

-CORALINA-

GEF project

CARIBBEAN ARCHIPELAGO BIOSPHERE RESERVE: REGIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM

Partnership Collaborative Visit - CORALINA-NOAA -The Ocean Conservancy

Summary Report

This report summarizes the activities carried out during the visit of CORALINA Global Environment Facility (GEF) project team members to the United States of America from Friday, July 6, through Sunday, July 22, at the invitation of the U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA. This visit was part of the collaboration between the International Program Office of NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) and CORALINA, with the support of The Ocean Conservancy as a technical partner in the GEF project. The general objective of this United States - Colombian collaboration is to share National Ocean Service expertise and experience with CORALINA to improve the design and implementation of the regional system of marine protected areas. To move towards this objective, a two-part program was carried out during this visit. Specific goals were to:

- Build CORALINA project team capacity;
- Share alternatives to improve MPA management planning, zoning, monitoring, and enforcement;
- Exchange information, lessons learned, and technologies to encourage stakeholder participation and community support of MPAs.

The two programs were: 1. Marine Protected Area training at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) to learn first-hand how MPAs address issues similar to those confronting CORALINA, and 2. Participation in the NOAA Coastal Zone '01 Conference, including attendance at the International MPA pre-conference workshop.

1. Sponsors:

Sponsors included the International Program Office of the U.S. National Ocean Service, The Ocean Conservancy (formerly known as the Center for Marine Conservation), the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Global Environment Facility through the CORALINA GEF project. The GEF project was responsible for purchasing all airfares for CORALINA staff, expenses related to United States visa procedures, and any additional costs incurred by CORALINA staff in addition to, or in excess of, those assumed by the international sponsors. The Ocean Conservancy provided a total of U.S. \$7,000 for the costs of accommodation, local transportation, and some food while in Florida. This sponsor also sent the MPA coordinator from the Washington office to support the training program and contributed the services of their Key West branch office. FKNMS provided all staff time, equipment, vessels, facilities, educational materials, etc. for the training program (Program 1). The International

Program Office of the US National Ocean Service covered conference and workshop registration fees, accomodation, and expenses for the attendees at Coastal Zone '01 (Program 2).

2. Participants:

Members of the GEF project team who traveled to the United States were:

Marion Wiles Howard, MPA Project Coordinator
Elizabeth Taylor, Director of the Environmental Management Department

Evans Baldonado, Community Promoter
Dianira Calderon, Communications Specialist
Maio Chiquillo, Marine Biologist
Ayin Connolly, Lawyer
Ernesto Connolly, Economist
Martha Ines Garcia, Marine Biologist
Juan Camilo Martinez, Marine Field Assistant
Giovanna Peñaloza, Engineer
Cesar Robinson, Education Specialist

3. Schedules:

Program 1. Marine Protected Area training

The MPA system for the San Andres archipelago shares many aspects with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (the multiple-use plan was actually modeled on that marine protected area), so a collaborative activity with the National Ocean Service was a mentorship program on site at FKNMS. This visit enabled CORALINA staff to learn first-hand about MPA administration and management, zoning, monitoring, enforcement, mooring buoys, and education and outreach.

To accomplish the wide range of activities scheduled for the first week, participants were divided into working groups based on their areas of expertise. During the second week, the two participants in Program 2 were not at FKNMS and the remaining participants were trained in a single group. July 6-7 and 21-22 were spent travelling. En route to FKNMS on July 7, the project team visited the Biscayne Bay National Park, while July 8 was an internal project team orientation and tour of the lower Keys. A site visit to Looe Key Reef took place on July 14, and July 15 was a free day.

