



Locally Managed Marine Area Network Newsletter

Greetings To You All!

Our fourth Newsletter brings to you news on the LMMA Network activities from April through August 2003 as well as some planned activities across the region through the end of 2003. Please note that in future issues of this newsletter, we would welcome including information from your LMMA projects and experiences, particularly ways of and lessons on improving the practice of marine conservation at a local level. To submit your stories, or provide comments and requests for future editions of this newsletter, please contact the Network at info@LMMANetwork.org.

INAUGURAL MEMBERS MEETING OF THE LMMA NETWORK HELD, AUGUST 2003

A one-week, region-wide meeting of all Country LMMA Network members was held in Fiji from August 11th through the 15th, 2003. This was the first meeting of all Network members since the Network's official launch at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium meeting of October 2000 in Bali. Participating countries included Indonesia, the Philippines, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, and Hawaii (US). The major objectives of sharing and learning from each other on LMMA experiences; planning on future LMMA directions; training in biological and socio-economic monitoring training skills; introducing the LMMA monitoring and evaluation guide, the 'Learning Framework'(LF), and at the same time revising the LF with new findings from projects; and, determining the project membership statuses were successfully achieved. Interested LMMA project teams and organizations can learn more about this meeting, its outputs, and the complete list of attendees from your in-country Network Coordination Team members, the Network website (www.LMMAnetwork.org), and/or by contacting the Network directly at: info@LMMAnetwork.org.

Those active Network members that have been implementing LMMA resource management plans and are undertaking biological and socio-economic monitoring as outlined under the Network's shared learning framework were given the opportunity to share their results, findings, and lessons during the meeting. Country projects that were accepted as "full" members with full voting rights on Network decision-making were Philippines (2 project sites); Indonesia West Papua (1 project site). The current number of LMMA projects that have attained full membership is four and the Network envisions eight full members by end of 2003.

Highlights of the Fiji Network-wide Meeting

The August meeting of participating projects went very well, exceeding most of our expectations. A large part of this success is due to FLMMA (the Fiji LMMA country network), and in particular, the meeting hosts: USP and WWF South Pacific. They put together a fantastic and productive agenda that led the meeting participants through a learning- and fun-filled week. The LMMA web site (www.LMMAnetwork.org) will shortly have some of the highlights, press coverage, and outputs of the meeting, plus a workshop report will be written up by the NCT and published. But here are some of the key highlights for any of you who were not able to attend.

- There were some 80 people who attended (including 65 Network member representatives and some 15 to 20 observers), from nine countries including, Indonesia, Philippines, Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands, PNG, Fiji, Samoa, and the US/Hawaii (with regrets from Vietnam, American Samoa and the Solomon Islands, who could not attend).
- All attendees signed an Agreement to Protect the intellectual property rights (IPR) of all data and results presented during the meeting on Day One.
- Presentations were given by all participating countries and LMMA project sites (members) on their work and their collection of data using the learning framework.
- The first standardized data collected via the learning framework across participating projects in the Network were pooled and analyzed as a group, suggesting some interesting potential trends/results against the Network's stated assumptions.
- The first revision of the learning framework (LF) was completed by participating members (associate, provisional, and full), resulting in the completion of the current working version of the LF, version 2.0 (to be posted at the LMMA web site shortly) -- this version will be used over the next two years by provisional and full members until the next members' meeting.
- The first group learning and sharing of experiences occurred, leading to new, cross-site and cross-country investigative threads and directions for the Network in the years to come.
- The Network database was released and discussed by all participants.
- A finalized version of the social contract (now called the "Agreement to Keep Our Promises to Each Other") was reviewed, edited in plenary, and approved by the membership.
- A finalized version of the IPR statement was reviewed, edited in plenary, and approved by the membership.
- All attendees ate more food and drank more kava than ever before while in Vatuolalai -- the Fijian hospitality set a legendary precedent for Network meetings!.
- National press coverage of the meetings and subject matter lasted throughout the week in Fiji -- PDFs of the news articles will be made available online at the LMMA website shortly.
- By vote of membership, the full LMMA Network membership grew from one member (the Veratavou project of Fiji) to four full members, following the addition of two LMMA projects in the Philippines and one LMMA project in West Papua, Indonesia.
- Each country developed a workplan for Network participation over the next two years, including Samoa, FSM, and the Marshall Islands, who openly expressed their interest in joining as associate and/or provisional members.
- Fiji's Minister of Information opened and Fiji's Minister of Fisheries closed the meeting (following a formal traditional ceremony of welcome).

