



The sharp increase in the price of oil has provoked an urgent search for new supplies of energy and planners are now turning more and more to the oceans as a possible clean and renewable source to meet growing energy demand. The development of these relatively recent sources of production - tidal, wave and offshore wind - are not without

their impacts on the biodiversity of the seas, so how do we make blue energy green?

This is just one of the projects in development between IUCN Global Marine Programme (GMP) and its partners in the private sector on the topic of energy. Each encompasses a series of challenges in reducing and better mitigating the impacts of oil, gas or renewable energy production.

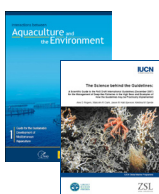
IUCN has now been working in partnership with Sakhalin Energy on the Western Gray Whale project for over four years. During the construction phase of the oil and gas operation, which is now drawing to a close, the oil consortium took advice from an IUCN specialist task force on how best to conduct seismic surveys, which are potentially very damaging to wildlife. This follows other beneficial outcomes for the environment resulting from IUCN's cooperation in the project, including the rerouting of underwater pipelines to avoid whale feeding areas.

The focus of the Western Gray Whale project is now changing to encompass other threats to the whales that occur across its range. The first step in this process is the hosting of a range-wide workshop to bring together whale experts from Japan, Russia, Korea and China, as well as North America and Europe, to identify ways of reducing threats to western gray whales across their range.

Stay tuned to GMP's website for more information on these projects and our work on ocean energy in general.

Carl Gustaf Lundin, Head, IUCN Global Marine Programme

In this issue...



New publications - page 2

New Publications on deep sea fisheries, high seas governance, marine research in East and West Africa, economic valuation, sustainable aquaculture, and the bycatch and over-exploitation of sharks.



High seas, governance, fisheries - pages 3-4

A shot in the arm for high seas; IUCN and the high seas governance agenda; IUCN at UNICPOLOS; Keeping albatrosses off the hook.



Special Congress pull-out guide - pages 5-8

The IUCN Congress taking place from October 5-14 will incorporate close to 100 marine events. This 4-page guide provides practical information and a detailed look at the 35 thematic marine workshops.



Oceans and climate change - page 9

Coral Reef Resilience Assessments in Kenya; **Sea-level rise threat to mangroves.**



News from the Regions - page 10

The SLED approach to livelihood change in Asia; building capacity to deal with Middle East ship groundings.



IUCN/WCPA work on Protected Areas - page 11

WCPA-Marine geared up to promote MPA expansion; Launch of new database of Mediterranean MPAs.

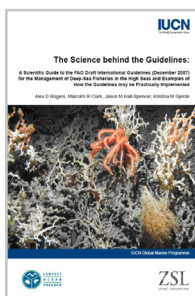
New Publications and Reports



High Seas Governance for the 21st Century

The Workshop on High Seas Governance for the 21st Century was held in New York on 17-19 October 2007 to explore policy and regulatory options to improve oceans governance beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BANJ) particularly as they relate to the protection and preservation of the marine environment and marine biological diversity. This report documents the main findings.

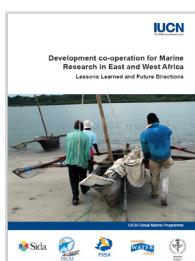
LINK: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_workshop_co_chairs_summary_new_iucn_format.pdf



The Science behind the Guidelines

This report is a scientific guide to the FAO Draft International Guidelines (December 2007) for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas. It gives examples of how the guidelines may be practically implemented and provides background information on scientific issues related to the conservation and management of Deep-Sea Fisheries and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems.

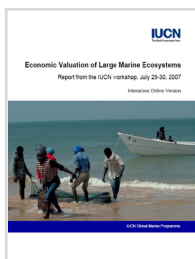
LINK: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/science_behind_the_guidelines_low_res.pdf



Development co-operation for Marine Research in East and West Africa: Lessons Learned and Future Directions

This report documents experiences and lessons from the process of capacity building for marine research, including different modalities for capacity building, collaboration between North and South, sustainability of efforts, and local ownership.

