PANORAMA
SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Published by: BLUE SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS IN FOCUS:

Investing in Coral Reefs

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On behalf of: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany

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Blue Solutions would like to sincerely thank all solution providers for their contribution and time.

Contents

The Blue Solutions Initiative

Marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems are fundamental for human well-being and provide valuable services. Despite their global significance, these ecosystems are more than ever at risk. The sustainable use and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity is a priority for action under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To support practitioners and policy makers in improving the management of marine and coastal biodiversity, the Blue Solutions Initiative is partnering with a range of organizations and programmes to facilitate **global knowledge exchange and capacity development**, and ultimately support the achieving of the marine and coastal Aichi Targets.

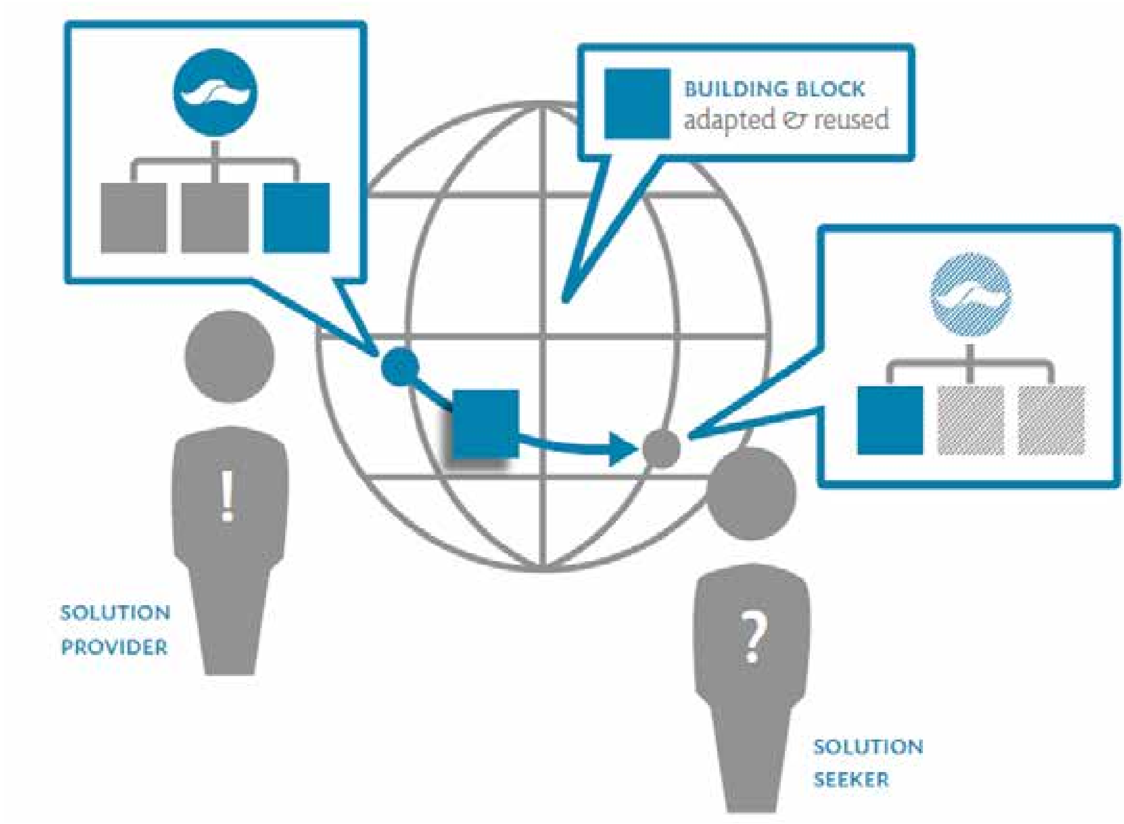
Capacity development

The Blue Solutions Initiative provides a range of capacity development opportunities including trainings on ecosystem services, climate change adaptation, marine and coastal spatial planning and management, and conservation finance.

www.bluesolutions.info

Global knowledge exchange

An essential component of the Blue Solutions Initiative is to collate, document and share successful approaches, or "solutions", addressing marine and coastal challenges. The sharing and exchanging of these solutions provides others with examples and lessons learned, and can inspire to adapt and replicate these achievements without "reinventing the wheel", thereby accelerating action for sustaining healthy marine and coastal ecosystems. The Blue Solutions Initiative facilitates exchange around solutions through the marine and coastal solutions portal on the PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet platform (www.panorama.solutions/marinecoastal) and in face-to-face meetings such as workshops and trainings.



