REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS IN THE Mesoamerican Barrier Reef

Status - Challenges - Mistakes - Opportunities
CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Issues that support integration among two or more countries
- Actions that support the formulation and adoption of policies for a common position against third parties
- Actions that specifically address transboundary issues
- Actions that promote joint resolution of conflicts using shared resources, resulting in economies of scale
- Actions that can elevate the importance of certain issues if treated regionally
- Opportunity of diluting counterpart responsibility while improving investments of incremental costs
Status of Regional Cooperation

- Typically North to South
- South to South cooperation still has not matured
- Existing south to south cooperation not independent of support from north
- Efforts strangled by limitations in human capacity to effectively negotiate
- Primitive organizational and political structures do not attract potential partners - Vulnerability
- Skewed conditions of partnership disguised by attractive elements
Challenges and Mistakes

- Not having identified one’s own agenda and priorities
- Having one’s own agenda is like a distant wish
- Improper valuation of one’s contribution at the negotiating table
- It all starts with our inability to be effective when the rules of the game are being defined
- Shared agenda, different priorities, incompatible pace
Existing Cooperation and Opportunities

- Access and possibilities defined by partner contributing the "bigger share"
- Bilateral, Multinational, Regional
  - MBC
  - MBRS
  - PROARCA
- GEF, EU, USAID through ‘imposed’ intermediaries
- Bilateral with European partners limited; bilateral with Japan impossible
- Thematic areas - international waters, deep-sea exploitation, bio-prospecting, watershed management, land-ocean interaction, environmental management, capacity building
Area A is the proposed access corridor referred to in Paragraph 5 of the Facilitators' Proposals.
Management Structure of Tri-National Park

- TNPC
  - National Advisory Body
    - Belize
    - National Advisory Body
      - Guatemala
    - National Advisory Body
      - Honduras
  - Protected Area Ministry
    - Belize Park Station
      - Manager
      - Rangers
      - Administrative
    - Guatemala Park Station
      - Manager
      - Rangers
      - Administrative
    - Honduras Park Station
      - Manager
      - Rangers
      - Administrative
Southern Transboundary Park Commission Meeting in Guatemala
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