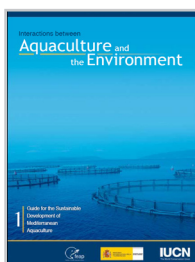
LINK: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_resources/index.cfm?uNewsID=1538



Economic Valuation of Large Marine Ecosystems

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://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ev_workshop_report.pdf



Interactions between Aquaculture and the Environment

First in the series "Guide for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture", this report addresses finfish and shellfish culture, but mainly focuses on finfish aquaculture, and specifically cage culture. The objective of these guidelines is to propose recommendations for responsible and sustainable aquaculture, giving support to decision makers, aquaculture producers and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region.

LINK: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/acua_en_final.pdf



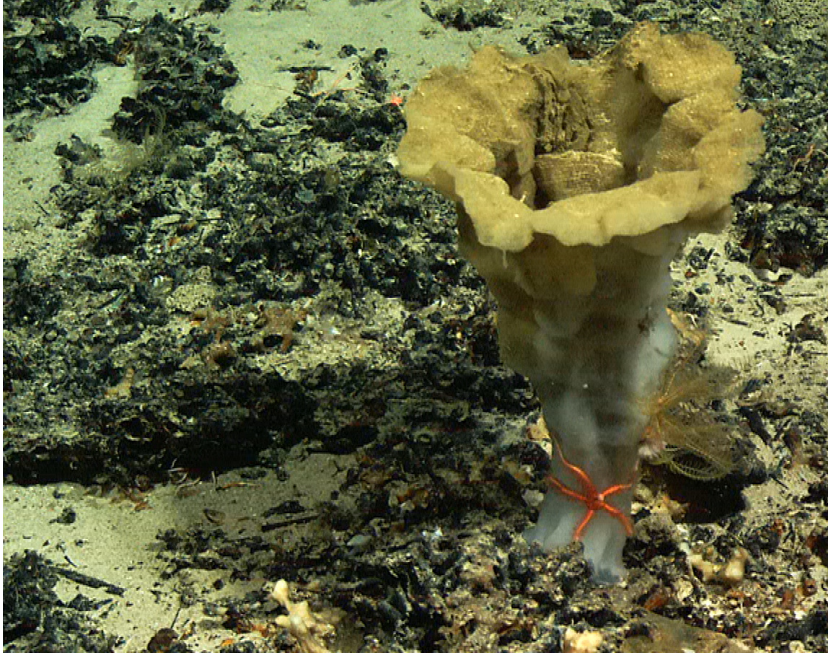
Shark Depredation and Unwanted Bycatch in Pelagic Longline Fisheries

This report looks at industry practices and attitudes, and documents some shark avoidance strategies, including the potential of deterrents, hotspot avoidance and incentive instruments to reduce shark interactions in pelagic longline fisheries.

LINK: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/shark_depredation.pdf

The High Seas

Shot in the arm for High Seas Marine Protected Areas



High Seas Marine Protected Areas received a welcome boost at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in May this year with the adoption of agreed criteria for identifying areas in need of protection in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats.

Parties also agreed on scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas. The criteria and guidance had been developed at a CBD expert workshop in which IUCN participated.

This breakthrough paves the way for governments and relevant organizations to apply the scientific criteria and guidance to implement conservation and management measures, including representative networks of MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

An expert workshop in 2009 – to be hosted by the government of Canada with support from Germany – is to review and consolidate progress on the identification of areas beyond national jurisdiction that meet the adopted scientific criteria and develop guidance for the further use and development of biogeographic classification systems. The results could contribute to progress at sectoral and regional levels as well as at the United Nations General Assembly, where governments are discussing next steps for the management and governance of areas beyond national jurisdiction. IUCN will continue its work towards supporting this important progress.

