

GMP News

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The IUCN Global Marine Programme Newsletter

Editorial



Aquaculture is becoming an important source of proteins as fisheries production decreases worldwide and the

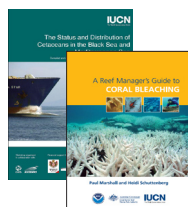
human demand for fish continues to grow steadily. Already aquaculture production is reaching almost 50% of the total fish production for human consumption (source: FAO).

This development is not without environmental consequences as the resulting organic or chemical pollution can put a strain on the local environment, particularly on more sensitive species. The escape of farmed fishes, especially exotic species, can also impact local species, and the feed distributed to farmed fish mainly consists of small pelagic fishes that might not be from a sustainable source.

In order to be sustainable, aquaculture needs to address the above issues and improve the management of the fish farms by, for example, following the existing codes of conduct. Possible solutions for the sustainable development of aquaculture include developing on-land facilities with closed water systems, moving facilities offshore, and practising low density aquaculture. IUCN is working with the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) to address interactions between aquaculture and the environment. The Guide for the sustainable development of Mediterranean aquaculture, due for launch this month, is the first in a series of guides that will be published.

François Simard
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Cooperation.

In this issue...



New Publications and Reports - page 2

New marine publications from IUCN and its network of partners cover management responses to climate change; alien species in aquaculture; and species assessments for cetaceans, and marine protected area networks.



Global Issues - pages 3-7

Main stories: Self-assessment of regional fisheries organisations on track; Biogeographic classification: an essential tool for ocean management; Addressing a global threat locally: climate change in Egypt; Oil business and conservation work to protect Western Pacific Gray Whales.



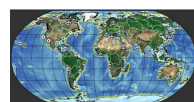
News from the Regions - pages 8-9

Coral reef resilience research and methodologies discussed in Africa and Asia; Protected areas boost coral recovery in Indonesia; Alternative livelihood creation in Asia examined; information exchange on marine science research across East and West Africa.



News from the Commissions - pages 10-11

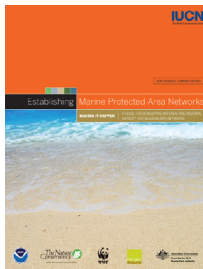
Summary of marine-related developments at the 14th CITES Conference of Parties; Summit on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) culminates in new global Call for Action.



Events and Additional Information - back page

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

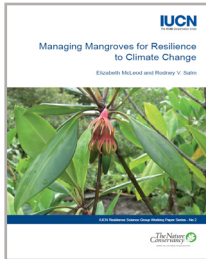
New Publications and Reports



Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks

Regardless of where we live, all people depend upon healthy ocean ecosystems. The role that marine protected areas (MPAs) can play in promoting the health of our oceans and seas has been recognized at the highest levels. A range of international groups and organisations, including the G8 group of Nations, have called for establishing a global system of MPA networks by the year 2012. Our challenge is to transform these commitments into meaningful action.

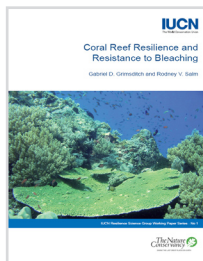
LINK: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/mpanetworks/nsmail.pdf>



Managing Mangroves for Resilience to Climate Change

Global climate change is one of the greatest challenges that humans will face in this century. This publication is a welcome reference for all stakeholders in mangroves, especially coastal communities, who should now ask decision-makers to apply resilience principles in all development and conservation programmes.

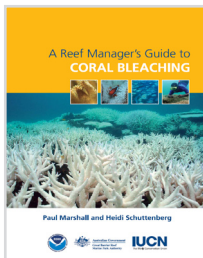
LINK: <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2006-041.pdf>



Coral Reef Resilience and Resistance to Bleaching

Vast changes in the seas are destroying the world's precious coral reefs at an unprecedented rate and scale. This publication forms part of IUCN's commitment to providing the marine conservation and management community with information they can use as they carry out "in-the-water" conservation that recognizes and enhances a reef's natural resistance and resilience.

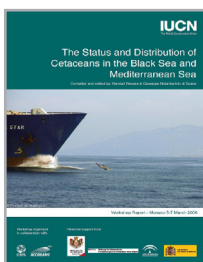
LINK: <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2006-042.pdf>



A Reef Manager's Guide to Coral Bleaching

This guide provides a clear and accessible synthesis of current and emerging knowledge on coral bleaching. It identifies actions that reef managers can take during a mass bleaching event and how they can support the ability of coral reefs to survive and recover from bleaching events by restoring and maintaining coral reef resilience.

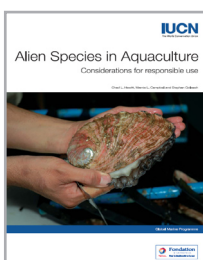
LINK: <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2006-043.pdf>



The Status and Distribution of Cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea

The conservation status of cetaceans in the Black and Mediterranean Seas has been a source of concern for many years. This report summarises the first general assessment of 12 subpopulations of cetaceans in the region: as a result, one subspecies was proposed to qualify for Critically Endangered, five for Endangered and two for Vulnerable. The other four were considered Data Deficient.

