

Proposal for Collaboration 2001
National Ocean Service, NOAA - CORALINA

Proposal date: 24 April 2001

Information on the Caribbean Archipelago Biosphere Reserve : Regional Marine Protected Area System

MPA system mission: Conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable use of coastal and marine resources while enhancing equitable benefit distribution for the Archipelago community.

MPA system goals: The general objective of the MPA system is to conserve, use, and manage coastal and marine resources in cooperation with the local community using a system of area protection, that is zoned for multiple-use and managed to reduce human threats and protect important sites of biodiversity.

Specific goals are:

1. Preservation, recovery and long-term maintenance of species, biodiversity, ecosystems and other natural values including special habitats.
2. Promotion of sound management practices to ensure long-term sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.
3. Equitable distribution of economic and social benefits to enhance local development.
4. Protection of the rights pertaining to historical use.
5. Education to promote a sense of stewardship and community involvement in management.

MPA system lead: The Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence, and Santa Catalina (CORALINA) is responsible for developing and implementing the Reserve. CORALINA is the Colombian government agency with the authority to administrate, protect and restore the environment of the Archipelago (see last section of this proposal).

Project partners: The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with implementation by the World Bank. Technical partners include the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC), Washington DC, and Island Resources Foundation (IRF), US Virgin Islands.

CORALINA MPA System team: The MPA system team is a multi-disciplinary group that includes: the project supervisor - environmental management department director (marine biologist, coastal resource manager), project coordinator (environmental advisor), 2 marine biologists, a lawyer, an engineer, 2 economists, 2 education specialists, a GIS technician, a communications specialist, and 3 support staff (2 community promoters and 1 education assistant).

Information on the proposed collaboration

<i>Collaboration goals:</i>	<p>The general objective of the 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.</p> <p>Specific goals are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Build CORALINA project team capacity.2. Share alternatives to improve MPA management planning, zoning, monitoring, and enforcement.3. Exchange information, lessons learned, and technologies to encourage stakeholder participation and community "buy-in".
<i>Collaboration activities:</i>	<p>Proposed activities to achieve these objectives will be carried out in 4 program areas :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advisory program to bring external experience, expertise and opportunities to the MPA system.2. MPA management training and shadowing at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to learn first-hand how MPAs address issues similar to those confronting the Reserve3. Socio-economic training to enable staff to better incorporate socioeconomics into MPA management4. GIS training to enhance stakeholder input into MPA management.

Activity 1

<i>Description:</i>	<p><i>Advisory program.</i> An important component of the CORALINA project is the establishment of a board of international experts who will function in an advisory capacity throughout the 4-year project. Board members will bring their experience in ocean resource management and marine protected areas to the project, consulting on issues related to aspects such as data collection and information management, legal and policy frameworks, management and zoning, capacity building, and methods to involve stakeholders and create buy-in from the community. Board members will communicate by email and will attend an annual workshop in the San Andres Archipelago that will include site visits and encounters with stakeholders as well as round table meetings and informal presentations. A representative of the NOS International Program Office would join this International Advisory Board.</p>
<i>Location:</i>	<p>Annual workshop in San Andres Archipelago, Colombia, and on-going communication via e-mail</p>
<i>Starting Date:</i>	<p>23 May 2001 - inauguration of International Advisory Board at the first annual workshop in San Andres island</p>
<i>Partners:</i>	<p>NOS International Program Office, CORALINA, CMC, IRF, and other member institutions and individuals</p>
<i>CORALINA personnel:</i>	<p>All members of the MPA project team will work with the advisory board and take part in activities during the annual workshop.</p>

Activity 2

<i>Description:</i>	<i>MPA management training and shadowing.</i> The MPA system for the 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 proposed collaborative activity is a mentorship program at FKNMS. Since only the project supervisor and coordinator have visited a functioning MPA, this visit would be especially productive, enabling CORALINA staff to learn first-hand about operational monitoring, education and outreach, zoning, enforcement, and mooring buoy programs. Proposed duration is one week, with several staff spending an additional week "shadowing".
<i>Location:</i>	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
<i>Starting Date:</i>	July 2001
<i>Partners:</i>	FKNMS, CORALINA, CMC
<i>CORALINA personnel:</i>	Ideally 8-10 project team members would take part, including: project supervisor, coordinator, 2 marine biologists, 1 engineer, 1 lawyer, 2 educators, 1 economist, and 1 community promoter.

