



People-centred approaches to coral reef management: Lessons learned at CERMES, UWI Cave Hill Campus

Maria Pena and Patrick McConney

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People-centred

- People will usually want coral reef management to succeed ... **awareness**
- People are often not sure what to do to manage coral reefs ... **information**
- People lack critical skills to be effective, even if they know what to do ... **capacity**
... we suggest **learning-by-doing**
(participatory applied research)

Approaches

- Interdisciplinary research
 - Graduate students, faculty
 - With local project partners
 - ICM, fisheries, biodiversity
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- Capacity building
 - Strategic planning
 - Livelihoods analysis
 - Coastal co-management*
 - Socio-economic monitoring*
 - Fisheries planning for MPA*
 - MPA management effectiveness*

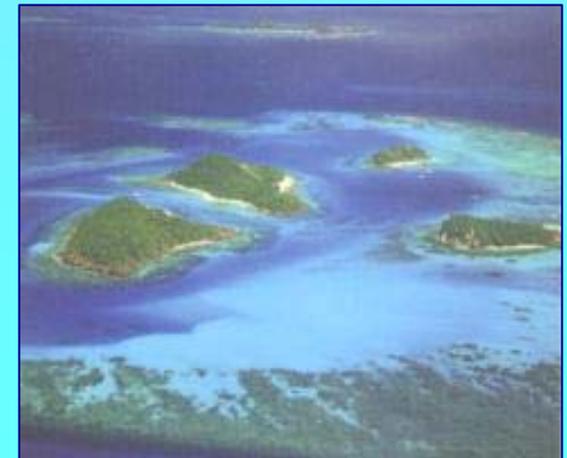
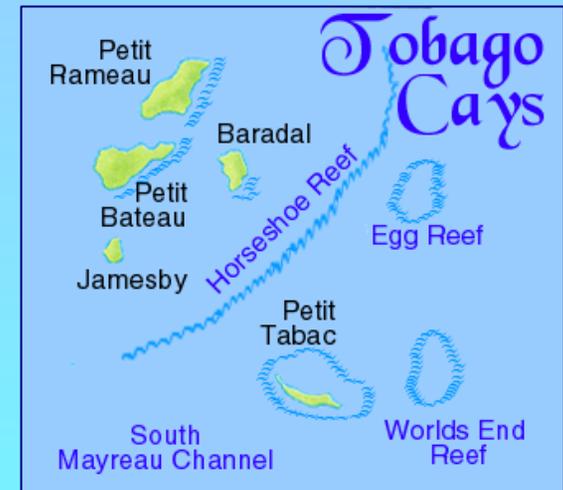


Coastal co-management

Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP)

- **Purpose:**
 - Governance reform through coastal resources co-management
- **Coral reef sites:**
 - Belize
 - Gladden Spit & Silk Cayes Marine Reserve
 - Laughing Bird Caye National Park
 - Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve
 - Grenadines
 - Tobago Cays Marine Park
- **Partners:**
 - Belize
 - Friends of Nature
 - TASTE
 - Grenadines
 - TCMP office

Grenadines Islands





Situation analysis



- Belize

- Reefs heavily used for fisheries and tourism
- Reef management is a major national concern
- Formal co-management agreements between government and NGOs
- MPA managed by NGO
- Limited local capacities
- Many external agencies

- Grenadines

- Reefs heavily used for fisheries and tourism
- Reef management is a minor national concern
- No co-management yet
- Much conflict between government and NGOs
- MPA managed by govt.
- Limited local capacities
- Few external agencies

Coastal co-management

Belize and the Grenadines

Objectives:

- Capacity building and institutional strengthening of major co-management partners
- Co-management pilot projects
- Strategies, processes and policies for co-management



Coastal co-management

Belize and the Grenadines

Results

- Capacity building workshops on
 - Co-management
 - Proposal writing
 - Strategic planning
 - MPA management
 - Socio-economics
- MPA management board retreat
- Policy briefs on co-management
- Forum for conflict management
- Better inter-agency communication
- Strengthened NGO/CBO leadership
- Understand conditions for success