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



Alien Species in Aquaculture, Considerations for Responsible Use

Due to the increasing worldwide demand for aquatic products, aquaculture is one of the most important and fastest growing sectors within fisheries. This publication aims to first provide decision makers and managers with information on the existing international and regional regulations that address the use of alien species in aquaculture, either directly or indirectly; and three examples of national responses to this issue.

LINK: <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2006-036.pdf>

Fisheries / Ocean Governance



Unless regional fisheries authorities take steps now to better manage fish stocks, these resources will continue to decline to the detriment of the ocean's wellbeing, food security and human health.

Self-assessment of RFMOs: are they on track?

Though Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and their members face conflicting pressures, if they do not take steps now to better manage fish stocks, these resources will continue to decline to the detriment of the ocean's wellbeing, food security and human health. IUCN believes that all RFMOs should conduct self-assessments this year or next, using the draft criteria document agreed by the five tuna commissions held in Kobe in January 2007 as a minimum basis on which to conduct such self-assessments. We remain deeply concerned that the advice of scientists with respect to catch limits is sometimes ignored or unimplemented by some RFMOs, thus we believe that all self-assessments must include a review of how each RFMO accepts scientific advice and incorporates that advice into its conservation and management measures. IUCN's position is that those conducting self-assessments must report on all instances where scientific advice was not followed, including on the reasons and outcomes of those decisions.

With respect to the process of such self-assessments, IUCN believes that panels must reflect a diversity of backgrounds. Thus, panels should include a suitable mix of external and internal assessors, from governments and from non-governmental bodies, the latter including those focusing on conservation, on fishing and on consumer interests. Panellists should be drawn from governments that are members of the RFMO and those that are not, and from developing and developed countries. This would enable the panels to tap into a full range of experiences and so promote an outcome that will be received as fair and balanced. IUCN also notes the importance of transparency in the work of the panels. The panels should receive information internally from within the RFMO and externally from the interested public. Their decisions and proceedings from meetings should be open to all interested observers and their reports should be posted electronically as soon as they are sent to members and should also make publicly available all data with the exception of that which is proprietary.

Full Report:
http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/RFMO_self_assessment.pdf

In brief

COFI HIGHLIGHTS

At the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in Rome March 5-9, 2007, nations agreed to develop an instrument to enforce minimum standards of port control to combat illegal fishing by 2009. Also on the agenda were Illegal fishing, trade in fish, the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, marine protected areas, and the strengthening of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

Full Report (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/COFI-March07.pdf>)

28 RECOMMENDATIONS

ON DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

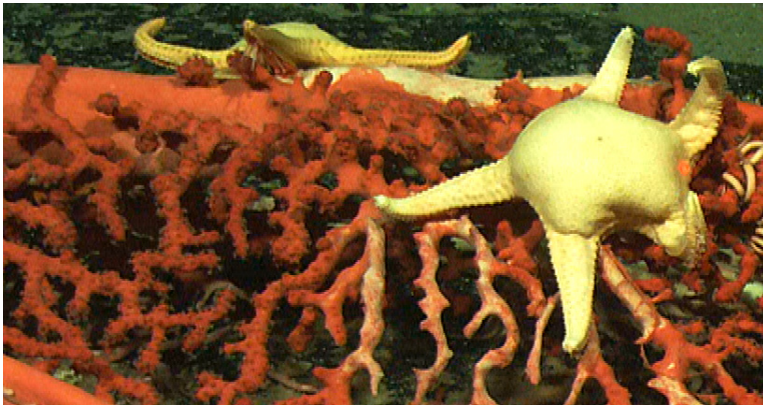
IUCN was part of the Expert Consultation on deep-sea fisheries on the high seas who have recently released a report of conclusions and recommendations to deep-sea fisheries on the high seas. Among them was recognition that spatial and temporal management tools such as Marine Protected Areas are particularly useful in data-poor situations such as encountered in the deep seas.

Full Report (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/ExpertConsul-Bangkok.pdf>)

Global Issues - Shared Resources

IUCN promotes biogeographic classification of deep seabed as essential tool for ocean management

Biogeographic classification systems are widely viewed as an essential tool for integrated oceans management. They assist in understanding how and where species are distributed, and provide a basis by which the spectrum of life on Earth can be studied, conserved and sustainably and equitably managed. In the open ocean and deep seabed, biogeographic classification systems are far less developed than in terrestrial, coastal and continental shelf areas, where biogeographic maps have long helped support ecosystem-based management, including protected area network planning and gap assessments.



In January 2007, IUCN co-organised the “Scientific Experts’ Workshop on Biogeographic Classification Systems in Open Ocean and Deep Seabed Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”. The workshop convened a group of almost 40 scientific experts, observers and support staff with the objectives of:

- a) reporting and evaluating on progress to date in developing and applying biogeographic classification systems;
- b) identifying basic principles for the choice, adoption and application of biogeographic classification systems where no such generally agreed system has been developed;
- c) discussing methods to describe and delineate distinct areas of the deep seabed;
- d) developing preliminary maps depicting potential boundaries for biogeographic realms, provinces and “ecological regions” in the open ocean, and, to the extent possible, for the deep seabed, through the use of GIS and other mapping tools;
- e) prioritizing relevant research and practical needs to further advance work on biogeographic classification systems for the deep seabed and open ocean; and
- f) promoting information exchange and capacity development among scientists working on similar projects within national and regional waters.