Full story and background papers available on the GMP website:

http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_news/index.cfm?uNewsID=1063

IUCN and the high seas governance agenda

As reflected in the Co-Chairs' joint statement following the May meeting of the UN Working Group on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction in New York, the outcomes reflect growing support for a series of short and medium term steps to address weaknesses and gaps in implementation, regulation and governance of human activities affecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. An increasing commitment to UN-level discussions has been perceptible.

Various states share IUCN's position on many issues, including consideration of a broad array of options for improved governance of the high seas. To contribute to the debate, IUCN has put forward various background papers prepared by the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) - see http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_news/index.cfm?uNewsID=870

The spirit of cooperation developed at this UN meeting was a key element of the successful outcomes of the Convention on Biological Diversity 9th Conference of Parties. More information on IUCN's work on ocean governance can be viewed here:

http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_our_work/marine_governance/index.cfm



Managing Ecosystems for Human Wellbeing

Ocean Governance and Fisheries



IUCN at UNICPOLOS: more regulation needed to fight corruption, reduce illegal fishing and enhance security

States met at the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) in June 2008 to address risks and find solutions to the problem of maritime security and safety. Speaking at the meeting, IUCN delegate Dr. Harlan Cohen lent support to the proposed Global Record of fishing vessels and called for better information on vessel routes, destinations and beneficial owners. Several conventions applicable to fishing vessel safety are currently not in force.

IUCN also called for the development of a minimum standard of port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. The lack of effective port state controls can lead to the emergence of ports of convenience where persons and goods, including illegally-caught fish, can be landed or transhipped.

Dr. Cohen underlined the importance of transparency in the battle against corruption in fisheries and called for the FAO port state instrument to require that information and data be made publicly available. He emphasized that real-time vessel monitoring would help developing countries to build capacity to better patrol and police their coastal zones and combat IUU fishing.

Finally, IUCN also called for a strengthening of the guidelines for ships operating in Arctic ice-covered waters and the adoption of similar guidelines for the Southern Ocean around Antarctica. In view of the intensification of shipping activities due to retreating ice, Dr. Cohen issued an urgent call for marine protected areas, including through marine reserves and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas.

More information: hcohen@iucn.org

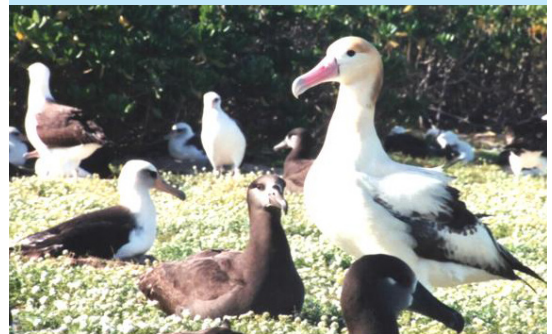
Keeping Albatrosses off the Hook in the Hawaiian Longline Tuna Fishery

A new study conducted by IUCN, US NOAA Fisheries, and Ecological Modeling Services, to be published in the journal *Endangered Species Research*, demonstrates how, since 2001, the Hawaiian longline tuna fishery has managed to reduce seabird bycatch by 67% using combinations of seabird avoidance methods entailing alterations to their fishing gear and methods.

The amount of weight attached near fishing hooks, thawing and dyeing fish bait dark blue, and setting gear from the side of the vessel near the vessel hull instead of from the conventional position at the vessel stern were found to be effective seabird avoidance practices. The season and location of fishing, as well as the timing of daily fishing operations, were also found to have significant effects on seabird catch rates.

The study identifies which seabird bycatch reduction measures elicit the highest voluntary compliance in Hawaii, with implications for exporting effective as well as commercially viable methods to other fleets to maximize compliance when onboard observers are absent. A substantial proportion of seabird captures occurred south of the area where mitigation measures are required for the Hawaii fleet. This boundary has also been adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. Moving this boundary further south would further reduce seabird catches in North Pacific pelagic longline fisheries.

More information: eric.gilman@iucn.org





Looking forward to the 2008 IUCN Congress October 5-14, 2008 in Barcelona

Following the opening ceremony and reception on October 5, the 2008 IUCN Congress is composed of two main parts: a Conservation Forum spanning 4 days from October 6-9 and a Members' Assembly running from October 10-14. IUCN's Global Marine Programme (GMP) will play a very active role.

