



E-News Bulletin

Gulf of Mexico

Large Marine Ecosystem (GoMLME)

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Indice

INDEX

XVI Reunión Anual del Comité Trilateral para la Conservación
y Manejo de Vida Silvestre y Ecosistemas

*XVI Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management*

3

Beyond the Horizon: Creando una Red de Sitios Oceánicos
Especiales para Fortalecer la Ecología, Economía y Cultura
del Golfo de México

*Beyond the Horizon: Creating a Network of Special Ocean Places to
Strengthen the Ecology, Economy and Culture of the Gulf of Mexico*

5

Historia reciente de los Pescadores de camarón de
Laguna de Terminos

Brief recent history of the shrimp fishermen in Laguna de Terminos

8

II Taller de Educación Ambiental y Participación
Pública para el Golfo de México

*II Workshop on Environmental Education and Public Participation in
the Gulf of Mexico*

10

“Intercambio de Información y Reunión del Grupo de
Conservación y Restauración de Hábitat”

Habitat coastal restoration team (HCRT) Gulf of Mexico alliance meeting

12

Propuesta de plan de involucramiento de
Laguna de Terminos

*Towards a multiple stakeholders involvement
plan in Laguna de Terminos*

14

Second International Marine
Conservation Congress (IMCC2)

18

XVI Reunión Anual del Comité Trilateral para la Conservación y Manejo de Vida Silvestre y Ecosistemas

Oaxaca, Oaxaca, México. 17-19 Mayo

El Comité Trilateral Canadá/México/EEUU para la Conservación y Manejo de Vida Silvestre se estableció en 1995 para facilitar y mejorar la cooperación y coordinación entre las agencias de vida silvestre de las tres naciones en los proyectos y programas para las plantas, la diversidad biológica y ecosistemas de interés mutuo. La Cooperación Trilateral también facilita el desarrollo de asociaciones con otras entidades asociadas e interesadas. Las delegaciones de cada país se reúnen anualmente para los debates sobre una amplia gama de temas, desde conjunta, en proyectos en el terreno a las cuestiones de aplicación de la ley para el desarrollo de bases de datos.

El proyecto GoM LME recibió una invitación por parte del gobierno de México para participar en esta edición de la reunión y reportar acerca de la iniciativa de gran ecosistema marino actualmente en desarrollo en la región. La reunión se desarrolló en el hotel Misión de los Ángeles, en la ciudad de Oaxaca. Más de 30 organizaciones de los tres países incluyendo agencias federales y estatales, instituciones académicas y organizaciones no gubernamentales participaron en la reunión.

Se dio lugar a presentaciones en plenaria así como a la realización de cinco sesiones de mesas de trabajo, las cuales se estructuraron de la siguiente forma:

XVI Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management

Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico. May 17-19

The Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee of Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management facilitates and enhances cooperation and coordination among the wildlife agencies of the three nations in projects and programs for the conservation and management of wildlife, plants, biological diversity, and ecosystems of mutual interest. The Trilateral also facilitates the development of partnerships with other associated and interested entities. Delegations from each country come together annually for discussions on a wide range of topics, from joint, on-the-ground projects to issues of law enforcement to the development of information databases.

An invitation for the GoM LME project to participate in this meeting came from the Mexican government to report on the large marine ecosystem initiative currently being developed in the region. The meeting took place at the Misión de los Angeles Hotel, Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico. Over thirty organizations from the three countries including federal and state government agencies, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private industry participated in the Trilateral Committee.

1. *Mesa Ejecutiva*
2. *Mesa de Aplicación de la Ley*
3. *Mesa de Conservación de Ecosistemas*
4. *Mesa de Aves Migratorias*
5. *Mesa de Especies de Atención Común*

Cada mesa tuvo la tarea de revisar los avances realizados desde la reunión del año anterior y reportar sobre sus asuntos actuales para el período 2011-2012.

El Proyecto GoM LME participó en la Mesa de Conservación de Ecosistemas y reportó acerca de asuntos relativos a la conectividad ecosistémica marina y costera a lo largo del Gran Ecosistema Marino del Golfo de México.

La intervención se enfocó en mostrar que los impactos sobre los recursos marinos vivos y ecosistemas afectan a los países que comparten el Golfo de México, dado que muchos de estos recursos son compartidos, migratorios o están conectados vía transporte larvario.

Se enfatizó el hecho de que estrechas y complejas conexiones ambientales, sociales, económicas y físicas en términos de causas y efectos son muy evidentes a lo largo de la región y que es necesario un enfoque de gran ecosistema marino para aspirar a una gestión efectiva en el largo plazo.

Se dio una breve explicación de los proyectos piloto y su enfoque integrado y los principales resultados del componente de conservación de ecosistemas y biodiversidad se presentaron a través de un modelo esquemático.

Finalmente, se comentó acerca de las sinergias que el proyecto está construyendo hacia la Cumbre del Golfo a realizarse en diciembre de 2011. Se estableció contacto con actores clave y el trabajo futuro se enfocará en desarrollar insumos que puedan aportar información para la siguiente reunión trilateral en 2012.

There was room for presentations in plenary sessions as well as for five individual work table sessions which were structured as follows:

1. *Executive table*
2. *Law enforcement table*
3. *Ecosystem conservation table*
4. *Migratory birds table*
5. *Species of common concern table*

Each work table had the mandate of reviewing progress made from last year's meeting and report on current items for the 2011-2012 period.

The GoM LME Project participated in the Ecosystem Conservation table and reported on marine and coastal ecosystem connectivity issues along the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem.

The intervention focused on showing that depletion and impacts on living marine resources and ecosystems affect the countries that share the Gulf of Mexico given that many of these resources are shared, migratory, or connected via egg or larval transport.

Stress was placed on the fact that tight and complex environmental, social, economic, and physical connections in terms of causes and effects are evident along the region and that a Large Marine Ecosystem-wide, ecosystem-based approach is required for an effective management in the long run.

A brief overview of the pilot projects and their integrated approach was also presented. The main outcomes of the conservation and biodiversity component were introduced through a schematic model of how the project aims to achieve these results.

Finally, comments were made regarding the synergies that the project is building towards the Gulf of Mexico Summit to be held in December 2011. Links with key stakeholders were established and further work will focus on building upon inputs for the next Trilateral Meeting in 2012.