Related stories: *Conserve the gene pool of our oceans, urges IUCN*
http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/06/28_pr_oceans.htm

IUCN PLANS TO STEP UP ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY



Despite the development of a number of global regulations, international shipping remains a significant contributor of contamination and damage to the marine environment and its biodiversity.

To date, IUCN’s engagement with the shipping sector has primarily been achieved through participation at meetings of the IMO. However, while this will remain a valuable and important relationship in the future, GMP is keen to develop a more comprehensive engagement with the sector as a whole. The following three key strategies are considered as equally important in achieving this:

- (i) Engagement with the International Maritime Organization;
- (ii) Sector specific relationship-building with the shipping industry; and
- (iii) Working with relevant coastal and maritime States: (a) to influence the agenda at the IMO, (b) to promote the effective implementation and enforcement of existing international instruments, and (c) to promote the development of new international instruments and effective policy to address emerging threats to marine biodiversity from maritime traffic.

As a first step to addressing this need, on 28 February – 1 March, 2007, GMP facilitated a workshop to examine issues relating to IUCN’s engagement with the shipping sector. The workshop identified a number of clear priorities for IUCN’s future engagement in this area, including marine invasive species, protected areas & navigation safety, ocean noise and climate change.

Addressing a global threat locally: Global Climate Change, Red Sea Reefs and Marine Protected Area Management in Egypt

Recognising the dire global threat posed by global climate change, which will threaten the existence of large expanses of the world's corals over the next few decades, IUCN and the Abu Salama Society organised a workshop to train Red Sea rangers on Marine Protected Area (MPA) design and management in the face of climate change.

The workshop focused on techniques to identify and manage critically important marine habitats to enhance the resilience of these areas. Resilience is the ability of a system to bounce back after major stressors such as sea warming or acidification caused by climate change. Dr Ameer Abdulla, a marine conservation biologist with the IUCN Global Marine Programme, provided the training, which covered the following topics:

- The potential effects of global climate change;
- Coral bleaching and its consequences on coral reefs;
- Potential adaptation and management strategies;
- Techniques for identifying critical habitats that should be managed;
- Designing a representative and resilient network of MPAs;
- Developing a monitoring programme for reef resilience, bleaching, and management effectiveness.

Dr Abdulla pointed out that it is critical that current and traditional management of valuable marine environments, such as those that are found in Egypt, takes into account the potential large-scale and catastrophic threats associated with climate change. He went on to say that the effects of climate change on marine environments could include dire social impacts such as the collapse of fisheries-related livelihoods and reef-associated tourism. Mr. Hesham Tomoum of the Abu Salama Society stated that progressive and forward-thinking management will ensure that the marine species of Egypt and the Red Sea, including dolphins, sharks, and dugong, have the best chance of surviving and maintaining their populations. IUCN is urging countries to take immediate action to address global climate change by building the resilience of reefs locally.

More information:

http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/coral_reefs/cccr/cccr_home.html

<http://www.abusalama.org>

<http://www.eeaa.gov.eg/English/main/about.asp>

ITMEMS 3: EIGHT ACTIONS TO SUPPORT REEF RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The 3rd International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium held last October culminated in a joint statement on the outlook for coral reefs and what must be done to make them more robust in the face of the threats and pressures they are under.



Among the recommendations was the call for nations to invest in education and communication programmes, from village up to global level, to achieve climate change adaptation. Adaptation strategies will be more successful if they combine both traditional and scientific knowledge.

Among the other important recommendations were the need to finance and facilitate coral bleaching response programmes, and to create incentives for the development of partnerships for adaptation.

Full list of statements

(http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/Coral_Reefs_CLimate_Change.pdf)



1996: Healthy

1997: Bleached

2000: Dead/Overgrown

2005: Dead/Overgrown

Going, going, gone...to save coral reefs and the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on them, there is an urgent need to limit the rate and extent of global climate change.



Oil business and conservation work to protect Western Pacific Gray Whales

Sakhalin Energy and the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel, convened by IUCN, have agreed to work together on seismic surveys and oil spill prevention. These are some of the biggest threats to the critically endangered Western Gray Whales from the oil and gas development in the whales' feeding area, off Sakhalin Island, Eastern Russia.

The second meeting of the Western Gray Whale Advisory Committee took place from 15 to 18 April 2007 in St. Petersburg, Russia. In addition to the agreed work on oil spill issues and seismic surveys, improved data sharing between different research groups was also discussed at the meeting.

Two task forces have been established to look further into these issues, comprising independent scientists and researchers working for the oil industry. These initiatives pave the way for promising cooperation between business and the conservation sectors, a key means to achieving environmentally sustainable and socially responsible development.