At the Conservation Forum, marine conservation and sustainability issues will enjoy an unprecedented amount of coverage with a very diverse cross-section of thematic workshops (see following pages), publication launches, social events, training courses, media debates, exhibitions, expedition launches and film screenings.

The Members' Assembly will debate and vote on over 20 marine motions and resolutions, which will help shape IUCN's policy on marine issues for the next four years.


IUCN Congress 2008 is...



- 35 Marine workshops
- 7 Marine social events
- 20+ Marine motions/resolutions
 - 9+ New marine publications
 - 15 Marine films
 - 10+ Marine exhibitions
 - 15 Marine roundtable discussions
- The Sailing to Barcelona initiative
- 2 High-level marine media debates
- 2 Marine expedition launches
- 5 Marine training courses
- and a Marine networking pavilion



Marine workshops at the World Conservation Forum

Monday October 6			
09.30 - 11.30	Forum Opening		
12.00 - 13.00	Streams Opening		
Lunch			
14.30 - 16.00			16 - MPAs: Good for fish! Good for people?
16.30 - 18.00	01 - Ocean governance in the 21st Century		17 - Establishing a network of Mediterranean MPAs
18.30 - 20.00			18 - Species info for designing and managing MPAs
Tuesday October 7			
09.30 - 11.00	02 - Safeguarding the high seas – a roadmap 		19 - Gestion côtière et d'AMP en Afrique de l'Ouest
11.30 - 13.00			20 - Protecting Planet Ocean: meeting MPA targets 
Lunch			
14.30 - 16.00	03 - Marine stewardship: user & NGO participation	10 - Impacts of climate change on ecosystems and fisheries	
16.30 - 18.00	04 - Large Marine Ecosystem indicators of coastal condition		
18.30 - 20.00	05 - Deep-sea science, governance & management		
Wednesday October 8			
09.30 - 11.00			21 - Building MPAs by linking social and ecological concepts
11.30 - 13.00		11 - Arctic Biodiversity Conservation 	
Lunch			
14.30 - 16.00	06 - Applying ecosystem-based management: lessons learnt	12 - Coral reef resilience – coping with change	22 - Google Earth outreach
16.30 - 18.00	07 - Pacific Ocean 2020	13 - Managing for Coral Reef Resilience	
18.30 - 20.00	08 - Advancing high seas governance	14 - Building resilience concepts into policy	
Thursday October 9			
09.30 - 11.00			23 - MPA networks: lessons learnt and the way forward
11.30 - 13.00	09 - Governance of the Mediterranean Sea 		
Lunch			
14.30 - 16.00		15 - Marine geo-engineering: a climate change solution? 	24 - MPA Synthesis 
16.30 - 18.00	Forum Closing		

Detailed look at selected IUCN-GMP led workshops

Safeguarding the high seas – a roadmap to protection for Earth's final frontier

The regime regulating uses of the oceans has not kept pace with the rapid expansion of human activities, especially on the artificially delimited high seas. Discussions to improve the governance of the high seas have gained momentum in recent years at global and regional levels, and have reached the highest levels of deliberation at the United Nations. However, progress is slow.

With the help of an interdisciplinary array of professionals and passionate oceans defenders, this session will help provide the world with a new vision for the other half of the planet and lay the groundwork for a new era of effective high seas governance.

Room PB. October 8, 11.30-13.00

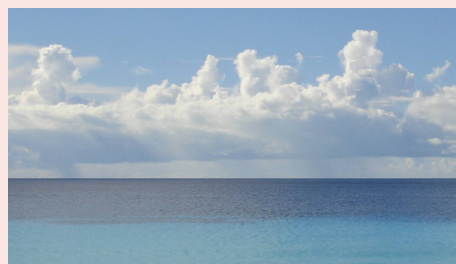
Reversing climate change – is marine geo-engineering a solution?