PANORAMA – *Solutions for a Healthy Planet*

PANORAMA – *Solutions for a Healthy Planet* is a partnership initiative to facilitate learning from success in conservation. It promotes examples of inspiring solutions that showcase how nature conservation can benefit society. PANORAMA enables the wider application of such solutions through cross-sectoral global learning and exchange. Through a modular case study format, solutions are being dissected into their replicable "building blocks" and their scaling is facilitated – online as well as offline. www.panorama.solutions

Solutions in Focus

This booklet is part of a series of compilations assembling PANORAMA solution case studies on a defined topic. “Solutions in Focus” zooms in on a topic of interest covered by PANORAMA, allowing to explore common elements and shared learnings across success stories. It is a snapshot of the PANORAMA portfolio at a given time, rather than a representative assembly of selected “best practices” on the issue at hand.

All solutions featured in this booklet, and many others, are available on the PANORAMA web platform www.panorama.solutions. We invite everyone to visit and explore the platform, and share their own examples of solutions.

Coral Reefs

Conservation finance is “a mechanism through which a financial investment into an ecosystem is made – directly or indirectly through an intermediary that aims to conserve the values of the ecosystem for the long term”(Credit Suisse, 2014). As 2018 has been designated as the Third International Year of the Reef, there is a strong interest in determining which innovative financial mechanisms could work best to address the unique needs of coral reefs. Examples of these mechanisms include direct payment strategies as well as strategies to encourage greater involvement with the private sector. By highlighting a variety of potential financial solutions, this publication hopes to help develop the capacity needed to bridge the funding gap for future coral reef conservation efforts.

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTION 1

Establishment of a financially sustainable model of private MPA management through ecotourism

Solution provider: Sibylle Riedmiller, Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd (CHICOP)

Summary: This solution addresses governance of protected areas, overexploitation of natural resources and lack of environmental awareness which are the main threats to biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries in Zanzibar. CHICOP has developed a financially sustainable model of private MPA establishment and management through eco-tourism which benefits local communities by promoting food security, sustainable fisheries, alternative livelihoods and implementing environmental education programs.

Location: Zanzibar Urban/West Region, Tanzania

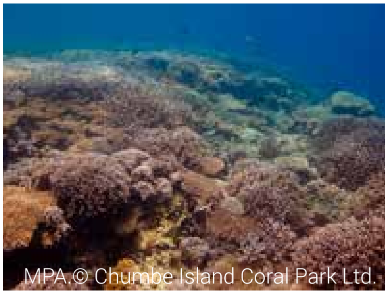
Impacts

As the first financially self-sustaining MPA in Africa, CHICOP's model of MPA management and ecotourism is a leading example for marine and coastal practitioners, tourism developers, investors and managers around the world. Shared experiences and lessons learned have helped develop policies for nature conservation and investment that encourage similar initiatives. CHICOP demonstrates ecological, economic and social impacts including:

- Helping to restock depleted fisheries through the "spill-over effect" of fish from the protected Chumbe reef into adjacent, degraded fishing grounds, impacting long-term subsistence and livelihoods of local communities.
- Implementing ecologically sustainable architecture and operations that have close to zero impact on the sensitive terrestrial and marine ecology of the island, while promoting social resilience through the employment of 42 local people (each with an average of 12 dependents), access to sponsored education, long term loans, and creation of markets for local products and handicrafts.
- Pioneering environmental education in Zanzibar through financing and implementing field excursions to Chumbe for thousands of school children, teachers, community members and government officials.


The team. © Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd.


Eco-lodge. © Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd.


MPA.© Chumbe Island Coral Park Ltd.

Building blocks

1

Ecotourism as a model for a private, not-for-profit MPA

Ecotourism business operations follow commercial principles for maximizing revenue and promoting cost-effectiveness to ensure a sustainable revenue stream for MPA activities, exemplifying a successful business-oriented approach to sustainable and effective MPA management.

2

Community involvement and benefits

Sustainable park management often means that access to traditional resources is restricted or modified. Such impacts therefore need to be offset by ensuring local communities and resource-users directly or indirectly benefit from the MPA and are fully involved in the solution.

3

Science-based decision making and capacity building

Establishment and management of the MPA has been built upon a strong biophysical and social science foundation; from preliminary baseline surveys at all levels at the start of conceptual development, through to regular monitoring and assessment to ensure an adaptive management approach.

4

Multi-level environmental education and outreach programs

Public communication, education and awareness-raising on the importance and vulnerability of the marine ecosystem is a key building block for CHICOP which offers environmental education for fishers, students, teachers, government officials, tourism operators and visitors.

