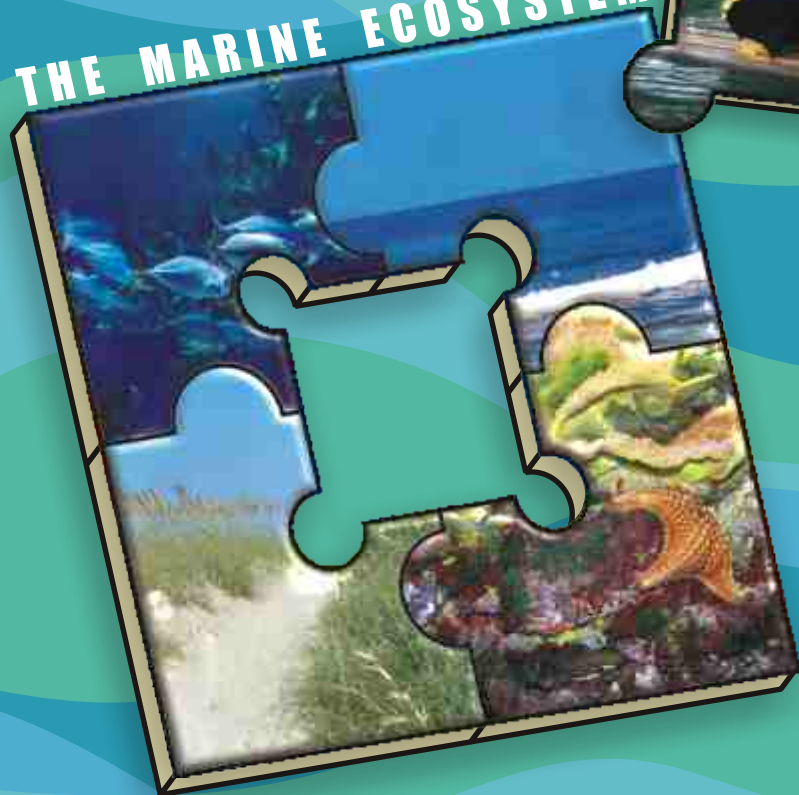


# Solving the Puzzle: Social and cultural dimensions of marine and coastal protected areas

## THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM





# SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF MPAs

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are increasingly being used by governments as instruments for conservation and management of coastal and marine biodiversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has set a target of bringing at least 10 per cent of the world's oceans under protection by 2020. The decision to increase the area under MPAs has significant implications for small-scale fishing and coastal communities, the primary traditional users of coastal and marine areas.

Small-scale fishing and coastal communities, already threatened by biodiversity loss and degradation of coastal ecosystems, have been demanding effective action to protect and manage coastal and marine habitats and resources, given the close links between their livelihoods and the health of the resource base. In several parts of the world, they have been known to take the initiative, as part of traditional and more recent systems, to protect and manage their resources.

This brochure is a compilation of resource materials on these issues published by ICSF over the years.



### **ICSF. 2012. Shifting Undercurrents: Women Seaweed Collectors of Gulf of Mannar**

The film is an account of women divers/seaweed collectors struggling to regain a hold on their much-curtailed activities in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park off the south Indian State of Tamil Nadu. Since 2000, all resource use inside the national park has been halted. Despite the continued presence of large-scale industrial pollution, overfishing etc, enforcement efforts target small-scale livelihood efforts by the local communities.

### **ICSF. 2011. Right to Survive: Turtle Conservation and Fisheries Livelihoods**

The film looks at turtle conservation efforts along the coast of the Indian State of Orissa and examines, in parallel, the situation of artisanal fishworkers in turtle conservation areas. As the pressure to conserve ecosystems and their resources rises steadily all over the world, so have conflicts between conservation imperatives and the livelihood interests of the communities that interact with these ecosystems.

"Right to Survive" won two awards -- for cinematography and scriptwriting -presented by the Indian Documentary Producers' Association (IDPA), India's premier body of documentary and short filmmakers.

### **ICSF. 2003. Under the Sun: The transient fisherfolk of Jambudwip**

Jambudwip is a 20-sq km island in the Indian State of West Bengal, in the Sunderbans delta. Since at least 1955, Jambudwip has been used as a base for fishery operations and as a fish drying site, mostly by

small-scale, artisanal fishworkers. It is being alleged that the seasonal "occupation" of the Jambudwip island by fishermen and the fish-drying activity is a non-forest activity that cannot be permitted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, without prior approval of the central government. This film deals with the issues involved in the stake-net fishery of Jambudwip.