Coastal co-management

Belize and the Grenadines: Lessons learned

Good

- NGO and CBO stakeholders favour collaborative and delegated co-management
- Policy frameworks exist
- Shared views on resource problems and solutions
- Willingness to learn

Bad

- Government and civil society stakeholders lack capacity
- Governments are often weak co-management partners, but reluctant to relinquish power
- Many conditions that favour success are absent or weak in the Caribbean region

Socio-economic monitoring

Socio-economic Monitoring for Caribbean Coastal Management (SocMon Caribbean)

Purpose:

- Help coastal managers better understand the communities whose activities affect, and are affected by, coastal management decisions.
- Use socio-economic information to minimize the negative impacts of management decisions, demonstrate the value of coastal resources and incorporate community concerns into decision-making.

Site: Negril Marine Park, Jamaica

Partner leader: Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS)





Situation analysis



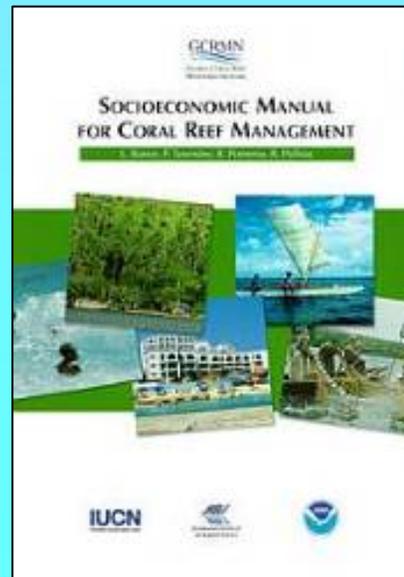
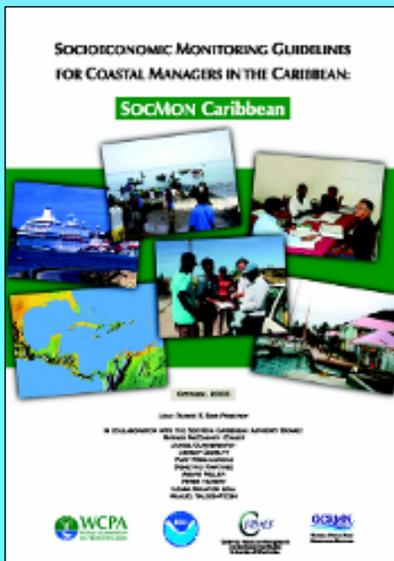
- Impacts of unsustainable development
 - Land-based pollution (agriculture, tourism)
 - Decline in the health of habitats
 - Decline in abundance of desirable species
- Reef Check monitoring initiated in 2003
- Coastal zone management not effective
- Coastal poverty and high unemployment
- Entire households believed vulnerable

Socio-economic monitoring

Methods:

- Secondary data
- Key informants
- Household and individual surveys
- Validation workshops