5

MPA management and enforcement

The Management Plans define objectives, activities, research regulations and Do's and Don'ts both for visitors and staff. Only non-consumptive and non-exploitative activities are permitted.

6

Eco-architecture and eco-operations

To effectively ensure that tourism operations within the MPA do not damage the surrounding ecosystem, CHICOP has, from its outset, been committed to ecologically sustainable operations and infrastructure.

Community Bank Environment Fund (EF) – Engendering Grassroots Financing for Marine Protected Areas

Solution provider: Frenz Garcia, Zoological Society of London

Summary: From a zero rating on the MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool, Tambaliza is now pegged as a 'bright spot' MPA not only in the municipality of Concepcion but in the whole Northern Iloilo - it is the first legally established MPA with a 200-ha No-take Zone in the province. Tambaliza MPA is proving that bigger MPAs entail more community and stakeholders' involvement and bigger funding requirements but the local community is up to the challenge of sustaining the management of a protected area through their own contributions. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA, locally known as CoMSCA) in Tambaliza are currently generating up to $1,500 in a year as Environmental Fund (EF) to support the implementation of the management plan of the protected area.

Location: Tambaliza, 5013, Concepcion, Iloilo, Philippines

Impacts

The Environmental Fund (EF) is demonstrating the capacity of poor villages, not only to save and help fellow poor during emergencies and financial constraints but, to contribute to conservation initiatives that was previously thought could only be done by big philanthropies, NGO projects, and state institutions. VSLAs - men and women - are transformed into vital MPA stakeholders who are effectively involved in decision-making and management of the protected area. The EF diminishes the threat of financial constraints that limit the capacity of the protected area to achieve its defined objectives. It is proven by science that well-designed, well-enforced ad well-managed MPAs result to more fishes and, for marginal communities that heavily rely on fishing for food and livelihood, more fishes equate to improved income and improved community well-being. The EF is advancing the establishment of a 'bright spot' MPA, and the presence of a 'bright spot' can accelerate the scaling up and replication of this approach.

Mt. Manaphag in Tambaliza overlooks the MPA
© Frenz Garcia/ZSL

Regular weekly meeting of VSLA © ZSL

Building blocks

1

Building community understanding of the value of the ocean

Community buy in to the concept of transforming savings and loan groups into social infrastructures. Actively supporting conservation initiatives is built on their understanding of their role in the conservation of their resources.

2

Integrating Environmental Fund in VSLAs

The conversation on how the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) can help generate financial resources begin once VSLA constituency is convinced that the marine environment must be protected and that the VSLAs have the capability to support conservation and protection of marine resources. The individual contributions are set and broad goals are identified and integrated in the group's constitution and by-laws.

3

Planning the utilization of VSLA EF

The process of planning how the Environmental Fund may be used begins when the VSLA review and update their constitution and by-laws (CBL) at the start of their next cycle. Broadly defined goals are transformed into specific uses, using existing management plans as 'shopping list' of interventions that the EF can support.

4

Fund leveraging

Fund leveraging is a strategy that uses EF as local financial counterpart to support implementation of environmental projects that require bigger funding.

Improving financial sustainability through conservation based tourism in protected areas in Belize

Solution provider: Caroline Oliver, Toledo Institute for Development and Environment

Summary: The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) manages and co-manages 160,000 acres of land and seascape in southern Belize, fostering community participation in natural resource management. TIDE identified an opportunity to diversity funding and become more financially sustainable, in the face of increasing demand for conservation and development programs. A pay-to-participate program, Ridge to Reef Expeditions (R2R), was launched in 2014. R2R engages different sectors of the travel market in TIDE's work, through tourism based conservation volunteering activities. This has a three-fold benefit. 1) Participants pay a fee, and all profits are donated to TIDE. R2R has already contributed $30,000 USD to TIDE. 2) Volunteer fees offset some of the costs of TIDE, by covering the costs of the activities they take part in. 3) The program creates economic opportunities locally for guides and service providers within the tourism industry..

Location: Toledo District, Belize

Impacts

To date, 250 volunteers have participated in R2R. Revenue is reinvested in infrastructure, capacity building, and marketing, and from 2016, $30,000 USD has been donated to TIDE. The program is currently running at 10 – 20% occupancy. Investment has been largely supported through grant funding. R2R has created three permanent jobs, and part time opportunities for guides, boat captains, cooks and service providers. Spending on local services and tours, and in shops and restaurants has increased. Analysis of a 2014 program estimated that a group of seven participants contributed $25,000 USD to the local economy. R2R participants offset some costs incurred by TIDE. With current occupancy, TIDE cannot rely on this for priority projects, but with program growth, it will become significant. In 2019, for the first time R2R will host international groups that will subsidize local groups, so Belizean students have opportunities to experience R2R. R2R participants have contributed to many conservation programs in TIDE protected areas. These include tagging a Hawksbill turtle, reforestation, community livelihood development, and manatee research, all of which benefitted from, or would not be possible without, volunteer participation.

