



Convention on
Biological Diversity



CCAD

COMISIÓN CENTROAMERICANA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO



PACIFIC CENTRAL AMERICAN EXPERT
WORKSHOP FOR MARINE CONSERVATION
AND SUSTAINABILITY

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INPUTS IN PREPARATION OF CBD-CCAD REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Existing Regional Sustainable Marine Conservation Initiatives in Central America

I. Central American Integration System

Under the Central American Integration System (SICA), two Regional Policies were recently updated (CCAD and COCATRAM), and one is currently under validation process (OSPESCA). These Policies offer opportunities to generate joint proposals to promote conservation and management of marine resources in Central America. The following paragraphs contain a brief description of each Policy and the most relevant marine topics.

a. Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD): Regional Environmental Strategy, 2015-2020

The Regional Environmental Strategy 2015-2020, prepared by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), recognizes that biodiversity is critical for goods and services that are vital to local, national and Regional economies.

The Strategy includes a line of action on forests, oceans and biodiversity, which recognizes the ecosystem benefits of terrestrial, marine and coastal natural resources. It also considers strategic actions in conservation, participatory management and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources; recovery of vulnerable species and ecosystems; contribution to marine spatial planning processes; promoting the valuation of environmental goods and services; among others.

b. Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM): Maritime Strategy Central Regional Port

The Regional Maritime Port Strategy, driven by COCATRAM, promotes actions for the development and strengthening of the Maritime Administrations in the Central American countries. It seeks to adopt a Regional Maritime Policy, and visualize the protection of the marine environment into relevant general policies on environmental, social and national economic development.

The Maritime Administrations are urged to intensify regional cooperation between them; expand their capacity to effectively protect the marine environment; promote the establishment of Regional Cooperation Agreements to combat pollution of the marine environment, among other elements.

Training and capacity building is another element present in the COCATRAM Strategy, encouraging technical cooperation between the Maritime and Port Authorities at national, regional and extra-regional level, including public, academic and private sectors, on issues of their competence.

The Strategy indicates that States should ensure the protection, preservation, conservation and sustainable exploitation of maritime areas and marine resources. It calls for coordination among the different national sectors involved in the task of protecting the marine environment; attract and facilitate international cooperation for Central America to support efforts on marine environmental protection; and develop a regional integrated coastal management program which includes the integration of fisheries.

- c. *Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA): Policy For Integration of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Central America*
OSPESCA developed the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy in 2005, currently being updated. This Policy is applicable both in territorial waters and international waters to fishing fleets with Central American flags.

One of its specific objectives is the integration of regional actions to strengthen cooperation and ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in terms of biological, economic, social and environmental terms. It also notes the Regional Responsibility as one of its guiding principles, stating that the management of aquatic ecosystems and the use of migratory fish species is a joint responsibility among States.

In regards to fishing in the high seas, the Policy notes that an increasing involvement of international investors with fleets flying Central American countries flags are engaged in tuna and other highly migratory species fisheries. Distant fishing is an activity under development in the Region and coordinated management with a regional approach is highlighted.

- i. OSPESCA has developed the following regional initiatives:
1. Homogenization of fish products identification and certification of landing forms, in relation to sharks and other pelagic species.
 2. Annual Lobster closed season in the Central American Caribbean.
 3. Use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in the shrimp fleet.
 4. Regional Action Plan (2011) for shark fisheries management.
 5. Adoption of Regulation OSP-05-11 (2012) to prohibit the practice of shark finning in member States of SICA.

II. *Regional Seas Program – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

A project on navigation and ports in a joint agenda with COCATRAM (2009) is contained in the Action Plan for the Northeast Pacific (Mexico to Colombia).

