



The following is feedback from participants who attended the Marine Training Course for monitoring and mapping seagrass habitats at Motupore Island Research Centre, Papua New Guinea, 24th - 27th October 2008.

(no text has been edited by Seagrass-Watch HQ)

I found the Seagrass-Watch training to be....

- ..very educational, fun and exciting, informative and very clear*
- ..fun and enjoyable and provide a medium for seagrass monitoring*
- ..interesting, enlightening and informative*
- ..the outstanding training I have attended compared to other training that I have attended before*
- ..very interesting and very informative, though its very short and brief. I think it gives everything for a new beginner to know*
- ..a very important in relation to marine life*
- ..very educational because I knew very little about the importance of seagrass before I came for training*
- ..very helpful and educative*
- ..very exciting and important as I have learnt a lot and given new ideas that can equip me to help my people in the village*
- ..very informative, encouraging to work in a marine environment for the conservation of the oceans seagrass locally.*
- ..very interesting. It was also very informative especially learning about the uses to both the human and natural environment*
- ..very interesting, helpful and informative*
- ..very helpful in that it benefits both me and the organisation. It is a privilege to be exposed to such an innovative and helpful organisation who takes care of stuff.*
- ..very interesting and useful*
- ..very exciting, after I have discovered that I can now distinguish the various species of seagrass*

What I enjoyed most about the training was....

- ..identifying seagrass types, habitat, seagrass sampling (using quadrats and measuring quadrats), the fun quiz and assessment was a change from the usual boring tests we do at school*
- ..going out and doing practical work, especially identifying the seagrass species*
- ..the field session (ie GPS use and sampling)*

- ..knowing what other countries are doing compared to what we are doing in this training
- ..seagrass being the main one of the CO sinks
- ..learning the ecological significance of seagrass and it's benefits to marine animals as source of primary food
- ..the practical out in the field, especially using GPS and sampling of the seagrass
- ..everything that was taught and especially the field study and the lecture materials
- ..the field exercise of seagrass monitoring and the lectures on the importance of seagrass. Also the GPS exercise.
- ..the data entry, projection of the results into predicting the future of the seagrass cover of the Motupore
- ..Everything! Infact it was something new to me especially residing near the beach and studying a totally different course @ uni. The field exercises were enjoyable especially learning how to use a GPS.
- ..the field exercise
- ..actually looking at seagrass itself. I have a very limited background on seagrass and it was most interesting throughout.
- ..to go out in the field and run the transect. Identifying the seagrass species on each transect is very interesting.
- ..the sampling aspect of the training. The sampling of the data and analysis of species and the estimate of the various species.

It could have been better if...

- ..the tides were low, so we could have a more hands-on approach in mapping
- ..we did the field mapping
- ..we did the mapping component to back-up what we learnt theoretically
- ..the Seagrass-Watch organisation can work in partnership with local NGO in PNG to educate and train more marine provinces about seagrass before more damages in done to seagrass
- ..more time and further training be given to the locals along the coastline to protect their seagrass
- ..we were to use satellite images to spatially maps its abundance and distribution of different species after doing field samplings
- ..we have enough time and we have no blackouts
- ..there was a bit more time given for the whole session
- ..more time was given to further lectures and field exercise of the seagrass ecology to really understand the seagrass ecology for further study in the future to really master the seagrass
- ..had low tides and had enough time to do more field work - more hands on work
- ..there was more time. In fact there was, but the power disruption put a hold on one or to lectures.
- ..a bit more time was given. Maybe a couple of days more would have been better (too much was learnt in a short period of time)

..we had more time to do all that we could

..the tide was low and we were wearing our hats

..we could have gone to other locations and collect data of those location because the data from Motupore was already collected before

I did not realize that

..seagrass is very important in the marine ecosystem

..seagrasses were just as important as mangroves and coral reefs. And that they were bioindicators.

..Seagrass-Watch organisation has covered most part of the world and some more interested countries have decided to join in

..seagrass are important CO sinks also

..that seagrasses were an important ecosystem supporting a myriad of organisms and activities on sea and land

..seagrass provide a basis for marine food chain and help to reduce the strength of waves

..seagrass plays an important role in the ecosystem

..seagrass was very important for the existence of all mankind and its habitat

..seagrass has a lot of values, economically and environmentally in full detail

..seagrass were such an important part of the ecosystem until after this training

..seagrass is not a seaweed! Also what people often overlook is its uses and how it contributes to the marine environment.

..I was going to learn a lot more than I anticipated. Thanks a lot.

..I could actually do more with the communities that I'm involved in through this program as it portrays so much and is an activity that locals can be taught to do themselves for their resource.

..seagrasses also acts as carbon sinks and they release tonnes of oxygen a day

..catchment and human impact on water effect the growth of seagrass and some of the water creatures such as dugong, turtle and fish that depends on seagrass migrate to other locations

Now I understand that....

..they are just as important as other ecosystems. That seagrass meadows in PNG need more attention and should be placed with equal emphasis like mangrove

..seagrass is a home and it sustains marine life, just like human beings needs food to survive

..seagrasses are just as important as any other marine ecosystem

..seagrass is one of the most distinguished feature of marine eco-system so we now need to educate everyone about seagrass importance and also one should all help to preserve some of the worlds best species of seagrass.

..seagrass are the most important ecosystem to both marine life and to human being also

..seagrass were a basis for marine food chain and also provide an importance ecological habitat for the interactions between the other micro-organisms such as zooplanktons which are also the basis of marine food chain

..with the seagrass habitats, we have a lot of organisms like dugongs and turtles

..it is important to conserve and manage our habitat and especially seagrass to sustain human life and its existence

..seagrass is a very important marine ecosystem to both human and other marine lives

..seagrass are an important part of the ecosystem; that seagrass are food to many species of fish including the dugong and the others like turtles, and they seagrass serve as habitats to many plants and animals in the intertidal to the deepwater marine environments.

