



Session FT 2.31

“Management link for freshwater and coast – Progress in local actions”

Developing GPA-Programs of Action in the Wider Caribbean: The Yucatan Peninsula

Towards the protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Base Activities (LA1774)

Dr. Jorge Euan
CINVESTAV, Merida



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Initial Steps

Environment

Unique hydrological characteristic of the Yucatan Peninsula

Population growth driven by tourism development

Increasing associated services (e.g. food production)

Institutional

Partnership between SEMARNAT with the NOAA/GPA office

Collaboration with a technical regional institution (CINVESTAV)

Involvement of local, regional, and national agencies and authorities



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Goals and Objectives

- Develop and integrated framework for watershed and coastal management
- Promote inter-institutional integration and collaboration
- Generate and share regional databases for informed decision making
- Generate a scenario for stakeholder participation



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Linking Watershed and Coastal Management

- Sustainable Coastal Fisheries
- Sustainable Tourism
- Ecosystem services and biodiversity
- Human Health
- Reduce Conflicts

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Workshop

Developing a Regional Program of Action for the Yucatan Peninsula (PAR-Yucatan)

Collaborative effort of:

- SEMARNAT (DGPAIRS)
- CINVESTAV-MERIDA
- NOAA/NOS (GPA NODE OFFICE)



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Workshop Structure

Three-day
workshop on
November 2005

1

- Opening remarks by State authorities
- Key presentation on seven topics (Part-I)

2-3

- Program development (Part-II)

3

- Final agreements

- Participation of more than 70 participants from more than 15 local and national institutions.



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Participating Institutions

- **Government:** CONAGUA-Watershed councils;
State and Federal Secretariats: SECOL,
SEMARNAT, SAGARPA, CONAFOR, PROFEPA,
CONANP
- **NGOs:** PRONATURA, AMIGOS DE SIAN KAAN
- **Research centers and Universities:** UAC,
CINVESTAV, UADY, UQROO, CICY, IT

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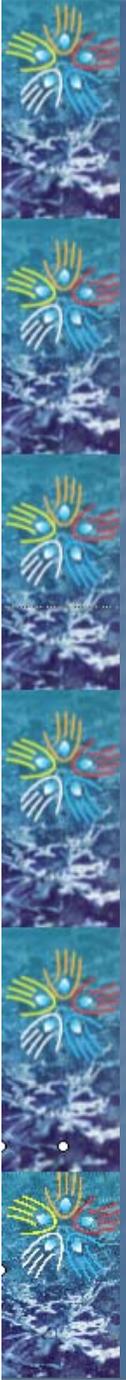
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Political Endorsement

Representatives from:

- Federal authorities (SEMARNAT, CNA, SAGARPA, SECTUR)
- State authorities from Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan.
- Cinvestav authorities
- NOAA/NOS (GPA node office)
- UNEP/ROLAC





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Workshop Themes

- The Yucatecan Karst Geohydrology
- State and trends on the environmental quality of the coastal and marine aquatic ecosystem.
- Point and non point sources of pollution
- Ecosystems, resources and coastal biodiversity at risk
- Legal and regulatory framework and institutional arrangements
- Public participation, attitudes and education
- Information networks and databases

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Approach to Program Development

Functions of GPA-National/Regional
Program of Action

Characteristics of a Program of
Action

Key aspects in selecting “Actions”

Principles under laying the
selection of actions

Steps for program development

Working group activities





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Objectives of the RPA-Yucatan

- Promote a Coastal Law and a ICZM program
- Enhance governmental collaboration and coordination
- Improve regulation and enforcement
- Involve public participation
- Identify information needs
- Improve monitoring
- Involve the private sector
- Identify and introduce appropriate technology
- Target Non Point Sources
- Access to Information systems
- Appropriate information diffusion and education
- Identify financial strategies



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High-Priority Results by Topic

Geohydrology

Problem:

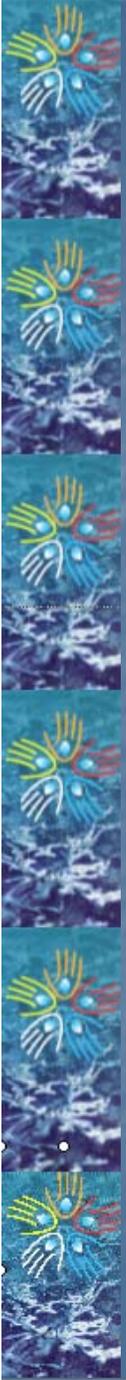
Wastewater and solid waste are polluting the aquifers and they have a direct impact on coastal areas.

Selected Objectives:

To develop water treatment infrastructure with specific technologies for the Yucatan geological characteristics

Selected actions:

Evaluate the effects of the extreme weather events in recharging the aquifer and their impacts on water quality and hydrodynamics of the system.



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High-Priority Results by Topic

Ecosystems and biodiversity at risk

Problem:

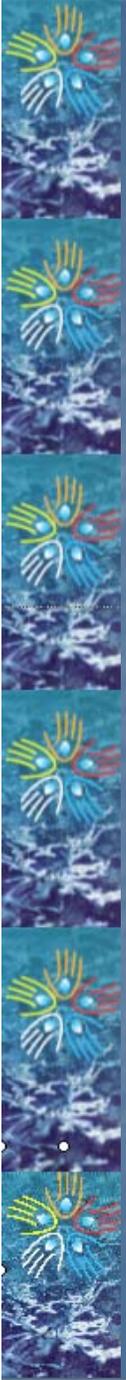
Lost of important coastal (buffer/habitats) ecosystems such as mangrove wetlands, seagrass, dunes and coral reefs.

Selected Objectives:

Enforce current regulation for land filling and land-use change for urban and tourism development.

Selected actions:

Review of the mangroves protection norm to establish the areas, water sources and fluxes to be protected.



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High-Priority Results by Topic

Legal and
institutional
aspects

Problem:

Lack of horizontal and vertical
integration of public water
management policies.

Selected Objectives:

Use the RAP-Yucatan as
guidelines to operationalize the
work of the Yucatan Peninsula
watershed council established
under the national water law.

Selected actions:

Give SEMARNAT/CONAGUA
the mandate to follow up the
RAP-Yucatan
recommendations with in the
watershed council.



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Pros

- Local authorities willingness to include GPA actions
- Timely opportunity to start GPA-related actions
- Enthusiastic Stakeholders Participation

Cons

- Legal and Political changes are needed for full implementation- time
- Financial mechanisms are needed to follow up the process (GPA step by step responsibilities)



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Lessons from the Process

- Partnerships are essential to start the process
- “Someone” should take the leadership at the government level, even if it is not mandatory
- If there are inter-institutional issues, a third party (e.g. research institution or NGO) can help to conduct the process
- Defining key topics or thematic areas before consultation will help to simplify the work with stakeholders (result of post-workshop survey)
- “Do not leave for tomorrow what you can get at the stakeholder consultation”



GRACIAS!

