Abstract:

This paper summarizes findings from a three-year Indonesian-German research cooperation on the governance and management of Indonesian coastal and marine ecosystems. Project objectives were to investigate coastal and marine social-ecological dynamics and feedbacks and to analyse socio-political and institutional structures and processes to support adaptive coastal governance. Participating researchers and students worked in the Spermonde Archipelago, off South Sulawesi, Indonesia between 2007 and 2010. Methods included ship based research excursions and several long-term PhD and MSc dissertations primarily using classical survey and anthropological, participatory research methods based on interdisciplinary social-natural science teams. This paper summarises our findings, draws policy conclusions. We discuss Marine Protected Areas and Participation (local participation in official community-based MPAs, local “rules-in-use” and local rights in protected areas), Reef Exploitation and local Livelihoods (fisheries dynamics and mariculture development), Social Networks and Hierarchies (social hierarchies and influential leaders in island communities, patron-client (punggawa-sawi) relations in fisheries and women’s roles in the islands ), Social Vulnerability, Resilience and Governance (attitudes and future visions, social vulnerability and social resilience, climate change, governance failures in resource management). The paper concludes with the identification of further research needs in both the regional and the global sustainability context.