Proposals are already being made to “geo-engineer” the oceans on large scales by, for example, stimulating phytoplankton blooms that may potentially fix carbon dioxide and transfer it to the deep seabed or by directly injecting CO₂ into geological structures under the seafloor.

The Workshop will provide contrasting viewpoints on climatic, ecological, legal, ethical and technological pros and cons of marine geo-engineering schemes proposed as methods for combating climate change.

Room PB. October 9, 11.30-13.00.

Protecting Planet Ocean: taking action and meeting targets



If we continue with a business-as-usual approach to marine protection, it is extremely unlikely that various targets of establishing global networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) will be met until at least 2060, a full half-century later than planned. A new approach – a new dynamic – is required to spur action from governments, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities, to effectively protect our oceans from the myriad threats facing them, both now and in the future, particularly climate change.

During this workshop, we will unveil the range of new communication tools that IUCN has been developing in collaboration with its partners, including the IUCN-WCPA Marine Action Plan, that, it is hoped, will greatly facilitate the emergence of a new marine conservation dynamic. The workshop will begin with an assessment of where we are today – what is protected and where. Next, a summary of what commitments have been made will be presented. Finally, the Action Plan will be presented, laying out concrete actions to be taken over the next four years, and beyond, so that we may safeguard our oceans for generations to come.

Room PB. October 7, 11.30-13.00

Arctic Biodiversity Conservation: as the ice melts

The workshop will bring together representatives from many sectors with a common interest in preserving and monitoring Arctic ecosystems, biodiversity and cultures. The workshop will seek to inform participants of shared and non-shared concerns, to promote discussion and to reach a common understanding of how best to preserve Arctic cultures, ecosystems and biodiversity.

The role of monitoring to promote ecosystem and biodiversity conservation will be emphasized. The outputs from the workshop will contribute to further efforts to conserve Arctic biodiversity and will directly support the work of CAFF, the CBMP and IUCN members.

Room 116. October 8, 11.30-13.00

Overcoming hurdles to sustainable industrial fisheries production

The fishing and aquaculture industries increasingly recognize that they have a major role to play towards improving management and achieving sustainable fisheries. Indeed, the long-term viability of their business is dependent on healthy and productive resources.

With representatives of the industry and other fisheries interest groups, this workshop will examine how to achieve rational, optimal, equitable and sustainable use of marine fishery resources to ensure the marine ecosystem's capacity will continue to support human life for our future generations.

Room 117. October 8, 16.30-18.00

Training opportunities at Congress

50 free training courses will be organised by IUCN members and partners during the IUCN Congress on a wide-range of topics. In addition to a multitude of cross-cutting themes, four courses will focus on marine themes:

Capacity-building for tropical coastal ecosystems management using a dynamic teaching model (Monday, 6 October)

Ecosystem services, disaster risk reduction and coastal community resilience (Monday, 6 October)

A private-sector approach for practitioners - Conservation agreements in support of marine protection (Wed, 8 October)

Preparation of low-cost high resolution optical satellite images and their use in coastal zone management (Thurs 9 Oct)

Full details can be seen at http://www.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/forum/learning_opportunity/index.cfm

Key IUCN-GMP contacts for Congress

Workshops: sarah.gotheil@iucn.org

Marine pavilion: jpalmer@iucn.org

Media/communications: james.oliver@iucn.org

Governance stream: kristina.gjerde@eip.com.pl

Climate stream: ggrimsditch@iucn.org

MPA stream: edesanto@iucn.org

Fisheries stream: francois.simard@iucn.org

Resilience and adaptation



Coral Reef Resilience Assessments in Kenya – Can corals survive climate change?