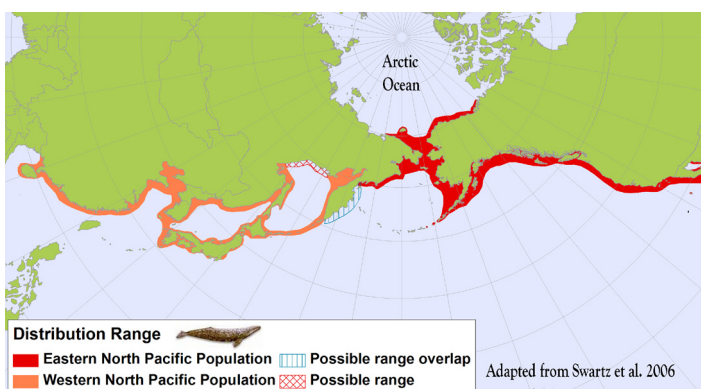
IUCN has been working with Sakhalin Energy since 2004 on the conservation of one of the world's most threatened whale species. Sakhalin Energy asked IUCN to set up a panel of independent scientists. Its role is to provide scientific advice and recommendations to Sakhalin Energy to minimize their impacts on the whales.

Western gray whales – a conservation priority

The western Pacific population of gray whales, which migrates between eastern Russia and China, is estimated at about 120 individuals, with only 25-35 reproductive females. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The few surviving animals face a number of potential hazards throughout their range, including collisions with ships, underwater noise, entanglement in

fishing gear and changes to their feeding grounds. Particular concerns have been raised about the impact of offshore oil and gas activities along the coast of Sakhalin Island, which lie in close proximity to the only identified feeding areas of the western gray whales.

IUCN's engagement with Sakhalin Energy is a positive development for the conservation of this critically endangered population. It provides an important mechanism for the exchange of information and opinions among various stakeholders, and most importantly, for scientifically-rigorous, independent assessment.



However, any comprehensive conservation initiative must consider the full range of threats. For this reason, IUCN aims to broaden the scope of its efforts from the current focus on Sakhalin Island to encompass, eventually, the entire geographic range of the whale population.

More info
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/sakhalin/index.htm>

IUCN host workshop on Economic Valuation of LMEs at GEF International Waters Conference

Economic Valuation (EV) is a practical tool that can be used within a business approach to ecosystem management. It can be applied in a multitude of different ways but is commonly used to assess potential benefits and costs, and to identify potential stakeholders and threats. At the end of July 2007, IUCN offered participants at the GEF Fourth Biennial International Waters Conference the chance to attend a workshop to learn more about this tool applied in the context of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs).



Participants at the Economic Valuation workshop, Cape Town

Case studies were examined from the Caspian Sea, the Yellow Sea, the Benguela Current LME, the Guinea Current LME and locally, from South Africa. From these case studies, a number of lessons learnt when conducting an EV (for presentation to decision-making bodies) came through, including:

- Value can be represented not only in monetary terms but also as indicators to support the decision-making process
- It is not enough to look at value on its own, there should be an analysis of who benefits
- Identifying taxable sources of revenue generation will help achieve buy-in at a national level
- Building too much complexity into an economic valuation will decrease the likelihood of a successful outcome
- The numbers generated by an economic valuation are rarely the most important element; it is also about asking the right questions, packaging the story, researching the target audience and communicating it effectively
- Factoring in discount rates (measuring the fact that money available now is worth more to people than money received in the future) will boost the credibility of an EV
- When dealing with an issue that affects the financial interests of an industry, access to information will not be easy to obtain, therefore, even the preparatory phase needs to be strategic
- EV is best left to qualified economists

Draft workshop report:

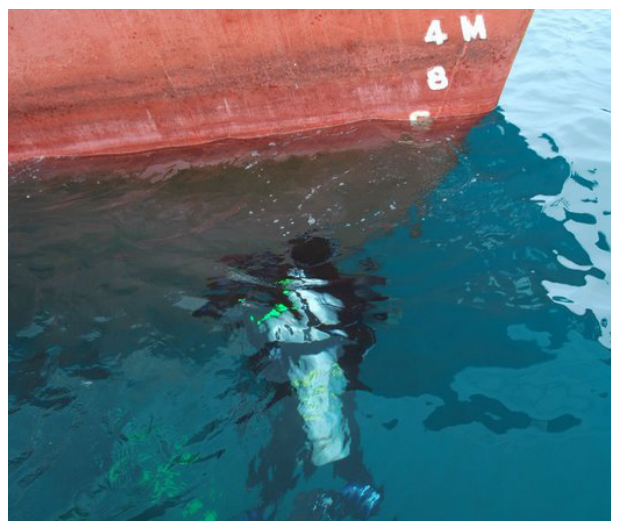
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/EV-workshop-CapeTown.pdf>

Invasive species in the Pacific: looking under the water

Throughout the world, marine resource managers are in the process of setting up marine protected areas (MPAs), sanctuaries, estuarine reserves and fishing closures as a means to preserve our marine biodiversity and living resources. Given the high ecological value of these areas, the efforts undertaken and the funds disbursed to conserve it, biodiversity loss in such places is even more dramatic than in others. Invasive species do not recognise frontiers or MPA boundaries, yet very little is done to address the problem of alien invasive species in marine protected area planning and management. In the case of a marine protected area, invasions can pose serious threats and lead to dramatic impacts, particularly when management is unprepared for them.