The meeting venue was split between town (Suva, at the start) and the wonderful LMMA community site of Vatuolalai (along Fiji's southern 'Coral Coast', from the mid-point till the end of the meeting).

Updates from the Network Coordination Team

The Network Coordination Team (NCT)¹, would like to welcome and introduce to you all our newest NCT members, Mr. Andrew Wayne of the Republic of Palau, Ms Daisy Flores of the Philippines and Ms Rebecca Samuel of Papua New Guinea. Wayne, Daisy and Rebecca are bringing with them unique skills and knowledge that will certainly be a great asset to the LMMA Network but more importantly to their respective country LMMA projects.

The NCT now comprises the following members: Cliff Marlessy working with Indonesian LMMA's, Daisy Flores working with LMMAs in the Philippines, Pam Seeto, Aaron Jenkins and Rebecca Samuel working with Papua New Guinea LMMAs, Bill Aalbersberg, Alifereti Tawake, Kesaia Tabunakawai, Etika Rupeni and Akuila Sovatabua working with Fijian LMMAs, Hugh Govan working with Solomon Islands LMMAs (based in Fiji), Mike Guilbeaux and Andrew Wayne working with Palau LMMA projects, Mike Guilbeaux working with LMMAs in the Federated States of Micronesia, John Parks working with Hawaiian LMMAs and Nick Salafsky representing the Network at the Foundations of Success (FOS) in Washington DC. This highly dynamic team brings together a diverse and complementary mix of backgrounds, knowledge, and experiences in order to ensure that the LMMA Network continues to function and provide services to the Asia/Pacific region.

LMMA Network Partnership with SPREP's ICRAN

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) is an international effort that focuses on coral reef management and protection, administered in the Pacific by the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) (see www.icran.org for further information). The new collaborative work between LMMA and ICRAN would certainly benefit community based marine management and protection efforts throughout the Asia and Pacific region. Miriam Philip, ICRAN's representative at the August meeting, as an observer, shared encouraging comments about LMMA work and her Samoan colleagues representing community projects in Samoa were very interested in joining the LMMA Network. As a result of this networking relationship between LMMA and ICRAN we envision more Samoa and other Country community marine project participation in LMMA work. This is an example of the positive influences of the LMMA programs and services for marine conservation in the Asia and Pacific region.

LMMA Network's Ability to Deliver Services and Results

There are two existing trends that are helping us in being successful. First, and most importantly, there is a growing body of documented and peer-reviewed evidence that LMMAs are being successfully used for marine conservation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. Most of this evidence has been generated on a case-by-case basis, but there exists some comparative documentation of the experiences and challenges that multiple LMMAs share together. Because of mounting conservation needs and increasing evidence of the utility of LMMA use, LMMAs are increasingly being cited as necessary conservation tools. There is growing demand on how to most effectively use these tools.

¹ At a recent February meeting in Honolulu, the LMMA Network's Portfolio Coordination Team (PCT) decided to simplify and change the word "Portfolio" to "Network" in the team's name. So the team is now being referred to as the Network Coordination Team (NCT).

Second, there already exist a substantial number of marine conservation projects, coastal communities, NGOs, and government agencies throughout the Indo-Pacific and the world who are actively using LMMAs. This means that there exists a base of potential Network members who could participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the LMMA Network. Such existing activity allows the LMMA Network to build a learning foundation based on the existing knowledge and experiences that are already available from both single and multiple LMMA sites.

In addition, the fact that the international conservation community comes together on a regular basis at meetings and conferences to share information and connect with one another will provide the LMMA Network with the opportunity to regularly share its results and learning with conservation practitioners and organizations, decision-makers, donors and other target audiences through obvious, existing dissemination channels.