Beyond the Horizon: Creando una Red de Sitios Oceánicos Especiales para Fortalecer la Ecología, Economía y Cultura del Golfo de México

Sarasota, Florida, EEUU. 12-13 de Mayo

El Mote Marine Laboratory fue sede de la conferencia “Beyond the Horizon”. Este foro sirvió para discutir la creación de una red potencial de sitios especiales para fortalecer la ecología, economía y cultura del Golfo de México que resulte en la construcción de consenso para establecer protección significativa para sitios clave del Golfo de México y garantizar que continúen aportando servicios ambientales a la sociedad. La identificación de mecanismos que permitan enfoques integrales de manejo, así como la participación pública en la toma de decisiones fueron temas clave que también se abordaron en esta conferencia.

Beyond the Horizon: Creating a Network of Special Ocean Places to Strengthen the Ecology, Economy and Culture of the Gulf of Mexico

Sarasota, Florida, USA. May 12-13

The Mote Marine Laboratory was host to the “Beyond the Horizon” conference. This was a forum to discuss a potential network of special ocean places to strengthen the ecology, economy and culture of the Gulf of Mexico in order to build consensus for establishing ecologically significant protections for key Gulf of Mexico sites to ensure that they continue to provide important services to our society. Identification of mecha-

Se hicieron presentaciones relevantes de expertos y líderes en la región, las cuales confirmaron la declaración de que la oportunidad es ahora. La protección del océano tiene aproximadamente cien años de retraso en contraste con lo que se ha desarrollado en tierra.

El grupo de restauración NRDA mostró que éste es un proceso legal para determinar daños causados por la exposición a materiales tóxicos ya sean hidrocarburos u otros contaminantes. Se revelaron los tediosos, detallados y largos procesos enfocados a gobernanza, sitios especiales, actividades internacionales, usos y economía en el Golfo. Se manifestó que el Golfo de México es uno de los ecosistemas más importantes del mundo.

Se destacó que el noreste de Yucatán es el hogar de enormes agregaciones de tiburones ballena cada verano y que sus patrones de desplazamiento muestran y confirman que el Golfo de México no es más que sólo un gran ecosistema, el cual quizá es el más industrializado pero también uno de los más productivos y resilientes en el mundo.

La participación del proyecto GoM LME detalló el trabajo que se está realizando con socios



nisms that allow comprehensive approaches to management as well as significant involvement of the public in decision-making was also a key addressed issue during the conference.

Presentations from leading experts in the region confirmed the statement that the opportunity is now. Protection of the ocean is about one hundred years behind what took place in the land.

The NRDA restoration task force, for instance, revealed the tedious, detailed, and lengthy processes that focus on governance, special places, international activities and uses and economics in the Gulf. It was stated that the Gulf of Mexico is one of the most important ecosystems in the world.

Governance issues and hurdles that must be followed were pointed out as were the National Marine Sanctuaries programs and the issues they go through.

It was noted that the Northeastern Yucatan is home to an amazing whale shark aggregation every summer. Their movement tracking patterns show that the Gulf of Mexico is one big ecosystem.

The Gulf of Mexico may be the most industrialized body of water on earth but despite this industrialization it is very productive and very resilient.

The Gulf of Mexico LME Project's participation outlined the work that is being done with Mexican and US partners, highlighting the need for an understanding of this as a bi-national project with one regional scale that results into a common vision for the Gulf of Mexico given by the underlying tight connectivity issues. The challenge then is to build a bridge for mutual co-operation and collaboration.

Regarding the uses and economies of the region, the productive value of the Gulf and ecosystem services were shown.

mexicanos y americanos, destacando la necesidad de entender éste como un proyecto binacional de escala regional, el cual resulte en una sola visión para el Golfo de México dada por la alta conectividad ecosistémica. El reto es construir un puente de cooperación y colaboración mutua entre ambos países.

Conclusiones generales

El Golfo de México es un solo ecosistema que está estrechamente conectado e interconectado biofísica, social y económicamente. Existen buenas aportaciones científicas; sin embargo, la incertidumbre siempre será parte de lo que se realiza a nivel de ecosistemas y el ambiente. Por lo tanto, no hay una sola respuesta científica y es necesario enfrentar la incertidumbre, dada por la evaluación de riesgo y el principio precautorio. Las decisiones tienen que tomarse sin tener que esperar la verdad científica y un gran reto es convencer al público acerca del valor real del Golfo de México.

Se puede y además es indispensable trabajar junto con la industria petrolera en todos estos procesos, ya que para tener un ecosistema sano primero se debe tener un ambiente sano. Tanto el medio ambiente como la economía co-existen y contienden uno con otro y se debe trabajar para mantener a ambos saludables.

Finalmente, se mostró una gráfica con el consumo energético, la cual sugiere que al menos durante la próxima generación o dos, seguiremos dependiendo de las mismas fuentes de energía que en la actualidad.

A pesar de que muchos de nosotros queremos cambiar rápidamente, no podemos cambiar rápidamente, a menos que estemos dispuestos a caminar o a apagar nuestro aire acondicionado.



Overall conclusions

The Gulf of Mexico is one big ecosystem that is tightly connected and interconnected biophysically, socially, and economically. There is good science out there however uncertainty will always be a part of what we do at the level of ecosystems and the environment. Therefore, there is no scientific answer and we have to engage in dealing with uncertainty such as risk assessment and the precautionary principle.

Decisions have to be made not waiting for scientific truth and a big challenge is to convince the public of the true value of the GoM.

We can and we must work with together with the oil and gas industry in these processes that we are doing.

To have a healthy ecosystem we must have a healthy environment. Both the environment and economy co-exist and contend with each other and we must work together in keeping those healthy.

A graph showing energy production facts suggested that for the next generation or two we are going to be on the same energy sources that we are on today. Although a lot of us want to change quickly we can't change quickly, unless we are willing to start walking or turn off our air conditioner.