..seagrass is as important as any other human! I understand clearly its role and function seagrass plays an important role in the marine life of my area (Tourama Beach within the Bootless Bay area)

..I have not done any seagrass ID before so I couldn't know what is in my local community

..seagrasses are very important in terms of climate changes and other environmental issues and they need to be managed and worked at an holistic level

..effect and areas where seagrass grow

In my area the types of seagrasses and habitats include

..I haven't had time to look at seagrass habitats due to ignorance, so I need to do work

..its a bay and we don't have any seagrass. It's also situated in Rabaul, obviously it's a volcanic area and the sea is muddy

..estuarine, coastal, mangrove, coral reefs and mangrove habitats

..quite a different species include the most popular EA, CR and some more

nearly all the seagrass are similar to the ones studied but not sure as well as the habitats

..I am sorry I do not have sea and ocean in my area, I am from the highlands of PNG

..I come from the highlands of PNG, so obviously do not have any seagrass growing there. However being a marine biology student, I've learnt quite a lot (almost new things) about seagrass

..*Halophila ovalis*, *Halophila minor*, *Enhalus acoroides*, *Thalassia hemprichii*, Cr, Cs, Hp, Si and a lot of mangroves and coral

..nearly all types of seagrasses that are found here, but I am not really sure and it will be my duty to go back home and identify the types of seagrasses that are found in my area

..intertidal, shallow water and deepwater environments. About 4 species or 5 species are found in my area (Daru)

..I don't know! But know that I have a fair knowledge, I know I can go back and identify.

..Ho, Hm, Ea, Th, Hu, Hp, Si, Cr and Cs. The dominant species are Cr, Cs, Ea and Th. The habitats are shoreline, inter-tidal areas.

..there's a lot of stuff that I understand and it gives new ideas to the course that Mahonia Na Dari conducts - The marine Environment Education Program (MEEP) - so students can understand more fully as well as myself.

..Si, Ho, Th, Ea. I need to go and find out more on the species. I did not know about the importance of seagrass until now.

..fish, sea urchin and nearly all the species we have studied here at the island.

When I go back to my area, I will

..try as much as possible to educate my people on seagrass and its importance. Hope to start seagrass monitoring

..at least carry out awareness on the importance of marine life and seagrass

..try to implement what I've learnt

..start re-checking on species that are found in my area just to make a rough data out of them and provide some information

..try to protect and educate the locals about the importance and the impacts and tell them to protect it

..only campaign to those coastal areas which I visit on how to manage seagrass and its significance, because I do not live near the coast and I will rarely go there

..apply some of the knowledge learnt here. Especially the management skills.

..organise the local community to form a group and seek assistance from NGO's for Seagrass-Watch programs and plans

.. help my people through telling them the importance of seagrass their values and how they can benefit the people and the other marine lives like dugong and turtle which are becoming extinct

..speak to others about ways of reducing point discharges into the seas so that eutrophication in these environments are reduced

..with the help of the older man who attended this course our sponsor Dame Carol Kidu, aware the community on the importance of not only seagrass but other species as well.

..do a lot of awareness programs, put to use what I have learnt from the SGW program and training

..there's a lot to be done as there are seagrass beds that are protected but not monitored - so I guess that could be done

..conduct a research on seagrass, carry out awareness and involve the locals in seagrass monitoring

..carry out awareness and educate the usefulness of seagrass and the important function they contribute to the water ecosystem and the environment.

Other comments

..the course has been very enjoyable, fun and exciting, and very informative. I'm hoping to look at it as part of my honors or research project (seagrass, that is)

..I am really interested in seagrass and would like to take part in any activity that goes on-ground in PNG. I want to get more experience especially in the field area and travel the country/world to see other different types of seagrasses. In PNG it is new and I would like to be considered to help broaden the knowledge of my people and the country as a whole

about seagrass. I see it's a very big rea that people need to know about especially on the islands of PNG.

..I'm interested in doing seagrass monitoring in my area so Seagrass-Watch might come in collaboration with our local NGC - TNC, PNGLMMA, Mahonia Na Dari to participate local communities in seagrass program

..this training is a very important one and needs to be extended to all the locals along the coastline

..It was great learning the significance of seagrass; I learnt a lot of new things about seagrass and its significance to the marine environment. As an environmental scientist I feel that I am well equip to monitor climate change impact easily and clearly from the degradation and change from seagrass as one of the control points towards monitoring climate change impacts. Thank you very much Seagrass-Watch.

..I'd like to thankyou for your time and knowledge on seagrass that you made available for us. Now I know what to work on for my project next year - it will be on seagrass!!

..there has been a lot of damages to human activities and a need for protection to the seagrass and habitats. Really enjoyed the course presented by the lecturer

..it's an opportunity for me undertaking this training and I have learnt some new important skills and knowledge and this skills and knowledge can enable me to help my people in the village

..Thanks very much for running the course. It has been really informative and has helped me very much. Thanks.

..I hope to involve myself in any other courses as such and big thankyou to Mr McKenzie for your time.

..Good course/training and very interesting. We need more of this in the future. Thanks.

..very interesting!!

..Many seagrasses in my area have been destroyed or damaged by development activities like dredging and others. This training has opened my eyes to the marine plants that contribute to the marine ecosystem and help with absorbing carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere. Thankyou very much

..I have now truly understand the whole picture of the contribution and importance of seagrass. I'm very interested and I'm looking forward to learn more about seagrass in the near future. Thankyou very luch Len for your time to come all the way from Australia to teach us about seagrass.



Thank you