To help address this issue in the western Pacific, in July 2007, IUCN co-hosted a marine invasive species survey and training workshop with the Palau National Invasive Species Committee (NISC) and in collaboration with the Australian Maritime College. The project partners undertook a training survey exercise for key local agencies, both governmental and non-government. The training included theoretical and applied methods covering a wide range of survey protocols. A component of the training included in-water training of methods and post-survey taxonomic sorting and species identification. The Palau event follows on the heels of another capacity-building programme that IUCN hosted earlier in 2007 in Samoa in collaboration with the Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) and the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. It aimed at raising awareness on marine invasive species and management options to combat invasive species in the marine environment. It was particularly targeted to help empower MPA managers to tackle invasive species in the Pacific region and was attended by some 20 participants from 9 countries in the region.

Full story: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/pacific-invasives.pdf>



Inspection of the hull of a ship in Malakal Harbour, Koror as part of the IUCN project addressing invasive species in the Pacific Ocean

News from the Regions - Asia

Indonesian survey demonstrates that marine protected areas accelerate coral recovery

Results from an IUCN-CORDIO survey carried out on coral reefs in the northern Sumatran islands of Weh and Aceh earlier this year are clear: marine protected areas (MPAs) greatly boost both coral recovery and the abundance of coral reef fish. In addition, the high recruitment of corals in areas outside MPAs suggests that the recovery of coral reefs from prior disturbance is happening at a rapid rate.

Set up with Syiah Kuala University and the Wildlife Conservation Society mainly to monitor the recovery of corals following the 2004 tsunami, the 2007 survey found that the numbers of reef fish present in the area surveyed was more dependent on human management of reef areas than on the effects of the tsunami. With most of the monitoring work completed, IUCN-CORDIO is now focusing on strengthening community participation in reef management, assisting with MPA development and the mapping of fisheries, gear use and fishing effort among local communities.

More information:

<http://www.cordio.org/activities.asp>

Tsunami and Earthquake Damage to Coral Reefs of Aceh, Indonesia (see http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/tsunami_damage_to_corals_aceh.pdf)



Boosting alternative livelihood creation in Asia

A lack of alternative livelihood options in coastal areas has been identified as a root cause of continued coastal degradation and poverty. In order to address the lack of institutional capacity within the region to systematically approach alternative livelihood creation in a participatory and poverty-focused way, IUCN and Integrated Marine Management Ltd (IMM) organised the first of three workshops from January 27 to February 3 in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, India.



The workshop aimed to increase participants' knowledge and understanding of sustainable livelihoods, explore the reasons behind the successes and failures in livelihood enhancement and diversification initiatives in reef dependent communities, and to jointly develop a Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification approach that could be piloted.

More information:

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/livelihoods-workshop-asia.pdf>
<http://www.coralweb.org/>

South Asia experts compare notes on reef resilience research

The South Asia Reef Resilience Workshop workshop convened by IUCN in Sri Lanka earlier this year brought together coral reef scientists, managers and policy makers from five countries in South Asia and around the Bay of Bengal, to provide insight into the state of coral reef resilience research and management adaptations internationally. The event was organised to identify and discuss regional needs and priorities, as well as to promote learning and exchange of information. Resilience principles are emerging as an important paradigm for understanding and managing complex ecosystems and the interactions between these ecosystems and the human societies that depend on them. The increasing threats associated with climate change as well as other large-scale perturbations and increased population pressures are driving an urgent need to accelerate developments in resilience science and its incorporation into realistic and meaningful management strategies. This need is particularly critical for coral reef ecosystems, which are both highly vulnerable to climate change and also vital to the welfare of large human populations throughout the tropical world.

The recommendations put forward by the workshop participants included the application of resilience principles in the creation, zoning and/or management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and call on countries to support policies for adaptive management of marine ecosystems and the resilience approach.

More information:

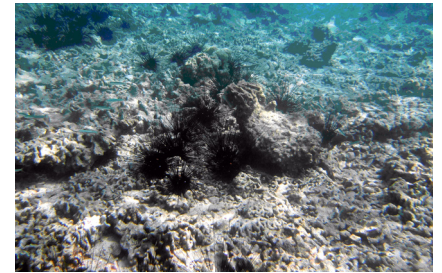
http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/resilience-wshop-sri_lanka.pdf

Indian Ocean coral experts exchanges ideas on coral bleaching research and discuss their latest findings

Members of the IUCN Climate Change and Coral Reefs Working Group (IUCN-CCCR) recently met from 16-25th April in Zanzibar, Tanzania to take part in a Bleaching Working Group Coral Reef Targeted Research Project Workshop. Dr David Obura (IUCN-CCCR Chair), Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg (Technical Steering Committee) and Mr. Gabriel Grimsditch (Secretariat) took the opportunity to interact with local scientists, as well as with members of the Bleaching Working Group chaired by Professor Hoegh-Guldberg.