Hicatee turtle hatchling © TIDE

Conducting conch research dives in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve © TIDE

Building blocks

1 Designing volunteer projects by identifying organisational needs at TIDE and interests of potential participants to ensure maximum benefit to both parties

One of the key components that makes the R2R experience unique, is that volunteers participate in the hands-on conservation activities of TIDE. We ensure that participants have a great and enriching experience, in a safe environment, whilst helping TIDE to progress with its mission.

2 Development of facilities, equipment, and organisational protocols, so that TIDE is fully prepared to host visiting groups

In order to host volunteers, the necessary physical and organizational infrastructure has to be in place. We continue evaluating what infrastructure is needed and review how effective these investments are.

3 Providing capacity building opportunities to new and existing staff so that the team is fully qualified to deliver the R2R program

Since inception, capacity building amongst staff has continued in an effort to continually ensure that participants have a great experience with knowledgeable and professional staff. Volunteer safety is considered priority, so staff undertake regular health and safety training, and follow risk assessment and emergency procedures set out by R2R.

4 Marketing and building business relationships

A variety of marketing strategies are used to market R2R. The primary focus is on partnering with universities and travel planners who organize group trips to ensure larger group visits throughout the year.

Colombia Subsystem of Marine Protected Areas (SMPA)

Solution provider: Paula Sierra, Marine and Coastal Research Institute / INVEMAR

Summary: Ocean ecosystems are under-represented in the Colombian Protected Area System. SINAP, a group of public-private entities and local-communities, proposed to complement SINAP, stating: “It’s not only about the conservation but also about increasing public awareness of our oceans and to improve the institutional capabilities and well-being for local communities through mobilization and management of financial and non-financial resources for Marine Protected Areas.” The solution led to the declaration of 11 new MPAs and the reduction of financial gaps for effective management; at 2015 investments to cover operational costs increased by 10%, and the annual government budget to 100%, the impacts were directly on implementation actions. Today, 13% of Colombia’s oceans are under protection accomplishing and exceeding Aichi Target 11 and SDG14. Enhanced capacities evaluated exceeded 70% expected results, and the methods developed have the potential to be replicated.

Location: Colombia

Impacts

- 13% of Colombia’s oceans are under protection, accomplishing Aichi Target 11.
- More than 8.5 million ocean Ha are under protection (64.4% deep corals, 34% mangroves, 28% seagrasses, 96.5% corals, 22.6% beaches and 32% coastal cliffs), increasing the MPA network of Colombia by ~5 times the expected amount.
- More than 200 decision makers, MPA managers and sectorial actors have been trained on MPA-related topics.
- I8,570 Ha mangroves in Cispata-Caribbean have been protected, with the storage potential of ~521 tons of Carbon/Ha and in 3,700Ha have been protected in the Pacific, with ~220 tons of Carbon/ha.
- We developed a carbon storage methodology and in-situ equations for climate change mitigation with co-benefits for local communities.


Life undersea © INVEMAR


Mangroves Caimanera © INVEMAR

Building blocks

1

SAMP established and supported by a legal, institutional, and operational framework

Legal, institutional and operational framework includes two action plans that have been developed and supported. Operational agreements contribute to guarantee a representative sample of coastal and marine biodiversity at multiple biological organization levels.

2

Marine Protected Areas Sub-system supported by a sustainable financial framework

The sustainable financial management plans are oriented to meet the needs of the Subsystem through the identification of activities run by the local communities which can raise revenues. These plans are entailed towards the conservation of the ecosystem goods and services while giving economical opportunities to local communities and environmental entities.

3

Enhanced institutional and individual capacity for SAMP management

The institutional and individual capacity for the management of the MPAs in the SAMP were improved. Technical, analytical and practical skills were developed and strengthened to support the SMPA.

4

Colombian and international communities are aware of SAMP - Communication and Outreach

Developed attitude and behaviour assessment surveys targeting specific groups who visit or reside near MPAs carried out at different times. The project developed an information, dissemination and communication strategy specific in marine topics, which will inform the general population about MPAs through print, audio-visual, as well as dissemination meetings..

