



# Organization of American States

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November 5, 2013

**TO:** Permanent Mission of Mexico  
To the Organization of American States

**FROM:** Richard Huber  
Chief, Biodiversity, Lands, and Sustainable Cities Section  
Department of Sustainable Development  
Executive Secretary for Integral Development (SEDI)  
Organization of American States (OAS)

**RE:** ReefFix: An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Ecosystem Services  
Valuation and Capacity Building Project for the Caribbean  
3rd Draft Progress Report - Period: July-October 2013

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Out of 8 case studies, 5 were completed to the draft stage and are under review by the Governments involved for follow-up activities, implementation, and phase 2 requests. The OAS DSD is leading a partnership to develop case studies to assist Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean in economic valuation of coastal ecosystems, cost recovery mechanisms, and management and expansion of their protected areas network. Project partners identified the key coastal policy questions for the region, and TORs were developed accordingly based on a demand analysis lead by the specific Country.

## II. OBJECTIVE

**ReefFix** is an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) tool that works with SIDS to complete stakeholder analysis and socio-economic valuation with a view towards improving oversight of marine resources to meet commitments made by SIDS to increase coverage and effective management. **ReefFix** has multi-level linkages that trains participating countries in (i) ecosystem goods and services valuation methodologies (ii) cost effective interventions to improve marine ecosystem health, and (iii) revenue raising techniques of cost recovery and user pays/polluter pays principles. In this process, ReefFix will use and develop cost-effective techniques that can be replicated throughout the wider Caribbean that will include capacity building exercises and a workshop to disseminate preliminary results and disseminate lessons learned and best practices.

## III. STATUS OF PROJECT DESIGN AND GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

The following countries 8 countries responded to the 3rd person diplomatic note sent to all CARICOM countries on November 20th, 2012 and TORs and Agreements were drafted. The following webpage is current and highlights advancements in real time. <http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/biodiversity/ReefFix>

Update October 2013. DRAFT reports may be found at

ReefFix: Status Of Project Design And Consultancies				
No.	Country	Lead In Country Contact	Status	Consultant
1	Bahamas	<p>Lakeisha Anderson Park Planner, Bahamas National Trust</p> <p>Lynn Gape Director, Bahamas National Trust</p>	<p>Project 329126-Grand Bahama Marine Park Expansion .</p> <p>This project is almost completed. The 3 marine park proposals were finished in early May and were accepted by the Bahamas National Trust. The first tranche was received by Global Parks. Global Parks has received the summary report on the rapid ecological assessment of the reefs associated with the project by the National Trust and is waiting on the comprehensive report of the rapid ecological assessment from the National Trust that was due May 31 based on field work completed. Once received, Global Parks will submit a request for the second and third tranche as all other deliverables have been prepared.</p>	<p>STUDY COMPLETED Global Parks</p>
2	Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines	<p>Roland A. Baldeo Fisheries Department, Grenada E-mail: rolandbaldeo@hotmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Nelson, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries. tomfinch90@hotmail.com</p> <p>Jeannine Compton-Antoine, Director Soufriere Marine Management Association Tel: 758-459-5500/5904 Fax: 758-459-7799 smma@candw.lc</p>	<p><b>MPA Enforcement Workshop</b> <b>Description:</b> The MPA enforcement training increased the capacity for, and effectiveness of MPA enforcement. It trained head rangers in best practices for MPA enforcement, giving them hands-on training in practical enforcement skills and equipping them to better protect their MPAs' coral reef ecosystems. A reduction in infractions and threats through improved enforcement will help ensure the reefs' health and resilience, which is the long term conservation outcome.</p> <p>An assessment and evaluation was carried out to identify and prioritize enforcement needs, goals and objectives through consultation with MPA officials, enforcement officers, judicial system and legal experts and other key stakeholders. The goal of this assessment is to obtain the information necessary to evaluate existing capacity and gaps in enforcement and related education efforts to properly protect the MPA's in and around Grenada. Social-economic, educational and public outreach will be integrated into this assessment, and will identify and prioritize enforcement goals and needs. Outputs of this assessment will be used to guide the design and delivery of training</p> <p><b>Workshop Content:</b> The training was facilitated by <a href="#">MPA Enforcement International</a>, with the involvement of local experts drawn from Grenada's Coast Guard and the Chief Prosecutor.</p>	<p>STUDY COMPLETED Grenada Fund for Conservation</p>