The IUCN Climate Change and Coral Reefs Working Group has developed an innovative methodology for assessing the resilience, or capacity for recovery, of coral reefs to climate change. Resilience to climate change is determined by a range of ecological, environmental, anthropogenic and oceanographic factors, and this methodology allows managers to quantify these using a simple 5-point scale. Resilience assessments provide a comprehensive review of threats and of the state of the system, and, with this information in hand, a manager can make sound decisions. For example, fishing may be closed for different herbivorous fish groups during or after a bleaching event to minimize algal competition with recovering corals. Conducting resilience surveys before an MPA is zoned can also help critical refugia that will help the entire reef recover from future disturbances. The main innovations of the IUCN resilience assessment method over standard coral reef monitoring protocols are in more detailed measurements of coral populations data, a functional group approach to fish surveys focusing on herbivores, and an estimation of a wide variety of resilience indicators. The methodology is designed to be quick and can be conducted by a small group of divers without sophisticated equipment.

IUCN experts have begun collaborating with local government and NGO scientists to conduct resilience assessments of all the marine parks along the Kenyan coast-line. A team of 6 scientists representing IUCN, CORDIO, WWF and KWS travelled to the Kiunga National Marine Reserve in March this year. Kiunga is on the north of Kenya's coastline, bordering Somalia, and is a relatively undeveloped area of spectacular natural beauty. They spent three weeks diving many sites in this marine reserve and collecting data for the resilience assessment. In April they then moved further south to the Malindi Marine Park and collected the same resilience data. Later in the year, they will be assessing the Watamu, Mombasa and Kisite Marine Parks, thus completing all marine parks in Kenya. When the data are analysed and the reports are published, management recommendations will be made to the governmental management authority for improved management of these protected areas in the face of climate change.

Sea-level rise may be the greatest threat to mangroves

Mangrove ecosystems are under threat from climate change. Initial research led by IUCN and three leading universities shows that most mangrove sediment surface elevations are not keeping pace with sea-level rise and the greatest impact will be on those mangroves experiencing net lowering in sediment elevation and where there is limited area for landward migration.

The Pacific Islands mangroves have been demonstrated to be at high risk of substantial reductions. More research is needed on assessment methods and standard indicators of change in response to effects from climate change, so at this stage, there is less certainty over other climate change outcomes and mangrove responses.

Adaptation measures can offset anticipated mangrove losses and improve resistance and resilience to climate change. Coastal planning can adapt to facilitate mangrove migration with sea-level rise. Management of activities within the catchment that affect long-term trends in the mangrove sediment elevation, better management of other stressors on mangroves, rehabilitation of degraded mangrove areas, and increases in systems of strategically designed protected area networks that include mangroves and functionally linked ecosystems through representation, replication and refugia, are additional adaptation options.

Full article available on the GMP website at: <http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/index.cfm?uNewsID=1485>



News from the Regions

Discovery, Direction and Doing: the SLED approach addresses the complexities of livelihood change in Asia



Building on past IUCN work and reviews, a Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement and Diversification (SLED) approach has been developed through the Coral Reefs and Livelihoods Initiative (CORALI), involving IUCN and a range of institutional partners.

SLED systematically addresses the complexity of livelihood change, through a participatory framework building on three main principles: 1. **Discovery:** Learning with people about the changing relationships with natural resources and helping people to appreciate their strengths and potential for development; 2. **Direction:** Helping people analyse opportunities and make informed choices about the desirability, the feasibility and the profitability of livelihood change; and 3. **Doing:** Working with people to develop capacity and knowledge to help them make a change.

Three regional workshops were held to train a group of community-level coastal livelihood practitioners from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The workshops explored sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities and worked towards developing and refining the SLED approach, defined pilot projects for field trial and testing of the SLED approach, and contributed to the development of a regionally appropriate Socioeconomic Monitoring methodology for South Asia.

Pilot projects defined through the above workshops were implemented by field teams at six target sites across the region. The teams have worked in different contexts with differing levels of resources, but have benefited from working collaboratively.

Throughout the guidance to the SLED approach, emphasis has been placed on the importance of getting the people who are the subjects of the process (local resource users and community members) to make their own choices. The role of the SLED facilitation team is to “facilitate” their capacity to make those choices (and not to make choices for them). A key part of supporting people to make choices is to give them “voice” – the capacity and confidence to realise that their views, ideas and experiences are important and to express those views to others as well as to the agencies and organisations that should be supporting them. This is particularly important for the poorer members of communities where SLED is being implemented.