Obstacles to Our Ability to Deliver Results

However, in attempting to be objective about the Network performance, we do admit there are also a few obstacles that are hindering the Network's ability to communicate efficiently and effectively share results.

First, the NCT is a small, busy, and fledgling effort of many individuals working on a part-time basis to provide coordination services to the increasingly large and complex Network membership. The capacity of this team is not sufficient at this point in time to meet all member needs nor answer the increasingly wide call for LMMA assistance and skills building that is being voiced regionally. This is further complicated by the young and organic nature of the Network, and often far distance that separates many of the participating members.

Secondly, many LMMA project members participating within the Network are not receiving the full level of services needed to participate fully (especially capacity building in their ability to use the learning framework), thereby leading to reduced buy-in and participation.

Increasingly, the international travel required to share skills and results is being challenged and restricted by unstable global security, including both political stability internally within Pacific Island nations and between nations as a result of the United States' efforts to route terrorism. The Network is attempting to address these obstacles by adapting in appropriate ways.

LMMA Target Audiences

The LMMA Network has four primary target audiences:

- Conservation practitioners (both professional and non-professional) around the world
- Coastal communities and leaders in the Indo-Pacific
- National government agencies and decision-makers in the Indo-Pacific
- LMMA Network partners (donors, international NGOs, international decision makers and agencies)

COUNTRY UPDATES

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

In June, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) expressed interest in becoming provisional members to the network. CSP staff and representative Eugene Joseph attended the Network-wide meeting in Fiji and shared experiences from their work with local communities in establishing a marine protected area in the State. In regards to the Fiji meeting, Eugene noted, "It was a one-of-a-kind conference and it totally rocked with the communities involvement." CSP will be sponsoring a monitoring workshop in late September to review and devise a monitoring protocol for their programs and collaborative projects with partners. An account of the experience of Lenger Island can be downloaded from the web at <http://effectivempa.noaa.gov/sites/lenger.html>, as part of the WCPA Marine and WWF Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness Initiative.

Republic of Palau

The Republic of Palau was represented at the Fiji Meeting by Metiek "Kimie" Ngirchchol of the Division of Marine Resources, and Wayne Andrew, Huan Hosei, and Dominic Emilio, all three of the Helen Reef Project of Hatohobei State. Ms. Ngirchchol presented the on-going work being undertaken by the Ngaremeduu Conservation Area, a project initiated by the SPREP SPBCP program. The team representing Helen Reef presented on their experience in collecting monitoring data through the LMMA Network's Learning Framework, as well on lessons learned in implementing their project. The Helen Project plans to conduct its second round of community monitoring and apply for full membership to the Network in the near future. Both projects developed work plans related to community participation and monitoring for their respective areas and worked together to plan upcoming events in which they plan to conduct training workshops and share their experiences over the next six months.

Hawaii

Progress continued during the first half of 2003 on the initiation of a Hawaiian Islands alliance of community-based marine projects. A milestone in this progress was achieved in June when the Community Conservation Network (CCN) and Nature Conservancy of Hawaii initiated a partnership designed to introduce network concepts among some of Hawaii's existing LMMA sites and communities. Over the next few years (and pending proposed donor support) this new partnership aims to build the capacity of existing and proposed Hawaii-based LMMAs to take conservation action while also formerly preparing them to begin networking their site-based skills, experiences, and learning. If successful, this partnership would not only strengthen LMMA practices in the islands, but also being to build the potential of LMMA use to be formally considered under the suite of State- and Federal-led coastal resource management efforts and decision making processes through which the State of Hawaii functions. Stay tuned to the LMMA Newsletter for more updates on this new partnership's progress.

In addition, John Parks (the current Hawaii LMMA country liaison) was asked to review draft language for a MPA Framework for the State of Hawaii. Within his review, he strengthened new language being considered for the inclusion of a "cultural reserve" category of MPA designation, which essentially equates to a LMMA a co-managed MPA), with a heavy emphasis on the incorporation of traditional Hawaiian management practices and community-based participation. Should this new framework be approved by the State later on in 2004, it would provide for a formal mechanism through which LMMA use could be considered and approved by the State of

Hawaii, thereby re-instituting the practice of community-based leadership in coastal area use in the islands.