Jamaica

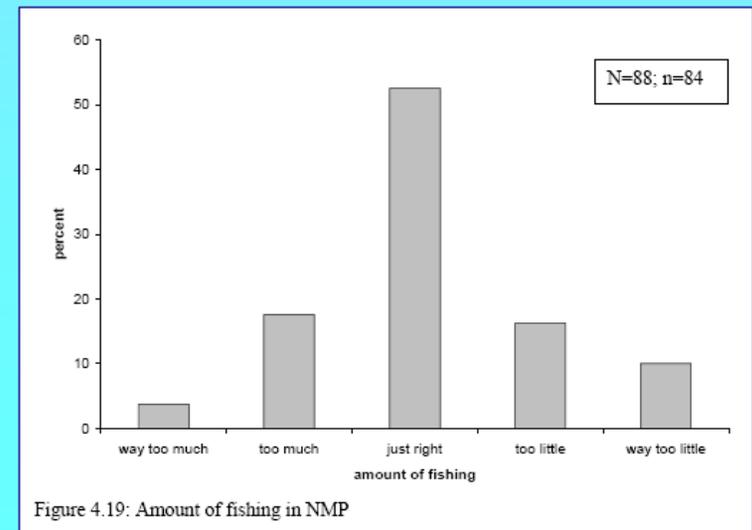
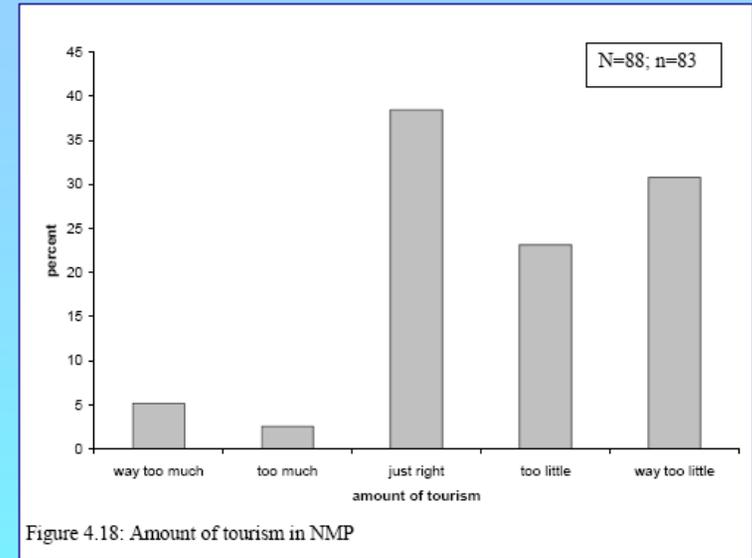
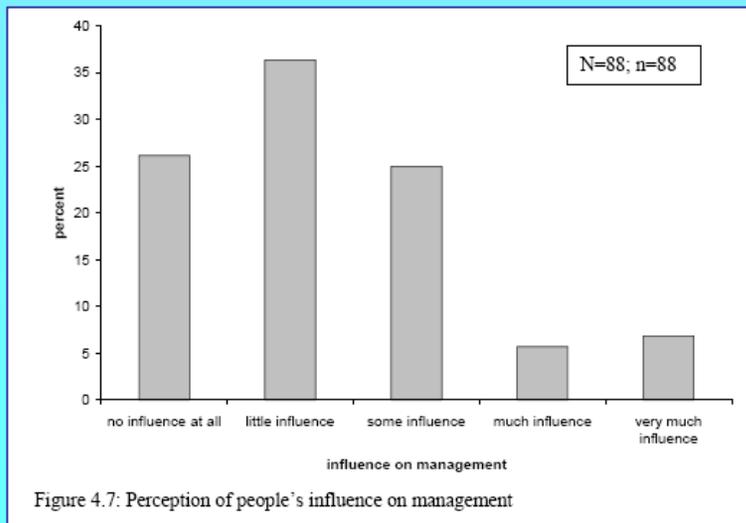


Socio-economic monitoring

Jamaica

Results

- Training in socio-economic monitoring
- Better inter-agency communication
- Information on demographics, use of resources, infrastructure, attitudes, household assets, livelihoods, etc.
- Plans for monitoring and management



Socio-economic monitoring

Jamaica: Lessons learned

Good

- Participatory management favours including socio-economic monitoring info
- Capacity exists for monitoring
- SocMon method feasible for Caribbean situations

Bad

- Few time series of socio-economic information
- Inadequate links between information and decisions
- Capacity to fully utilise data and information very uneven among stakeholders

Fisheries planning for MPA

Negril Marine Park

Fisheries Management Plan

Purpose:

- Describe the fisheries, their status and threats; the socioeconomic status and the activities of the stakeholders; as well as the approach and programmes to be undertaken in order to manage the site for conservation of the resources and sustainable development in the area

Site: Negril Marine Park, Jamaica

Partner: Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS)



Jamaica national situation

Outdated fisheries laws
Inadequate fisheries policy
Few management plans



National consultations



Draft fisheries policy
Draft fisheries laws
Strategy for planning



**DEVELOPMENT OF A
POLICY FRAMEWORK
AND STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR SUSTAINABLE
FISHERIES IN JAMAICA**



