SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

2nd Request for Proposals

Implementation period: 2009 to 2010

Innovative Management Practices in the Initial Network of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mesoamerican Reef (2nd).

The main objective was to finance innovative applied management practices in the initial network of short-listed coastal.

Project: 2-011 Tobacco Caye Marine Station; a facility established for regional training and education, and the foundation for a sustainable model of community co-management of the South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR) through community outreach and education programs

Grantee	Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
Country	Belize
Objective	To strengthen the SWCMR Advisory Committee, strengthen local engagement and strengthen community education

Final results:

- Ten Tobacco Caye residents and the SWCMR Fisheries Department staff fully involved and supported the implementation of the outreach programs designed.
- The Marine training facility was completed and opened to all visitors to provide them information of the Cayes and the marine biodiversity.
- The outreach program was completed in six Stan Creek schools. Each school made a field visit to the marine station. A total of 180 students took part in the program.
- Three meetings were held at the marine station between residents, fishers, Wildtracks (they wrote the new management plan) and the Fisheries Department, and the Advisory Committee. These meetings reestablished communications between the Committee and other sectors.

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Project: 2-012 Community Stewards Program: Payne's Creek National Park and Port Honduras Marine Reserve

Grantee	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)
Country	Belize
Objective	To educate and sensitize the community. Fishermen, hunters, farmers, and tour guides will participate in training and support activities that will develop stewards that are empowered to participate in and lead conservation efforts in their community, ensuring effective management of protected areas in Belize, now and in the future

Final results:

- A total of fifteen community stewards were trained. Only thirteen successfully completed the program.
- Tanya Garbutt was hired as a community liaison officer.
- An exchange visit was made to Cerro San Gil and Río Dulce, Guatemala. Stewards shared experiences regarding natural resources.
- Equipment was provided to the stewards: handheld radios, life vests, rain coats, binoculars, bird books, amphibians and reptiles books, flash lights and GPS units.

Project: 2-009 Recognition of a No-trawling Zone by fishermen in the Multiple Use Area Rio Sarstún

Grantee	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)
Country	Guatemala
Objective	Influence the restoration and conservation of Cocolí Bay and improve the situation of fisheries in all sectors involved directly or indirectly in the Río Sarstún Multiple Use Area

Final results:

- Four meetings between the fisheries authority and the fishing communities were developed to improve relations.
- Two fishery management plans for Cocolí Bay were made with the direct participation of fishermen.
- Five fish aggregators were built and installed within the Cocolí Bay fishing area.

Project: 2-010 Integrated management of the Utila Island Marine Area

Grantee	Bay Islands Conservation Association Utila (BICA-Utila)
Country	Honduras
Objective	To technically contribute to maintain or improve the quality of marine natural resources of the island of Utila, as an ideal means to ensure economic and social development of its population

Final results:

- The new regulations on the whale sharks watching, funded by the The Nature Conservancy (TNC), were produced, published and socialized within the Utila dive community
- Regular patrolling was established two to three times a week, in combination with other activities that require boat
- The existing 90 anchoring buoys were mapped, numbered with self-adhesive reflexive vinyl numbers, and the list with their coordinates produced.
- The information on the number of tourists visiting the island was incomplete as full records are not collected by the municipality, Free Tourist Zone (ZOLITUR, in Spanish) or other governmental department.
- BICA produced a Code of Conduct for tourists, to be distributed in the form of bookmarks direct to visitors and as stickers to be posted at hotels and in dive centers.

Project: 2-013 Sustainable fishing and marketing of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) of the Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve

Grantee	Andrés Quintana Roo, Langosteros del Caribe and Banco Chinchorro Fish Producers Societies
Country	Mexico

Objective	To promote and implement the sustainable use of Queen Conch

Final results:

- Twelve meetings between the Environmental Crimes Committee, the protected areas authority, the Navy and fishermen were developed to organize joint patrols.
- As a result of 66 boat persecutions in Banco Chinchorro; two boats, two coolers, two nets, and three harpoons were confiscated.
- Also five criminal complaints and three administrative processes for the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Food (SAGARPA, in Spanish), and nine for Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA, in Spanish).
- A fishing license cancelled
- The number of months during the closed season was expanded in two: February and November.
- Eight chats to promote the closed season for Queen Conch were given to 450 people, plus two radio shows and three newspaper articles.
- Informative material was designed and printed: 1000 calendars, 5000 bookmarkers and 2000 stickers.

Project: 2-014 Implementation of strategies for sustainability and fair trade in the production chain. Pilot experience for the use of the Collective Brand "Lobsters from Banco Chinchorro and Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserves"

Grantee	RAZONATURA A. C.
Country	Mexico
Objective	To implement a feasible eco-labeled system that promotes a fare and sustainable commerce for spiny lobster

Final results:

- A historical increase in the price of the lobster was reached (30%). This was generated thus operation savings as the acknowledgement to the aggregated value for being a local and sustainable produced lobster.
- The collective brand 'Chakay' was legally registered
- A facility was enabled in Cancún for the fishermen to sell the live lobster to the general public and/or wholesalers.
- Dissemination material was produced and this helped positioning the collective brand easily.

- The fishers now have a wider client base which includes: big hotels, restaurants, local markets.
- A monitoring system for the lobsters was designed and implemented. Fishermen were trained in biological monitoring techniques.