The Gulf of California Marine Endowment - a public-private partnership to sustainably finance Marine Protected Areas

Solution provider: Cecilia Blasco, FMCN Mexico

Summary: Mexico's progress towards meeting the Aichi Targets includes the expansion of the protected area system. Unfortunately, the budget of the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) is not keeping pace, resulting in chronically underfunded protected areas. Thus, supplementary funding from private, bilateral and multilateral donors is crucial for their effective operation. In order to address lacking financial resources and to ensure long-term sustained funding, the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN) and CONANP created the Fund for Protected Areas to support the management of 29 federal protected areas. Based on this experience, FMCN created the Gulf of California Marine Endowment (GCME) in 2007 with the goal of contributing long-term conservation of the marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Gulf of California. The GCME currently has a capital of US$9.5 million and a fundraising target of US$30 million.

Location: El Diablo, Costarica, Uruapan, Michoacán, Mexico

Impacts

FMCN has collaborated closely with CONANP in consolidating protected areas network in México through this highly successful mechanism for 20 years. The GCME has five main goals:

1. Expand the marine protection network by creating new MPA and increase management effectiveness
2. Improve fisheries management through participatory cross-sector collaboration
3. Increase enforcement in protected areas
4. Strengthen civil society capacities
5. Foster sustainable coastal development

The GCME revenue has enabled the protected area staff to triple the number of marine patrols and reduce illegal fishing. Without the support from the trust fund, CONANP would not have the resources or flexibility to address fisheries management challenges.

The trust fund revenue has enabled the protected area staff to triple the number of marine patrols and reduce illegal fishing
© Carlos Ramón Godinez Reyes

Building blocks

1

Flexible and transparent administration of funds

Since Mexican regulations prevent CONANP from receiving private donations directly, FMCN channels funding to the management of each protected area through local organizations and accompanies with strict financial controls and experienced and well-trained staff. This public-private collaboration mechanism ensures that funds are applied transparently and helps enhance civil society participation in MPA management.

2

Public-private partnership for MPA financing

FMCN and CONANP collaborate in a public-private partnership, the Gulf of California Marine Endowment (GCME). This is formalized in a cooperation agreement detailing the role and responsibilities of the partners. FMCN is responsible for the management of the financial resources and CONANP ensures that these resources are used in strategic conservation activities..

Ensuring marine protection through Locally Managed Marine Area at Vamizi island in Mozambique

Solution provider: Isabel Marques da Silva, UniLurio

Summary: A unique partnership between a lodge, a university and the local communities (especially the CCP, Community Fishing Council), resulted in more than 12 years of protection of natural resources through the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) of Vamizi Island, or as it is locally known: a sanctuary. The solution focused on the mitigation of the two biggest problems of the local community: health and education. Supporting medical aid and capacity building for teachers of a local school were the “exchange currency” for starting an LMMA on the island. After initial mistrust, fishermen were persuaded to cooperate: 6 years later, fisheries around Vamizi improved and became significantly better than those in surrounding waters. Vamizi Island is now famous for its LMMA, a place where taking turtles, mosquito net fishing and illegal scuba diving are banned. The LMMA has increased the fisher’s catch rates and can count on the Fisheries Council to control illegal fishing around it.

Location: Vamizi island, Palma, North Mozambique

Impacts

The first positive reaction from the community was being proud of their clinic and school, finally they could go to a consultation without leaving the island and their children could study without leaving their home. A project for distributing meals in the school kept children attending classes. Grants for girls’ education are supporting the best female students and changing mentalities about girls’ education, changing people’s sentiment about it or at least making them discuss it. These first steps had a substantial impact on the village and made people more willing to accept tourism and the LMMA. Meanwhile, the CCP developed artisanal buoys, to demarcate the LMMA, made of local materials to avoid theft. Now CCPs from the mainland come to see how they are built and are reproducing the system. Other lodges are following in the steps of the Vamizi experience, supporting not only the patrols of the LMMAs, but also providing better education and health in remote locations. Research shows that the number of species and individual fishes found there has increased, and so has the size and quantity of fish caught locally. Overall Vamizi LMMA is a leading example of a successful cooperation between tourism, university and communities, but also an LMMA that is changing the lives of surrounding communities for the better.

Opening of CCP office

Burning of Mosquito nets by the Vamizi CCP
© Isabel Marques da Silva

Building blocks

1

Developing basic education and health facilities

Supporting a local health center, patrolling ambulance boat and a school, spearheaded by the tourism company, and later supported by the UniLúrio, were the foundation for the support of the communities to the LMMA.

