



MAR Leadership Newsletter September 2012

BUILDING CAPACITIES & STRENGTHENING NETWORKS FOR CONSERVATION

3rd Workshop of 2012: September 2-9, Tela, Honduras

Our workshop in Tela was a great success and we're thrilled to have left motivated and re-energized!

During the workshop, 2012 fellows learned the Dos and Don'ts of budgeting and fundraising from Paquita Bath ([Aligning Visions](#)). Fellows refined their budgets, brainstormed about costs they might be forgetting to include, and learned how to include overhead/indirect costs.



Paquita Bath

recovery zones in Mexico; Dr. Rachel Graham ([WCS](#)) gave a presentation on the connection between shark protection and human communities; and Hugo Galeano ([SGP/UNDP Honduras](#)) presented the projects that his program supports.



Wallace J. Nichols

We closed the workshop with an inspirational presentation by [Dr. Wallace J. Nichols](#), who had a great message for Fellows about project resiliency and shared experiences from the initiatives he is involved in, such as "BLUEMiND," which explores the connections between the human brain and the ocean.



Rachel Graham

Fellows learned about conflict resolution styles, identified their style, and practiced being more versatile in managing conflicts with Guastvo Sanjurjo ([Eolic People](#)) and Carlos Terzano ([PDA International](#)). Gustavo and Carlos also trained fellows in emotional intelligence and helped them learn about their emotions and "detonators."

We also had expert talks on marine and development topics. Dr. Luis Bourillón ([COBI](#)) spoke on marine protected areas and fishery

Also during the workshop, fellows had the opportunity to present their projects and receive expert feedback. The experts present had many constructive suggestions.



Jeanette Kawas National Park

For our field visit, we visited the Jeanette Kawas National Park, learned about its history and management, and swam in its waters to see the *Acropora palmata* (elkhorn coral). Afterwards, we visited the community of Marion, where we had an exchange of needs and experiences with representatives of different community organizations.



Pamela sharing ideas with the community of Marion

Our Fellows Are True MAR Leaders

Recently we learned that 2012 MAR Leader Giaco Palavicini was named [Director of the South Side Office](#) of Roatan Marine Park! Congratulations!

Events

Jenny Myton and Ian Drysdale, 2010 MAR Leaders and passionate conservationists, recently spoke at TEDxTegucigalpa in Honduras; you can see the video [here](#). They also represented Honduras in the ocean-related talks at Rio+20.

2012 MAR Leader Leonel Requena will soon be representing Belize as a table moderator at the [Go4BioDiv International Youth Forum](#) in Hyderabad, India, October 6-19. The conference will run parallel to the Conferences of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP11).

Honors & Awards

In June, Kim Ley, 2011 MAR Leader, and his coworker Eduardo Pérez Catzim were invited to present the project "Integradora de Pescadores de Quintana Roo" at the International Economic Forum of the Americas. After seeing their presentation, the Deputy CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), André Laperriere, recognized the project as "one of the best projects supported by the GEF in recent years." Congratulations, Kim and Eduardo, for this recognition.

Congratulations are also in order for the fishing cooperatives that form part of the Regional Federation of Fishing Cooperatives in the State of Quintana Roo for [receiving international certification as a sustainable fishery](#) from the Marine Stewardship Council! We also acknowledge the MAR Leaders who were allies in the process, Kim Ley (mentioned above) and Maricarmen García (of the 2010 cohort). Kim works with lobster fishers in Quintana Roo promoting better outcomes both for communities and for the environment; Maricarmen is the director of the Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve, which is included in this certification.

Activities

Joel Verde, 2012 MAR Leader, is the Director of the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) in Sarteneja, Belize. In July, SACD organized a soccer tournament for the kids of Sarteneja (financed by a GEF COMPACT grant). The tournament was paired with marine conservation awareness and

manatee education in the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Way to go, SACD, for promoting environmental stewardship from a young age!

Pamela Ortega, 2012 MAR Leader, is acting as the coordinator of the Utila Geotourism Council. The Utila Geotourism Council is a group of community volunteers: people from private businesses, environmental organizations, local media, and community leaders. They meet weekly to develop strategies for businesses to improve their operations and be more environmentally-friendly. The Council is currently finalizing the document "Best Environmental Practices" and also defining guidelines for visitors. The Geotourism Council came out of National Geographic's "Go Blue Central America" initiative, and the hope is that the organization will be a platform for promoting Utila as a destination that's sustainable and proud of its natural resources.