			<p>The workshop was attended by 15 participants including regional participants, participants from 3 Grenada MPAs (Molinere/Beausejour MPA-MBMPA, Sandy Island/Oyster Bed MPA-SIOBMPA, Woburn/Clarke's Court Bay-WCCBMPA) and other key resource persons. The training agenda included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local rules, regulations and law enforcement techniques</li> <li>• Education and outreach including communication skills and community oriented enforcement</li> <li>• Officer safety and arrest</li> <li>• Vessel navigation and proper handling and use of equipment (GPS, radios, other)</li> </ul>	
3	Dominican Republic	<p>Ing. Hector Ivan Gonzalez Brioso Email: deoleo66@hotmail.com</p> <p>Marina Hernandez Encargada Departamento Recursos Genéticos Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales Tel: 809 850 2106 recursos.geneticos@medioambiente.gov.do</p> <p>Sr. José Manuel Mateo Director de Biodiversidad, MARN Jose.Mateo@ambiente.gob.do</p>	<p>The consultant is working with the Ministry of Environment collecting data from tourism, fisheries and biophysical and socioeconomic data on important ecosystems and protected areas in the Samana Peninsula indicating existing management plans with data and maps on visitation, any park with a fee, and different types of inventory tourist visiting the various existing and proposed protected areas of new marine protected areas (eg dive tourism, boating day, etc.).</p> <p>The consultant is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) collecting the necessary data on GIS, maps, ecosystems in and around marine parks, tourism and fisheries data and will complete the two methodologies developed by the World Resources Institute.</li> <li>2.) Expanding the work to the National Park of the East Region Samana proposed as a possible site for the establishment of marine protected area. Use Google Earth maps to increase details / outline of the extension of proposed marine protected areas for the Dominican Republic.</li> <li>3.) Collecting the necessary data on GIS, maps, and ecosystems around the Samana Peninsula recommend marine parks proposed methodologies developed by the World Resources Institute and used in the Rapid Assessment of the economic value of environmental services provided by mangroves and coral reefs and Recommended Steps for the creation of a Marine Protected Area (Rapid Assessment of the Economic Value of Ecosystem Services Provided by Coral Reefs and Mangroves and Recommended Steps for the Creation of a Marine Protected Areas);</li> <li>4.) Conducting a rapid assessment of ecosystem services in the proposed MPA sites within the Samana Peninsula provided by mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds and include biggest marine areas if required extensions included in the System</li> </ol>	<p>STUDY IN PROCESS Enrique Pugibet epugibet@gmail.com</p>

			Plan EEZ / Territorial Seas of most representative marine ecosystems. to meet Caribbean Challenge. 5.) Once the data is complete, a 2-day workshop with stakeholders will be held to analyze and confirm the data and make a field trip to the marine park.	
4	Grenada	<p>Roland A. Baldeo Fisheries Dept. E-mail: rolandbaldeo@hotmail.com</p> <p>Justin Rennie Chief Fisheries Officer Tel: 1 (473) 440-3814 / 3831 / 435-2919 Cell: 1 (473) 405-4356 / 417-5381 E-Mail: justinar7368@hotmail.com</p>	<p>A study of the Beausejour River nutrient and sediment inputs and the impact it may have on the adjacent coral reef system in the Moliniere Beausejour Marine Protected Area (MBMPA) Stakeholder analysis completed through 3 workshops.</p> <p><b>Method:</b> This study sought to assess the impact that discharge coming from the Beausejour and other nearby rivers might be having on adjacent coral reefs. Chemical analyses were conducted on marine and river samples to assess nutrient levels, while sediment traps were deployed to assess sedimentation rates on adjacent coral reefs.</p> <p><b>Key Findings:</b> Several of the sites sampled had remarkably high nutrient concentrations. Mean percentage cover of macroalgae on coral reefs sampled were very high. A sedimentation gradient associated with the Beausejour River mouth was observed. The sources of inputs of sediments and nutrients into the Beausejour River were mainly related to agriculture, land use and domestic activities.</p> <p>This study provides the first data set on nutrients and sediment loading for the protected area and will facilitate further comparison for future studies. More importantly, this study will inform management action aimed at reducing and eliminating as many land-based stressors as possible to increase reef resilience and improve coral health. Through the implementation and enforcement of best agricultural practices, improved sanitation facilities and education, these inputs of sediment and nutrients can be substantially reduced.</p>	<p>STUDY COMPLET ED: Stephen Nimrod snimrod@sg u.edu</p>
5	Haiti	<p>Jean-Francois Thomas docjeanfrancoisthomas@yahoo.fr</p> <p>Martine Elisabeth Mathieu martine_elisabeth.</p>	<p>Several areas of Haiti have been identified as areas of interest for the development of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas. This study is based on the examination of the locations for Haiti's first network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) first proposed by the <i>Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine</i> (FoProBiM, 2000) and includes the sites of: Caracol/Ft. Liberté/Lagons</p>	<p>STUDY COMPLET ED: Jean W. Wiener jeanw@fopr obim.org</p>

