Recap of Day 1
Fishing communities are main stakeholders of the coastal areas, historic and traditional owners of the resource. Area restrictions have reduced fishing grounds and catch, added to the woes of the fishers. Community-based decisions are required for fisheries resource management, including fishing gear restrictions. State fisheries departments to be part of the process of designating and managing MPAs. Systems for co-management of protected areas need to be put in place. Need for a balanced seascape approach, not just restricted to MPAs. Role of women to be kept in mind, while looking at the social dimensions of MPAs.
Presentations

- Gulf of Mannar National Park and Biosphere Reserve
- Fishing community issues in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR)
- Social dimensions of sea turtle protection in Orissa- Case study of Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary and the nesting beaches of Rushikulya and Debi
- Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park and Sanctuary
- Malvan (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary
- Society and Ecology: Building Bridges between People and Conservation, Agatti Conservation Reserve: A Case Study (Lakshadweep)
- Communities and MPAs in Andaman, and Nicobar Islands
Key issues

- No clear estimates on people affected
- Reduced number of fishing days, restriction on access to and reduction of fishing grounds, affects fishers (women and men)
- Rights of communities not settled in PAs
- No demarcation of boundaries, provisions of innocent passage not implemented, problems in compliance and enforcement
- No clear guidelines to implement provision to protect the occupational interests
- Small-scale fishers worst affected, vessel confiscation and arrests, arbitrary fines and confiscations of catch and gear
- Communities not involved in the development and implementation of management plans, existing plans inaccessible
Key Issues

- Community conservation initiatives, traditional knowledge and community institutions not considered
- Inadequate co-ordination between different agencies, fisheries departments expertise/role on fisheries issues not taken on board
- Fishing regulations in the MFRAs not strictly enforced (Gahirmatha, Malvan, and Gulf of Mannar)
- Fishers not compensated for effect of PA on lives
- No long-term sustainable alternative livelihood options provided to fishers
- Fishing communities are victimized due to unchecked industrialization (Gujarat, Orissa and Tamil Nadu)
- Are MPAs an effective tool for conservation? Are they meeting their objectives?
Key Issues

- Island presentations
  - Lakhadweep: Communities actively involved in conservation initiatives, including in designing and developing management plans
  - Local existing institutions are involved in conservation initiatives
  - Traditional indigenous practices for conservation exists as seen in the case of Nicobar Islands
Proposals

Fishing community
- Fishing communities to be actively involved in all phases of PA management
- Access and use rights of fishing communities to resources and fishing grounds to be recognized
- Important to involve trawler owners/workers in conservation initiatives

WLPA
- Existing rights of fishing communities to be settled
- Need for humanitarian outlook on enforcement, involving communities
- Operationalize provisions such as occupational interests, and innocent passage
- Explore options to designate conservation or community reserves
- Consider creating a special category for marine and coastal protected areas, with due recognition of livelihoods
Proposals

Fisheries management

- Implement provisions of marine fishing regulation acts (MFRAs)
- Stringent measures for fisheries management to be put in place

Institutional coordination

- Better co-ordination between enforcement agencies, and between enforcement agencies and communities
Proposals

**Research and monitoring**
- Studies to identify effectiveness of protection measures, propose further effective and practical measures
- Fishing communities to participate in research and monitoring activities (adequate compensation)

**Livelihoods**
- Collect gender-segregated socio-economic data
- Provide basic facilities to fishing communities (education, health etc.)
- Develop sustainable income generation, alternative livelihoods with a gender focus, designed in consultation with communities
- Alternative livelihood strategies to be fishery related, with marketing linkages
- Better access to formal credit facilities
Proposals

Other development activities

- Other non-fishery related threats to the habitat and species to be addressed and activities regulated
- Need to have a broader conservation and development framework

Need for an overall management of marine resources and marine ecosystems