Training

Seleem Chan and Giacomo Palavicini, both of the 2012 cohort, went to Key West, Florida, at the end of August to participate in the workshop "Building Compliance and Enhancing Enforcement for Marine Protected Areas in the Caribbean," sponsored by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), MPA Enforcement International, and the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. They learned new skills to use when patrolling, such as how to safely approach a boat and how to talk to people you suspect of illegal activity.



Ian Drysdale and Jenny Myton speaking at TEDxTegucigalpa



Joel (bottom right) with the "Great Hammerhead Shark" team.



Pamela (left) with the Utila Geotourism Council.



Seleem (left) and Giaco (right) in a practical enforcement training session

PROJECT UPDATES



The Heron Takes Flight

2010 MAR Leader Karen Aguilar's project was featured in the newspaper *Nuestro Diario* (Guatemala). The boat recently made its maiden voyage in the Guatemalan Caribbean. The project is called "The Heron: Sentinel and School Boat" and it will be a floating lab for research and environmental education.



Mariela Planting Mangroves

2012 MAR Leader Mariela Ochoa is already implementing her project, "Strengthening local participation for the restoration of mangroves on the island of Guanaja." She is reforesting mangroves on her island, Guanaja (of the Bay Islands of Honduras). 98% of Guanaja's mangroves were degraded in hurricane Mitch, and Mariela is getting the island community involved in their recovery, because mangroves are crucial for the island's well-being.

You can follow Mariela's progress at:
<https://www.facebook.com/guanajanews>



Pamela Ortega working with mentor Marcio Tejeda on her project design.

Individual training and travel

Use of individual training funds from MAR Leadership

MAR Leaders can use their personal training funds to finance mentor visits to their projects. 2012 MAR Leader Pamela Ortega took advantage of this opportunity, bringing both Marcio Tejeda and Paquita Bath to visit Utila in August. Marcio is a financial specialist with significant experience in micro-credit financing in Honduras. Based on this experience, he helped Pamela develop the proposal for her MAR Leadership project, which includes designing a credit system for the development of micro-businesses in Los Cayitos, Utila. Paquita is a consultant in strategic planning and project design who works closely with the MAR Leadership Program; during her visit to Utila she helped Pamela revise her project proposal and begin to structure a budget for the project.

Mariela Ochoa and Giacomo Palavicini (also of the 2012 cohort) also requested visits from Paquita Bath in August & September. In Guanaja, Paquita helped Mariela put together an action plan for BICA – Guanaja, and the two of them managed to get the Board of Directors to a meeting to ratify the plan. In Tela, after the September workshop, Paquita helped Giaco refine his project proposal, which he then turned in to CORAL to request funding.

In August 2012, MAR Leader Angela Mojica used her individual training funds to take the course "Economic Tools for Conservation" run by the Conservation Strategy Fund at Stanford University. This will help her in her project, which includes a cost-benefit analysis of planned mangrove removal in Guatemala.

2012 MAR Leader Adriel Castañeda used individual training funds to participate in a course on fisheries management at the Coastal Station for Marine Research (ECIM) in Chile, organized by the Center for Marine Conservation of the Catholic University of Chile and the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management (UC-Santa Barbara). During the course Adriel had the opportunity to work

with Dr. Juan Carlos Castilla, Dr. Stephan Gelcich, Dr. Omar Defeo, and Dr. Chris Costello. Adriel learned a lot and brought back new information to the MAR Leadership Network.

From July 9-13, 2012 Gabriela Nava, 2011 MAR Leader, used individual training funds to attend the International Coral Reef Symposium in Cairns, Australia. She presented her coral restoration project and also gave a talk about the MAR Leadership program. Of her experience, she says: "The presentations were really interesting, especially the keynotes, and I tried to get the most out of the experience," and adds that she made contacts on this trip that will help her with her *Acropora palmata* (elkhorn coral) restoration project! Gaby writes, "Being able to participate in the different conferences and have access to results of recent research has been a great learning experience. [...] To participate and give presentations in front of the world's top coral reef researchers, and to receive feedback from them, has helped me grow personally. This experience has left me with the certainty that our conservation efforts in the Mesoamerican Reef are on the right track and can be an example for other countries." We're very proud of Gaby, and we're happy she could spread the word about conservation and restoration efforts in the Mesoamerican Reef region.

2012 MAR Leader Leonel Requena is currently doing a Master's degree in Sustainable Development through the University for International Cooperation, paid for through MAR Leadership individual training funds.

2012 MAR Leader Yuself Cala used individual training funds to take a six-week intensive English course in the United States in July.

2012 MAR Leader Carlos Segura is taking English courses through Berlitz in Playa del Carmen.

Thank you, donors!

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Thanks from the MAR Leadership Team!



The MAR Leadership team and Wallace J. Nichols with our [Blue Marbles](#)

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