2

Sustainable financing for LMMA operations through tourism fee

Without sustained support, enforcement and prevention of the transgressions into the LMMA would have been impossible. The fee collected from the tourist users of the LMMA is an extra reward for the maintenance of the LMMA and to the persons doing the patrols belonging to the CCP's.

3

Locally-based organization providing sustainable technical support

The active engagement of UniLúrio in all the phases of the process, especially in the education and monitoring, was essential to keep the community involved. The local people do not read or write, and few speak Portuguese (national language). Unilúrio obviously is the one keeping records and publishing the most important information related to the LMMA.

4

Conducting ecological monitoring

Monitoring was first put in place by ZSL, WWF and finally IUCN. Now, UniLúrio has become the leading institution for monitoring and sharing of the results. Certainly seeing more and bigger fish coming out in the fishermen's nets is the best argument for LMMA support.

Net-Works (TM)

Solution provider: Nick Hill, Zoological Society of London

Summary: Net-Works is an award-winning initiative that redesigns global supply chains to reduce marine plastic, replenish declining fish stocks and improve the socio-ecological resilience of marginalised coastal communities living in biodiversity hotspots of developing countries. We connect these communities to global brands via a fair and inclusive business model that delivers "less plastic, more fish". One example is the establishment of a community-based supply chain for discarded fishing nets in the Philippines and Cameroon that prevents these nets from becoming ghost nets. Nets are recycled into nylon yarn that is used to create beautiful high design carpet tiles by Interface Inc. Net-Works was co-created by conservation charity the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and carpet-tile manufacturer Interface Inc.

Location: Philippines | Cameroon

Impacts

Since 2012, over 167 metric tons of waste nets have been collected through Net-Works. At least 1,500 families have been given access to finance through the community banks that Net-Works sets up, and 62,000 people have benefitted from a healthier environment. To date, we have environmental funds established in 55 community banks, with 1,217 members contributing approximately $2,925 of savings directly towards local conservation actions and marine management. Through Net-Works we are protecting 1,112.23 ha of aquatic habitat across 8 community based protected areas.

Discarded nets collected by community members in the Philippines. © Interface Inc

Nets being cleaned and sorted. © Interface Inc

Seeing the end result - carpet tiles made from recycled nylon yarn. © Interface Inc

Building blocks

1

Inclusive business model linked to conservation

Applying the principles of fair trade and inclusive business, we create efficient community-based supply chains for raw materials (plastics and seaweed carrageenan) that are available in abundance. We link these raw materials to conservation actions that reduce plastic pollution and restore coastal ecosystems. Increasing incomes from these raw materials reduces dependence on fishing – enabling communities to set aside larger no-take zones to replenish fish stocks.

2

Selling raw materials into a global supply chain

We sell the raw materials into global supply chains, giving international brands opportunities to source premium products with positive social and environmental stories, giving fishing communities a more transparent and dependable price, and providing sustainable funding sources for local conservation and development actions.

3

Community bank infrastructure

To manage local supply chains, we set up community banks, bringing communities together in informal cooperatives and providing much needed access to financial services. These community banks are the 'social glue' at the heart of Net-Works, enabling members to invest in their sustainable livelihoods, building a Net-Works' conservation constituency.

4

Environment funds

Community bank members regularly contribute a small amount of money from net sales into a dedicated Environment Fund, which is used to help finance local conservation projects such as community-managed marine protection. The money gathered via the fund can be leveraged to secure additional funding from local government or NGOs.

5

Partnerships and cross-sector collaboration

Redesigning global supply chains and delivering an inclusive business model linked to conservation requires a diverse set of expertise that requires collaboration. Strong partnerships with local communities and local partner organisations are vital to Net-Works' success..

Palau’s Protected Areas Network Act

Solution provider: Noah Idechong, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism of Palau

Summary: The solution establishes a nationwide framework that empowers communities to designate and manage marine and terrestrial protected areas in cooperation with partners. It provides standards, criteria, application processes, and technical and financial assistance for management and monitoring of sites.

Location: Palau

Impacts

The solution successfully merged traditional management with modern legislation to establish procedures and monitoring standards. Participation, resource ownership and empowerment of communities increased significantly. It created jobs so that people returned to their villages, reducing urban drift. 35 protected areas have been established, contributing to Palau's goal of designating 30% of its near shore marine environment and 20% of its terrestrial resources by 2020. Tourists contribute to conservation via the green fee mechanism, which supports local communities with US$ 1.8 million annually.