mathieu@mde-  
h.gouv.ht  
Ministry of  
Environment  
Tel: (509) 37 17 05  
07 (509) 34 61 48  
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aux Boeufs (Trois Baies), Baie de l'Acul, Gonaïves/Grand Saline, Arcadins, La Gonâve Nord, La Gonâve Sud, Banc des Rochelois, Baradères/Cayemites, and Ile-à-Vaches/Aquin. On August 7, 2013, just prior to the release of this report, the Haitian government through a decision of its Council of Ministers designated an expanded delimitation of the Ile-à-Vaches site in this study as a mixed marine/terrestrial protected area. The evaluation of the condition of the various ecosystems needs to be taken into consideration in terms of ranking procedure (see Methodology/Interpretation of Data). In terms of ranking for mangrove linked ecosystem services, the Caracol area (good condition) with 5,260 ha provides an estimated US\$ 3,156,000,000/yr. of services with Gonaïves/Grande Saline (poor condition) in second place at 8,162 ha and an estimated mangrove ecosystem value of US\$ 1,632,000,000/yr. Ranking of coral reef linked ecosystem services placed the Banc des Rochelois (good condition) first with 5,720 ha and US\$ 343,200,000/yr. estimated coral reef linked ecosystem services and Ile-à-Vaches/Aquin (good condition) with 5,520 ha providing and estimated US\$ 331,200,000/yr. of ecosystem services. For combined mangrove and coral reef estimates, Caracol placed first with mangroves in good condition and coral reefs in excellent condition with an estimated value of ecosystem services of US\$ 3,246,000,000 and Gonaives/Grande Saline second at US\$ 1,623,680,000. The total amount of ecosystem services provided by coral reefs and mangroves within all nine of these proposed marine protected area sites is over US\$ 9,500,000,000/yr. not including services provide by seagrass systems (which were not evaluated for this study and the addition of which would exponentially increase the total value of all three linked ecosystems: mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs). With all data analyzed, the Caracol Bay area should be considered as the most important site in Haiti in terms of the need for protection and the development of a sustainable management plan. With claimed Territorial Seas of approximately 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> the development of the suggested sites within this study, taking into consideration ecosystem resilience and connectivity, would place an estimated 23% of Haiti's coastal and marine zones under protection; thus potentially surpassing the targets recommended by the Granada Declaration (Caribbean Challenge).