While it was premature for Hawaii LMMAs to attend and participate in August's Inaugural Meeting of the Members of the LMMA Network, it is fair to assume that current members will be seeing an increasing Hawaiian presence in the LMMA Network over the next few years, including Hawaiian LMMA participation at the second LMMA members meeting, currently estimated by the NCT to be held in two to three years time.

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

On May 12-16, 2003, an LMMA introductory Adaptive Management and Learning Framework Workshop was held in Kimbe Bay. The workshop is part of an ongoing process to establish and facilitate the LMMA Network in PNG, and specifically focused on assisting interested LMMA projects and individuals to become more involved in the LMMA Network at various membership levels. Seventeen participants from various NGOs (national and international), Government Departments and interested LMMA projects (including some community representatives), attended this first national level meeting for the PNG LMMA Network. It provided the opportunity to more formally bring together the Kimbe Bay and Madang Lagoon LMMA project teams, as well as other interested and relevant LMMA stakeholders, to discuss and determine next steps regarding:

1. LMMA Network activities and requirements for PNG and the region;
2. Adaptive Management in the framework of the LMMA Network and specific projects; and
3. The Learning Framework (LF) and its requirements and guidelines for projects to collect certain factors.

Whereas past in-country efforts have focused on introducing the LMMA Network to projects, future efforts will focus primarily on assisting the Kimbe Bay and Madang Lagoon LMMA Networks reach full membership status and implement the Learning Framework. At the same time, further development and growth of the PNG LMMA Network as a whole will also be a priority, cultivating interests from other LMMA projects and helping to build the capacity of marine practitioners and relevant government departments in the country (e.g. UPNG, DEC, NFA). Now that the first national LMMA workshop has been conducted after an 8 month period of initial meetings, workshops and trainings, it is important for the PNG LMMA team to ensure that this momentum continues, that provisional membership grows, and that projects progress to the next level of membership i.e. full membership. Keeping up with this momentum and progress, it is critical for the LMMA NCT to be able to provide support to projects during this process.

Other highlights this quarter include the Network-wide LMMA meeting in Suva in which a PNG delegation of 8 people attended and where the Madang and Kimbe Bay LMMA networks met with other projects in the region and developed important next steps for LMMA at their sites. The PNG team has also recently appointed Rebecca Samuel as Assistant Country Coordinator for PNG LMMA to assist with the increased workload of the growing Network, and to meet the future needs of the LMMA projects in implementing the LF. Pam Seeto and Aaron Jenkins will maintain their roles as the Project Liaisons on the NCT, however, it was also identified that appropriate LMMA representatives based at each project site was a priority, thus it was agreed that the LMMA reps for Madang Lagoon would be a team effort between Noel Wangunu (WWF) and Paul Led (WIO/resource owner), and for Kimbe Bay, Shannon Seeto and Joe Aitsi (TNC). The LMMA reps would liaise with Pam and Aaron to implement and coordinate future LMMA activities at their sites.

Some great news just received from PNG! Aaron Jenkins recently spoke with the Department of Environment and Conservation in PNG and all three of the pending Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the Madang Lagoon LMMA Network have been declared (signed off on) by the new PNG Environment Minister. The Tab, Tabad, Lagum and Sinub (declared in 2000) WMAs, should be jointly gazetted as a network in the national gazette within months. This is another definitive national level endorsement of the LMMA approach.

Solomon Islands

The news for the Solomon Islands LMMA is that an initiation workshop is proposed for early October. The other piece of news is that the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) European Community (EC) capacity building project for community managed coastal areas will also be starting around that time. There is on-going communication between Hugh Govan, NCT Country Coordinator (hugh.govan@fsp.org.fj) and Julian Takaa of the SIBC News who is keen on establishing a LMMA project at his Province and the Solomon Islands as a whole. Hugh has acknowledged that Julian's assistance will be extremely valuable in bringing the LMMA approach to the attention of stakeholders in government and the communities. It's a good start and let us stay tuned for more news from the Solomon Islands.