Historia reciente de los Pescadores de camarón de Laguna de Terminos

Por Andres Latapi LME-GoM

En laguna de Términos (LT), en el municipio del Carmen (MC), Campeche, México; la pesca de altura del camarón comenzó en los años 50's con el desarrollo de barcos con tecnología de arrastre y capacidad de almacenamiento y refrigeración. Una gran mayoría de la tripulación habían sido pescadores artesanales del área. En esa época, el camarón adquirió un gran valor en el mercado. Del 100% capturado, el 20% era congelado y el otro 80% era arrojado al mar por ser fauna de acompañamiento y no tener valor comercial. El camarón era comercializado a gran escala por empresarios carmelitas. Esto duró cerca de 25 años, hasta que los inventarios empezaron a decaer y en los 70's llegó la era del petróleo. El gobierno argumentó que la flota estaba vieja y obsoleta y que la producción y los ingresos se encontraban bajos, por lo que en 1975 ordenó que la flota fuera desmantelada junto con

Brief recent history of the shrimp fishermen in Laguna de Terminos

By Andres Latapi LME-GoM

In the case of Terminos Lagoon (LT), Municipality of Carmen (MC), Campeche, Mexico; large scale fishing began in the 1950s using trawlers with tonnage capacity and cooling systems. Many of the crew members were folk fishermen from the area. At that time, shrimp acquired great market value. Of the 100% caught, 20% was frozen and the remaining 80% was thrown back into the sea. This lasted for about 20 to 25 years, until its inventories began to decrease. The shrimp was exclusive specie for cooperatives-social enterprises- Shrimp industry was covered registered as a cooperative system. In the 1970s the oil era arrived and the government, claiming that the fleet was old and obsolete and that production and incomes were low¹, ordered the fleet to be dismantled almost entirely in 1975, leaving only a few boats and removing the cooling systems and limiting transportation to the oil exclusion zone which was the shrimp capture area; so the Carmelite shrimp industry practically collapsed. The entrepreneurs transformed their economy into a real-estate business for property investors to develop hotels and shopping malls and foreign investments. It was fostered for such enterprises, but not to support fishing. (Rodriguez,(1984) Melvine (1984) Leriche (1995), Ciudad del Carmen dock informants (2010).

At the beginning of the shrimp boom, the large-scale workforce incorporated a good part of folk labor that used to fish in dugouts and sailboats. When this era terminated, the population that worked on the large-scale shrimp fleet was compensated in the old fishing style, cash money but no future projects. Folk fishermen used

los sistemas de refrigeración y dejando solo unos cuantos barcos y prohibiendo la pesca en la zona de exclusión petrolera, la cual había sido era la zona más rica de pesca del camarón. Así la industria camaronera Carmelita prácticamente se colapsó. Los empresarios carmelitas transformaron su economía en inversiones de bienes raíces, en centros comerciales y en finanzas pero ya no más en pesca.

Al inicio del boom camaronero, la mano de obra de los barcos camaroneros había incorporado a los pescadores que usaban vela y canoas. Cuando esta etapa terminó, los trabajadores fueron indemnizados bajo la antigua tradición pesquera, dinero en efectivo sin proyectos futuros. Los pescadores artesanales lo utilizaron para celebrar el éxito de tener dinero y el poco que no gastaron lo invirtieron en pequeñas lanchas usadas y motores que junto a los créditos y subsidios gubernamentales reiniciaron la pesca artesanal en Laguna de Términos. Estos se registraron como nuevas cooperativas artesanales- muchas de ellas familiares- a través de las cuales obtuvieron permisos y subsidios, y así se incorporaron al mercado. Sin experiencia administrativa, sin reglas claras de mercado – la mayoría del camarón se consume en Cd. Del Carmen- y falta de acumulación de capital, junto con la celebración continua del éxito los ha puesto en una posición de pobreza cultural la cual deriva en una sobrepesca sin control ambiental con deterioro de ecosistemas.

Los subsidios gubernamentales han sido usados para mantener una relativa estabilidad política. Las personas que no logran entrar a Pemex o subsidiarias buscan otros lugares de trabajo y uno de estos es la pesca habiendo una presión al sobresfuerzo y un aumento de población continuo en este sector.

it for celebration of success, and some of the money that was left was invested in used boats of the transfer of the large scale fleet to them as cooperatives in 1982 and some where purchase by subsidies and credits from the government to the new small scale cooperatives. This is the origin of current small-scale fishing in Laguna de Terminos (LT).

As a result, the change in policy during the 1970s stimulated the development of the cooperative and the bio economic rationalistic model. What changed then was that the cooperative delivered their products to various government branches (PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS MEXICANOS and Ocean Garden), where the shrimp was bought in pesos and sold in dollars (Nadal, 1996, Alcalá 2004) but most of the fish was earmarked for the domestic market. This model functioned until the late 1980s when the national fisheries system disintegrated with its rationalities and vanishing points. From then on, the fishermen have relied on the dynamics of the market to dictate their fate and this in turn, has made them prey to intermediaries.

In LT folk fishermen have appropriated the social dynamics of the cooperatives: permits and subsidies, plus market and power relations. However, lack of administrative experience, unclear rules, lack of accumulation of capital and the celebration of success has kept them in a position of cultural poverty - weakening the family structure..

Subsidies are intended to maintain relative political stability where the productive sector has fallen apart. People who are not eligible to work for PEMEX seek other job sources, and one of them is fishing. Free fishermen and others who seek employment are subject to the rules of fish society and also the cooperative system.

II Taller de Educación Ambiental y Participación Pública para el Golfo de México

Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, México.

6 y 7 de junio



El 6 y 7 de junio, se llevó a cabo este taller con el objeto de llegar a un consenso respecto a la propuesta de misión, visión y líneas estratégicas del Programa de Educación Ambiental que el proyecto GoM LME ha venido desarrollando, así como para identificar algunas actividades a realizar en la región del Golfo de México.

La sede fue la Universidad del Carmen (UNACAR), cuyas excelentes instalaciones para este evento fueron facilitadas al proyecto GoM LME gracias a la exitosa colaboración que ambas instancias han venido fortaleciendo desde 2010.

Durante el primer día del taller, se hicieron 16 presentaciones de representantes de diversas organizaciones de la sociedad civil, instituciones gubernamentales y académicas:

- Universidad del Carmen, UNACAR
- Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, CONANP

II Workshop on Environmental Education and Public Participation in the Gulf of Mexico

Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, Mexico. June 6-7

On June 6-7 the GoM LME Project conducted this workshop in order to reach consensus regarding the proposed vision, mission, and strategic lines of the Environmental Education Program that the GoM LME Project has been developing, as well as to identify activities to be accomplished within the Gulf of Mexico region.