## CASE STUDIES

### India:

#### **Anitha, S. 2012. Where Tradition is a Way of Life: Traditional Knowledge in the U.T of Lakshadweep, India**

A compilation of traditional knowledge of the Lakshadweep community pertaining to the marine ecosystem which are relevant for the livelihood and sustenance strategies of the islanders. The study highlights the need to integrate this knowledge in planning, management and conservation of natural resources.

### Central America:

#### **Rivera, Vivienne Solís., Borrás, Marvin Fonseca., Gallardo, Daniela Barguil., Ochoa, Mariela., Castañeda, Edgar., and Geodisio Castillo. 2012. Social Dimensions of MPA Practice in Central America: Cases studies in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panamá**

The Central American countries of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panamá have created various MPAs, most of which have sustainable use of natural resources and community participation in management in their vision. However, this study, finds the reality is that communities are rarely involved.

## **Brazil:**

**Diegues, Antonio Carlos. 2008. Marine protected areas and artisanal fisheries in Brazil. SAMUDRA Monograph**

Marine national parks have been established in Brazil without consulting the artisanal fishers concerned. Their traditional fishing rights have not been respected. In most cases, severe restrictions on their use of marine resources have led to migration to urban areas. However, a more progressive legislation was passed in 2000 that allows for more community involvement in management.

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/brazil-all.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/brazil-all.pdf)

## **India:**

**Rajagopalan, Ramya. 2008. Marine protected areas in India: Gulf of Mannar National Park and Biosphere Reserve, and Malvan (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary. SAMUDRA Monograph**

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/marine-all.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/marine-all.pdf)

**Biswas, Nilanjana. 2008. The Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park and Sanctuary: A case study**

**Rajagopalan, Ramya. 2008. Social dimensions of sea turtle protection in Orissa, India: A case study of the Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary and the Nesting Beaches of Rushikulya and Debi**

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/aftercomments\\_kg.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/aftercomments_kg.pdf)

**Patel, Varsha and Rajagopalan, Ramya. 2008. Fishing community issues in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR), India**

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/report\\_2march\\_kg.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/report_2march_kg.pdf)

**Sridhar, A. 2005. Sea Turtles and Fisheries in Orissa, India. ICSF, Chennai, India.**

[www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/35-sea-turtles-and.html](http://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/35-sea-turtles-and.html)

MPAs in India are declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 that bans resource use and even entry into the protected area, affecting local fishing communities. In the MPAs studied, the lack of community involvement in management of resources is stark. This has led to increasing levels of conflict between the fishers and the State. In addition, other more destructive use of resources is allowed such as fishing by commercial vessels, exotic seaweed cultivation, tourism, industries and power plants.

### **Mexico:**

**Fraga, Julia and Ana Jesus. 2008. Coastal and marine protected areas in Mexico. SAMUDRA Monograph**



In Mexican MPAs, there is a frequent lack of government recognition and support for traditional management practices based on the local ecological knowledge of fishing communities. There are also all conflicts of interest between conservationists and local resource users, whose rights are frequently violated when they are forced to abandon ways of earning a livelihood in the name of “conservation”. But there are also positive experiences of natural resource management in MPAs, where local resource users actually benefit from living in protected areas. This has happened when initiative to preserve natural resources by establishing MPAs comes from the bottom up.

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/Mexico-all.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/Mexico-all.pdf)

## South Africa:

**Sunde, Jackie. 2008. Marine conservation and coastal communities: Who carries the costs? A study of marine protected areas and their impact on traditional small-scale fishing communities in South Africa. SAMUDRA Monograph**



Research conducted on five MPAs indicates that traditional, small-scale fishing communities living in, or adjacent to, MPAs are bearing the costs of marine conservation, with few benefits accruing to them. Each case study highlights aspects of this issue. For example, the Maputaland MPA provides a stark example of an instance where ecotourism initiatives are not benefiting a local community but are further excluding the community and restricting their access to resources.

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/south-africa-all.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/south-africa-all.pdf)

## Tanzania:

**Mwaipopo, Rosemarie Nyigulla. 2008. The Social dimensions of marine protected areas: A case study of the Mafia Island marine park in Tanzania. SAMUDRA Monograph**



A study of the Mafia Island marine park (MIMP) found that, to a certain degree, MIMP facilitated efforts have indeed managed to generate compliance in promoting resource conservation by eliminating certain destructive fishing practices, particularly dynamite fishing, within MIMP's boundaries, although the use of ringnets, and coral mining continue. Yet, the rigorousness of enforcement seems to be confined within MIMP's boundaries, in isolation from the larger fisheries context of Mafia Island and the country.

