



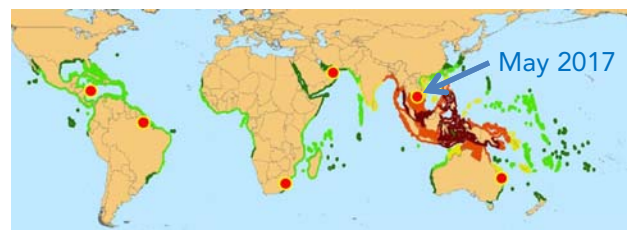
Digging into sediments and microbes for nature conservation: Identifying the drivers of ecosystem processes for spatial conservation planning



DiSeMiNation was launched on April 3rd with a kick-off workshop at ZMT (Bremen). The team of researchers involved (only one position left to be filled) met to decide upon the timing of the joint activities and to discuss details of the sampling strategy and scheme.

ZMT (M. Zimmer) is responsible for the overall coordination; V. Helfer will take the lead in field-sampling and analyzing sediments for the fauna and organic matter; H. Reuter will overview the modelling efforts; B. Fedder is in charge of stakeholder-communication. DSMZ (J. Overmann) will analyze sediments for microbial community composition and activity. IPB (S. Neumann & C. Uppinns) contributes as experts in bioinformatics of metabolomic fingerprinting. IÖR (R.-U. Syrbe & K. Grunewald) will map and evaluate ecosystem services and their use.

The first stakeholder-workshop will be held in Singapore on May 18 and 19, followed by the first field trip for sediment-sampling. Subsequent sampling-trips in Brazil (along with the second regional stakeholder-workshop) and Colombia are scheduled for November 2017 and February 2018, respectively.



In preparation of the workshop in Singapore, questionnaires about the awareness and use of ecosystem services in mangroves of Singapore have been sent out to workshop participants and other stakeholders; along with directed interviews with local stakeholders in Singapore, they will be analyzed and the outcome discussed during the workshop in May.

Maps of ecosystem use and values of mangroves at four differently impacted sites in Singapore will be related to spatial information on microbial communities and processes and how they are affected by the biotic and abiotic environment. First findings will be communicated with project partners and the public, and will help refining future steps within DiSeMiNation.