The meeting took place at the Universidad del Carmen (UNACAR), which provided suitable installations for this event as part of the excellent partnership that the GoM LME Project and this University have been developing since 2010.

The first day of the workshop consisted of 16 presentations from representatives of different institutions and organizations:

- Universidad del Carmen, UNACAR
- National Commission for Natural Protected Areas, CONANP
- Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem Project, GoM LME
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance, GOMA
- Center for Education and Training for Sustainable Development, CECADESU

- *Proyecto del Gran Ecosistema Marino del Golfo de México, GoM LME*
- *Alianza del Golfo de México, GOMA*
- *Centro de Educación y Capacitación para el Desarrollo Sustentable, CECADESU*
- *Universidad Veracruzana, UV*
- *Fundación del Golfo de México*
- *Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR*
- *Fondo de Comunicación y Educación Ambiental, FCEA*
- *Acuario de Veracruz*
- *Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, UADY*
- *Secretaría de Educación de Campeche*

Estas presentaciones se enfocaron a identificar las actividades y acciones específicas que se están desarrollando actualmente en la región en relación a educación ambiental y participación pública. Se destacó que cada institución tiene su propia misión y visión y cada una trabaja de forma independiente.

El análisis de la información generada el primer día llevó a la conclusión de que más allá de implementar un programa, lo que se requiere es crear una alianza que integre todas estas visiones y misiones en una sola iniciativa de acuerdo a temas específicos y preocupaciones comunes en la región. Todos los participantes acordaron que la creación de una Alianza de Educadores Ambientales en el Golfo de México sería la forma más conveniente de trabajo.

Los productos más importantes de este taller fueron: el consenso de la visión, misión y líneas estratégicas de esta iniciativa de trabajo. Las tareas pendientes son la identificación de metas y acciones específicas. Éstas serán completadas en breve por el proyecto GoM LME, quien será el líder de los trabajos a futuro.



- *Universidad Veracruzana, UV*
- *Gulf of Mexico Foundation*
- *National Commission for Forestry, CONAFOR*
- *Fund for Communication and Environmental Education, FCEA*
- *Veracruz Aquarium*
- *Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, UADY*
- *Ministry of Education from Campeche*

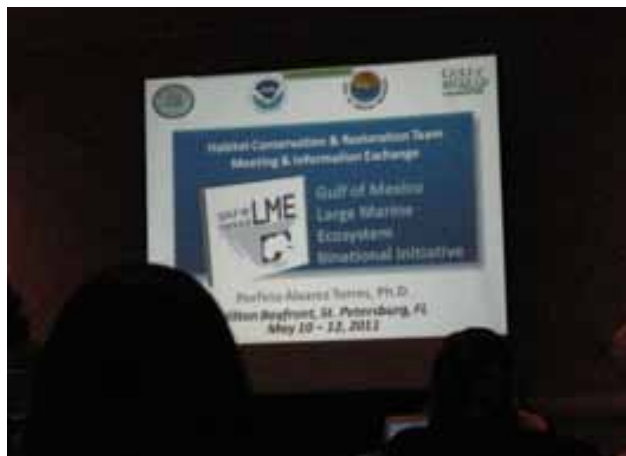
These presentations focused on identifying the activities and specific actions that are currently being implemented in the region in regards to environmental education and public participation. The fact that each institution/organization has its own vision and mission, was pointed out by different participants.

Analysis of information from the first day resulted in the idea that more than implementing a program, what we need is to create an alliance that integrates all these visions and missions in a single initiative according to specific issues and common concerns in the region. All the participants agreed that the creation of an Alliance for Environmental Educators in the Gulf of Mexico would be the most suitable work scheme.

The most important outcomes from this workshop were the agreed vision, mission and strategic lines of this work initiative. Pending tasks are the identification of specific goals and activities. This will be completed by the GoM LME Project, who will also lead future work.

“Intercambio de Información y Reunión del Grupo de Conservación y Restauración de Hábitat”

St. Petersburg, Florida, EEUU. 10-11 Mayo



Esta reunión se llevó a cabo en el hotel Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront con más de 70 participantes.

Se contó también con la representación de 6 agencias federales, 12 instituciones/agencias estatales, 6 organizaciones no gubernamentales, 4 empresas privadas y 5 agencias/instituciones mexicanas.

El grupo del Grupo de Conservación y Restauración de Hábitat (HCRT) de la Alianza del Golfo de México está compuesto por agencias estatales y federales, ONGs, instituciones académicas e interesados en el Golfo de México. La Fundación del Golfo de México coordina y lidera este grupo para abordar temas de tecnología, política, financiamiento, y procedimientos operativos para avanzar en los esfuerzos de conservación y restauración a lo largo del Golfo.

Habitat coastal restoration team (HCRT) Gulf of Mexico alliance meeting

St. Petersburg, Florida, USA. May 10-11

This meeting took place at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront with over 70 total participants. There was representation from 6 federal agencies, 12 state agencies/institutions, 6 non-governmental organizations, 4 for-profit companies, and 5 Mexican agencies/institutions. The Habitat Conservation and Restoration Priority Issue Team (HCRT) of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance is composed of state and federal agencies, NGO's, academic institutions, and vested interests in the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf of Mexico Foundation coordinates and leads this team in addressing issues of technology, policy, funding, and operating procedures to advance conserva-

Se presentaron proyectos del HCRT tales como modelación del incremento del nivel del mar, análisis de políticas que impiden la restauración, estrategias de manejo de sedimento, y valoración de servicios ecosistémicos de hábitats. Dichos proyectos recaen dentro de las cinco áreas bajo el Plan de Acción de Gobernadores:

1. *Extensión de Alianzas*
2. *Cambios de Política*
3. *Desarrollo de Tecnología*
4. *Plan Maestro Regional del Golfo para el Manejo de Sedimentos*
5. *Mitigación de Tendencias de Deterioro en los Servicios Ecosistémicos*

La presentación del Proyecto GoM LME en esta reunión se enfocó a resaltar la adopción de una visión común del Golfo de México, la cual proporcione un enfoque de gran ecosistema marino de escala regional para el Golfo para así fortalecer las alianzas intersectoriales e institucionales. Se enfatizó en los proyectos piloto de restauración de ecosistemas que actualmente se desarrollan en la Laguna de Términos, Campeche, así como su futura replicabilidad en otras áreas del Golfo a través de lecciones aprendidas, creación de capacidades, e indicadores de éxito hacia la construcción del programa de acción estratégico regional.

