



“Año del Fortalecimiento del Estado Social y Democrático de Derecho”



INTRODUCTION:

The Dominican Republic (D.R), part of the Hispaniola island alongside the nation of Haiti, is the second largest island of the Greater Antilles; it's total area, including adjacent islands, is 48,670 km². The coastline extends some 1,668 km. and has an exclusive economic zone covering 238,000 km². The littoral zone is defined as a public asset, and includes a strip of 60 meters from high tide.

In the D.R. there is a close relationship between the socio-economic aspect and the coastal marine area. Historically, coastal areas have been the primary focus of urban development and tourism. These areas are the most populous and economically productive of the country; 70% of Dominican cities with over 10,000 inhabitants, and 75% of industries are located in coastal marine areas. Out of the 31 provinces, including the National District, 17 have coasts.

Since the mid-60's D.R. has focused the economic and social development towards the use of their coasts for the development of the tourism industry, which is the most important economic activity of the country. Clearly, the future of D.R depends on the conservation and rational management of natural resources in these areas.

The Dominican coasts are characterized by the high biodiversity that is offered by the different coastal marine ecosystems. These diverse ecosystems generate goods, and services that upkeep the socio-economic activities of the respective coastal communities, and therefore it is essential that they are carefully managed.

The National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) is governed by the Protected Areas Sector Act of 2004 (law 202-04). It is laid down as the governing body of the system to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, as created by the General Law of Environment and Natural Resources of 2000 (law 64-00). This Ministry is responsible for managing their resources, establishing policy direction and management and protection of the contiguous zones to regulate the activities and sustainable use of natural resources present. Among the responsibilities of this organism, stand the following: the development of capabilities for managing the security measures, monitoring and control of these ecosystems to ensure long-term preservation. This is reflected in its action plan for coastal and marine areas and in specific conservation actions.

Our vision for biodiversity management is the sustainable use of the various components (genes, species and ecosystems), based on the knowledge of their potential contribution to national development, preserving and protecting species and habitats within a legal framework, as well as institutional efficiency and effectiveness, with the participation of the various sectors involved.

Biophysical characteristics:

The D.R's territorial boundaries occupy a coastal marine portion equivalent to 83% of the island perimeter. The remaining 17% corresponds to the border with the Republic of Haiti.

Within the coastal marine area, the country has an island platform from the coast to 200 meters deep and two submerged offshore banks, equivalent to 11.786Km². As to the rest of the exclusively economic zone we are entitled to, under the terms of the United Nations Convention on the Law of 1982 and our own laws, about 240,000 km².

The coastal marine biodiversity of the D.R is formed by 450 plant species and 1159 animal species. As for the greater animal species, the diversity of fish corresponds to 32%, 27% mollusks, crustaceans with 23%, while the fourth group is made up predominantly of stony and soft corals with 10%. Corals are essential to the development of highly productive coastal ecosystems. Of the 600 km of coastline, approximately 11% of it has coral reef coverage. Coral reefs of the DR include two offshore submerged banks (Banco de la Plata and Banco de la Navidad), two barrier reefs and several fringing reefs.

SOCIO ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Coastal ecosystems provide a wide range of benefits, commercial and non-commercial, for society. Many of these benefits, called "environmental goods and services," are of high value and critical to national and local economies across the Caribbean region.

The economy of the insular Caribbean region depends heavily on tourism, which accounts for about 15% of gross domestic product of the area, 13% of their jobs and 18% of export earnings (WTTC 2009th) Among the main features that have made the Caribbean Islands destinations for tourists are the tropical climate and wide sandy beaches (Beekhuis 1981; Uyarra et al. 2005; Cambers 2009), which's white sand originates from the adjacent coral reefs (Thorpe 1935, UNEP / GPA 2003).

International tourism in the Dominican Republic generates 37% of total export earnings of the country (WTTC 2009b), which is concentrated in two regions: the Southeast, which includes the towns of Playa Bavaro, Punta Cana, Bayahibe and La Romana, and the northern region, which includes Puerto Plata and Cabarete. In addition, the municipalities of Boca Chica and Juan

Dolio, located east of the capital (Santo Domingo), and the Samana Peninsula in the northeast, are expanding as tourist centers. Almost half of all hotel rooms in the coastal regions belong to the hotels "all inclusive" (Coles 2004). These hotels are usually located by the sea, and contain a large number of services for clients, including sports, cultural events and a variety of restaurants. Guests of the "all inclusive" hotels spend most of their stay (the average stay is 1-2 weeks) on the beach and in hotels (Coles 2004).

The beach quality plays an important role in the selection as a travel destination for a large number of international tourists (Market and Lassoie 2002, Coles 2004). In a survey conducted in 1999 (BCRD 2000) at international airports in the country, "the quality of the beaches" is designated as the main reason for visiting the D.R.