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/Tanzania-all.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/Tanzania-all.pdf)

## Thailand:

**Prasertcharoensuk, Ravadee; Jonathan Shott; Duangkamol Sirisook Weston and Wichoksak Ronarongpairee. 2010. Time for a Sea Change: A Study of the Effectiveness of Biodiversity Conservation Measures and Marine Protected Areas Along Southern Thailand's Andaman Sea Coastline SAMUDRA Monograph**

While there has been a lot of positive progress towards ensuring the conservation of marine and coastal resources and guaranteeing the livelihood security of local communities, there are still a range of different issues that remain to be addressed such as shifting national focus to holistic, sustainable development; promoting and strengthening effective community participation and relaxing strong central government control to name just a few.

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/Thailand-all.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/Thailand-all.pdf)



### **ICSF. 2012. MPA workshop proceedings: Fishery-Dependent Livelihoods, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity: The Case of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in India.**

The workshop, held in New Delhi during 1-2 March 2012, was a follow up of the 2009 India MPA workshop. The discussions centered around a review of existing legal and institutional mechanisms relating to MCPAs in India and sought to make specific proposals for in-situ conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, poverty eradication, and economic and social development of small-scale, artisanal fishing communities.

[mpa.icsf.net/en/proceedings/article/EN/126-fishery-depende.html?limitstart=0](http://mpa.icsf.net/en/proceedings/article/EN/126-fishery-depende.html?limitstart=0)



### **ICSF. 2009. The India MPA workshop proceedings: Social dimensions of marine protected area implementation in India: Do fishing communities benefit?**

The workshop, organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), in Chennai, India, during 21-22 January 2009, discussed five case studies on marine and coastal protected areas in India undertaken from a fishing community perspective. The deliberations at the workshop centred around the legal, institutional and other relevant aspects of protected area implementation in India. The workshop set forth proposals for achieving livelihood-sensitive

conservation and management of coastal and fisheries resources.

[mpa.icsf.net/en/page/633-India.html](http://mpa.icsf.net/en/page/633-India.html)

**ICSF. 2007. The Siem Reap Meet Proceedings: Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in Asia.**

This publication is a record of the proceedings of the Siem Reap Workshop and Symposium. It provides a bottom-up perspective on how rights are understood, and what rights are seen as important by small-scale fishing communities, if they are to fulfil their responsibilities for managing resources in a sustainable and equitable manner.

[mpa.icsf.net/en/proceedings/article/87.html](http://mpa.icsf.net/en/proceedings/article/87.html)

**ICSF. 2006. Fishing Communities and Sustainable Development in Eastern and Southern Africa: The Role of Small-scale Fisheries.**

The report, apart from providing background to the workshop, also provides details of the group discussions on issues ranging from co-management and MPAs (appendix 4) to regional instruments and processes and organizational strategies.



## OCCASIONAL PAPERS

**Prat, A R M. 2002. The Impact of TRIPS and the CBD on Coastal Communities. ICSF, Chennai, India**

## PAPERS

**Rajagopalan, Ramya. 2011. Livelihoods and Conservation Conflicts in Gulf of Mannar National Park and Biosphere Reserve, Tamil Nadu, India (unpublished).**

The national park, created in 1986, consists of 21 uninhabited islands and the waters around them. Though fishers from the mainland have used these spaces for fishing and related activities for generations, once the park was created, the State has curbed their access to these resources. There has been no discussion, no settlement of rights. The paper explores the impact and conflicts arising from these restrictions.

**Rajagopalan, Ramya. 2011. Country case study: India in Sanders, J.S.; Gréboval, D.; Hjort, A. (comp.) Marine protected areas: country case studies on policy, governance and institutional issues. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper. No. 556/1.**

The paper looks at spatial management measures used for fisheries and wildlife conservation in India, the legal/institutional frameworks for marine and coastal protected areas, and the management processes that underpin them.



**Sharma, Chandrika., Ramya Rajagopalan. 2011. MPAs: Securing tenure rights of fishing communities? (Draft, Not to be Quoted)**

This paper explores the extent to which tenure rights are recognized in marine protected area (MPA) practice, in a context where MPAs are increasingly being used as instruments for conservation and management of coastal and marine biodiversity, with most MPAs being located within territorial waters. Based on a review of literature, it examines whether tenure rights of local communities have been respected in MPA practice. It draws attention to cases in which tenure rights have been weakened or extinguished, and the displacement, social conflict and sense of alienation associated with them, as well as to several examples, primarily driven by local communities, where tenure rights have been strengthened during MPA practice.