Esta reunión fue parte de una serie de encuentros internacionales, mediante los cuales el HCRT está estableciendo una red entre contrapartes estadounidenses y mexicanas. Los participantes están identificando metas comunes y temas clave para el Golfo, y formulando estrategias a abordar en ambos países.

tion and restoration efforts across the Gulf.

HCRT projects such as sea level rise modeling, analysis of policies impeding restoration, sediment management strategies, and valuing ecosystem services of habitats were presented. These fall into five action areas under the Governors' Action Plan:

1. *Expanded Partnerships*
2. *Policy Changes*
3. *Technology Development*
4. *Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan*
5. *Reversing the Downward Trend in Ecosystem Services*

The GoM LME Project's presentation on this meeting focused on highlighting the adoption of a common vision of the Gulf of Mexico, one that provides for a regional-scale, LME approach to the Gulf in order to strengthen intersectoral and institutional partnerships. Stress was made on restoration pilot projects that are currently being developed in Terminos Lagoon, Campeche and their further replicability in other areas of the Gulf through lessons learned, capacity-building, and success indicators towards the construction of the regional strategic action program.

This meeting was part of a series of international meetings, by which the HCRT is establishing a network between U.S. and Mexican counterparts. Participants are identifying common goals and key issues for the Gulf, and formulating strategies to address them in both countries.

Propuesta de plan de involucramiento de Laguna de Terminos

Por: César Díaz Luna

De acuerdo con el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM), un efectivo involucramiento público es esencial para el éxito de los proyectos financiados por el Fondo. El involucramiento público, llevado apropiadamente, mejora el desempeño y el impacto de los proyectos. De esta forma, se obtienen beneficios como el mejoramiento de la apropiación y responsabilidad del país beneficiario de los productos del proyecto; se direccionan las necesidades sociales y económicas de la gente afectada; se construyen relaciones entre las dependencias ejecutoras del proyecto y los interesados; y, se hace uso de las capacidades, experiencias y conocimientos, en particular de las organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG's), de los grupos comunitarios locales, así como del sector privado, en el diseño, la implementación y la evaluación de las actividades del proyecto.

La participación pública se compone de tres procesos asociados que a menudo se superponen: la difusión de la información, la consulta y el involucramiento de los interesados. Los interesados son aquellas personas, grupos o instituciones con interés o participación en los resultados o productos de un proyecto, así como aquellos interesados que puedan verse afectados por el mismo. Para el FMAM, las partes interesadas incluyen a los gobiernos receptores, los organismos implementadores, los organismos

Towards a multiple stakeholders involvement plan in Laguna de Terminos

By: César Díaz Luna

According to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), an effective public involvement is essential to the success of projects. Public involvement, properly led, improves performance and impact of projects. Thus, there are benefits such as enhancing recipient country ownership of, and accountability for, project outcomes; addressing the social and economic needs of affected people; relationships are built between the project executing agencies and stakeholders; and, makes use of the skills, experience and knowledge, particularly non-governmental organizations (NGO's), local community groups and private sector in the design, implementation and evaluation of project activities.

Public involvement consists of three related, and often overlapping, processes: information dissemination, consultation, and "stakeholder" participation. Stakeholders are the individuals, groups, or institutions that have an interest or stake in the outcome of a GEF-financed project. The term also applies to those potentially affected by a project. Stakeholders include recipient country governments, implementing agencies, project executing agencies, groups contracted

ejecutores, los grupos contratados para llevar a cabo las actividades en las distintas etapas del proyecto y los grupos de la sociedad civil con posible interés en el mismo.

La difusión de información trata de la disponibilidad y distribución de información oportuna y pertinente sobre el proyecto. Los aspectos de difusión incluyen la notificación adecuada y la divulgación de la información del proyecto y el acceso público adecuado.

La consulta se refiere a los intercambios de información entre el gobierno, el organismo implementador, los organismos ejecutores y las demás partes interesadas. Aunque la responsabilidad en la toma de decisiones recae en el gobierno, el organismo implementador y los organismos ejecutores, las consultas periódicas a lo largo del ciclo del proyecto ayudan a los administradores a tomar decisiones informadas sobre las actividades del mismo. Las consultas adicionales ofrecen oportunidades para las comunidades y grupos locales para contribuir al diseño del proyecto, su ejecución y evaluación.

El involucramiento de las partes interesadas es un compromiso de colaboración, según sea el caso, en la identificación de conceptos y objetivos del proyecto, la selección de sitios, el diseño y ejecución de las actividades, y la supervisión y evaluación. El desarrollo de estrategias para la incorporación o involucramiento de los interesados es particularmente necesario en aquellos que afectan los ingresos y el sustento de los grupos locales, especialmente las poblaciones desfavorecidas en y los alrededores del sitio del proyecto (por ejemplo, las comunidades indígenas, las mujeres y los hogares pobres).

La necesidad de involucrar a los “múltiples interesados” en la gestión de los recursos naturales es cada vez más reconocido, y una amplia

to conduct project activities at various stages of the project, and other groups in the civil society which may have an interest in the project.

Information dissemination refers to the availability and distribution of timely and relevant information on GEF-financed projects. Aspects of dissemination include appropriate notification and disclosure of project information, and proper public access to it.

Consultation pertains to information exchanges among the government, the Implementing Agency, project executing agencies, and other stakeholders. Although decision making authority rests with the government, the Agency, and project executing agencies, periodic consultations throughout the project cycle help managers make informed choices about project activities. Consultation further provides opportunities for communities and local groups to contribute to project design, implementation, and evaluation.

Stakeholder participation is where stakeholders collaboratively engage, as appropriate, in the identification of project concepts and objectives, selection of sites, design and implementation of activities, and monitoring and evaluation of projects. Developing strategies for incorporating stakeholder participation throughout the project cycle is particularly necessary in projects which impact the incomes and livelihoods of local groups, especially disadvantaged populations in and around project sites (for example, indigenous communities, women, and poor households).