A key feature of poverty, particularly in coastal communities in Asia, is the lack of voice experienced by the poor. The poor have little access to fora or institutions where their voice might be heard and, even if they do, they often think that they have nothing to say or that no one is interested in hearing their opinions. Therefore the process of giving voice involves working on several levels.

For more information on coastal livelihoods see: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_our_work/livelihoods/index.cfm

IUCN and PERSGA build capacity to deal with Middle East ship groundings

IUCN and the Regional Organization for Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) joined forces in July to deliver a training course on the Economic Valuation of Damage by Ship Grounding on Coral Reefs.

The reefs of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden are suffering from different impacts due to the use of the region as a transit route for a significant percentage of the world's petroleum, dry bulk and other cargoes. With over 30,000 ships travelling through these waters annually, reef groundings by ships or boats are one of the main hazards for corals and coral reef ecosystems. Many factors are considered, from the strength of the grounding to the volume of the ship, and the bio-richness of the reef area to its ability to naturally recolonize. All these factors are considered when the evaluation of the damaged reefs are calculated, in addition to the economical value of the damaged reef area, whether it is used for fishing, diving or as a marine park.

The workshop drew in 20 marine professionals from Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. Participants from each country prepared presentations about the compensation procedures for coral reef damage in their country, including the positives and negatives, as a platform to exchange experiences and formulate the preliminary draft of Regional Guidelines.

More information on the GMP website at: <http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/index.cfm?uNewsID=1487>



WCPA-Marine geared up to promote MPA expansion



Over the past two years, the Marine team of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has made substantial progress towards fulfilling its role of supporting the global Marine Protected Area (MPA) community in its work to develop an effective and sustainable global network of MPAs. Firstly, and in collaboration with various partners around the world, we have developed a global Plan of Action. The Plan of Action is a relatively short document intended to bring you quickly up-to-date on our global mission, the context for our work, how we add value to the global MPA community, who is involved in supporting WCPA-Marine, and other relevant issues.

A key component to the success of WCPA-Marine is the effectiveness, extent, and reach of its global network of expertise. A cornerstone of this is the WCPA-Marine Regional Coordinator framework, whereby we have an in-situ expert appointed to coordinate WCPA-Marine activities in the region. Over the past year, we have greatly strengthened the capacity this network and now have a complete regional coordinator network covering all oceans of the world. We are currently in the process of further building the capacity of this network by appointing country-level coordinators where necessary, as well as developing an effective communications structure to support the efforts of the regional and country coordinators.

Secondly, we undertook an exhaustive one-year Organisational Review of WCPA-Marine, with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The results of this review have been built into our global Plan of Action and also form the basis of our Business Plan – it is the first time WCPA – Marine has had such a key document that will enable us to move our strategy forward.

Thirdly, and as part of our commitment in the global Plan of Action to accelerate progress in achieving the global MPA agenda, we have developed an online 'commitment tracker' tool. This tool will be freely accessible to the MPA community, and is the first time that MPA commitments (both binding and non-binding) have been systematically stored and tracked. We hope this will greatly enhance the ability of the global community to keep track of MPA commitments that are relevant to their location, as well as celebrating progress towards them.

Finally, and towards our goal of increasing visibility, understanding, and awareness of MPAs, we have formulated an implementation plan for the Protect Planet Ocean Review (aka the 'Wet List'). This Review will provide a regular and globally consistent electronic publication which assesses progress towards MPA targets and celebrate successes globally at the scale of the WCPA Marine regions.

New database of Mediterranean MPAs is now online!

