

An Overview of SEM-Pasifika Assessments in Micronesia

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SEM-Pasifika was developed to help improve site management of coastal and marine areas throughout the Pacific. To do this, the guide helps partners collect information to assist management, monitoring, policy making, development, and research.¹

Over the past five years, more than nine socioeconomic assessments have been conducted in Micronesia following Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in Pacific Island Countries (SEM-Pasifika). Resource managers and community members in Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia have used this tool to guide local teams through the steps of developing, conducting, analyzing, and communicating an assessment. Results have been used to collect baseline data and inform management on a variety of issues related to resource management.

In an effort to bring all of these different assessments together in one document, this report provides a bibliography of the SEM-Pasifika assessments that have been conducted in the region.² For each study, I identify the title, author, supporters, assessment objectives and methods used.³ This is a living document that will be added to as assessments continue to be conducted throughout the region. It is my intention that this information will be useful to people working on regional socioeconomic efforts in Micronesia.

¹ Wongbusarakum, Supin and Bob Pomeroy. 2008. *SEM-Pasifika: Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in Pacific Island Countries*. Apia, Samoa: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

² There may have been assessments conducted for which I am not aware. In that case, please contact me and I can be sure to update this report to include any additional projects.

³ In addition to the nine assessments included in this report, there was an assessment conducted in Ngulu, Yap. However, at this time, I have not been able to access the final report.

1. Socioeconomic Study of Ebiil MPA (2010)⁴

Conducted and supported by Palau International Coral Reef Center, David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Capacity Enhancement Project for Coral Reef Monitoring, and The Nature Conservancy.

Report written by Noelle Wenty Oldiais, Adelle Lukes Isechal, Dawnette Eulyhma Olsudong, and Supin Wongbusarakum

Assessment Objectives:

1. To examine the marine resource dependency for household consumption and income.
2. To determine the perceived management effectiveness of the Ebiil MPA by examining:
 - a. Awareness and perception of Ebiil MPA status and purpose
 - b. Perception of positive and negative changes related to closure
 - c. Awareness and perception of current enforcement and laws of the Ebiil MPA
 - d. Level of support for Ebiil MPA and additional legislated MPAs in Ngarchelong
3. To examine the greatest perceived threat(s) to the Ebiil MPA and suggested solutions
4. To determine awareness of biological and social monitoring results
5. To explore the possibility of tourism development and management in the Ebiil MPA and related financial benefits

Methodology:

Secondary data, household surveys, and key informant interviews

⁴ Oldiais, NW, Adelle Lukes Isechal, Dawnette Eulyhma Olsudong, and Supin Wongbusarakum. 2010. Socioeconomic Study of Ebiil MPA. Palau International Coral Reef Center. This Ebiil study was designed to build on the results of an earlier assessment conducted in Ngarchelong in 2005-2006.

2. Helen Reef and the Hatohobei Community: SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Assessment Report (2009)⁵

Conducted and supported by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program, Palau International Coral Reef Center, and Helen Reef Resource Management Office.

Report written by Noelle Wenty Oldiais, Alson Ngiraiwet, Bradley Patris, Bruce Ngirkuteling, Claire Polloi, Davis Rekensiik, Dawnette Olsudong, Elwais Samil, Felisa Andrew, Isao Frank, Ismael Bernado, Japson Yoshiwo, King Sam, Ngirachues Aderkeroi, Tracy Marcello, Umai Basilius, Verano Ngirkelau, Victor R. Masahiro, and William Andrew

NOAA Advisors: Christy Loper and Meghan Gombos

Assessment Objectives:

1. Collect basic demographic information
2. Determine frequency of access to and use of Helen Reef
3. Determine the community members' long term vision for Helen Reef
4. Identify perceived threats Helen Reef
5. Understand awareness and knowledge of management activities
6. Determine perceived changes in resource since new rules in place
7. Determine perceived level of enforcement
8. Determine community satisfaction with management
9. Collect information about how management can be improved

Methodology:

Key informant interviews, focus groups, and household survey. Household survey was conducted as a census and attempted to interview every community member over 18.