Local situation analysis



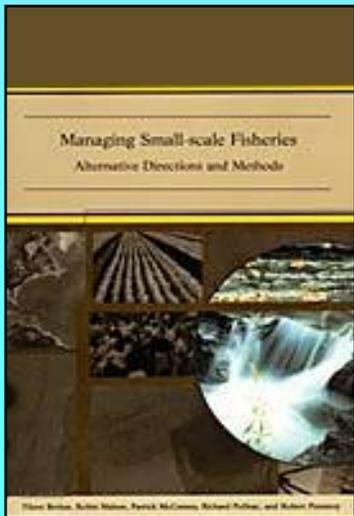
- No pro-active management of fisheries in the NMP
- Few detailed surveys of the fishery resources
- Sparse commercial fish landing data
- Low levels of fish abundance with very few large fish
- Small sizes of few commercially important species
- Fisheries and MPA policy not fully implemented
- Fisheries livelihoods may not be sustainable

Fisheries planning for MPA

Methods:

- Secondary data analysis
- Community consultations
- Household and individual questionnaire surveys
- Validation workshops
- Collaborative writing teams

Jamaica

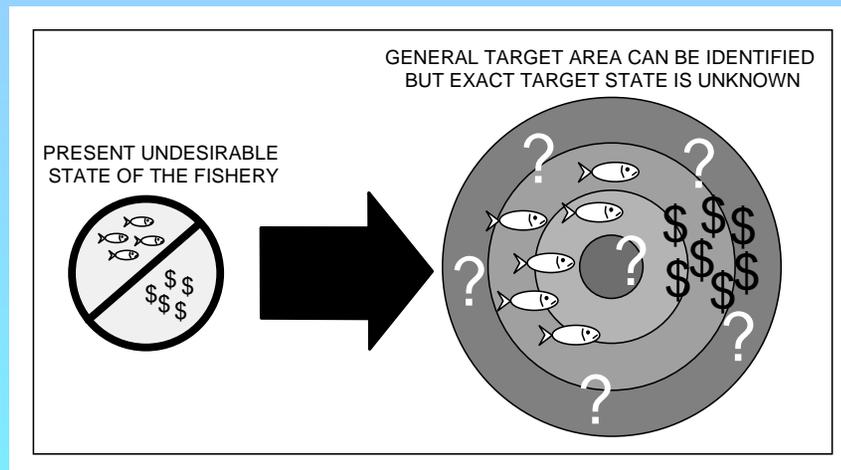


Fisheries planning for MPA

Jamaica

Results

- Capacity building workshops on
 - NGO Board effectiveness
 - MPA co-management
 - Draft fisheries policy
 - Fisheries management
- Understand MPA co-management
- Information exchange with fishers
- Appreciating poverty, livelihoods
- Networking with social partners
- First test of draft fisheries policy
- First MPA to draft a fisheries plan (still very much a work in progress)



Fisheries planning for MPA

Jamaica: Lessons learned

Good

- Government pursuing a livelihoods approach to fisheries management
- MPA and fisheries managers work well together in the field
- Fishers, despite hard times, are interested in managing and alternative livelihoods

Bad

- Poverty and limited economic opportunities constrain viable fishery management options
- Fisheries authority has little capacity to manage in NMP
- Conflicts between fisheries and tourism are likely to increase with overfishing

Management effectiveness

Enhancing management: How is your MPA doing?

Purpose:

- To conduct participatory management effectiveness research and evaluations by training at least 30 people at three MPAs.
- To improve MPAs in the region by monitoring outcomes in lessons learned training and communication materials for coursework, research, management and coastal policy

Sites:

- Negril Marine Park (NMP)
- Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP)
- Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR)

Partners:

- NCRPS
- TCMP office
- TASTE





Situation analysis



- Reefs vary in condition from good to bad
- Different types of tourism and impacts
- None to elaborate management plans
- Struggling with financing for operations
- Keen NGOs associated with management
- Not much used to evaluating effectiveness

