

MAR Leadership News: January-March 2014



Our activities, January-March 2014:

- New team of consultants
- Learning about solid waste in Quintana Roo, Mexico
- Leadership Network: Fellows' activities and important alliances



Carlos Saavedra (Summit Fdn), Cristina Cortinas, Laura Cardoso and Mark Lichtenstein (consultants) in the Cancun landfill.

New team of consultants

In the first months of the year, a group of consultants were selected to assist 2014 fellows in the design and implementation of their projects. Their projects will be focused on integrated solid waste management. We have put together a multidisciplinary, multinational consulting team that has solid experience in solid waste management in Mexico, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. The members of this team are Dr. Cristina Cortinas, Dr. Izarely Rosillo, and the team from Syracuse Center for Sustainable Community Solutions, led by Dr. Mark Lichtenstein and Laura Cardoso.

Cristina Cortinas got her Ph.D. in sciences from the University of Paris, and also holds a certificate in Hazardous Waste Management from the Swedish Board for Investment and

Technical Support. She has worked as director of Environmental and Occupational Health and Basic Sanitation for the Health Secretariat, and as director of Hazardous Materials, Waste, and Activities for the National Institute of Ecology. She has provided counsel for legislators and environmental authorities at the federal and state levels to prepare technical proposals and comply with the General Law for Waste Prevention and Integrated Management in Mexico, as well as for state legislation and regulation related to waste.

Izarely Rosillo Pantoja has a law degree and a Master in State Public Administration, with a concentration in Constitutional Law and Legal Protection and Notarial Law. She has a Doctor of Laws degree from the Autonomous



Bales of plastic bottles in the Camar collection center in Cozumel.



Meeting with the Secretary of Ecology and Environment of the State of Quintana Roo and his team to benefit the Mesoamerican Reef.

Muñoz Berzunza, and his team, during which participants identified projects of common interest focused on uses of Quintana Roo's natural capital that will benefit the conservation of the Mesoamerican Reef. We hope this is a fruitful collaboration!

MAR Leadership Network

In March, there was an effort to build awareness among fishers about sharks and rays in Punta de Manabique and Cabo Tres Puntas, Guatemala. This program was led by Ana Giro and Blanca García, 2011 MAR Fellows from Guatemala, and Giacomo Palavicini, 2012 MAR Fellow from Honduras. Luis Bourillon, Mexican MAR-L expert also participated in monitoring of fishery replenishment zones in La Graciosa and Santa Isabel.

Vicente Ferreyra, 2010 MAR Fellow and director of sustainable tourism of the Friends of Sian Ka'an Association, participated in the forum "Opportunities for Sustainable Ecotourism" in the Mayan region of Quintana Roo, organized by the Friends of Sian Ka'an Association. The forum was a success, because a number of alternative/environmentally-friendly tourism cooperatives participated.



Vicente Ferreyra (2010 MAR Fellow) in the forum "Opportunities for Sustainable Ecotourism."

University of Queretaro. She has helped write environmental legislation both in Mexico and abroad, especially related to waste, water, and environmental remediation of polluted sites. She has worked as a temporary consultant on environmental projects with the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ), Japanese Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Mexican Secretariat of the Environment, the Inter-American Development Bank, and state authorities.

Mark Lichtenstein holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, a Master of Arts in Public Administration, and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Conflict Resolution. He is the Executive Director of the Syracuse Center for Sustainable Community Solutions and President of the National Recycling Coalition Inc. Lichtenstein is an expert in reduction of municipal and regional waste, and in sustainable management strategies. He led sustainability efforts during reconstruction after hurricanes Katrina and Sandy and is a recognized leader in Zero Waste.

Laura Cardoso is a Program Coordinator at the Syracuse Center for Sustainable Community Solutions. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Spanish from the State University of New York at Geneseo, and a Master in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain. Laura facilitates the Puerto Rico Recycling Partnership and the Virgin

Islands Recycling Partnership. She manages three environmental stewardship programs offered to university students across New York, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, and works with various partner organizations to facilitate community events and forums.