In recent years, the beaches in the D.R as well as other Caribbean countries have experienced accelerated erosion (UNEP / GPA 2003). This long-term loss of beaches is different from the natural cycles of sand erosion and deposition. The causes of this loss are human impacts such as interference with natural coastal processes by overbuilding in coastal areas, activities that contribute to the degradation of coral reefs, and emissions of greenhouse gases, that in turn contribute to global warming and rising sea levels (Cambers 1999). Ultimately, the long-term solution for the erosion of beaches in the D.R depends on the policies to protect coastal ecosystems nationally as well as internationally.

The marine fisheries of the D.R register a total of about 9,000 active fishermen. This is a small-scale industry, which sell 99% of their landings in the country. For local fishermen, the gross income from fishing on the reefs with dependence has fallen by almost a 60% during the last decade. Protecting coral reefs and mangroves is vital to the welfare of fishing communities that depend on these resources for their livelihoods.

The Caleta Underwater National Park is 22 miles from Santo Domingo, and just 3 miles from Las Americas International Airport. Because the health of their reefs and the many cultural resources (shipwrecks) present, the park has become a popular dive spot (SCUBA) for local and international tourists. The area around the park is also important for fisheries, which has traditionally been a source of food and income for people living in the community of La Caleta and its surroundings. In recent years, this park has suffered from overfishing, which threatens the livelihoods of local fishermen. In response to this problem, the fishermen have begun to explore the potential of the tourism industry, and established an aquatic center to provide recreational activities in the park, and have fishing as a second alternative.

The protection of coastal and marine ecosystems provide short and long term cost-benefit solutions to the problems of coastal erosion, fisheries, protection of natural disaster and scenic beauty.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS.

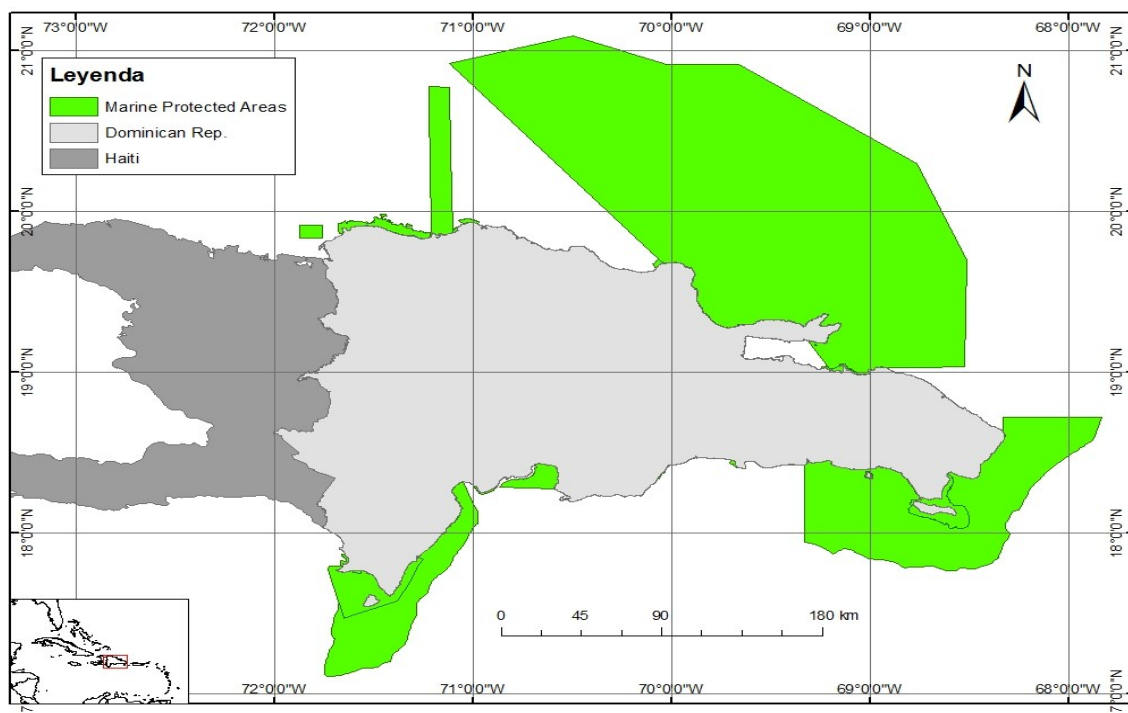
In the D.R protected areas have a constitutional protection, which are declared inalienable, indefeasible and imprescriptible. The National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) is a set of natural areas, coordinated within their management categories, and possess characteristics as well as precise and specialized management objectives. The goal is for SINAP's administration to function as if it were a single unit, respecting their particularities.

The SINAP consists of 123 protected areas, including 33 areas declared by presidential decree No.571 of 2009. It covers approximately 46,669 km ². of coastal marine area, located throughout the country, and identified in eight categories of which 33 have marine components. Among the strategic management components are the following:

- Environmental Education Program at a national level.
- Strategic partnerships with multilateral organizations to strengthen the capacities of the human resources.
- Implementation of co-management agreement for protected areas.
- Institutional support materials and equipment.
- Protection for monitoring and control of the protected space.
- Inter-agency strategy partnerships with international and local NGOs.
- Financial sustainability.

- Effectiveness of management.

- Promotion of private and municipal PA.