The need to involve “multiple stakeholder” in the management of natural resources is increasingly recognized, and a wide range of processes and mechanisms have evolved and continue to achieve this change in approaches to conventional natural resource management.

gama de procesos y mecanismos han evolucionado y siguen haciéndolo, para lograr este cambio en los enfoques del manejo convencional de los recursos naturales.

Un Plan para el Involucramiento de los Múltiples Interesados garantizará que la información fluya hacia ellos, en los temas de interés del enfoque de Grandes Ecosistemas Marinos (GEM), que les haga ver cómo ellos contribuyen en los problemas o se ven afectados por los mismos.

Para el desarrollo de un Plan de este tipo se propone ejecutar acciones basadas principalmente en la Guía de Planificación Participativa de la Acción, a través de un enfoque integrado de planificación de comunicación, educación y concienciación del público (CECoP) de la Convención sobre Humedales de Ramsar.

Estas acciones consisten de los siguientes pasos:

- **Parte 1:** Cómo empezar: Aclarando el contexto de planificación de la acción. Consiste en una serie de cuestionamientos para el planificador relacionados con su mandato, objetivos, resultados, productos deseados, así como el calendario, los recursos disponibles y los posibles colaboradores. Recomienda la integración de un “equipo central de planificación de la acción”.
- **Parte 2:** Taller para múltiples interesados: Trazando el cambio. Este taller, facilitado en forma profesional, fomenta un ambiente de confianza y creatividad, al desarrollar la seguridad y la motivación de los interesados en contribuir. A partir de las visiones de un paisaje utilizado en forma racional, los participantes identifican cambios de conducta prioritarios y reflexionan sobre el proceso de realización de estos cambios prioritarios hacia el logro de una meta futura a largo plazo y sugieren un proceso de cambio, el cual se captará en un “diagrama de caminos del

A Plan for Multiple Stakeholder Involvement ensure that the information flow to them on issues of interest regarding the approach of Large Marine Ecosystem (LME), which makes them see how they contribute to the problems or are affected by them.

To achieve the development of the Plan intends to implement actions based primarily on participatory planning guide for action, through an integrated approach to communication planning, education and public awareness (CEPA) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

These actions consist of the following steps:

- **Part 1:** *Getting Started: Clarifying the context of action planning. The process involves a series of questions for the planner that relate to its mandate, objectives, outputs, outcomes desired, and the schedule, resources and potential collaborators. Recommends the Integration of a “central planning team action.”*
- **Part 2:** *Multi-stakeholder Workshop: Charting the change. This workshop, facilitated professionally, fosters an environment of trust and creativity, to develop security and motivation to those interested in contributing. From the visions of a landscape used in a rational way, participants identify priority behavioral changes and reflect on the process of realization of these priorities for change towards a future long-term goal and suggest a process of change, which will be captured in a “diagram of pathways of change.” This includes ideas for communication interventions, education and public awareness.*
- **Part 3:** *Validating the discussion with focus groups and surveys of stakeholders. This section validates the process of valida-*

cambio”. Esto incluye ideas para intervenciones de comunicación, educación y concienciación del público.

► **Parte 3:** Validando la reflexión con grupos focales y encuestas a interesados. En esta parte se valida el proceso de validación de las reflexiones hechas hasta el momento. Se trabaja con expertos en el diseño y el manejo de encuestas en el proceso de desarrollo de preguntas específicas para interesados, para poner a prueba los supuestos sobre sus conocimientos, actitudes y destrezas. Se analizan e informan sobre los resultados, lo que incluye las conclusiones en términos de mejoramiento, revisión o recomendación de nuevas intervenciones.

► **Parte 4:** Segundo taller: Avanzando de las ideas a la acción. El taller se basa en los resultados de las etapas anteriores y genera un plan de acción que ‘pertenece’ a los interesados principales que se comprometen a hacerse cargo de la implementación del plan y las modalidades de monitoreo y evaluación. Con el equipo central de planificación se presentará el “diagrama mejorado de camino del cambio”, además de información sobre conocimientos, actitudes y destrezas de los interesados (lo que incluye lo relacionado con conductas alternativas y la superación de obstáculos), así como canales de comunicación e intervenciones apropiados y eficaces. El grupo discute la conversión de estas ideas en un plan de acción, así como el rol que juega el equipo central de planificación de la acción en este proceso.

Referencias.

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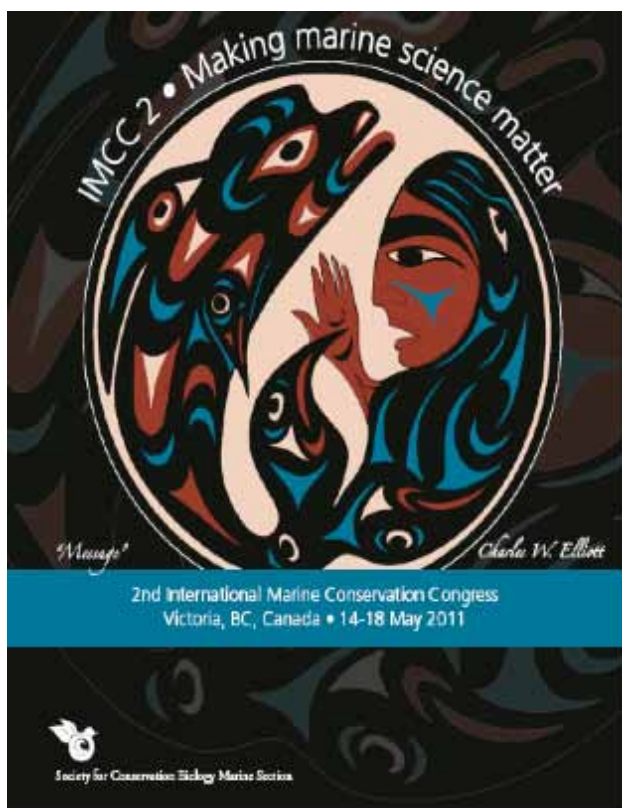
tion of what has been so far. We work with experts in the design and management of polls in the development process of specific questions for interested parties to test assumptions about their knowledge, attitudes and skills. We analyze and report on the results, including the findings in terms of improvement, review or recommendation for further action.