6	St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines and Grenada	<p>Jeannine Compton-Antoine, Director Soufriere Marine Management Association, St. Lucia Tel: 758-459-5500/5904 Fax: 758-459-7799 smma@candw.lc</p> <p>Roland A. Baldeo Marine Protected Area Specialist Fisheries Dept. E-mail: <a href="mailto:rolandbaldeo@hotmail.com">rolandbaldeo@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Andrew Wilson Director National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority St. Vincent and the Grenadines arj1wilson@gmail.com</p>	<p>Project 331385-OECS Fee Harmonization</p> <p>This project is into the second phase. The first benchmark-Workplan Preparation has been completed and submitted to the OAS and the first tranche received. Interviews were held with government, non-government and industry officials in St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Kitts and Antigua in September and further interviews are scheduled for Grenada and St Vincent in early November A presentation on the project is scheduled with the OECS Yacht Committee in November in Grenada. The draft of the project will likely be ready for review by the parties in late November. Once the comments have been received, the final report will be completed</p>	STUDY IN PROCESS Global Parks
7	St. Kitts and Nevis	<p>Mr. Mark Williams Director of Fisheries, St. Kitts Department of Fisheries, St. Kitts E-mail: <a href="mailto:fmusk@sisterisles.kn">fmusk@sisterisles.kn</a></p> <p>Ms. Laurel Arthurton Director, Department of Fisheries, Nevis. E-mail: <a href="mailto:miu@niagov.com">miu@niagov.com</a> <a href="mailto:fisheries@niagov.com">fisheries@niagov.com</a></p>	<p>SKN Report demonstrates the application of ReefFix’s “direct value transfer” method of economic valuation techniques. Data were gathered through information received from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), the Department of Physical Planning and Environment (DPPE), the St. Kitts Tourism Authority, the St. Kitts and Nevis Hotel and Tourism Association and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.</p> <p>The “direct valued transfer” methodology utilizes a “benefits transfer” technique that uses calculated values from “heavily-studied” reefs in other areas and applying them to similar sites (ReefFix 2009). For the purposes of this study, categories of land cover types include coral reef environs, seagrass beds, mangroves (including salt ponds) and beaches.</p> <p>The Federation’s surrounding exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters extend out to adjacent territorial waters and cover 20,400 square kilometers (7,876.5 sq. miles) in area with a shelf area of 845 square kilometres (326.3 square miles). The small shelf area and relatively stable annual water temperature limits the marine biological diversity.</p>	STUDIES COMPLETED: Janice D. Hodge <a href="mailto:janicedhodge@yahoo.com">janicedhodge@yahoo.com</a>  Patrick Williams <a href="mailto:pinwilliams@hotmail.com">pinwilliams@hotmail.com</a>

			<p>Additionally, the minimal areas of upwelling restrict nutrient supply and subsequently the offshore fisheries. Coastal fisheries have declined sharply in recent years, and storms and anchoring have heavily damaged the reefs. Anecdotally, fishers have reported smaller catches of conch, lobster, and large pelagic and demersal fishes. Major threats to the marine ecology of the islands include coastal development, unsustainable fisheries practices, land-based sources of pollution, rising ocean temperatures, and the increasing intensity of hurricanes. The coastal areas of St. Kitts are an invaluable asset and a vital part of the island's tourism and fishing infrastructure. The beaches and reefs must be preserved if their contribution to tourism is to continue. They are, however, being threatened both by continual development in land and by the ravages of storms – particularly in the last decade.</p> <p>Coral reefs, sea grass beds and other endangered species in the nearshore waters of St. Kitts are in need of protective measures. It was in recognition of this fact that the Department of Marine Resources has recently proposed the designation of a Marine Management Area (MMA) to encircle the entire coastline of St. Kitts and Nevis. The aim is to take the pressure off inshore fishing grounds which in recent years have been over-fished. The proposed boundary is to extend “from high tide and seaward out to the 30m (100 ft.) depth contour or two miles maximum around the entire coastline of the Federation whichever comes first.” This boundary will allow GOSKN to manage and control the use of SKN waters containing most of the productive seagrass beds, coral reef systems and fisheries resources of the offshore waters of the Federation.</p>	
8	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	<p>Andrew Wilson  Director of National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority  St. Vincent and the Grenadines  arj1wilson@gmail.com</p>	<p>Project 329127-Saint Vincent South Coast Marine Park Proposal</p> <p>This project will commence November 5, 2013 in Kingstown with the inception meeting to finalize the workplan. The terms of reference of this project have been slightly adjusted to focus more on the collection of necessary background information, including water quality as Saint Vincent is asking for additional inventory of marine and terrestrial conditions prior to the development of a marine park proposal. Field work will commence November 12. The project is expected to be completed within the required timeframe</p>	STUDY IN PROCESS Global Parks

#### IV. STATUS OF CASE STUDIES

Following up on the Project Announcement Meeting held in Washington D.C. on October 17, 2012 where the ReefFix initiative was presented to the OAS Permanent Missions, the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) initiated outreach efforts with Caribbean countries<sup>1</sup>. The Table above shows the countries that responded to the 3rd person diplomatic note sent to all CARICOM countries on November 20th, 2012, and at this time a prioritization process began to find the case studies with the greatest Government commitment.. The following section details the progress made under the selected case studies that have been confirmed or where discussions are underway on priority projects the Governments wish to undertake as indicated below.