<http://www.pnuma.org/gobernanza/cd/Conferencias/3%20Jueves%207/Programa%20de%20Mares%20Regionales%20Plan%20de%20Acci%F3n.pdf>

III. *Cousteau Observatory and capacity building of regional links*

Capacity building and coordination between regional links from the Cousteau Observatory is a valuable opportunity to generate and share information/regional biological research to support

management and conservation actions for migratory species: <http://institutfrancais-ifac.com/?p=1529&lang=es>

IV. *United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*

The USAID Regional Program on Management of Water Resources and Economic Alternatives (2014), focuses on three lines of action: 1. Sustainable shark fisheries; 2. Adaptation to Climate Change; 3. Action protocols and systems for compliance of coastal marine legislation:

http://www.cocatram.org.ni/repica36/3_Programa%20Regional%20USAID%20para%20Manejo%20de%20Recursos%20Acuaticos%20y%20Alternativas%20Economicas_Nestor_Wildevoxhel.pdf

V. *Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission*

IATTC Resolution C-11-10 prohibits the marketing of oceanic white tip shark, applicable to members of IATTC.

VI. *International Conventions: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Action Plans and regulations*

CoP Resolutions and updated Appendices establish initiatives/regulations for the management and conservation of cetaceans, turtles, sharks, rays and other marine species:

<http://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/app/2015/E-Appendices-2015-02-05.pdf>
http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Appendices_COP11_E.pdf

VII. *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB):*

The IDB, in partnership with the GEF, is advancing innovative approaches for pollution mitigation and water resources conservation in international waters. This partnership is also working to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management into social and development objectives, which includes projects in Central America with an emphasis on marine conservation.

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=35174856>

VIII. *Blue Solutions*

a. *Achieving Marine and Coastal Sustainable Development Solutions*

Across our planet ocean, multiple examples of inspiring “blue solutions” which successfully help overcome challenges to sustainable development and human well-being in the marine and coastal realm can be found. The Blue Solutions Initiative promotes the active sharing of solutions that:

<http://bluesolutions.info/>

- i. address marine and coastal challenges
- ii. are effective: applied solutions with demonstrated impact
- iii. are scalable: elements of solutions have the potential for upscaling or replication in other contexts. Initiatives include:

1. [Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management \(BIOPAMA\)](#)
2. [Building Capacity for Coastal EBA in SIDS](#)
3. [Ecosystem-based Adaptation Decision Support Framework](#)

4. [Integrated Marine and Coastal Environment and Resource Management for Human Well-being](#)
5. [Marine Protected Area Governance \(MPAG\)](#)
6. [TEEB for Oceans and Coasts](#)

IX. Food and Agriculture Organization Initiatives (FAO)

- a. Work in the Deep-Sea High Seas: The Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Ecosystems in the Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) – is an initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility and often referred to as Common Oceans. www.commonoceans.org
 - i. ABNJ sub-projects:
 1. [Sustainable management of tuna fisheries & biodiversity](#)
 2. [Sustainable use of deep-sea living resources & biodiversity](#)
 3. [Oceans Partnership for sustainable fisheries & biodiversity conservation](#)
 4. [Strengthening global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ](#)
- b. Support for the implementation of the International Guidelines on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas – supported by Norway. This project provides capacity development to regional management organizations and the main fishing States to implement and develop appropriate management measures for (a) sustainable fisheries, (b) the protection of marine biodiversity and (c) the conservation of marine living resources.
- c. Fisheries Management and Marine Conservation within a Changing Ecosystem Context Deep-sea fisheries component – supported by Japan. Within the context of a larger project, this component aims at developing technical guidance on best practices in the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas.
- d. The Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) Database (Développement d’une banque de données sur les écosystèmes marins vulnérables en haute mer) – supported by France

This project will create a space for the collection, description, analysis and publication of all data relevant to existing, emerging or potential vulnerable marine ecosystems. It will comprise documents, maps and tables and will form a tool for facilitating Guideline implementation. The database will be developed in collaboration with deep-sea regional management organizations, the scientific community and industry. A VME network will also be established to act as a forum to discuss scientific issues, data sources and exchange mechanisms.