Fiji Islands

FLMMA, since May 2003, embarked upon an ambitious work plan in carrying out community based biological and socio-economic monitoring training for FLMMA project community representatives and simultaneously collecting data for analysis. As a result data collected and analyzed have been the basis upon which the development of a data base framework was built. Altogether there are now seven FLMMA projects who have each completed a marine resource management plan, and have carried out biological monitoring and socio-economic monitoring for their respective sites.

FLMMA/IAS was out again on the last week of August to Koro Island to start some potential new LMMA sites. FLMMA/Resort Support was out in Taveuni at Waitabu to set up moorings to reduce damage on anchoring and also run reef check training for community monitors. WWF last weekend developed their Tikina Wai Management Plan and reviewed the LMMA Learning Framework. The Ministry of Tourism is working closely with some communities to also develop LMMAs that support tourism activities and with 'Coral Cay' and the Mamanuca Environment Society for local communities in the area.

The Department of Environment, with the International Waters Program, has selected Vunisinu as their pilot site and has begun community consultations. FLMMA has been assisting them in this process. Six FLMMA representatives met with the Minister of Fisheries and two of senior staff to discuss possible working relationship between FLMMA and Fisheries Extension Officers. Matters discussed and decided on were:

- (1) Fisheries, in consultation with FLMMA, will organize a one-day seminar in September to discuss field support for LMMA activities and how the roles, responsibilities and skills of Fisheries Field Officers can be clarified and strengthened.
- (2) The formation of a FLMMA Advisory Council to oversee and make recommendations on issuance of licenses, development of MPAs and overall marine resource management planning.

Philippines

A workshop was conducted from July 9 to 11, 2003 at Candelaria, Zambales for LMMA Network members and potential members. This workshop focused on the Learning Framework with active participation from six (6) projects from all over the country including representatives from four (4) projects as far as Mindanao and the Visayas. It was also a preparatory meeting for the network-wide LMMA meeting that was conducted in Suva, Fiji. The Candelaria Meeting was the first formal gathering of the projects to discuss the details of the Learning Framework for representatives of projects who have indicated their interest in joining the Philippine LMMA Network after the Dumaguete Workshop last April 2003.

During the Candelaria Meeting, Mr. Antonio Balang Jr. of the Tawala Marine Sanctuary in Bohol presented the Cebuano Version of the Learning Framework. The Cebuano version was used as a primary reference material for the discussion groups among the Visayas and Mindanao participants. The two translations of the Learning Framework -- the Tagalog and Cebuano versions will be updated and edited based on the latest LF version2.0.

After the July preparatory meeting, the Philippine contingent went to Suva, Fiji Islands to represent the country. There were six participants to the LMMA Network wide meeting namely Ruperto Apilado from the Sinabacan Fishermen’s Association of Candelaria, Chito Dugan from SIKAT (Center for Indigenous Technology), Jovelyn Cleofe of Center for Empowerment and Resource Development (CERD), Gemma Gades of Hinatuan Bay Fish Sanctuary representing NAMAHHIN, Ava Sharon Batay-an of Earth Restoration Trust and Tanggol Kalikasan. Daisy Flores of Earth Restoration Trust is the acting Country Liaison Officer for the Philippines.

The highlight for the Philippine delegation was the acceptance of Candelaria Marine Sanctuary and Hinatuan Bay Fish Santuary as new full members of the LMMA network. For the Philippine team it was an honor to be the second full member of the Network. The sincere and warm welcome of the South Pacific brethren is indeed inspiring for joining projects.

The overall goal of the Philippine LMMA network is the “Strengthening of the current PLMMA members in the areas of information sharing and technical expertise on management of marine areas” with a primary objective of increasing the level of awareness and understanding of the LMMA network and the Learning Framework. One of the planned activities is to create an email group for the network, build a mini library for resource materials and create a pool of resource persons from local project sites to help in information sharing. In November of the current year, there is a planned meeting to feedback the updates from the Suva meeting and revisit the work plans laid out for the next two years.

Indonesia

The Indonesian LMMA Network staff are busy out in the field and their country project update will be included in our next newsletter. However, one of the most important developments in relation to Indonesia sites participating in the LMMA Network is the recent acceptance of the East Biak and Padaido Islands project sites as a Full Network Members.

Stay tuned for more news on the LMMA Network most current and planned activities for 2004.