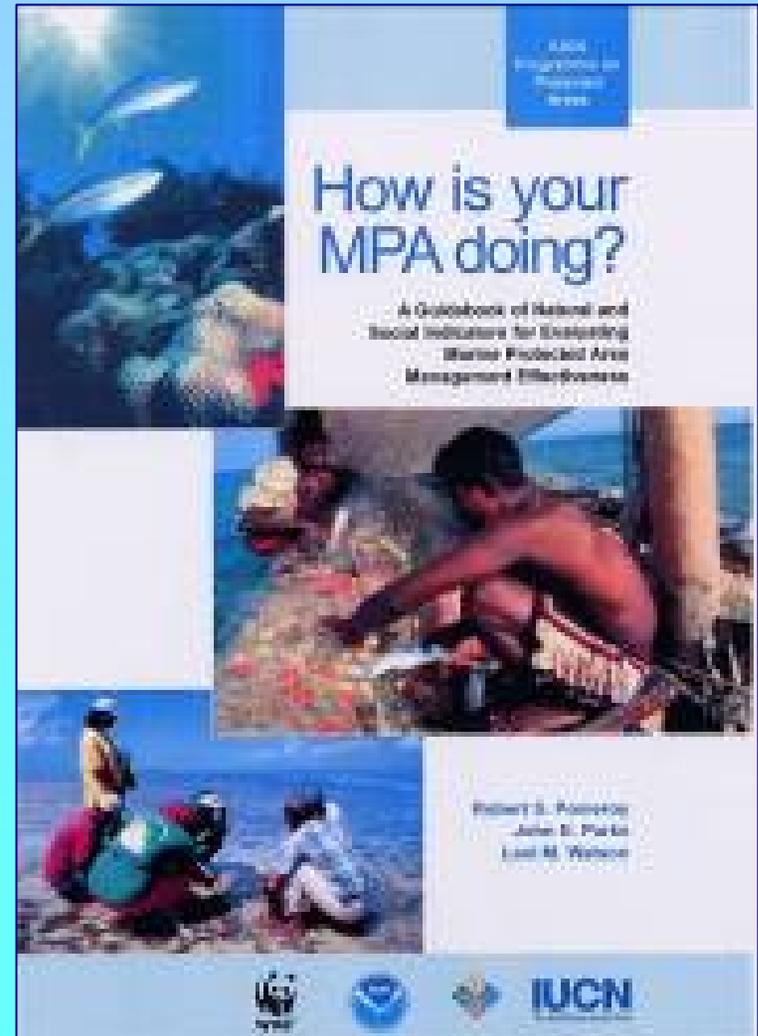
Management effectiveness

How is your MPA doing?: Belize, Jamaica, Grenadines

Methods

- Inception site-specific training workshops in MPA management effectiveness and evaluation
- Participatory management effectiveness research and evaluations at the three MPAs
- A terminal joint workshop on lessons learned and the consequent adaptation of management
- Production of training materials based on process experiences and on lessons learned

Too soon to report results



Management effectiveness

Belize, Jamaica, Grenadines: Lessons learned

Good

- Appreciate importance of evaluating management
- Have reasonable capacity to conduct in-house evaluations
- Willingness to learn, to adapt and to improve management

Bad

- Poor links between plan objectives and activities
- Weak agency culture of evaluating management
- Lack of systems to assess some bio-physical indicators

Key lessons and challenges

- Socio-economic monitoring, along with strategic planning, helps people map their relationships to resources and each other
- To implement plans, some form of co-management is often sought
- Issues:
 - power and other inequities,
 - inadequate capacity at many levels
 - policies that do not enable self-organisation and adaptation



Key lessons and challenges

- Management plans that incorporate livelihoods perspectives need to be tested
- Pay attention to the *process* of MPA management effectiveness evaluation along with the *product* of the evaluation
- Critical to build and sustain the capacity to learn collectively and adapt management



Caribbean collaboration

- Collaboratively design and implement participatory projects for learning-by-doing
- Use multi-stakeholder networks for widely sharing outputs and outcomes
- Invest in people-centred approaches to improve marine resource governance

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- graduate education
- applied research
- innovative projects
- professional training
- involvement in the national regional and global initiatives that shape our future.

Highlights

[Sustainable Grenadines](#)

CERMES also:

- Provides advisory services to governments, NGOs and the private sector
- Offers applied consulting services related to environmental issues
- Builds awareness and capacity through outreach.

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