a) *Pre-training*

FRIDAY July 6	SATURDAY July 7	SUNDAY July 8
9:00 Meet El Dorado Airport, Bogota, to travel to Miami	10:00 Depart for FKNMS 11:00 Biscayne Bay National Park 4:00 Arrive FKNMS	10:00 AM - 8 PM Lower Keys tour and Key West

b) *Training by area of expertise*

MONDAY July 9	TUESDAY July 10	WEDNESDAY July 11	THURSDAY July 12	FRIDAY July 13
2:00 Educators - FKNMS education and outreach programs Researchers - FKNMS research and monitoring programs 7:00 Welcome dinner	10:00 Managers - FKNMS enforcement Researchers - Florida Marine Research Institute monitoring programs Educators - Stakeholder meeting with local dive shop 1:30 Managers - FKNMS policy, administration, and budget Researchers - Mote Marine Laboratory Center for Tropical Research Educators- FKNMS volunteer and community programs 8:00 Meeting with The Ocean Conservancy rep	9:00 Welcome and briefings (FKNMS Upper Region office) 9:30 Managers - Upper Region management issues Researchers - FKNMS mooring buoy system Educators - Key education programs 11:00 - 4 PM Field activities Managers - Law enforcement Researchers - Mooring buoys Educators- Team Ocean 8:00 Meeting with NOS International Program Office rep	7:00 Researchers - Lobster monitoring in the field (all day) 10:00 Managers and educators- Welcome and briefings (FKNMS Lower Region office) 10:15 Managers - Lower Region management issues Educators - FKNMS media and outreach issues 12:00 - 4 PM Field activities Managers - Team Ocean Educators- Law enforcement	8:30 FKNMS science and management 10:30 Managers and researchers - National Undersea Research Center Educators and economist - John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park 12:00 - 4 PM Site visit to Key Largo reefs 12:00 Program 2 participants - Everglades National Park

c) Group training

MONDAY July 16	TUESDAY July 17	WEDNESDAY July 18	THURSDAY July 19	FRIDAY July 20
Everglades National Park (all day)	FKNMS Damage Assessment and Restoration Program	Lower Keys dive sites and snorkel tour	Lignumvitae and Indian Key State Botanical Sites Windley Key State Geological Site	Meeting with The Ocean Conservancy partners - VP David Guggenheim and Key West office manager Farewell dinner

Program 2. International MPA Workshop and Coastal Zone '01

a) Pre-conference International MPA Workshop

SATURDAY July 14	SUNDAY July 15	MONDAY July 16
AM		
7:00 Depart Miami International Airport for Cleveland	7:30 Depart for Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve 9:00 Science and Management at Old Woman Creek NERR	8:00 Review and continued program 8:45 Case studies 10:30 Break out groups
Lunch		
	11:30 International exchange	12:00 International exchange
PM		
2:00 Registration 3:00 Welcome 3:30 General introduction of participants 4:15 Workshop structure, methods, and objectives	1:00 Expert panel - Stakeholder/sectoral perspectives on the role of science for MPA management 2:15 Site visit to Sheldon Reserve 4:30 International reception at Old Woman Creek NERR	1:00 Break out groups continue 2:00 Break out group reports and plenary discussion of results 4.00 Summary and closing

b) Coastal Zone '01

MONDAY July 16	TUESDAY July 17	WEDNESDAY July 18	THURSDAY July 19	FRIDAY July 20
AM				
(Pre-conference workshops and field trips)	8:30 Welcome 9:00 Plenary - Sustainable coastal communities 11:00 Concurrent sessions	8:30 Plenary - Maritime transportation and commerce 11:00 Concurrent sessions	9:00 Plenary - People and the coast 11:00 Concurrent sessions 12:00 Special session - UNCED Rio +10	8:45 Depart Cleveland International for Miami
Lunch				
	12:30 Working lunch (Energy and the Environment)	12:00 Working lunch (International exchange)	1 PM Working lunch (UNCED Rio +10)	
PM				
4:00 Registration 5:30 Welcome reception 7:00 FKNMS evaluation meeting	2:00 Concurrent sessions 4:00 Concurrent sessions 7:00 Reception	2:00 Concurrent sessions 4:00 Concurrent sessions 8:00 MPA practitioners dinner	2:00 Concurrent sessions 4:00 Concurrent sessions 7:00 Closing reception	

4. Activities:

Program 1

a) Office training and program sessions -

- Project team
 - Overview of US National Sanctuary System and FKNMS
 - Science and management in the Florida Keys and South Florida
 - Damage assessment and restoration
- Managers
 - Introduction to education and outreach programs
 - Law enforcement
 - Policy, administration, and budget
 - Upper Region management issues
 - Lower Region management issues
 - Rapid Assessment monitoring (with researchers)
- Researchers
 - Introduction to research and monitoring programs

