First East Asian Seas Knowledgebase Workshop

Singapore (5 - 6 April 2007)

Information Services Through Cooperation and Collaboration

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WorldFish Center
About The WorldFish Center

- An independent and nonprofit international research organization that works to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture.
- Funded by donations from governments and charitable foundations.
Future Harvest Centers

- Part of the Future Harvest Alliance of international research centers supported by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
ReefBase is the world's leading database on coral reefs, providing data and information on the location, status, threats, and management of coral reefs in over 120 countries.

Our mission:
To improve sharing and use of data, information, and knowledge in support of research and management of coral reef resources.
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Lesson Learned in Database Development & Information Management

- Lack of skills in resources management
- No interest to share the data
- No Metadata
- Poor database design
- No standard format
- No backup / contingency plan
- No digitization of publications
- Lack of online access to information
Lesson Learned...

• Ensure appropriate resources & skills for information management & distribution.

• Understand usage & uptake of your information (e.g. via registration). Hits and visitor sessions don’t tell you much.

Measuring actual impact of information services is difficult…
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**Geographic distribution: Internet access**

- North America: 41%
- Europe: 20%
- Asia: 18%
- Latin America & Caribbean: 9%
- Pacific: 2%
- Australia: 8%
- Africa: 2%
- Middle East: 0%

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Internet access remains a real issue in certain areas and offline products (CD/DVD) are still needed.
Language is a key factor in success of uptake & dissemination
What ReefBase do?

- Provide easy access to relevant information on key issues related to coral reefs
- Provide database & web support to projects/organizations in developing countries
Marine area manager survey launched, with US$3000 in prizes to be won!

08 March 2007

This questionnaire is part of an ongoing research project by Venetia Hargreaves-Alten, from Imperial College London, with support from the WorldFish Center and ReefBase. We are hoping to increase understanding of MMA management by benefiting from your experience. We are researching costs and benefits generated by MMAs and how these are linked to conservation success. This will enable us to make recommendations, including identifying strategies for enabling more sustainable support for MMA management costs.

Please see this website for further details.
Coral biodiversity

A total of 226 species from 80 genera of hard corals (15 species from 10 genera of zoanthellifer (Scleractinia) were found in the three marine parks (Appendix A)). Of these, 216 were seen at 17 sites and an additional nine were seen during additional dives or snorkels. Several further species were sighted, but could not be identified without collecting samples. The number of species identified during this study is approximately 80% of the number (and at least 54% of the genera) identified by the same author (CP) using the same method at an equivalent number of sites in the Philippines, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. In this study, there were a total of 302 species at 17 sites (counting only one site per site for comparison with the other studies), while there were 249 species in the Philippines, 207 in Papua New Guinea and 250 in Indonesia. These three countries are known as the 'Coral Triangle' since they have the greatest diversity of species. Each has over 400 species of coral reported and a number of additional species yet to be published. Hence the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia has a very high coral species richness and can be considered to be a globally important area of coral biodiversity.

Among the 226 species identified in this study, 67 species had never been reported in previous published studies from anywhere in Malaysia, including Sarawak and Sabah (Davis, 1981; Pilcher and Scheer, 1974; de Silva et al., 1980; Batters, 1981; Veron, 1983; Estes, 1986; Wood and TPN, 1997 and are listed in Appendix A). However, it would be...
What ReefBase do?

- Provide easy access to relevant information on key issues related to coral reefs

- Provide database & web support to projects/organizations in developing countries

  - Diverse expertise – to develop and manage the databases, GIS, online and offline system.

  - Continuous support after project end - All of our team members are full-time staff.

  - ReefBase Connections – ReefBase is the central database of GCRMN and ICRAN, collaborating with numerous other partners (Reef Check, LMMA, SocMon, CORDIO, COREMAP, SPC, CoReMo…)
NEW ReefGIS (online maps)

- Interactive maps via Internet (Web browser)
- Display data “live” from database (monitoring sites, bleaching)
- Search & query data using maps tools
• Provide appropriate tools to make it REAL easy for users/partners to share/enter information.

• Allocation of resources (payment of staff-time) can greatly improve response-time and flow of information.
Increasing our focus on:

- Development of tools for small-scale fisheries management
- Socioeconomic information through working partnerships with SocMon and the Locally Managed Marine Area Network (LMMA)
- Develop GIS-based planning tools
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ReefBase: Future Directions/ Activities

- ReefBase Pacific
  - Develop regional version of ReefBase
  - Collaborate with staff at SPC, USP, SPREP, CRIOBÉ, and others in the region.
  - Series of online and offline information products, providing comprehensive knowledgebase on Pacific coral reefs and fisheries.
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ReefBase: Future Directions/ Activities

• GEF Lesson Learned
  • To compile a knowledgebase of coral reef related projects
Summary:

- We have:
  - Diverse expertise – to develop and manage the databases, GIS, online and offline system.
  - Continuous support after project end - All of our team members are full-time staff.
  - ReefBase Connections – ReefBase is the central database of GCRMN and ICRAN, collaborating with numerous other partners (Reef Check, LMMA, SocMon, CORDIO, COREMAP, SPC, CoReMo…)

- Potential areas of Collaborations:
  - Sharing of experiences in database management & information management with COBSEA
  - Sharing of online publication
  - Pages/Links of COBSEA in ReefBase website
  - COBSEA map in ReefGIS
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THANK YOU