The inventory of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) of the Mediterranean Sea has been recently updated and improved and the online database is freely searchable at www.medpan.org

The database is a result of a collaborative initiative made possible due to the networking activities of MedPAN, the network of managers of Mediterranean MPAs, under the coordination of WWF, and to the scientific and technical networks of IUCN, with the support of UNEP RAC/SPA. It is the first survey of Mediterranean MPAs that includes a data collection of the management characteristics and it is based on questionnaire responds. It involved the participation of MPA management bodies and agencies from 18 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

Full story: <http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/index.cfm?uNewsID=1522>



Events and Additional Information

GMP staff announcements - new arrivals



IUCN is pleased to announce the appointment of French author and film-maker **Claire Nouvian** as **IUCN Ambassador for the Oceans**. Claire is the curator and the inspiration behind a global roving exhibition called "The Deep" based on her successful book by the same name. After being hosted at the Natural History Museum in Paris from November 2007 to May 2008, the exhibition recently moved to Hong Kong in a bid to raise awareness in Asia on the fragility of deep sea ecosystems and the amazing creatures found in them.



Dr. Mohamed Eltayeb joined IUCN in November 2007 as Marine Programme Officer in the West Asia and Middle East region. Based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Mohamed is responsible for helping get the nascent IUCN Red Sea Programme up and running with particular focus on marine assessments, ecosystem resilience and network building.



Dr. Louisa Wood joined IUCN in January 2008 as Technical Marine Protected Area Advisor based in San Francisco, USA. She is involved in a number of exciting projects in support of the implementation of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas – Marine Plan of Action, and with a new and unprecedented level of global outreach for MPAs.



Dr. Finn Larsen joined IUCN in May 2008 replacing Julian Roberts as the new Programme Officer in charge of the Western Gray Whale Conservation Initiative in partnership with Sakhalin Energy. Finn has considerable experience with whale conservation, and has worked with many organizations dealing with management of cetaceans. He joined IUCN from the Danish Institute for Fisheries Research, where he was senior scientist.

CREDITS

Designed and edited by James Oliver with input from the GMP team.
Contact james.oliver@iucn.org

Photo credits:

Page 1: Tropical coastline in Chagos, British Indian Ocean Territories: Carl Gustaf Lundin / IUCN

Page 3: Seabed biodiversity: Deep Atlantic Stepping Stones Science Team IFE / URI / NOAA;

Trawl of benthic fish: Miller Freeman / NOAA

Page 4: Illegal fishing activity: Michael Markovina;

Albatrosses: Eric Gilman

Page 5: Barcelona Convention Centre: Forum Barcelona 2004;

Workshop participants at Bangkok Congress: James Oliver / IUCN;

Deep sea octopus *stauroteuthis syrtensis*: © Peter Batson, ExploreTheAbyss.com;

Workshop debate: James Oliver / IUCN

Page 8: Open sea near the Seychelles: Carl Gustaf Lundin / IUCN

Page 9: Coral assessment in Kenya: Gabriel Grimsditch / IUCN;

Planted mangrove: Ben Brown / Mangrove Action Project

Page 10: Indian woman repairing fishing nets: IUCN;

Grounded tanker: IUCN / PERSGA

Page 11: Albatross in flight: Imène Meliane / IUCN;

Fish school near seagrass near Menorca: José Antonio Moya

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5-14, 2008

IUCN World Conservation Congress
Barcelona, Spain

http://www.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/index.cfm

Look out for an exciting new book to be Launched at IUCN Congress

Adrift, Tales of Ocean Fragility
by IUCN SSC Marine species group

October 20-24, 2008

BioMarine World Marine and Maritime Forum

Toulon & Marseille, France

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

November 11-15, 2008

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity

Valencia, Spain

<http://www.marbef.org/worldconference/>

December 1-15, 2008

The 14th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Poznan, Poland

<http://www.cop14.gov.pl/index.php?lang=EN>

March 2-6, 2009

28th COFI - Committee on Fisheries
Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/38478/en>

May 11-15, 2009

World Ocean Conference
Manado, Indonesia

http://www.woc2009.org/woc_home.php

May 20-24, 2009

International Marine Conservation Congress / IMPAC2
Washington DC, USA

<http://www2.cedarcrest.edu/imcc/index.html>