

Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (ICRAN-MAR)

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Continued and Increased Momentum as the ICRAN MAR initiative enters its final year of implementation



Adapted from Kramer and Kramer (2002)
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The Mesoamerican Reef Region

In this edition:

Continued Momentum	1
Project News	1
Feature - Sugar BMPs	1
Watershed Management	2
Sustainable Fisheries	2
Sustainable Tourism	2

Capitalizing on its achievements over the past 2 years of project implementation for the Mesoamerican Reef region, the ICRAN-MAR initiative continues to set the pace for the strengthening of sustainable alliances and partnerships aimed at conserving the marine resources of the Mesoamerican barrier reef. With the financial support of the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), ICRAN-MAR continues to complement existing regional initiatives, while creating pioneering and innovative activities under the 3 key components of **Watershed Management, Sustainable Fisheries, and Sustainable Tourism**.

Primarily concerned with alleviating the detrimental impacts caused by the marine recreation industry, sedimentation runoff from agribusinesses, and unsustainable fishing, ICRAN MAR serves an integral link in fostering strategic alliances with industries once perceived in a previously antagonistic manner.

The strategy of this collaborative effort is to facilitate the provision of different tools that promote voluntary adoption of better management practices, and build partnerships and other collaboration mechanisms at different levels that strengthen capacities that translate into greater benefits to the reef and the communities who rely on its resources.

To guarantee compatibility with other existing efforts in the region, the ICRAN-MAR seeks to coordinate with other institutions and initiatives such as the Regional Environmental Program for Central America (PROARCA), the CCAD, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Systems Project (MBRS), The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Alliance, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Dole, Chiquita, and CropLife Latin America ■



Aerial View of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, the second largest of the world and the longest in the Western Hemisphere. It extends a distance of 1,000 Km in the eastern coastlines of México, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Project News

With a view to garnering support and sustainability of project results, implementing partners, regional organizational stakeholders and agro-industries officials recently convened in Miami for the *Third ICRAN-MAR Technical Oversight Committee meeting August 21-22, 2006* to present advances, and to discuss opportunities for collaboration during the last year of the project and for the continuation and expansion of current activities ■

On August 15-18, 2006, a very successful Regional Watershed Management Workshop was

conducted at Galen University in San Ignacio, Belize, with participation of senior managers, decision makers and technical experts from throughout the region. WRI and UNEP-WCMC shared the outcomes of GIS modeling and scenario analysis, while strengthening capacity in the region to undertake such analyses. The workshop also served to brief regional participants on the current advances in the development of partnerships with the agribusiness and WWF for the adoption of better practices ■



On September 16, 2006, in recognition of PADI – Project AWARE International Beach Clean up Day, the ICRAN MAR coordinating Unit, under the supervision of the diving agency Seasports Belize, which supports and advocates for the ICRAN MAR tourism voluntary standards in Belize, participated in the clean up of Goff's Caye, a high profile tourist and local beach location. The goal of this activity is to ensure a healthy marine and beach environment not only for divers, beach goers, and tourists, but also for the marine ecosystem ■



Feature - Sugarcane Growers Start Adopting Better Management Practices

On September 15th, 2006, WWF and sugarcane growers from Belize and Mexico conducted a field day in the State of Quintana Roo's -Mexico- sugar belt to promote the biological control of the cane fly. Members of the Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA), the Belize Sugar Industry Ltd., the Belize Sugar Industry Control Board Secretariat (SICB), the Ministry of Agriculture of Belize, the Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA), the Sugar Cane Production Committee of San Rafael de Pucte sugar factory (CPC-ISRP) (Quintana Roo, Mexico), and WWF participated in the field day. The purpose of this activity was to demonstrate to the Belize cane farmers

how to implement an integrated management of the Froghopper or cane fly (*Aeneolamia spp*) and the great benefits of the Biological control such as reducing the control costs and the environmental damage. In his opening remarks, Mr. Nahun Fuentes, Chairman of the "Asociación Civil de Productores de Caña" (ACPC) was very emphatic in the role that WWF as part of the ICRAN-MAR project is playing in promoting better management practices among sugarcane growers from Belize and Quintana Roo, Mexico. He highlighted the support that the CPC-ISRP is willing to provide Belize cane growers for the biological control measure. He mentioned that seven years

ago the Chetumal sugar sector was using a lot of chemical products with a negative environment impact and high costs to the farmers' economy.

To show their support, the CPC-ISRP donated 3,500 dosages of *Metarhizium* fungus to Belizean sugarcane growers, making it available in Belize when the Sugar Cane Production Committee of Belize (SCPC) considers it convenient for application. In addition, the ACPC donated two motorized pumps to the SCPC to start controlling the Cane Fly in Belize ■