Building blocks

1

Protected Area Network (PAN)

Based on the legal framework, which recognizes protected areas established by communities and state governments, these areas become part of the nationwide network according to clear criteria, categories and application procedures.

2

Adaptive and participatory locally based management

Communities develop management plans and monitoring protocols based on biological, ecological, socio-economic, cultural and historical gap analyses, as well as mutually agreed targets and objectives.

3

Management trainings

State and local governments receive tailor-made training seminars, workshops, and hands-on events. Local communities build up their capacities, particularly in surveying and conducting scientific investigations, development of site preservation plans, identification and establishment of sustainable use practices, and educating the public about preservation and protected areas.

4

Green Fees

The Protected Area Network Fund (PAN Fund) supports management and monitoring of the network's protected areas. The 'resource-user pays principle' was applied to define green fees for tourists visiting the country (Palau).

SOLUTION 9

A conservation model for Costa Rica

Solution provider:	Pamela Castillo, Programme Costa Rica por Siempre
Summary:	Costa Rica faces enormous challenges in ensuring the sustainability of conservation endeavours. A shortage of sustainable finance continue to exert pressure on protected areas. To ensure the long-term funding of conservation, SINAC, together with its partners, created the public-private conservation initiative Forever Costa Rica. This non-profit association aims to complement state and private efforts to preserve biodiversity e.g. through the implementation of management plans for fourteen MPAs.
Location:	Costa Rica

Impacts

- Annual recurring revenue of the trusteeship Costa Rica por Siempre of $40,000 for prioritized MPA (16 MPA) through implemented management plans (systems of surveillance and enforcement, measures of climate change adaption, among other things)
- Elaboration of properly financed management plans that foster concrete actions to reduce pressures on marine biodiversity. For example: increase surveillance and enforcement in the MPAs, promotion of best practices of production in zones of influence (drainage area), development of regulations for the use of marine resources in protected areas.
- Strengthening dialogue, negotiation and leadership capacities through multi-sectoral platforms to develop strategies that enable sustainability in the use of marine and coastal resources in places that are important for biodiversity conservation
- Empowerment of key players in marine resources conservation by active and effective participation (following a methodology and a regulative framing) in the strategic planning (management plans) of the marine protected areas and in the formation of alliances with the park administration


Coastal area © Costa Rica por Siempre

Building blocks

1

Implementation and Monitoring Plan

Besides setting conservation goals, the Implementation and Monitoring Plan also details strategic objectives and activities to be implemented over a set period of time in order to achieve these goals. Furthermore, the plan identifies potential risks and difficulties and provides indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

2

Public-Private Partnership

A cooperation agreement defines the roles and responsibilities of each partner in the public-private partnership and guarantees the enforcement of a timed Implementation and Monitoring Plan to achieve the conservation goals.

3

Trust Fund

A trust fund provides a long-term funding source to finance activities defined in the Implementation and Monitoring Plan. The trust is founded on perpetuity, independence, simplicity, flexibility and transparency. The founding partners serve as trustors, while the beneficiary is the country's national protected areas..

Addressing unsustainable fishing in Fiji through improvements to LMMA management

Solution provider: Alicia Srinivas, Coral Reef Alliance

Summary: Fiji is a critical site for global coral reef conservation with 10,000 square kilometers of coral reef and an astounding 42 percent of the world's coral species. Fiji's coral reefs face significant global and local threats including climate change, overfishing and water pollution. The Coral Reef Aliance's (CORAL) vision for Fiji is an Adaptive Reefscape — a network of healthy reefs that can adapt to climate change because it is diverse, connected and large. Pacific island nations like Fiji are among the world's most physically and economically vulnerable to climate change. By establishing management systems that mutually benefit communities and coral reefs, our work ensures that both are more resilient to environmental change.

Location: Fiji | Bua Province / Kubulau district, Lau Province / Oneata District, Cakaudrove Province / Savusavu District, Ra Province / Saivou and Nalawa Districts

Impacts

Improving management of Fiji's LMMAs reduces fishing pressure and curbs destruction of reef habitat. The Namena Marine Reserve, Fiji's largest no-take LMMA and a top global dive site, forms part of the traditionally-owned fishing grounds (iqoliqoli) of the Kubulau community. Over a decade ago, CORAL began working with this community, NGOs and private businesses to develop a sustainable management system to protect Namena's fisheries from overexploitation, while providing tangible benefits to the community. We helped establish a successful voluntary dive fee system for tourists visiting Namena, which generates funds to cover management costs and a scholarship program that has benefitted 200+ students. Namena also became Fiji's first anchor-free LMMA thanks to efforts by CORAL and partners. A study from the journal Coral Reefs found that sharks in Namena were 2-4 times more plentiful within the reserve than outside it.