Fisheries, conch, and lobster monitoring
Coral research and coral disease monitoring
Mooring buoy system
Rapid Assessment monitoring

- Educators
Volunteer programs and stakeholder/community involvement
Coral reef classroom and teacher grant programs
Outreach and media issues

b) Field training -

- Managers
Law enforcement
Team OCEAN
Active restoration site
- Researchers
Mooring buoys
Lobster monitoring
Zoning and reef management
- Educators
Team OCEAN
Law enforcement
Zoning and reef management

c) Site visits -

- FKNMS
Headquarters (Marathon, FL)
Upper Keys Regional Office (Key Largo, FL)
Lower Keys Regional Office (Key West)
Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary
Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary
Key West National Wildlife Refuge
Sand Key, Rock Key, and Eastern Dry Rocks Sanctuary Preservation Areas
Active and completed restoration sites
- Other protected or special management areas
Key Biscayne National Park
Everglades National Park
Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
Bahia Honda State Park
Lignumvitae State Botanical Site
Indian Key State Historical Site
Windley Key State Geological Site
Crane Point Hammock Reserve
Sombrero Beach City Park
Key West Historic District
- Research institutes and museums

Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI), Marathon facility
Mote Marine Laboratory Center for Tropical Research, Summerland Key
National Undersea Research Center (NURC), Key Largo facility
Crane Point Hammock Museum of Natural History and nature trails

- Others
Abyss Pro Dive Center - FKNMS stakeholder

d) Special meetings -

- Evaluation and future planning with The Ocean Conservancy (Cheri Recchia)
- Future planning with the NOS International Program Office (Leah Bunce)
- Economist session on FKNMS budget methods
- Economist session on financial administration

Program 2

a) Program sessions (presentations and panels) -

- International MPA Workshop
Science and management at Old Woman Creek NERR
Stakeholder perspectives on the role of science in MPA management
MPA case studies from Indonesia
- CZ '01
Sustainable coastal communities (Cleveland, Virginia, South Africa)
Meeting energy needs of expanding coastal populations
Maritime transportation and commerce (The Ocean Conservancy, New York Port Authority, US Coast Guard)
People and the coast (New York, Palau, North Carolina, South Africa)
UNCED: Rio plus 10 and pre-conference meetings

b) Participation in concurrent sessions -

- Marine protected areas: Policy issues
Current trends in the planning and management of MPAs
What is the MPA Executive Order?
Legal and policy challenges of MPAs
Toward a new ocean wilderness: Marine reserves from the grassroots to the federal level
- Watershed management
Coastal conservation in St. Lucia
Watershed planning in the Puget Sound basin: In search of the perfect process
- International shipping. the law, problems, and solutions
Navigating the legal framework for regulation of vessel source pollution
From sea to shining sea
- Mainstreaming gender into coastal management programs
Coastal Resources Center (CRC) Program at the University of Rhode Island
Gender issues at NOAA

International panel from Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, Indonesia, and Fiji

- Maritime transportation
 - Regulation of floating billboards
 - Protecting Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas: A review of IMO's new PSSA guidelines
 - Liquefied natural gas (LGN) transportation: Overview of risk mitigation
 - Creation of a national track ticket chart book: Replacement of the NOAA small craft chart
- Coastal megacities: Growth through smart policies
 - Lagos: A coastal megacity in the Sub-Sahara crying for revitalized management policies
 - Coastal zone management issues in Kenya's urban centers
 - Maputo city development and the environment
 - Dakar: A coastal megacity in Senegal
 - Survey on the processes of the Amazon estuary changes by anthropogenic action and coastal management
 - Protecting West African coastal harbors for maritime transportation and commerce: Impacts on coastal systems
- Implementation of the Global Program of Action (GPA): What have we done, what are we doing, and where are we heading?
 - Implementing the GPA for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities: Current state of affairs and the way forward
 - GPA? Regional agreements? Now what do we do? A Caribbean perspective
 - Partnerships: A creative approach on trial in the Russian arctic and Sub-Saharan Africa
 - GPA North American lessons learned: Gulf of Maine and Bight of the Californias
- Human dimension: Cultural and traditional practices
 - Native Hawaiian access rights project
 - How to infuse cultural practices in coastal management: Experience of Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Integrated coastal zone management policy development
 - Towards a coherent national coastal zone policy framework for Indonesia
 - Experience in formulating a national integrated coastal policy: Learning by doing - the Tanzania experience