**Mathew, Sebastian. 2001. Small-scale Fisheries Perspective on an Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management**

The paper suggests that there is an urgent need for the State to take up fisheries management measures for greater equity and sustainability through consultative mechanisms. In this context, greater recognition should be given to small-scale rather than large-scale fisheries. The emphasis has to change: away from increasing fish production, toward conservation and management goals.

**Mathew, Sebastian. 2001. Shell Out: The Shrimp-Turtle Dispute at the WTO; Conserving Sea Turtles and Protecting Livelihoods (Draft, Not to be Quoted)**

The paper suggests that a single-species agenda for protection and conservation—in this instance, of sea turtles—is bound to be counter productive if adopted in isolation especially in a multi-species, multi-cultural context with numerous fishing gear and fishing methods, and with varying dependence on the fishery for life and livelihood.

## **SAMUDRA DOSSIER**

**(upto SAMUDRA Report No. 56, July 2010)**

### **Reserved Parking: Marine Reserves and Small-scale Fishing Communities**

A collection of articles from SAMUDRA Report dating back to the Rio Summit as well as articles exploring different MPA management strategies.

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/reserved-all-es.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/reserved-all-es.pdf)

### **Diverse Areas: Marine Protected Areas and Small-scale Fishing Communities**

A collection of articles from SAMUDRA Report on a range of issues from conservation initiatives by indigenous communities to decisions taken at COP (to the CBD) to reports of workshops held.

[mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/diverse-all-en.pdf](http://mpa.icsf.net/images/stories/mpa/diverse-all-en.pdf)

## **ARTICLES FROM SAMUDRA REPORT**

**(SAMUDRA Report No 57, November 2010 to No 62, July 2012)**

### **Living off the Land: South Africa**

**(SAMUDRA Report 62, July 2012)**

A case regarding the customary rights of fishermen in the Dwesa-Cwebe Marine Protected Area of South Africa could be a landmark.

## **Managing Biodiversity: Report SBSTTA**

**(SAMUDRA Report 62, July 2012)**

On the 16th session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

## **Community Concerns: Report MPA workshop**

**(SAMUDRA Report 61, March 2012)**

A recent workshop in New Delhi, India, discussed how a balance between conservation and fisheries-dependent livelihoods can be achieved

## **Uniting for Change: Report MPAs**

**(SAMUDRA Report 58, March 2011)**

At a recent conference in Recife, fishers from northeast Brazil demanded recognition of their status and rights to their territories

## **Humans and the seas Japan: MPAs**

**(SAMUDRA Report 58, March 2011)**

The Japanese Satoumi concept of managing coastal resources depends crucially on the bottom-up involvement of local communities.

## **Building Partnerships: Sudan MPAs**

**(SAMUDRA Report 57, November 2010)**

The case of the Red Sea marine fisheries in Sudan shows how fishers'



rights can be strengthened through partnership building, adaptive management and ecosystem approaches.

### **New Goals from Nagoya: Report of CBD COP10 (SAMUDRA Report 57, November 2010)**

The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at Nagoya, Japan, made some progress.

## **ARTICLES FROM YEMAYA**

### **Restricting Lives and Livelihoods (Yemaya 26; Nov 07)**

The recent enforcement of 'no take' regulations in the Gulf of Mannar National Park, India, compromises the livelihood security of fisherwomen and local communities.

### **Empowering Agenda (Yemaya 26; Nov 07)**

Mexico needs to create an enabling environment for women to participate meaningfully in the protection of its vast biodiversity.

### **Aren't We Missing Something? (Yemaya 26; Nov 07)**

In Cape Town, South Africa, an Anglophone Africa Sub-Regional Workshop was held in August 2007 to discuss the Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The workshop, however, completely ignored gender concerns.

## **Winning Strategies**

**(Yemaya 26; Nov 07)**

A mixed bag of innovative strategies helps to empower women and improve biodiversity in Zanzibar.

## **Uncertain Future**

**(Yemaya 24; Mar 07)**

Women seaweed collectors in the Gulf of Mannar region of Tamil Nadu, India, face an uncertain future.

## **Long Road Ahead**

**(Yemaya 21; Mar 06)**

Seeking allotments of management and exploitation areas can be a major challenge for women engaged in artisanal fisheries in Chile today.