**ReefFix will be applied to the following 8 case study sites:**

	Grenada	A case study of the Beausejour River nutrient and sediment inputs and its impact on the adjacent coral reef system in the Moliniere Beausejour Marine Protected Area	<a href="#">Case Study</a>
	St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica	Implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Enforcement Workshop	<a href="#">Case Study</a>
	Bahamas	Grand Bahama National Parks Expansion	<a href="#">Case Study</a> <a href="#">Under Development</a>
	Dominican Republic	Ecosystem Services Valuation and Marine Protected Areas Systems Plan	<a href="#">Case Study</a> <a href="#">Under Development</a>
	St. Kitts and Nevis	Organization of American States	<a href="#">Case Study</a> <a href="#">Under Development</a>
	St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada	Harmonized fee structure for the southern OECS	<a href="#">Case Study</a> <a href="#">Under Development</a>

<sup>1</sup> For more details on the project announcement meeting, please refer to Annex 1





Haiti

Nation-wide Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and rapid evaluation of ecosystem services

[Case Study Under Development](#)

**V. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

From project inception to February 28th, 2013, the Project had disbursed US\$23,258.00 or 13.68% of the total Project funds. The breakdown of disbursements by Component show that the largest portion of funds disbursed corresponds to the Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR). USD\$2,500 have been disbursed under Component 1 corresponding to the 1st payment of the consultant hired for the case study of the Beausejour River and impacts in the Moliniere Beausejour Marine Protected Area in Grenada. USD\$1,508 have been disbursed under Component 1 to cover the Mission of Richard Huber to Grenada in March 2013 and USD\$550 have been spent under Component 3 to cover courier, internet and telephone costs.

Project implementation and disbursements will accelerate in the first semester of 2013 given that: (i) around 6 countries have requested assistance through ReefFix and case studies have been selected (ii) the first capacity building workshops will be held and (iii) one consultant per country will be hired in coordination with the local authorities. The following table shows the amount disbursed by Component for the period covered under this report. Furthermore, a certified Financial Report prepared by the OAS Financial Department for the period November-February 2013 can be found in Annex 2.

<b>ReefFix: An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Ecosystem Services Valuation and Capacity Building Project for the Caribbean November 2012 – February 2013</b>			
<b>Output</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Funds Disbursed Feb-Nov 2013</b>	<b>Funds Available</b>
1. Data made available to participating countries on the value of ecosystem services of selected sites resulting from the application of ecosystem valuation methodologies	\$ 41,440.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 38,940.00
2. Civil society, coastal communities' stakeholders, and government officials are trained in ecosystem valuation methodologies and MPA management	\$ 84,660.00	\$ 1,508.00	\$ 83,152.00
3. Results and lessons learned from applying the ecosystem valuation methodologies disseminated through informative website	\$ 25,200.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 24,650.00
Indirect Cost Recover (ICR)	\$ 18,700.00	\$ 18,700.00	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$170,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,258.00</b>	<b>\$146,742.00</b>

## Annex 1 – Project Announcement Meeting

Press Release Available at:

[http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/GeneralDocs/Pressrelease\\_Mexico%20and%20the%20OAS\\_eng.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/GeneralDocs/Pressrelease_Mexico%20and%20the%20OAS_eng.pdf)



### **Mexico and the OAS announce "ReefFix: An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Ecosystem Services Valuation and Capacity Building Project for the Caribbean"**

Recognizing the priority given by the Caribbean Countries to preserve marine areas, Mexico and the OAS, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the OAS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), announced the Project "ReefFix: An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Ecosystem Services Valuation and Capacity Building Project for the Caribbean".

Mexico's Permanent Representative to the OAS, Amb. Joel Hernández, highlighted that this project seeks to enhance the capacity of participating countries to value and measure ecosystem services and strengthen frameworks for coastal zone management. It will also complement initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System.

The ReefFix project has been designed to be replicated throughout the Caribbean by providing the building blocks for stakeholder involvement, socio-economic and bio-physical analysis, and lessons learned.

This project has the objectives to complete (i) Ecosystem Services Valuation: Countries will generate data on the value of ecosystem services of selected sites utilizing ecosystem valuation methodologies, (ii) Capacity Building: Civil society, coastal communities' stakeholders, and government officials will be trained in ecosystem valuation methodologies and marine protected area management and (iii) Dissemination of Results and Lessons Learned: Conclusions and lessons learned will be disseminated to a wide audience throughout the Americas.

The Executive Secretary for Integral Development, Jorge Saggiante, noted the importance of these efforts to promote triangular cooperation and underlined that the recently signed Agreement between the OAS and Mexico is a model for these types of mechanisms. Moreover, he recognized Mexico's extensive experience on coastal management both the Caribbean and Pacific Coasts.