► **Part 4:** *Second Workshop: Moving from ideas to action. The workshop is based on the results of the previous stages and generates a plan of action ‘belongs’ to the stakeholders who are committed to take charge of implementing the plan and the monitoring and evaluation. With the core planning team will present the “plot improved way of change” as well as information on knowledge, attitudes and skills of stakeholders (including matters related to alternative behaviors and overcoming obstacles), and channels communication and appropriate and effective interventions. The group discusses the conversion of these ideas into a plan of action as well as the role played by the core planning team of the action in this process.*

References.

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Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 2008. *A Guide to Participatory Action Planning and Techniques for Facilitating Groups*. http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/outreach_actionplanning_guide_s.pdf



Second International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC2)

Victoria, BC, Canada 14-18 May 2011

The IMCC2 Congress started with an encouraging note and success stories in marine conservation. IMCC2 was supported by several international organizations that helped organizers and raised funds to bring scientist, journalist, students, government officials and NGOs from all over the world. An evening reception was held on Sunday the 15th sponsored by the UNESCO Marine World Heritage Program and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), with the theme of Marine World Heritage Sites. The congress was very interactive with a tremendous commitment from participants and organizers to produce tangible products towards a real effect on marine conservation.

The IMCC2 expanded the proportion of symposia and workshops offered and added a format, named the focus groups. Focus groups were designed to bring together people with

diverse expertise to develop tangible outputs, such as a list of recommendations, publication, policy briefing or white paper, on a specific marine conservation issue.

IMCC2 received proposals for over 100 symposia, workshops, and focus groups, and over 1000 abstracts (invited and contributed, posters and speed presentations). These were sent from every continent including proposals that deal with Antarctica and many countries, from all kind of scientist from different fields of expertise, from conservation to policy-makers, students, government employees, and observers were part of IMCC2.

Within the Second International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC2) on May 15th, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in close collaboration with other NGOs, Academia, Government Agencies and the Gulf of México Large Marine

Ecosystem (GoM LME), organized and conducted the Symposium “The role of marine sciences in advancing conservation in the Gulf of Mexico: impacts and opportunities from the oil spill”.

The following are the Summaries presented by Symposium participants:

Cindy Brown and Jorge Brenner from TNC welcomed participants, and introduced the Symposium to the audience. They started by explaining the “Science-based strategy for long term restoration of the Gulf of Mexico: The Nature Conservancy’s road map to a healthier and resilient Gulf”.

Cindy Brown highlighted that the Gulf of Mexico large marine ecosystem is one of the few places on Earth where the health of the environment is so obviously linked to the health of the economy and community on such a vast scale. She emphasized that the Deepwater Horizon blowout in April 2010 has now become the largest offshore oil spill in US history. However, there are still areas in the Gulf that have remained untouched by oil, and it will be increasingly important to continue, expand and accelerate science, conservation and restoration work on these areas. With more than 40 years of science-based work in the Gulf area, The Nature Conservancy has developed a “Three-Strand Restoration Strategy” for the Gulf. The plan intends to reverse the damages and restore the Gulf’s resilience by restoring the sources of its strength, health and productivity. TNC approach is to 1) build a diverse coal-

tion to champion habitat restoration to achieve economic, social and environmental goals, 2) help decision-makers prioritize restoration where it will do the most for people and for nature in terms of creating jobs, reducing social vulnerability, and improving nature’s benefits , and 3) act in “no regrets” places where we can demonstrate how a restoration economy can build up people, their communities and the economy

by building up healthy coastal ecosystems. The effects of the spill are tragic but still restoration is possible. The current tragedy has given us perspective that should guide our future actions and direct how we invest in the future of the Gulf of Mexico.

William Kiene Se-

nior Scientist – National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA presented “A network of marine protected areas for the Gulf of Mexico”, stating that the Deepwater Horizon oil spill highlighted the vulnerability of the ecological fabric of the Gulf of Mexico. The future of the Gulf will depend on our responsible use of its economically significant resources, and on how we protect its ecologically significant places. The vitality of the biological communities at these places is determined by the environmental conditions within their boundaries, and by the conditions at other ecologically inter-connected habitats that ring the Gulf. This network of places, and the diverse populations of species they support, is united by the biological products they exchange and by the flow of currents and species that move between them.





A network of strategically placed protected areas would function in unison to restore and sustain vulnerable species and habitats of the Gulf. The network would create a more resilient ecosystem that is better prepared to withstand future impacts and environmental changes. It would also be designed with the users of the Gulf's resources to create a more resilient Gulf economy. The Gulf's physical and ecological connections cross agency jurisdictions and national borders. Success in restoring and maintaining the health of the Gulf of Mexico will rely on our ability to create collaborative stewardship policies that bridge these boundaries.

Paul Holthus – World Ocean Council, President, presented “Engaging ocean industries in improving marine sciences in support of conservation in the Gulf of Mexico – and beyond. Mr Holthus presented the way business is done in the marine environment is a key factor determining ocean health and the success of marine conservation, as the 2010 Gulf of Mexico events demonstrate. Ocean industries need to understand the effects of their activities. In the interconnected marine ecosystem, the best efforts by a single company or an entire sector will not be enough to address major and cumulative effects.

Industry leadership and collaboration is needed to improve the science behind responsible ocean use. Increasing the scope of systematic and sustained information gathering (physical, biogeochemical, living resources, biodiversity) supports marine conservation through improved understanding of ecosystems, variability, trends and climate change - and though improved modeling and predictability that reduces the risk of accidents and enhances response and recovery. Ocean and atmospheric science can be improved by expanding the number of commercial vessels and platforms that participate in data gathering and sharing as “vessels of opportunity” and ensuring this is integrated with relevant government/inter-governmental programs. The World Ocean Council is developing an institutional framework to catalyze and coordinate scaling up industry involvement in ocean/atmospheric observations. This will be especially operational and effective at a regional scale, such as the Gulf of Mexico.

