Training on Socioeconomic Monitoring (SocMon) Methodology for Evaluation of Socioeconomics and Marine Resources Utilization at Selected Coastal Communities in Myanmar
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Session 6: Reconnaissance and Planning¹

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Outline

1. Elements of reconnaissance/observation
2. Literature review/secondary data analysis
3. Preparation of site profile
Process for SocMon/rapid appraisal to assess the socio-economic drivers and situation of coastal communities in Myanmar
Site preparation

1. Delineate project area
2. Identify stakeholders and/or key informants
3. Communicate with stakeholders and/or key informants
4. Develop partnership arrangements (MOU/MOA)
5. Obtain government and stakeholder approvals
6. Assemble rapid appraisal team
7. Assemble secondary literature
8. Make annotated bibliography
9. Prepare draft profile
Criteria used for selecting project sites

• Location (ridge and reef)
• Accessibility (distance to roads)
• Income and poverty level
• State of the ecosystems and environment (threats and opportunities)
• Presence of organizations
• Enlightened Leadership
• Potential for innovation and success
• Dependence of livelihood on coastal systems
• Peace and Order
• Availability of secondary information
• Willingness of stakeholders to participate
Why do reconnaissance?

- Use power of observation (many people see but don’t observe)
- Get general feel of the coastal community
- Familiarize with various features of community
- Decide on the feasibility (administrative and technical) of the SocMon field
Remember characteristics of untrained people

1. They see but do not observe
2. They hear but not do not listen
Observation Exercise 1: Wrist Watch Test

1. Keep your watch away from you.

2. What is contained in the 3’clock position
   • Arabic numeral (3)
   • Roman numeral (III)
   • Symbol (such as ⌂ or ◊)
   • Replaced by day/day indicators
   • None of the above
Results (% wrong)

- Right
- Wrong
Observation Exercise 2: Traffic Light

- If there are three colors in a traffic light, what is the sequence from top to bottom?
  1. Red – Orange – Green
  2. Red – Green – Orange
  3. Orange – Red – Green
  4. Orange – Green – Red
  5. Green – Red – Orange
  6. Green – Orange - Red
Observation

Observations are qualitative descriptions of what the team members see and are obtained by attentively watching and recording the surroundings.

Through observation, the team learns first hand about activities in the community.

Observation can be directed (observing a specific activity) or continuous (observe all activities day and night)
Observation

provides first-hand insight into activities that are difficult for people to describe

provides descriptive information on relevant activities, stakeholders, and material culture.
Observation

Approach:
- determine useful activities to observe related to the variables
- walk through the area, introduce yourself, explain what you are doing
- pay attention to everything and use all senses to observe
- ask questions concerning things relevant to variables
- observe activities day and night
- take photographs
- fully record observations in notebooks, maps, sketches
- carefully review and analyze the observations to identify important statements, issues, patterns
Outline

1. Elements of reconnaissance/observation
2. Literature review/secondary data analysis
3. Preparation of site profile
Secondary Data

Secondary data are those that have already been collected, analyzed and published in various forms, including:
- official and unofficial documents
- statistical reports
- reports of previous assessments and surveys
- research reports
- documentation of previous or ongoing projects
- maps
- aerial photographs and GIS
- historical documents and accounts
- websites on the internet
Secondary Data

1. official and unofficial documents
2. statistical reports
3. reports of previous assessments and surveys
4. research reports
5. documentation of previous or ongoing projects, including monitoring and evaluation reports
6. maps
7. aerial photographs and satellite images
8. historical documents and accounts
9. Web sites on the Internet
Secondary Data

Secondary data will be used to:
- identify gaps in existing knowledge in preparation for field data collection
- ensure the field data collection does not collect information that has already been collected
- provide a basis for cross-checking information collected during the field data collection
- provide supporting documentation for field data collection
- refine the lists of objectives, stakeholder groups, study sites and parameters.
Secondary Data

General Sources of Secondary Data:
- government agencies and institutions
- national and local government offices
- non-governmental organizations
- universities
- websites
- international agencies and donors
- project offices
Secondary Data

Secondary data analysis involves compiling, evaluating and reviewing data related to the variables

Extract useful tables of data and statistics

Develop a filing system to code, record and store secondary data
Secondary Data

Indicators of quality of secondary data:
- source should be identified and described
- degree of variability of statistical data
- research documents should include complete literature reviews
- describe background of researcher
- identify possible bias that could affect information
Secondary Data Analysis

