

## **Project Update: December 2010**

The measure of sea grass used in monitoring is an estimate of the percentage area within a quadrat that is covered by vegetation. Those estimates are made by visually comparing the cover observed in the quadrat with photographic standards. Standards of *Halophila ovalis* cover were developed by taking photographs of the sea grass within quadrats over a range of densities and estimating the percent coverage using image analysis techniques. Those standards that will give results of a consistent quality for continued monitoring at this site, and others like it.

The local community supports and understands the monitoring process. However, participation in regular monitoring has been less than hoped. Villagers are most interested in conserving species that they harvest from the meadow, such as sea cucumbers and conch. They hope to establish a no-take zone which will protect those resources from overexploitation, and this will be the focus of further work at the site.