Blue Communities

Building Capacity in South East Asia in Interdisciplinary Research

Iloilo, Philippines, 28/11/2018

Lota Creencia, Melanie Austen, Lora Fleming, Sabine Pahl, Mathew White, Vikki Cheung, Theresa Ermeje, Timur Jack-Kadioglu

Funded by:

www.blue-communities.org
Twitter: @BlueCommunities | FaceBook: @BlueCommunitiesGCRF
Blue Communities Objective 2: “To increase the research capabilities of the team through training and co-developed research with appropriate stakeholders to address actual marine resource management, economic development, health and wellbeing, and conservation challenges using the international case studies of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and marine protected areas in E/SE Asia”
The Blue Communities Programme

Build research capability
1. Supportive base
2. Capabilities
3. Applications
4. Tools

WITH local communities and researchers:
CO-DEVELOPMENT, CO-CREATION
Skills mapping
Learning-by-doing
Research learning and exchange between partners
Lessons learned from research and management; Share lessons learned
Evidence synthesis and identify evidence gaps
BESPOKE TRAINING
Stakeholder interaction as a key component
Culturally relevant and sensitive research and outputs
Develop regional teams, national and local teams
Interdisciplinary Research

Blue Communities Projects → South East Asian Researchers → Coastal Communities → A Cycle of Learning
Interdisciplinary Research

Introduction of tools and models

Blue Communities Projects

South East Asian Researchers

Coastal Communities

A Cycle of Learning
Community Data, Management and Participation

Blue Communities Projects

South East Asian Researchers

Coastal Communities

A Cycle of Learning
Introduction of BC Projects

- Capability building in fields of research
- Institutional capacity building, e.g. Ethics Review
- Training the younger generation through an early career network
- Capacity building in co-creation to support marine management and sustainable livelihoods
Kick Off Meeting - Training Needs Identified:

- Understanding Case Study contexts
- Project management, mentoring, grant & publication writing
- Marine planning, ecosystem services
- Modelling, statistics
- Human health/well-being
## Trainings Conducted

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Marine Governance Analysis
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Future Scenarios
Creating an Early Career Research Network

Blue Communities Early Career Research Network Team
ECR Training Needs

Capacity Building

Skills
Mentorship
Trainings
Career Development
Publication
Funding
- **Funding**
  - For collaboration
  - For education
  - Training in grant-writing skills
  - Internal Blue Communities small grants programme for ECRs

- **Training/Skills**
  - Research – e.g. stats, referencing software
  - Non ‘research’ skills – leadership, public speaking, communications
  - Exchange visits

- **Publishing**
  - How to design a research question
  - Publishing and journal access costs
  - Training workshop
Early Career Researcher (ECR) Network Planning Session

- **Mentorship and wellbeing**
  - General support, team-building activities
  - Mentorship – voluntary within ECR network
  - How to be a good mentor

- **Career development**
  - New knowledge
  - Visibility
  - Collaborations
  - Opportunities
Provincial representatives (PPDO, PHO, Provincial Administrator, SP Members, and GIZ Consultant); Municipal Department Heads, Sannguniang Bayan and representatives from of Taytay and Aborlan, Palawan; PCSD, and WWF together with Blue Communities Project Lead Researchers and Staff during Stakeholders’ Consultative Seminar Workshop.
Community Partnership

Bringing the Blue Communities to the People

The Case Study Leader, Dr. Lota Creencia together with barangay officials during the presentation of project overview at San Juan, Aboran, Palawan.

The GCRF Blue Communities Team with barangay officials during the presentation of project overview at Biton, Taytay, Palawan.
Community Partnership

Addressing Issues in Health and Well-being

Clockwise: The GCRF Blue Communities Team from Western Philippines University (WPU), University of Plymouth and University of Exeter together with the WPU’s VPAA, Dr. Evina during the courtesy call and the participants of the Focus Group Discussion.
Community Partnership

Enhancing Marine Governance

GCRF Blue Communities Project 2 (Critical Analysis of Marine Planning Model Applications) Marine Governance Analysis for Environmentally Critical Areas Network in Aborlan, Palawan, Philippines | October 17, 2018
Local Trainings Attended

- Ethics Review Training
- CCRES Training
- Remote Sensing-GIS Training on BlueCarbon Ecosystems
- Spatial Analysis Training
- International Conference on the West Philippine Sea
- National Conference on Sustainable Development
Capacity Building by UK Partners

**PROJECT 12**

May 11, 2018
Scenario Development Workshop at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines

Dr. Matt Fortnam of the Project 2 of GCRF Blue Communities Program delivered a talk entitled Gender and Ecosystem Services: a blind spot at the Western Philippines University, Puerto Princesa Campus, Palawan, Philippines | October 19, 2018

May 9, 2018
Logic Mapping in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines
Learnings

• As a Case Study Area, the entry of opportunities to build more sustainable coastal communities has been boosted with the Blue Communities Programme.

• As researchers, the capacity to evaluate the situation of the environment and coastal communities have been enhanced with the use of introduced tools.

• As researchers, another step has been provided in enhancing communication skills with local government units and coastal communities to promote sustainable use of the marine ecosystem.
Thank you for your attention!