The Institute of Marine Science hosted the workshop, and scientists and students from Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Mexico, USA, Israel and Australia all participated to present their research on coral bleaching and discuss their latest findings. The first week of the workshop consisted of presentations by all participants, with subsequent debates as to how methodologies for future bleaching, resilience and Symbiodinium monitoring could be improved. The second week was then spent at several field sites where the methodologies were tested. IUCN-CCCR members collaborated with scientists from other institutions to use the opportunity to begin testing rapid survey techniques of coral population parameters for the assessment of coral reef resilience, with a focus on techniques that are applicable in low-resource scenarios. These methodologies will soon be applied by the IUCN-CCCR in several Marine Protected Areas in order to assess their effectiveness in boosting coral reef resilience in the face of climate change.

Links: [IUCN-CCCR website](http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/coral_reefs/cccr/cccr_home.html) (http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/coral_reefs/cccr/cccr_home.html)



Fieldwork and testing of methodologies took place in healthy reefs such as Chumbe (above) and degraded reefs such as Changu (below)



Participants at the IUCN-SIDA Africa Science meeting in Stockholm, May 2007.

IUCN works with Sida to foster information exchange on Marine Science across East and West Africa

Capacity building efforts for research should reflect the same kind of cumulative and learning process as science itself. This was one of the findings of a workshop co-organised in May 2007 by IUCN, Sida, PRCM, FIBA, Swedish Water House and hosted by the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Practitioners from several sub-saharan Africa countries were joined by marine scientists from Europe to take stock of experiences and identify key factors for success, with the aim of further enhancing development co-operation efforts for marine research, at national, regional and local levels in East and West Africa. Another of the meeting's objectives was to review the functioning of different

modalities of development assistance for marine research, as well as foci of research in different geographical and institutional contexts. Some key factors for success and obstacles were identified to enhance local ownership perspectives, management needs and to deliver on specific goals. In addition, participants aimed to improve the networking capacity to boost regional co-operation, and to promote extended research collaboration among African and European researchers, institutes and initiatives.

Full story: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/Sida-workshop.pdf>

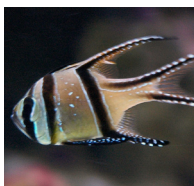
GMP work with the Commissions - Species survival

Summary of marine-related developments at the 14th CITES Conference of Parties

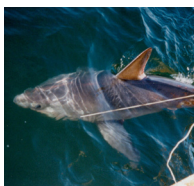
Despite the *thirteenth* Conference of Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) strongly reaffirming the contribution of the convention to the sustainable harvest of marine resources, at COP 14, the Parties seemed to back away from this approach to resource management. Proposals relating to listing of marine species on the CITES Appendices, with the exception of sawfishes and the European eel, were either withdrawn or voted down during the two week meeting in The Hague. Instead, Parties stressed the importance of management measures by range countries to ensure the survival of species.



Parties did recognise the complementary role of CITES to other management measures by listing all **sawfishes** on the Appendix I, with the exception of one species (*Pristis microdon*) that is listed on Appendix II with only live trade allowed. There is very little recent information on population sizes or extent of distribution of sawfish species. However, historical data and the extreme scarcity of recent sightings indicate declines in some stocks in some species that are likely to be of the magnitude justifying inclusion in Appendix I, particularly given the long generation time of sawfishes. Sawfish fins are known to be valuable and are traded internationally; there is also some trade in sawfish rostra and very limited trade in live specimens for aquaria. However, while evidence of targeted fisheries for international trade is limited, trade is the incentive for not retaining the incidental captures that would have otherwise been released.



The Banggai **Cardinalfish** (*Pterapogon kauderni*) is a small coral reef fish endemic to a restricted region of Indonesia. The limited geographic range, small-scale isolation of sub-populations, low fecundity, and extremely limited dispersal mean this species is inherently vulnerable to overexploitation. The US withdrew its proposal to list the Banggai Cardinalfish after Parties expressed their desire to give Indonesia's new management measures a chance to tackle the recent decline in the population of this fish species, which is mainly harvested for the aquarium trade.



The EU proposal to list the **porbeagle shark** (*Lamna nasus*) on Appendix II was rejected by a vote. Parties who spoke against the proposal stressed the fact that no strong domestic measures to recover the Northern stocks had yet been taken by the EU, and that the internal trade within the EU community would escape CITES provisions making a CITES listing ineffective for these stocks. Porbeagles are inherently vulnerable to overexploitation owing to a suite of life history characteristics. They have a long history of being caught in unsustainable target and non-target fisheries.



The EU proposal to list the **Spiny Dogfish** (*Squalus acanthias*) on Appendix II was also rejected by a vote and for similar reasons. The Spiny Dogfish is a temperate water largely migratory shark of the shelf seas in the northern and southern hemispheres. All but two populations of Spiny Dogfish have shown declines in catches and stock abundance driven by strong and persistent demand for high-priced meat. Available evidence indicates that a high proportion of harvested Spiny Dogfish enters international trade.



The **European Eel** (*Anguilla anguilla*) was one of the rare cases where Appendix II listing was adopted. Available data, shows marked and widespread declines in glass eel recruitment to less than 20% of levels observed up to three generations previously. International trade in this species is high, mainly of live glass eels exported from Europe to Asia (mainly China) for rearing in aquaculture. Several cases of poaching and illegal trade of glass eels are known from southern Europe, even involving organized criminal gangs.