c) Site visits -

- Old Women Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Sheldon State Reserve
- Cleveland waterfront restoration zone

d) Special meetings -

- UNEP programs in the Caribbean region (Timothy Kasden, UNEP - Caribbean)
- UNEP programs at the global level (Dixon Waruinge, UNEP - Africa)
- PSSA application to IMO - development and procedure (Lindy Johnson, NOAA Office of General Counsel for International Law)
- Future planning with the NOS International Program Office (Leah Bunce)
- Training evaluation and future planning with FKNMS (Leah Bunce, Joanne Delaney)
- International information exchanges on coastal/marine and cultural issues (6)

- Water quality planning and action plan development (Steve Tilley, Puget Sound WQAP)

5. Outputs:

- a) Trip reports
- b) International MPA Workshop summary report: How science contributes to successful MPA management
- c) International MPA practitioners electronic mailing list

6. Conclusions:

- a. *General.* Overall the experience was very positive for all participants and should be very beneficial for the success of the MPA project and functioning of the team. In addition to the exposure to protected area management and operations, visiting a foreign country and observing aspects related to coastal and marine resource management such as services and infrastructures, tourism, zoning and planning, etc. demonstrates alternatives and opportunities, stimulating creative problem-solving abilities. The logistics of such a large group are complicated and unnecessarily stressful for the organizers, particularly when regular travel between sites is required. A group that can be easily transported in one vehicle (six would be the recommended number) would be preferable.
- b. *Partnerships.* The relation between CORALINA and MPA project international partners was highlighted in this visit. Existing relationships with The Ocean Conservancy and NOAA's International Program Office are proving to be very productive for CORALINA and were strengthened. A new relationship was developed with FKNMS that should be continued and strengthened in the future with more joint activities. A number of contacts were also established at CZ'01 that could prove to be very beneficial for CORALINA, providing technical, financial, information-sharing and partnership opportunities in the future.
- c. *FKNMS training.* This experience was invaluable for all team members. The value of visiting an operational MPA and other functioning protected areas to get an actual picture cannot be over-emphasized. It was also helpful to see the inter-relation of independent management units and coordination of overlapping jurisdictions. The staff of FKNMS had organized a productive and interesting training program. Comments from participants have been relayed to FKNMS following internal evaluation meetings. Comments were uniformly positive although it was felt that more one-on-one training would be advantageous, if it is a possibility given time constraints and work pressures of FKNMS staff. A number of lessons learned are applicable to the situation in the archipelago as the situations, issues and constraints had more in common than anticipated.
- d. *CZ'01.* The interactions with coastal and marine practitioners from around the world was productive and helps support CORALINA's mandate as well as the MPA project. A number of useful contacts were carried out and the attendees met with representatives from UNEP, UNESCO, NOAA's International Program and Law Offices, and a number of people who have or in the process of setting up MPAs around the world. A mailing list was set up so it is hoped that participants will continue to share experiences and information.

- e. *Future collaborations.* The partnership between CORALINA and the Ocean Conservancy is continuing with the next major joint activity being a research expedition to the Northern Cays MPA, tentatively scheduled for March, 2002. Next steps were also discussed with the National Ocean Service's International Program Office. A training program in socioeconomic and GIS application to marine zoning is tentatively scheduled at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, in October. Ways to continue and strengthen the partnership with FKNMS were discussed. Options under consideration are a visit from FKNMS staff to CORALINA, an extended training by one or more CORALINA researchers at FKNMS, and a follow-up training in coral restoration and/or other areas in which FKNMS has world-class expertise. The possibility of "sister" reserve affiliation between the Old Point Regional Mangrove Park and the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Cape Cod Massachusetts, was discussed with the manager and will be further explored. Information was received about the Oceans and Coasts at Rio +10 conference to be held at UNESCO in Paris from 3-7 December. Participation by CORALINA is considered to be a priority.

7. Attachments:

- a) Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - training program itinerary
- b) Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - site map
- c) CZ '01 Pre-conference international training workshop - information and schedule
- d) Individual participant reports