## **Conservation Contradictions**

**(Yemaya 21; Mar 06)**

The marine extractive reserve (RESEX) model from Brazil could have greater benefits for local communities, as compared to other conservation approaches. However, for this to happen, certain issues will need to be resolved.



## **For a Better World**

**(Yemaya 19; Aug 05)**

A woman from the seaside village of Ban Jao Mai, Trang Province, Thailand, along with the fisherfolk of the region, has dedicated herself to ensuring that life returns to the once barren sea.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Rajagopalan, Ramya. 2008.**

### **MPAs and Fisheries Management; A Human Dimension**

Presented on 8 August 2008, at the Second Consultative Forum Meeting of the APFIC held at Manado, Indonesia.

**Sharma, Chandrika. 2008.**

### **Social Dimensions of MPAs: Small-scale Fishing Community Perspective**

Presented on 13 February 2008 at the side event of the Second Meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Area held at FAO, Rome, Italy.

**Sharma, Chandrika. 2007.**

### **Managing coastal areas: A fishing community perspective**

Presented on 25 Feb 07 at the "Media Workshop on Coastal Issues" organized jointly by Kalpavriksh (India) and PANOS (South Africa).

**Sharma, Chandrika. 2006.**

**Rural communities in a global marketplace — Can fisheries be a part of community sustainability?**

Presented on 21 Sept 07 at the conference "Alaska's Fishing Communities : Harvesting the Future" organized by Sea Grant. The workshop was a forum for coastal residents, fishermen and seafood processors, and federal, State, municipal, and tribal representatives to work together in support of Alaska's coastal fishing economy.



**Sharma, Chandrika. 2006.**

**Marine Protected Areas and Impact on Small-scale Fisheries: Who decides, Why, What and Where?**

Presented on 25 Oct 06 at the workshop "Marine Protected Areas and the Experiences from Developing Countries" organized by Norwegian Fisheries Forum (Fiskerifaglig Forum).

**Sharma, Chandrika. 2006.**

**Allocation of Fisheries Resources: A Small-scale Fisheries Perspectives**

Presented on 01 March 06 at the conference "Sharing the Fish 2006" organized by the Western Australian Department of Fisheries (DoF) in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and supported by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries.



## **STATEMENTS**

**([www.icsf.net/en/statements.html?radio=C](http://www.icsf.net/en/statements.html?radio=C))**

### **ICSF Conference/Workshop Statements**

**Social Dimensions of MPA Implementation in India: Do Fishing Communities Benefit?**

**(Chennai, India, January 2009)**

**Marine Protected Areas: Small-scale Fishing Community Perspectives**

**(Rome, Italy, February 2008)**

**Siem Reap Statement: Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in Asia**

**(Siem Reap, Cambodia, May 2007)**

### **ICSF Statements**

**ICSF statement on Agenda item 6: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity  
16th Session of the SBSTTA to the CBD (Montreal, Canada, May 2012)**

**Statement made on Agenda Item 4.9: Coastal and Marine Biodiversity**  
**COP10 of the CBD (Nagoya, Japan, October 2010)**

**Intervention on Agenda Item 3.1 and 3.2**  
**Second meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group of Protected Areas, CBD (Rome, Italy, February 2008)**

**Agenda Item 10: Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Including Deep-Sea Fisheries, Biodiversity Conservation, Marine Debris and Abandoned Gear**  
**27th Session of COFI (Rome, Italy, March 2007)**

**Seventh Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (New York, USA, June 2006)**

**Discussion Panel A: Fisheries and their Contribution to Sustainable Development**  
**6th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (New York, USA, June 2005)**

**Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries**  
**(Bangkok, Thailand, November - December 2004)**



## **Agenda Item 18.2: Thematic Programme of Work: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity**

**COP 7 to the CBD (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, February 2004)**

### **NGO/ FWO Statements**

**Brazil Statement from Conference on Artisanal Fisheries, Protected Areas and Climate Change (Brazil, August - September 2010)**

**Langebaan Declaration on Marine Protected Areas (South Africa, April 2010)**

**Civil Society Statement on Implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, Second meeting of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas (Rome, Italy, February 2008)**

**Anglo-phone Africa Subregional Workshop on the Review of, and Capacity Building for, the Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (Cape Town, South Africa, August 2007)**







**International Collective in Support of Fishworkers(ICSF)**

27 College Road, Chennai 600 006, India

Tel: 91 44 28275303 Fax: 91 44 28254457

Email: [icsf@icsf.net](mailto:icsf@icsf.net)

[www.icsf.net](http://www.icsf.net)