Mike Beck, PhD et al. – TNC Global Marine Team presented “Interactive, multi-objective decision support for restoration in the Gulf of Mexico”. Explained that the physical damage caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill has deeply affected natural infrastructure salt marshes, oyster reefs and barrier island ecosystems. This natural infrastructure is at the very center of the region's economy. Now that the spill has stopped the even larger job of a massive recovery and ecosystem restoration effort is underway. One of the impediments to previous efforts towards large-scale conservation and restoration has been a lack of cohesive ecological, social and economic information on the region. The Gulf Restoration Decision Support project is providing decision support by developing an interactive web-based

mapping application (<http://GulfRestorationDS.org>) to inform the identification of restoration projects with maximum socioeconomic and ecological benefits. This process involves four key steps: 1) identifying ecological criteria for restoration, 2) identifying socio-economic criteria that determine when restoration is most feasible and beneficial 3) analyzing spatial data that represent those criteria, and 4) delivering that information across the Web in a user-friendly mapping application. Gulf Restoration Decision Support will help decision makers to explore alternative restoration scenarios that account for these social, economic, and ecological benefits.

Porfirio Alvarez, GoM LME Project presented the conference “Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem and implications for its long term sustainability”. The CTA mentioned that the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem Project currently managed by the United States and Mexico through UNIDO as the implementing Agency has prepared a transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA), focusing on the Gulf’s overall health assessment, which includes not only the biological and natural productivity areas of interest but it also covers the social, economic and institutional framework of the region. Explained that the large marine ecosystem model included the assessment of the following five key areas: Productivity, Fish and Fisheries, Ecosystem and Pollution, Socioeconomic and Governance, and



considering the significance of global climatic conditions and its particular effects in the Gulf of Mexico, the project has also proposed the inclusion of issues related to climate change and sea level rise. The updated TDA of the Gulf of Mexico will allow the preparation of an overarching strategic plan of action for the Gulf of Mexico to be conveyed by both countries Mexico and the US and will serve as a basis for the long term sustainability of the Gulf. Although recent pollution events such as the BP managed deepwater horizon MC252 oil spill posed a threat to the entire Gulf region and provoked many actions and reactions to strengthen ecosystem conservation, there is a clear need for further bilateral coherent cooperation to build strategic actions for the long term sustainability of the Gulf, based in the

mutual understanding of the entire ecosystem connectivity, resilience and existing capabilities, institutional framework and governance.

David Guggenheim, presented the two innovative conservation approaches in the Gulf of Mexico:

1 a trilateral initiative: Cuba, Mexico, USA, and 2. Moving from fishing to fish farming. There are two new initiatives in the Gulf of Mexico, one at an international level, the other at a community level, demonstrate the potential of innovative, bottom-up approaches in marine science and conservation. Initiative 1. Established in 2007, the “Trilateral Initiative for Marine Science and Conservation in the Gulf of Mexico and Western Caribbean”

is successfully elevating collaboration in marine science and conservation among the three nations that border the Gulf of Mexico: Cuba, Mexico and the United States. The level of support from participants from more than 20 institutions in all three countries has been exceptional, notable given the challenge to collaboration presented by the lack of formal diplomatic relations between Cuba and the U.S. Following its fourth international workshop in 2010, the Initiative has recently completed a comprehensive Plan of Action that provides a blueprint for collaboration over the coming years, including research and conservation activities focused on coral reefs, sea turtles, sharks and marine protected areas. The Initiative played a key role in facilitating tri-national communication during the early weeks of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Initiative 2. New Orleans East and its Village de l'Est neighborhood, a predominantly Vietnamese-American community whose economy is more than 70 percent dependent on the fishing industry, was one of the hardest-hit communities by Hurricane Katrina and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and its future remains uncertain. A community driven effort is advancing the "Viet Village Urban Farm Sustainable Aquaculture Park". This project will employ land-based, closed-containment fish farming to provide an environmentally sustainable alternative to fishing, reducing pressure on wild fish stocks while offering employment alternatives for displaced fishers and seafood industry workers; a long-term investment in the community versus a short-term public assistance measure; fostering of community self-sufficiency and independence through the development of an enduring, community-friendly industry with strong growth potential, energy independence, and the ability to withstand future hurricanes, oil

spills and other catastrophic events; rich socio-economic community benefits.

Wes Tunnell, PhD et al. – Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, presented "Using the biodiversity of the Gulf of Mexico Database as a tool for conservation of marine species", Wes Tunnell highlighted the Biodiversity of the Gulf of Mexico Database (BioGoMx) was developed from a comprehensive biotic inventory compiled by 140 taxonomic experts, published in book format in 2009, listing 15,419 species. This inventory became even more significant as a baseline prior to the Deepwater Horizon blowout. The distributional and taxonomic data are available at OBIS.org and other biodiversity portals. BioGoMx was developed for GulfBase.org to allow custom queries using habitat, biology and other descriptors, including threatened or endangered, and invasive species. While the extent of environmental impacts of the oil spill are not yet fully known, the BioGoMx can be used as a tool to help conservationists monitor what was known to live in the area prior to the spill, identify gaps in knowledge, and prioritize areas for conservation. While conservation efforts will likely focus on coastal areas and megafauna, it is important to note that there were 8,332 species recorded for the NNE octant of the Gulf of Mexico, with 1,708 species in the 1,000–3,000 m depth class where the Macondo well is located. Of the 81 Gulf species identified by the taxonomists as either threatened or endangered, 76 occur in the NE quadrant, including four sea turtles and seven marine mammals. Also, four threatened plants are endemic to that quadrant, and therefore, potentially at greater risk due to the oil spill. As new data becomes available, they can be added to the database, including conservation status.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Binational Mex-US Workshop "Consensus and integration of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem", Miami, FL. 19-21 July, 2011.



Joint Meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance & the Hypoxia Task Force, New Orleans, 2-4 August, 2011



Second Annual Tri-national Workshop Governance for the Gulf of Mexico. Management and its Impact in the Coastal Zone: A Common Problem in the Gulf of Mexico Region Veracruz, México 15-19 August, 2011



Society for Ecological Restoration World Congress, Mérida, Yucatán, México, 21-25 August, 2011.

Symposium 'Roadmap to Restoring the Ecological Health of the Gulf of Mexico after the BP Oil Spill' coordinated by the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management-North America & Caribbean in collaboration with the 2011 World Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration. (www.ser2011.org) Tuesday, August 23, Mérida, Yucatán, México.