1. identify gaps in existing knowledge in preparation for field data collection
2. ensure the field data collection does not collect information that has already been collected
3. provide a basis for cross-checking information collected during the field data collection
Secondary Data Analysis

4. provide supporting documentation for field data collection

5. refine the lists of objectives, stakeholder groups, study sites and parameters
compile/review literature

• Secure available literature and/or secondary data from all sources
  – Hard copies
  – Electronic copies

• Make a listing of compilation

• Prepare an annotated bibliography (if possible)

• Prepare a site profile
Outline

1. Elements of reconnaissance/observation
2. Literature review/secondary data analysis
3. Preparation of site profile
What is a Site Profile?

- snapshot of current situation
- Provides a description of the socio-economic and bio-physical characteristics as well as problems and opportunities
- Site profiling is a major activity in undertaking a SocMon
Coastal Environmental Profile of Balabac Strait Corridor

Center for Strategic Policy & Governance, Inc.
2006
Aims of Site Profile

1. provides a snapshot of current situation
2. establish qualitative and quantitative baseline information
3. determine issues/problems and environmental opportunities
4. identify data gaps that require further research or monitoring
5. contribute to the development of a SocMon plan, project or program
Other Profile Elements

• Based on compilation and analysis of secondary data

• Enhanced by results of SocMon reconnaissance (re: bio-physical characterization)

• ‘Contextual’ document: focus or emphasis varies depending on situation

• Preparation by multi-disciplinary team
Profiling Stages

1. collection, collation and organization of existing literature
2. preparation of working outline
3. Develop site profile through workshops and/or writeshops
4. Conduct reconnaissance / site observation
5. Enhance profile based on results of step 4
Collection, Collation and Organization of Existing Secondary Data

- **Data sources:** government agencies, private institutions, universities, etc
- **Forms:** published papers, government and consultant reports, unpublished literature, etc
- **Categories:** environmental conditions and characteristics, socio-economic status and trends, coastal and marine resource uses, impacts and multiple use conflicts, management systems and programs
Possible Content/Format of Site Profile

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 - Physical and Oceanographic Features
- Chapter 3 - Natural Resources
- Chapter 4 - Socio-Political Profile
- Chapter 5 - Economic Condition
- Chapter 6 - Coastal Issues and Opportunities
- Chapter 7 - Data / Information gaps
- Chapter 8 – Existing Actions
Chapter 1 - Introduction

1. Objectives of this Profile
2. The Site and Its Geography
3. Barangay Profiles
4. Historical Background
5. Summary
Chapter 2 - Physical and Oceanographic Features

1. Land Area
2. Topography
3. Geology
4. Soil
5. Hydrology
6. Climate
7. Land Classification and Land
8. Currents
Chapter 3 - Natural Resources

1. Mineral Resources
2. Forest Resources
3. Agricultural Resources
4. Coastal Resources
5. Terrestrial Protected Areas
6. Marine Protected Areas
7. Summary
Chapter 4
Socio-Political Profile

1. Political/Administrative Boundaries
2. Demographics
3. Other Assets and Households
4. Health and Medical Care
5. Physical Infrastructure
6. Summary
Chapter 5 - Economic Condition

1. Fisheries
2. Other Fishing-related Activities
3. Tourism and Tourism-related Ventures
4. Cottage Industries
5. Others (e.g., Agriculture, Forestry)
6. Economic values of Balabac Resources
7. Summary
Chapter 6 - Coastal Issues and Opportunities

1. Environmental Issues
2. Vulnerability of Island to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
3. Social Issues
4. Economic Issues
5. Political Issues
6. Legal Issues
7. Institutional Issues
8. Conservation and Management Plans for Balabac
9. Island ecology and Implications for Management
10. Costs of Management for Local Government and Collaborators
11. Benefits and Costs of Coastal Management in Balabac
12. Summary
Chapter 7 - Data / Information gaps

1. Bio-physical
2. Socio-Economic
3. Institutional
Chapter 8 - Existing Actions (Plans, Programs and Projects) to address the Problems/Issues

1. Bio-physical
2. Socio-Economic
3. Institutional
Summary of Profile

- Relies heavily on existing literature
- New information from research projects may be added
- To be linked with other documents such as development plans and environmental plans
- Actual facts and figures
- Technical reference
- Requires cooperative efforts from concerned agencies