The representatives of the Caribbean countries celebrated Mexico's initiative and highlighted that protecting vital ecosystems in marine areas as well as coral reefs is a priority for the Caribbean region.

The project will build upon an earlier effort supported by the Government of Chile to improve technical capacity for ecosystem valuation of Caribbean countries to collect and manage data on their protected areas. This project also counts with the participation of the Princely Government of Monaco.

Mexico's Permanent Representative to the OAS, was joined by his counterparts from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad Tobago and by Representatives from Colombia and the United States at the OAS headquarters in Washington D.C.

Department of Sustainable Development  
18 October, 2012

Press Release Available at:

[http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/GeneralDocs/Pressrelease\\_Mexico%20and%20the%20OAS\\_eng.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/GeneralDocs/Pressrelease_Mexico%20and%20the%20OAS_eng.pdf)

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TELÉFONO: 52 55 5622 4111  
CORREO: [info@oas.org](mailto:info@oas.org)



Organización de los Estados Americanos



El 17 de octubre de 2012, representantes de México, el Caribe y la OEA, anunciaron un proyecto para contribuir a la implementación de la Gestión Integrada de Zonas Costeras en los países de El Caribe en el marco del Memorando de Entendimiento firmado entre la OEA y la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México a través de la Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID), anunciaron el proyecto: ReefFix: Gestión Integrada de Zonas Costeras, Valoración de Servicios Ambientales y Fortalecimiento de Capacidades para El Caribe.



17 de octubre de 2012

Reconociendo la prioridad otorgada a la protección de las áreas marinas en los países de El Caribe, México y la OEA, anuncian un proyecto para contribuir a la implementación de la Gestión Integrada de Zonas Costeras en los países de El Caribe en el marco del Memorando de Entendimiento firmado entre la OEA y la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México a través de la Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AMEXCID), anunciaron el proyecto: ReefFix: Gestión Integrada de Zonas Costeras, Valoración de Servicios Ambientales y Fortalecimiento de Capacidades para El Caribe.

El Representante Permanente de México ante la OEA, Emb. Joel Hernández, destacó que este proyecto es mejorar la capacidad de los países participantes para valorar y medir los servicios ambientales y fortalecer los marcos para la gestión de las zonas costeras. Adicionalmente, señaló que complementará iniciativas en materia de conservación y el uso sustentable del Sistema Arrecifal Mesoamericano.

El proyecto ReefFix ha sido diseñado para ser replicado en otros países del Caribe, proporcionando las bases para la participación de diferentes actores interesados, el análisis socio-económico y biofísico y las lecciones aprendidas.

Este proyecto tiene los siguientes objetivos: 1) Valoración de Servicios Ambientales: Los países generarán datos sobre el valor de los servicios ambientales en los sitios seleccionados utilizando metodologías de valoración de ecosistemas; 2) Fortalecimiento de Capacidades: Representantes de la sociedad civil, de comunidades costeras, y funcionarios del gobierno serán capacitados en la aplicación de metodologías para la valoración de servicios ambientales y gestión de áreas marinas protegidas; y 3) Diseminación de Resultados y Lecciones Aprendidas: Las conclusiones y lecciones aprendidas serán divulgadas a una amplia audiencia en las Américas.

Por su parte, el Secretario Ejecutivo para el Desarrollo Integral, Jorge Saggiante, subrayó la importancia de este tipo de esfuerzos para promover cooperación triangular y destacó que el acuerdo recientemente firmado entre la OEA y México es un ejemplo de este tipo de mecanismos. Adicionalmente, reconoció la experiencia de México en el manejo de sus costas tanto en el Caribe como en el Pacífico.

Los representantes del Caribe agradecieron la iniciativa presentada por México y reconocieron que proteger ecosistemas vitales tanto en áreas marinas como en los arrecifes de coral es prioritario para toda la región del Caribe.

Este proyecto, permitirá seguir construyendo sobre un esfuerzo previo apoyado por el Gobierno de Chile para mejorar las capacidades técnicas de los países del Caribe para recolectar y administrar información en áreas protegidas. Este proyecto cuenta también con la participación del Gobierno del Principado de Mónaco.

[elp-](#)

International Institute for Sustainable Development: <http://biodiversity-liisd.org/news/mexico-oas-launch-project-to-help-caribbean-reefs-and-coastal-management/>

