## South Asia experts compare notes on reef resilience research

The South Asia Reef Resilience Workshop, held in Bentota, Sri Lanka, 15-18 January 2007, brought together coral reef scientists, managers and policy makers from five countries in South Asia and around the Bay of Bengal: Indonesia, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The main objectives of the workshop were to provide insight into the state of coral reef resilience research and management adaptations internationally, identify and discuss regional needs and priorities, as well as to promote learning and exchange of information. Resources recently developed through major international collaborations were highlighted and distributed to participants, including the R2 Resilience Toolkit developed by the Resilience Partnership<sup>1</sup> and the Manual for the Study and Conservation of Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations published by the Society for Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA).

The Workshop was convened by IUCN – The World Conservation Union, in collal(o)7.(o)-4.8Cbacs5l6D-0.0 i.s5i(c)-Thewi Financial Services and the Baum Foundation.

Key messages arising from the workshop: Resilience principles are emerging as an important paradigm for understanding and managing complex ecosystems and the interactions between

- MPA and coral reef management strategies and approaches should be adaptive, and responsive to results and findings from monitoring programmes as well as science findings;
- Capacity should be built in the region to strengthen coral reef resilience science and management applications, through the Resilience Partnership, its members, and other institutions as appropriate.
- Countries should develop supportive policies for adaptive management of marine ecosystems and the resilience approach, to facilitate the use of resistance/resilience principles in the design and management of MPAs, MPA networks, and their related marine resources

The Coral Reef Experts Group Meeting was organized 19-20 January 2007 in Bentota, Sri Lanka, under the theme "Resilience of ecosystems and natural resource dependent coastal communities in the face of climate change and large-scale perturbations". The objectives of the meeting were to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange on applying resilience principles in management among key coral reef experts in the region; as well as to develop, define and prioritize regional and national/local resilience projects for implementation.

The meeting was convened by IUCN Global Marine Programme and Coastal Ocean Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), in collaboration with National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency Sri Lanka (NARA) and with generous support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland as well as the MacArthur Foundation.

The Experts Group Meeting brought together eleven scientists and managers from five countries in South Asia and the Andaman Sea: Indonesia, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and