Elsewhere, the rejection at the Plenary of the US proposal to list **Corallium species**, after some Mediterranean range countries spoke against the listing, also demonstrates the importance of prior consultation and involvement of range States.

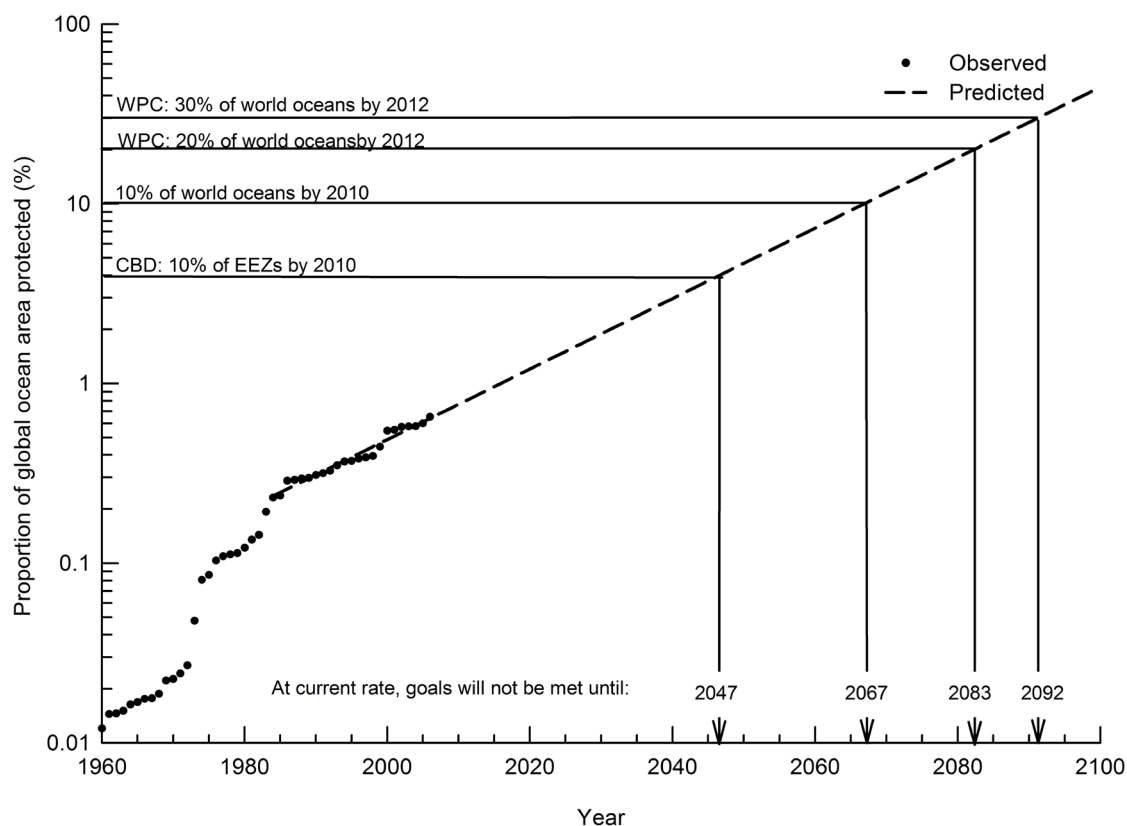
Reaction to the overall progress on species conservation was epitomised by Sarah Fowler, Chair of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group, who said "The Parties have missed the opportunity to complement traditional fisheries management and ensure that future fisheries delivers steady, reliable and high value harvests, instead of following the historic boom and bust pattern that arises from unregulated fisheries and trade."

Implementation was an important issue at this conference. Issuing Non-Detriment Findings for marine species is a challenging process, particularly when these species have been caught beyond the country's national jurisdiction. At this COP, Parties tackled once again the issue of "introduction from the sea" and finally agreed on the limits of national jurisdiction that is consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Parties can now focus on the important matter of how CITES can regulate trade to improve the management of ocean fisheries and other high seas natural resources. Such a role means that, in future, the Convention should work closely with a host of other organisations, in particular the regional fisheries management organisations.

More information: http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/our_work/wildlife_trade/citescop14/cop14analyses.htm

GMP work with the Commissions - Protected Areas

Summit on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) culminates in new global Call for Action



The challenge: in order to meet or even come close to targets set at the World Parks Congress in 2003, there needs to be, over the next few years, a very rapid expansion in the area covered by Marine Protected Areas. Source: "Assessing progress towards global marine protection targets: shortfalls in information and action" Wood, L. J., Fish, L., Laughren, J. & Pauly, D. (Oryx).