- e. Fisheries management and marine conservation within a changing ecosystem context <http://www.fao.org/fishery/mpas/en>

X. United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

As our nearest neighbor, Latin America and the Caribbean share with the United States many marine species, in both targeted fisheries and by-catch. The United States works through regional fisheries management organizations, intergovernmental bodies such as the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Exit and OSPESCA Exit (the regional organization for the fisheries sector of Central America), and through direct engagement with other countries

and non-governmental organizations to promote science-based fisheries management and conservation in the region.

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/international_development/latin_america/latin_america.html

XI. Red de Fondos Ambientales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (RedLac): PACÍFICO Platform

This is a lead of five RedLAC's members: FAN Ecuador, Fondo Patrimonio Natural (Colombia), Fondo Acción (Colombia), Fundación Natura (Panama) and the Forever Costa Rica Association. In this lead, its integrants work together for the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Tropical Pacific's eastern region.

<http://redlac.org/english/projects/>

XII. Organisation of American States (OAS): Water Resources Programme

In conformity with the mandates of OAS member states, the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment (USDE) is engaged in several projects on transboundary water resource management in partnership with UNEP, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in major river basin of South and Central America. The Unit is the secretariat for the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN) - see below - and serves on the Board of Governors of the World Water Council. USDE is also collaborating with the Pan American Health Organization to organize inter-American conference on the link between water and health.

<http://www.oas.org/usde/waterresources.htm>

XIII. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): World Commission on Protected Areas – Central American Program

The Central American Program responds to the needs of the Regional System of Protected Areas and those of the WCPA network itself. For the next two years the following priorities have been identified:

- a. Networking: the commission will work on identifying new leaders in each of the seven countries to add new members to this network in the region. The commission must improve its membership in the next two years.
- b. Cooperation with the IUCN Regional Office: work with ORMA will contribute to design, and implementation of new projects to increase the capacity of the region in properly managing the growing threats to protected areas in Central America.

There is a great need to work on issues such as:

1. Methods to evaluate the effectiveness of Management in Protected Areas (Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras and Guatemala);
2. Analysis of better options to promote and facilitate comanagement arrangements of Protected Areas (Belize, Guatemala, Panama and Nicaragua);
3. Policy development about indigenous peoples and protected areas (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama); and
4. Environmental services for protected areas (Costa Rica, Panamá, Guatemala, and El Salvador)

https://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_wcpa/gpap_wcparegion/gpap_centralamerica/

Projects in the region

I. LifeWeb Projects in the region

- a. Costa Rica
 - i. Forever Costa Rica: <http://lifeweb.cbd.int/project?id=760EC52B-9AF4-8316-8215-C716B33DE8FB>
- b. Honduras:
 - i. Sustainable Management of Coastal Marine Resources of 6 Protected Areas of the Honduran Caribbean: <http://lifeweb.cbd.int/project?id=0F6D15BC-D5C8-7775-B1F2-8B69CD439E92>
 - ii. Conservation and integral management of mangrove ecosystems of three protected areas in the Atlantic coast of Honduras: <http://lifeweb.cbd.int/project?id=23B432C4-A238-8D63-973B-E6B5C05F5242>
 - iii. National Program for the Strengthening of the National Protected Areas System of Honduras - Consolidation of the National Protected Areas System (LifeWeb): <http://lifeweb.cbd.int/project?id=B98E459E-F115-9762-4D5C-D6169FC11862>
- c. Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning of Mammal Corridors and Protected Areas (Spain-UNEP Partnership for LifeWeb): <http://unep.org/lifeweb/marine-mammals.asp>

II. Other Projects:

The countries of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico in coordination with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) submitted the project concept titled Integrated Transboundary Ridges-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef for funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). As part of the revision and approval of its May 2014 Work Program, GEF approved the project concept. <https://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10595>