Learning about Solid Waste in Quintana Roo

During the week of March 2-8, the consultants, along with Carlos Saavedra (Summit Fdn), Lorenzo Rosenzweig (FMCN), and María Eugenia Arreola (MAR-L) visited sites in Quintana Roo (Holbox, Cozumel, and Cancun) where they had the opportunity to meet key stakeholders in solid waste management, as well as visit sanitary landfills, transfer stations, and collection centers.

The result of this visit and a subsequent review of the existing literature in the four countries will allow the consultants to write a report that will be the basis for: 1) designing a "regional vision" with a clear and measureable goal in a reasonable time frame; 2) identify pilot projects for 4-5 MAR sites (ideally one per country); 3) define the ideal profile of the fellows of the 2014 cohort; and 4) develop a training plan for the 2014 MAR Fellows.

In addition, there was a meeting with the Secretary of Ecology and Environment of Quintana Roo, Rafael

Giacomo Palavicini (2012 MAR Fellow), Ana Giro (2011 MAR Fellow), and Luis Bourillon (MAR expert) during the awareness-building program in Guatemala.



Coordination meeting at the UNAM with partners in the initiative (from left): Ángela Mojica (2012 MAR Fellow), Kim Bonine and Cecilia Ayala (Conservation Strategy Fund), Eduardo Ponce (Ecology Department, UNAM), Egle Flores (COBI), Diana Bermudez (TNC), María Eugenia Arreola (MAR Leadership Program), and Laura Rodríguez (EDF).

February 27 and 28 there was a fishers' exchange as part of the project "Participatory design of fishery replenishment zones and fishery co-management areas in the Rio Sarstun Multiple Use Area and adjacent areas," carried out by Cleopatra Mendez, 2012 MAR Fellow from Guatemala. 2 fishers from Honduras, 4 from Guatemala, and 3 from Belize participated in the exchange, as did technicians from Trigoh member organizations (Trinational Alliance for the Conservation of the Gulf of Honduras). This exchange took place in Belize, with the goal of getting to know the Placencia Cooperative.

Cleopatra also participated in a program aimed at the youth of Rio Sarstun, which sought to identify and train leaders of the coastal communities of the protected area. The topics addressed were: the importance of marine and coastal resources, leadership, self-awareness, self-esteem, and sexual education. The fishers' committee of Barra Sarstun had the idea for this program and presented a project proposal to the New England Biolabs Foundation, justifying it as part of strengthening the creation of fishery co-management areas in the protected area.

In the International Women's Day Vicente organized a press trip with journalists to learn about two productive projects managed by women (jam production and an ecotourism project).

Three MAR Fellows from different cohorts and countries participated in the IV Congress on Protected Areas in Costa Rica. Maricarmen García, 2010 MAR Fellow from Mexico and Karen Aguilar, 2010 MAR Fellow from Guatemala, in collaboration with fishers, presented in a symposium on governance and community participation; Angela Mojica, 2012 MAR Fellow from Guatemala, gave the talk "Added value of management effectiveness evaluations in four PAs in the MAR" as part of the symposium on management and planning of protected areas.

In June 2014, for the first time in Central America, the course "Use of Economic Tools for Nature Conservation – Professionalizing the environmental sector of Mexico and Central America" will be given in Mexico. This initiative arose from the interest and coordination efforts of



Angela Mojica (2012 MAR Fellow) and Maricarmen García (2010 MAR Fellow) at the Mesoamerican Congress on Protected Areas in Costa Rica.

four graduates of the Conservation Strategy Fund (Eduardo Ponce, UNAM, Laura Rodríguez, EDF, Egle Flores, COBI, and Angela Mojica, 2012 MAR Fellow) and the support and participation of Mexican and regional institutions interested in promoting the design and implementation of development, infrastructure, and biodiversity conservation projects through economic tools to protect natural capital and local culture.



Cleopatra Mendez (2012 MAR Fellow) and fishers in Placencia, Belize during the exchange.

Young leaders in the coastal community of Rio Sarstun, Guatemala, members of the program in which Cleopatra Mendez (2012 MAR Fellow) participates.



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Mesoamerican Reef Leadership Program

Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature
Av. Acanceh SM 11, floor 3-B, office 325, Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico
+52 (998) 5001-899 ext. 153

<http://liderazgosam.org>

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maria.arreola@fmcn.org