How does the World Commission on Protected Areas – Marine (WCPA – Marine) build greater effectiveness to deliver a global system of MPA networks? By listening to and understanding our partners' needs and identifying where we can provide added value to the excellent work already under way in many regions. A key part of this process has been growing WCPA – Marine to take on this challenge and in bringing together our partners to discuss common needs and future directions. The shaping of WCPA – Marine to grow greater organisational effectiveness across all oceans of the world will really take off in the coming months as a result of a major grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Bringing together our experts has, however, already started to happen. The MPA Summit, held at the National Geographic Society in Washington DC from April 10-12, 2007, brought together members of the Marine Senior Advisory Group and WCPA - Marine Regional Coordinators, along with other key members of the global MPA community. The purpose of the Summit was to agree a new global **MPA Call to Action** (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/callforaction.pdf>) and seek views on the key priorities, messages, actions and partnerships that will support MPA work in the coming years and form the final version of the **WCPA Marine Plan of Action** (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/wpamarinepoaen.pdf>). The final version will be available late 2007/early 2008.

Currently, only 1 percent of the oceans are protected, compared to over 12 percent of the Earth's land surface. Part of the measures that are needed is an increasingly urgent and significant concerted international action to establish a global system of representative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012. This is a target the global community set itself at the 2002 United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development. To help WCPA - Marine push for these goals, it was agreed that a strengthening and growth of the capabilities of WCPA Marine is necessary. Two key elements in the capacity-building effort are completion of the WCPA Marine Regional Coordinator global framework so that all regions are represented, and development of the global membership of WCPA Marine. At time of writing, the framework is nearly complete, with only four of the eighteen marine regions yet to appoint a regional coordinator. Other objectives include the development of a web portal to share good practices for MPA networks and the introduction of list-serve systems to allow effective sharing of knowledge and information between 'marine' members across the WCPA network.

Events and Additional Information

GMP staff announcements - new arrivals



Jennifer Palmer joined GMP in July 2007 as Marine Programme Officer in the USA & Caribbean Multilateral Office in Washington DC. Jen has worked as a marine conservation scientist and educator on a variety of projects, including research on endangered Hawaiian monk seals, albatross and green sea turtles. She also joined Ocean Alliance's R/V Odyssey expedition, a five-year scientific voyage to study the health of the world's oceans.



Mylah Ruben joined GMP in August 2007 as Administrative Assistant based in the IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. Mylah brings with her over 10 years of experience in the private sector. A Filipino national, she holds a BSc in biology from the College of the Holy Spirit in Manila.



Marina Gomei joined the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation as MPA Project Assistant last year to work on developing an information platform and on-line database of Mediterranean marine habitats and Marine Protected Areas and assisting in field work and MPA management support in Eastern Mediterranean countries.



Eric Gilman will be joining GMP as Marine Science Advisor in the next few weeks and will be working on the sustainability of marine capture fisheries and the conservation of coastal ecosystems, including the mitigation of climate change effects. Eric will also be helping develop methods to identify sustainable sources of seafood, and ensuring the effective availability of information from the fishing industry and fishery management authorities to seafood retailers.



Mathieu Ducrocq joined IUCN as Marine Programme Coordinator for West Africa in early 2007. In the future, Mathieu will work with GMP on marine spatial planning, fisheries and marine protected areas. Prior to joining IUCN, Mathieu was Executive Secretary of the Banc D'Arguin International Foundation (FIBA).



Elizabeth De Santo will join the team as Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Coordination Officer based in the IUCN Multilateral Office in Washington DC, USA. Funded by CI, IUCN, TNC and WWF-US, Elizabeth will catalyse inputs by the 4 organizations into the WCPA-Marine Plan of Action and support country commitments to create and expand MPAs and MPA networks by 2012.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 11-13, 2007

Second Global Conference on Large Marine Ecosystems

Qingdao, China

<http://www.ysfri.ac.cn/GLME-Conference2-Qingdao/>

September 25-28, 2007

European Symposium on MPAs as a Tool for Fisheries Management & Ecosystem Conservation

Murcia, Spain

<http://www.mpasymposium2007.eu/>

September 30- October 6, 2007

Second Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas

Bariloche, Argentina

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/events/laparkscongress.pdf>

October 2-4, 2007

CBD Expert Workshop on ecological criteria and bio-geographic classification systems for marine areas in need of protection

Azores, Portugal

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2007/ntf-2007-017-pa-en.pdf>

October 3-5, 2007

Port Cros forum on climate change

Port Cros, France

http://www.total.com/fondation/en/p8/p8_10.htm

October 17-19, 2007

IUCN Workshop on High Seas Governance for the 21st Century

New York, USA

CREDITS

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Page 3: Fish haul - Bob Williams

Page 4: Starfish and crinoid - Deep Atlantic Stepping Stones Science Team/IFE/URI/NOAA; Ship - Wolcott Henry 2005

Page 5: Sponge and coral bed - Mary L Frost; Coral reef time series - Reef Relief

Page 6: Grey whale tail fin - © IFAW / A. Lyskin

Page 7: Workshop - James Oliver; Hull inspection - Imène Meliane

Page 8: Indonesian survey and discussion - Jerker Tamelander; Livelihoods workshop - IUCN Sri Lanka

Page 9: Chumbe and Changu corals - Gabriel Grimsditch

Page 10: Sawfish - Colin Simpfendorfer; Banggai Cardinalfish - Imène Meliane; Porbeagle shark - Lisa Natanson / NOAA; Dogfish - anonymous; European Eel - Ron Offermans