egypt are truly a special spot. Clear water, pristine reef, and the relative remoteness of the location make for a magical experience for any visitor. For decades, a large pod (100+) of Spinner Dolphins, *Stenella longirostris*, have been associated with a crescent shaped reef, called Samadai Reef, off the coast of Marsa Alam. Because of the exposed character of the Egyptian Red Sea coast with few embayments, protective reefs such as Samadai offer exceedingly valuable habitat. The sheltered waters of the lagoon provide a favourable resting area for the Spinner Dolphins. During the day, these dolphins rest in the boundaries of this small reef, sheltered from strong currents and wind. At night, the dolphins leave the reef to forage and hunt their main prey: mesopelagic fishes, squid, and shrimp.

But where is the need for marine conservation here?

Well, the project focuses on the waters of Marsa Alam, where Spinner Dolphins (and Dugong) are potentially under threat from unregulated coastal development and marine tourism. You see, the area around Marsa Alam is quickly developing to accommodate tourists seeking new and unexplored areas to experience. The dolphin's presence in the reef, their dusk departure and their dawn arrival are so consistent and predictable that the sight has developed into a popular tour site. In early 1990, only 2-3 dive operators frequented the area. By 2002, there were 15 operators running 60 boats per day serving 1000-1200 guests from cities throughout Europe. This imposed formidable pressure on the resident dolphins and surrounding reefs, particularly considering that the dolphins use the reef as a resting place. During the summer of 2003, the pressure from swimmers on Samadai reef and its dolphins was so intense that the Red Sea Protectorates that is part of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the Red Sea Governorship decided, by decree of the Governor, to stop tourist use of the area and closed the reef to the public, from October to December.

So what is the objective of this project and how is IUCN involved?

This project is striving to achieve and promote sustainable development of tourism in the Egyptian Red Sea coast while maintaining marine wildlife. This is underpinned by the need to build local technical and managerial capacity in South Egypt for ecological research and adaptive management of marine wildlife. To do this, a consortium of partners including the Red Sea Governorship, Red Sea Protectorates, Diving Ocean, Tethys Research Institute, the NGO Abu Salama Society, and IUCN was formed. The project is generously funded under the Italian-Egyptian debt swap scheme.

The idea of conserving the bay came first from users and stakeholders. The private sector has a vital role to play in resource management and without their active participation, little can happen. Diving Ocean, a tour operator and a well-established diving centre operating in Marsa Alam, and the Abu Salama Society, an NGO established for conservation of Red Sea Dolphins, is participating in the training of tour guides, developing best practice, and increasing awareness and communication. Research and monitoring is undertaken by the Red Sea Rangers with technical support and training from the Tethys Research Institute. A management plan has been initiated, limiting the daily number of boats and visitors to 10 boats and 150 visitors. A monitoring programme has also been initiated and the findings demonstrate a high correlation between visitor numbers and dolphin desertions demonstrating a clear carrying capacity of visitors to the site. IUCN is supporting the technical development of Red Sea rangers and staff with training modules in general MPA resource monitoring and management. Regionally, IUCN will utilize this project as a successful example of sustainable tourism and wildlife management and share lessons learnt with other regions, specifically in the Red Sea and Mediterranean.

One last question, why are they called Spinner Dolphins?

The label "Spinner" is derived from this species' habit of breaching the water in graceful curves and spinning vertically before re-entry. It is not clear what motivates this, but it is a distinguishing characteristic of the species and the behaviour is probably associated with social functions and group dynamics. Spinner dolphins occur in groups or pods of 30-200+ individuals, but have been known to number in the thousands! They are a marvel to witness above or below the water.

Events and Additional Information

Tribute to Lee Kimball

After outstanding contributions to IUCN, over a period spanning three decades, Lee Kimball has decided to retire from the ocean policy spotlight. As a committed member of the Commission on Environmental Law and as Advisor for GMP on Ocean Governance and International Institutions, Lee worked constructively with governments, NGOs, scientists, policy-makers to advance the ocean governance agenda. Lee's ability to find workable, politically acceptable solutions, and focus on tangible incremental steps forward, have paved the way for measured improvement in international ocean governance.



The IUCN Global Marine Programme Team

New arrivals



Harlan Cohen, Advisor on Ocean Governance and International Institutions

Harlan joined IUCN in January 2006 and works from the USA & Multilateral Office in Washington on high seas and ocean governance issues particularly through the United Nations platform and mechanisms.



Sarah Gotheil, Marine Intern, Gland, Switzerland

Sarah joined IUCN from the private sector at the beginning of 2006. She is a keen marine environmentalist having previously helped coordinate the Swiss Cetacean Society.



Elise Jueni, Administrative Assistant, Gland, Switzerland

Elise worked for IUCN Business and Biodiversity Programme before joining GMP in March 2006. She brings a wealth of administrative experience to the job, having also worked in the private sector in various roles.



Julian Roberts, Programme Officer, Gland, Switzerland

Julian joins GMP this month to coordinate the establishment and functioning of the Western Grey Whale Advisory Panel, who will provide scientific advice on the impacts of oil and gas developments on the Western Grey Whale population on the Sakhalin shelf.

The rest of the Team



Carl Gustaf Lundin
Programme Head
Gland, Switzerland



Jerker Tamelander
Programme Coordinator
Indian Ocean region/CORDIO



Andrew Hurd
Senior Programme
Coordinator
Gland, Switzerland



Imène Meliane
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Events

17-20 September

**California and the World Ocean '06:
Implementing the Vision for Ocean and
Coastal Protection**

Long Beach, California, USA

<http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/>

19-22 September

**European Meeting of the International
Society for Reef Studies (ISRS)**

University of Bremen, Germany

<http://isrs2006.zmt-bremen.de>

26-28 September

**Conference on Implementing the Ecosystem
Approach to Fisheries**

Bergen, Norway

<http://cieaf.imr.no/>

15-20 October

**International Tropical Marine Ecosystems
Management Symposium (ITMEMS 3)**

Cozumel, Mexico

<http://www.itmems.org/>

16-20 October

**Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting
of the GPA (IGR-2)**

Beijing, China

<http://www.gpa.unep.org/bin/php/igr/igr2/home.php>

22-23 October

ICRI General Meeting

Cozumel, Mexico

<http://www.icriforum.org/secretariat.html>

Credits

Compiled by

James Oliver and Sarah Gotheil with input from the IUCN Global Marine Programme team.

Edited and designed by

James Oliver

Non-captioned photo credits

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PAGE 4: Seastar, boarfish and sponge courtesy of Deep Atlantic Stepping Stones Science Team/IFE/URI/NOAA

PAGE 6: Diver in Sudan MPA and coral outcrop at Khor Shin'aab: © IUCN/Melita Samoilys; Malindi workshop: © IUCN/Jerker Tamelander

PAGE 7: Dakar and Cape Verde workshops: © IUCN/Gilles Hosch

PAGE 8: Thai classroom: © IUCN/Jerker Tamelander; Humphead wrasse: P.L. Colin

PAGE 9: Chagos survey: © IUCN/Jerker Tamelander

PAGE 10: Salema fishes, Escala, Spain: © Christian Laufenberg

PAGE 11: Spinner Dolphins: © IUCN/Ameer Abdulla