Activity 3

<i>Description:</i>	<i>Socio-economic training.</i> NOS has recognized expertise in collecting, processing and evaluating socio-economic data for applications like monitoring impacts of management alternatives, demonstrating the importance of natural resources and ecosystems, facilitating stakeholder involvement, and assessing damages for compensation. CORALINA economists have been collecting primary and secondary socio-economic information for management planning and zoning the archipelago MPA system in the past months, but lack training and experience in how to analyze and use these data. This activity would allow CORALINA economists and sociologists (e.g. community outreach personnel) to be trained by NOS personnel in information-gathering alternatives, data processing and management, and how to apply this knowledge in a variety of ways relevant to coastal and marine resource management. This training would focus on how to set-up and maintain a socioeconomic monitoring program and how to evaluate the socioeconomic impacts of management alternatives based on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary experience. CORALINA staff would spend one week working with the NOS Special Projects Office staff who are responsible for coordinating these two activities as well as similar programs in other Sanctuaries. Based on further discussions, CORALINA staff may spend a few days at FKNMS talking with user groups, FKNMS staff and researchers involved in the socioeconomic activities at the FKNMS.
<i>Location:</i>	NOS (Silver Spring), FKNMS
<i>Starting Date:</i>	July, if carried out simultaneously with FKNMS mentorship program (see Activity 2), or October or November 2001, if carried out simultaneously with GIS training (see Activity 4)
<i>Partners:</i>	NOS Special Projects Office, CORALINA
<i>CORALINA personnel:</i>	Social scientists (economists, sociologists, etc) - maximum 3

Activity 4

<i>Description:</i>	<i>GIS training.</i> The NOS Coastal Services Center developed a tool for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary that integrates geographic information systems into the marine reserve siting process. This tool could be successfully applied to the needs of the archipelago MPA project. NOS Special Projects Office also has biophysical mapping programs and other GIS tools with great potential to support marine protected area development and implementation, including creative methods to enhance stakeholder input into information systems, zoning and management planning. Since one of the potentially useful tools incorporates socioeconomic community input into GIS, CORALINA GIS technician (s) would travel to NOS CSC and Special Projects Office for up to two weeks to be trained in these techniques. This activity could be carried out jointly with related socioeconomic training (see Activity 3).
<i>Location:</i>	NOAA (Silver Spring, Charleston)
<i>Starting Date:</i>	October or November 2001
<i>Partners:</i>	NOAA, CORALINA
<i>CORALINA personnel:</i>	GIS technician (s) - maximum 3

Information on CORALINA

<i>Name:</i>	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence, and Santa Catalina – CORALINA
<i>Address:</i>	San Luis Road, Bight San Andres Island, COLOMBIA
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<i>Date of establishment:</i>	CORALINA is a public corporative body created by article 37 of the Colombian law 99 (environment framework law) which was passed by the Congress in December 1993. Institutional functioning began in the Archipelago on 30 June 1995.
<i>Mandate:</i>	CORALINA is the sole representative of the National Environment System in the San Andres Archipelago. The mission as defined in the law 99 is to administrate, protect, and restore the environment of the Archipelago by using appropriate technologies to regulate the supply and demand of renewable resources and by promoting sustainable human development, consulting with the community in order to better quality of life in the region through participation and agreement. CORALINA's functions include determining and specifying conservation and sustainable resource use, directing the environmental land and marine-use planning and zoning process, enforcing environmental norms, involving the native

community in sustainable management of the region's renewable natural resources, insuring equitable resource benefit for all classes of the community, drafting and adopting legal measures to protect flora and fauna, and developing projects of research, environmental protection, recovery, and sustainable use in conjunction with the state, community, NGOs, and the private sector.

Experience or activities

Current or completed projects include reforesting degraded farmlands and mangrove areas, recovering gullies and quarries, introduction of GIS, establishing a regional mangrove park and wildlife refuge, strengthening the pre-existing marine reserve, realizing the land-use plan for Old Providence and Santa Catalina and the environmental management plan for the Archipelago, beach profiling and monitoring, San Andres groundwater management plan, application to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (Seaflower Biosphere Reserve declaration by UNESCO, November 2000), solid waste management training, and grass-roots organizing of environmental NGOs. On-going activities include environmental research and monitoring, issuing environmental licenses, water quality testing, community clean-ups, education and outreach programs, enacting regulations on resource use and conservation, control and enforcement. New projects include sustainable tourism and industry greening programs, coral restoration, a Darwin Initiative project of marine habitat mapping, coastal and marine resource-user conflict resolution in a joint project with the Galapagos Archipelago and the Orkney Islands funded by the EU INCO-DC programme, development of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan for the Archipelago, establishment of a system of multiple-use marine protected areas in partnership with Center for Marine Conservation and Island Resources Foundation funded by the GEF implemented by the World Bank, and participation in the regional CARICOMP and COSALC (UNESCO-Sea Grant) networks.