Map of the MPAs of the D.R.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

No.	Name	surface km ²	
		Terrestrial	Marine
1	SMM Bancos de la Plata y la Navidad		32,912.89
2	SMM Estero Hondo	22.59	1,113.54
3	SM Arrecifes del Sureste		7,860.65
4	SM Arrecifes del Suroeste		2,707.41
5	P.N. Sierra Martin García	224.44	16.56
6	P.N. Cabo Cabrón	35.54	0.08
7	P.N. El Morro	18.46	0.03
8	P.N. del Este	414.53	381.86

9	P.N. Jaragua	706.23	829.23
10	P.N. Manglares de Estero Balsa	54.66	1.88
11	P.N. La Hispaniola	27.44	27.39
12	P.N. Francisco A. Caamaño Deñó	288.79	298.71
13	P.N.S. Montecristi	0.29	245.04
14	P.N.S. La Caleta	1.32	9.84
15	M.N. Isla Catalina	9.09	7.14
16	M.N. Cabo Samaná	9.26	0.01
17	M.N. Laguna Gri-Gri	0.68	15.47
18	M.N. Punta Bayahíbe	0.43	1.07
19	R.V.S. Lagunas Redonda y Limón	32.08	0.17
20	R.V.S. Bahía de Luperón	13.21	5.48
21	R.V.S. Manglares del Puerto Viejo	5.73	5.40
22	R.V.S. Cayos Siete Hermanos	0.07	104.78
23	R.V.S. La Gran Laguna o Perucho	3.85	3.47
24	R.V.S. Manglar de la Jina	15.94	36.92
25	R.V.S. Río Soco	9.50	2.27
26	R.V.S. Ría Maimón	3.97	0.83
27	VP Carretera Nagua-Sanchez y Nagua-Cabrera	17.50	0.02
28	ANR Bahía de Las Águilas	21.90	17.99
29	ANR Playa de Cabo Rojo - Pedernales	21.90	17.99
30	Playa Larga	21.90	17.99
31	Playa Blanca	21.90	17.99
32	ANR Guaraguao – Punta Catuano	12.80	5.82

33	ANR Boca de Nigua	2.48	3.33
	Total marine surface.		46,669.26

Reading: SMM = Marine Mammal Sanctuary-PN = National Park-PNS = Underwater park-MN = Natural monument-RVS = Wildlife Refuge-VP = Panoramic Way-ANR = National Recreation Area

FINANCING.

Law 64-00, in Article 27, provides instruments for environmental and natural resource management. Among these instruments the article establishes in its paragraph 12, the National Fund for Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA Fund), specifically in Article 71, states: "It creates the National Fund for Environment and Natural Resources to develop and finance programs and projects for the protection, conservation, research, education, restoration, and sustainable use, with legal personality, independent and self-administered equity, with jurisdiction throughout the national territory. " The same notes that consists of: "the resources from the granting of environmental licenses and permits, equal to 25% of the royalties for grants or contracts for exploration and exploitation of natural resources, fines for environmental violations, payment of fees for environmental services, the proceeds of the auction or public sale of goods and confiscated illegal because it was used in environmental, for national and international donations given for that purpose, for goods and bequests as are granted by the budget that devoted to it in the national budget of the nation.

ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS RELATED WITH MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT.

As an island nation, RD is highly vulnerable to the effects of global climate change. Together with the other Caribbean countries is part of one of the 5 areas of the planet with greater risks to the CC.

In order to respond to the phenomenon of CC D.R systematically developed the following specific activities:

- acquired international commitments with the ratification and implementation of agreements, protocols, related to the CC.
- Support, coordination and funding agencies and financial impacts on the topic of CC, national and international (USAID, UN, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, ECLAC, TNC).
- Training opportunities at universities and institutes working in CC.
- Program characterization of coastal marine ecosystems. (3 coastal provinces).
- Coastal reforestation program. In 2011 11. 020 km² areas were reforested.
- Clean Program coral reefs.
- Declaration of Ramsar sites.

There is still a strategy focusing exclusively on mitigation to cc, there are bureaucratic offices at the central level are the lead agency for climate change issues (National Council for Climate D.R no regulatory legal framework for CC, which becomes a legal vacuum that must be solved.

MAIN RESEARCH PROGRAM, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPED MPAs.

Conservation of nesting beaches of sea turtles in the Dominican Republic: relation to the sustainable development of local communities. "Particularly in the Jaragua National Park, Catalina Island and the Eastern National Park. (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Group Jaragua).

Integrating the Management Communities Jaragua National Park. (Grupo Jaragua)

Sustainable Fishing Practices, Tourism and Economic Alternatives for Coastal Communities of the Southern Region of the country. (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Reef Check Dominican CaMPAM UNEP).

Sustainable Practices for the Conservation of Marine Protected Areas. (CaMPAM, UNEP, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, GFCI)

Training for employees in the regional MPA management for island countries associated with the Caribbean Challenge. (CaMPAM, UNEP, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources).

Climate change and the integrity of biodiversity in protected areas in southeast of D.R, "this is a research component, biological and oceanographic (FUNDEMAR).

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