⁵ Oldiais, NW. 2009. Helen Reef and Hatohobei Community: SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Assessment Report. Palau International Coral Reef Center.

3. SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Assessment Report for Parem Community (2011)⁶

Conducted by Chuuk Conservation Society and partners including Chuuk Department of Agriculture.

Report written by Curtis Graham, edited by Charlene Mersai

NOAA Advisor: Christy Loper

Assessment Objectives:

1. Collect baseline data for the community
2. Document perceptions on current conditions of marine resources
3. Document coastal activities and community's dependence on marine resources
4. Understand both support and opposition for proposed marine protected area
5. Collect information on desired type of marine protected area
6. Identify a source of sustainable financing and alternative livelihoods

Methodology:

Focus groups, key informant interviews, and household surveys. Household surveys were conducted as a census of those at least 18 years old.

⁶ Graham, C. 2011. SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Assessment Report for Parem Community. Chuuk Conservation Society.

4. Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia Training and Assessment Report: Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in Pacific Island Countries (SEM-Pasifika) (2013)⁷

Conducted by Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization, Kosrae Department of Resource and Economic Affairs, Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority, Yela Environment Land Owners Authority, and the Walung Community.

Report written by Bond Segal, Dizon Kephas, Elizabeth Furey, Fred Taulung, Freddy Nena, Heidi Sigrah, Kriskitina Kanemoto, Likiak Melander, Maxson Nithan, Steve Palik, Rickson Jonathan, William, and Betty Sigrah.

Assessment Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of the level of community knowledge and attitudes toward climate change
2. To explore the current status of livelihood resources in the community
3. To identify the most prominent community concerns and propose appropriate solutions for long term sustainability
4. To identify the most feasible and culturally appropriate adaptation measures using the PACE-SD Strategic Adaptation Framework as an implementation strategy
5. To implement the MC indicators as appropriate

Methodology:

Secondary data, key informant interviews and household surveys. Household surveys were conducted as a census and one adult in each home was interviewed.

⁷ Segal, Bond, Dizon Kephas, Elizabeth Furey, Fred Taulung, Freddy Nena, Heidi Sigrah, Kriskitina Kanemoto, Likiak Melander, Maxson Nithan, Steve Palik, Rickson Jonathan, William, 2013. Kosrae Federated States of Micronesia Training and Assessment Report: Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in Pacific Island Countries. Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization.

5. Ngiwal Socioeconomic Assessment Training Report (2010)⁸

Conducted and supported by Palau International Coral Reef Center and Capacity Enhancement Project for Coral Reef Monitoring

Report written by Noelle Wenty Oldiais

Assessment Objectives:

1. Find out national regulations and rules that are applicable to the state level.
2. Identify location of buffer zone areas
3. Find out existing regulations on commercial farming
4. Identify area for state aquaculture
5. Identify types of marine life appropriate for aquaculture
6. Investigate the level of demands for tourism activities
7. Identify type of infrastructure that is needed to support allowable recreational activities
8. Identify threats and problems caused by soil erosion
9. Identify activities that cause soil erosion
10. Identify problems with enforcement
11. Gain better understanding of what would attract tourists
12. Identify people's need of the enforcement program
13. Identify what type of outreach is most appropriate/effective
14. Examine the willingness of community in participating in aquaculture
15. Examine the willingness of community in participating in tourism activities
16. Identify threats to coastal and marine resources
17. Better understand the means of livelihood of the people of Ngiwal
18. Better understand the effectiveness of management resources
19. Examine community's knowledge of rules and regulations of resource management
20. To examine people's awareness and impacts of sea level rise

⁸ Oldiais, NW. 2010. Ngiwal Socioeconomic Assessment Training Report. Palau International Coral Reef Center.

21. To examine perceived conditions of marine resources

Methodology:

Secondary data, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and household surveys.

6. SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Survey: Metipw Community Madolenihmw, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (2012)⁹

Conducted and supported by Conservation Society of Pohnpei, Micronesia Conservation Trust, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Report written by Kesdy Ladore, Angel Jonathan, Kashuisto Paul, Karino Olpet, Rudy Andreas, Ryan Ladore, Jessina Andon, Keper Joel, Dave Mathias, Mayoriko Victor, Eugene Eperiam, Clay Hedson

Assessment Objectives:

1. Assess how the marine protected area is impacting the community
2. Understand the perceived threats to the coastal and marine resources of the site
3. Determine the awareness of traditional conservation practices
4. Assess fishing methods used by the community and how they have changed over time
5. Understand impacts of climate change faced by the community and how they cope with the impacts
6. Understand the community's perspective on large-scale development

Methodology:

Key informant interviews, focus group discussion, and household surveys.

⁹ Ladore, Kesdy, Angel Jonathan, Kashuisto Paul, Karino Olpet, Rudy Andreas, Ryan Ladore, Jessina Andon, Keper Joel, Dave Mathias, Mayoriko Victor, Eugene Eperiam, Clay Hedson. 2012. SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Survey: Metipw Community Madolenihmw, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

7. SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Assessment Summary Report for Jenrok Community (2011)¹⁰

Conducted by Marshall Islands Conservation Society and the Coastal Management Advisory Council

Report written by Milner Okney

Assessment Objectives:

1. Collect demographic information
2. Determine the community members long term vision for a proposed Jenrok dumpsite
3. Identify perceived threats from climate change
4. Identify perceived changes in resources
5. Determine community thoughts of a potential MPA within Jenrok lagoon

Methodology:

Key informant interviews, focus group discussions, household survey

¹⁰ Okney, Milner. 2011. SEM-Pasifika Socioeconomic Assessment Summary Report for Jenrok Community. Marshall Islands Conservation Society.

8. Coastal use and management at Laolao Bay: A SEM-Pasifika study of resource users at Laolao Bay on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (2009)¹¹

Conducted by the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative: Division of Environmental Quality, Nonpoint Source Pollution Branch and Marine Monitoring Team and the Coastal Resources Management Office

Written by Lisa Huynh Eller, Brooke Nevitt, and Janice Anne Castro

Assessment Objectives:

1. Provide preliminary socioeconomic baseline for Laolao Bay users
2. Identify recreational uses for natural resources
3. Identify perceived threats and changes to natural resources
4. Explore public's understanding of environmental regulations governing Laolao Bay
5. Identify the perceived frequency of damaging activities
6. Explore perceived effectiveness of existing management

Methodology:

Key informant interviews and intercept survey

¹¹ Eller, L.H., Nevitt, B. and Castro, J.A. (eds) 2009. Coastal uses and management at Laolao Bay: A SEM-Pasifika study of resource users at Laolao Bay on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. CNMI Division of Environmental Quality and CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office.

9. Socioeconomic Assessment of the Rock Island Southern Lagoon, Palau (2013)¹²

Conducted by Palau International Coral Reef Center, Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement, The David and Lucille Packard Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the University of the Ryukyus.

Written by Noelle Oldiais

Assessment Objectives:

1. To examine the perceived crowdedness of different dive sites in the Rock Islands.
2. To understand expectations of divers and snorkelers who visit the Rock Islands.
3. To examine visitors' experiences and satisfaction with diving and snorkeling in the Rock Islands
4. To explore levels of willingness of divers and snorkelers to support high quality tourism and low environmental impact in the Rock Islands.
5. To determine the willingness of visitors to financially support the Rock island and the fee amounts
6. To explore problems, issues and suggestions in regarding high quality tourism experience and low environmental tourism impacts of the Rock Island sites among related tour operators. (Key informants)
7. To understand demographic profiles and patterns of activities of the divers and snorkelers of the Rock Islands

Methodology:

Surveys of snorkelers and divers and key informant interviews

¹² Oldiais, NW. 2012. Socioeconomic Assessment of the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Palau. Palau International Coral Reef Center.