Community Member in Namena Marine Reserve © Coral Reef Alliance


Awareness building with community youth © Coral Reef Alliance


Herbivorous fishes graze on corals and keep algae in check © Coral Reef Alliance

Building blocks

1

Participatory planning process

Alongside the participatory planning process, NGOs supported establishment of a Community Educators Network in Kubulau, with facilitators training and associated tools. This helped to foster an inclusive, on-going, community-led dialogue on resource management issues.

2

Research and data collection

Research and data collection to determine the most ecological important habitats to place MPAs was key to a successful network of protected areas. Working with the community helped to understand the importance of protecting their fish stocks and coral reefs for the future.

3

Development of management plan

Developing a management plan allowed for the ridge to reef implementation plan to be outlined with roles and responsibilities clearly stated and explained. The planning process was informed by extensive scientific and socioeconomic research, as well as local and traditional ecological knowledge.

4

Establish institutional capacity

Establishing and building the capacity of a management body is key to ongoing implementation of any program. Trainings, workshops, meetings, and providing support when necessary are all part of the capacity development process.

5

Solidify sustainable financing for management

Ongoing management incurs expenses and there are opportunity costs associated with a community's decision to restrict their access to a resource. A sustainable funding source is crucial to cover management costs and to provide community benefits that can be experienced broadly.

SOLUTION 11

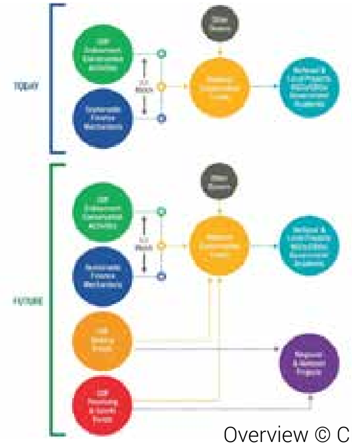
A regional sustainable financing architecture for conservation

Solution provider:	Yabanex Batista, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)
Summary:	The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) is the realization of the vision to create reliable, long-term funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean. The CBF and its National Conservation Trust Funds form the regional sustainable finance architecture, which support and incentives Caribbean nations to meet the goals under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, and other international and regional commitments. The CBF is a umbrella fund with permanent (an endowment fund) and non-permanent funding (sinking fund).
Location:	Nassau, New Providence, The Bahamas | Caribbean region

Impacts

As a regional conservation trust fund, the CBF is a new source of funding in the Caribbean. Thus far, nine National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs) are legally established and at different stages of becoming fully operational, with additional countries interested in joining the process. Moreover, all NCTFs have identified and are pursuing additional sustainable financial mechanism to finance biodiversity management activities. With three NCTFs official agreements with CBF have been signed and payments will start flowing in the coming months. Once the architecture is fully functional the CBF, through its endowment, expects to generate approximately US$1.5 – 1.8million/year to be channeled through the NCTFs. New sustainable finance mechanisms established by the NCTFs would match this amount. In addition, a new US$26.5 million sinking fund focused on ecosystem-based adaptation is expected to significantly contribute to create adaptation solutions for Caribbean islands.

In Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), livelihoods directly depend upon healthy marine and coastal resources. © Tim Calver, The Nature Conservancy



Overview © CBF

Building blocks

1

Government commitment

Governments are key in the success of the regional collaboration. Their political commitment to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) Goals has been essential to attract donors to help achieve these goals, including building the finance architecture.

2

Independent National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs)

CBF endowment proceeds will be channelled through the NCTFs, which in turn will lead the grant-making process for on the ground and water activities. They are governed by majority non-government member boards reflecting a broad range of sectors and interests, and provide grants to both government and civil society.

3

Successful trust fund operationalization

Skilled personnel, effective governance and functioning technical systems are essential for successful operation. Key elements to support this include training for National Conservation Trust Funds, staff and board members, establishment of clear accounting systems, operations manuals, learning from best practices, mentoring, and peer exchange.

4

Strategic plan and fundraising strategy

Developed and implemented jointly with donors, countries and partners, the strong strategic plan includes establishing a fundraising strategy; a marketing and communication plan; a monitoring and evaluation system and opening new thematic windows and attracting new countries to be part of the architecture

5

Common trust fund monitoring

Two compatible monitoring systems being built track financial resources and conservation impact across regional and national trust funds. Combined, these systems establish a robust M&E framework to measure for impact, organizational learning and donor reporting, using applicable regional indicators..

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