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**USAID REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF AQUATIC RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES**

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WWF'S CONTRIBUTION TO USAID MAREA PROGRAM: LOBSTER AND OTHER FISHERIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS IN HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA.

WORKPLAN (FEBRUARY 24TH 2011 – MARCH 30TH 2011)

Contract No. EPP-I-00-04-00020-00 Task Order No.05 (WWF)

Initial Date: February 24th,2011

End Date: March 30th, 2011

Countries: Honduras and Nicaragua

Contractor: Chemonics Intl.

Donor Agency: USAID

Subcontractor : World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – Mexico/Mesoamerican Reef Program

Subcontractor No: EPP – I – 05 – 04 – 00020 – 00 – WWF

WORK PLAN (February 24th 2011 – March 30th, 2011)
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Program Contacts:

WWF

José Vásquez

Alicia Medina

Executive Summary

The spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) fisheries stretches from Bermuda to Brazil, including the Caribbean islands and coastal Caribbean countries. It is intensively fished in the region by both small-scale fishermen and industrial fleets, using a variety of methods: scuba diving, free diving, gill nets, lobster traps, harpoons and aggregating devices. Over the past 15 years, Central America's total export production of spiny lobster to the US has increased from 1,908 Metric Tons (MT) to 3,646 MT annually. Furthermore, the fisheries of Nicaragua and Honduras dominated the region's total catch, growing from a 65% share in 1989 to 87.5% in 2003. Of particular importance is the catch from the Miskito Coast, which accounts for around 40% of Nicaragua's total production. Belize, Costa Rica and Panama have had a smaller share in the region's seafood production and exports to the United States. The productivity of lobster fisheries is in decline throughout the region, particularly in terms of overall catch and the performance of the fishing industry. Given this situation, concerns are growing about the fisheries sustainability, productivity and ecosystem's health.

Taking the average annual yields per vessel in Nicaragua as a reference point, it can be concluded that a greater fishing effort using more vessels or more effective technology, such as diving with air-tanks, will not increase the profitability of individual fishing operations. Furthermore, there is evidence that the total production of the fleets is beginning to decline. It is necessary therefore to change certain fishing practices in the region and to implement others that will help improve management of the lobster resource, promoting its recovery in the mid to long-term

WWF's contribution to the successful implementation of USAID's MAREA Project

Lobster and other Fisheries in Central America with a particular focus in the Mosquitia Coast (Honduras – Nicaragua)

Goals, Objectives & Expected Results:

This workplan aims to contribute to the results of MAREA's current regional and national level projects and coordination efforts towards compliance of regional policy and enforcement, harmonization and scaling-up of ecosystem-based fisheries management and adoption of rights-based, market-driven fisheries management with a particular focus in the Mosquitia Coast (Honduras – Nicaragua).

In concert with MAREA's main objectives, WWF's work will be focused in the economically important **Lobster Fisheries in Honduras – Nicaragua** according to the two specific objectives of MAREA's Program:

1. Promote effective monitoring and enforcement of coastal and marine resources policies and legislation

2. Foster rights – based and market – based mechanisms and management incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources and ecosystems, with an emphasis on ecosystem – based approaches to management.

MAREA’s expected results for Lobster Fisheries:

- Honduras – Nicaragua countries adopt and implement harmonized best management practices for sustainable use of target coastal and marine resources.
- At least 10% (from the 25% of combined target species) of lobster product sold is harvested under rights – based fisheries management regimes and best fisheries practices.
- Lobster population increase by at least 20% in at least two select marine sites of regional importance.

WWF Special statements:

- WWF will contribute to MAREA’s implementation by providing previous results from its scientific, technical, and political experiences from other Lobster Fisheries projects in order to construct a lobster database and with MAREA’s support take this work to the next level and build on this success case in the region (specific for Honduras – Nicaragua); so that, MAREA’s expected results are achieved. WWF will share, with its partners’ written consent, the corresponding information: reports, communication documents and publications as needed. All of this information has to have copyrights and the logos and names from donors must be respected and properly referenced.
- Provide technical advice to MAREA’s team to reach MAREA’s expected results and impacts regarding other target species.
- Promote discussion and common understanding of the adjustments in the action plan (if they are needed) in such a way to meet the expected results.
- Finally, it is imperative to point out that an open, constant communication with the implementation team regarding project indicators is essential not just to achieve the expected results, but to generate a platform for the future sustainability of this sort of initiative through future projects and committing resources of the stakeholders in order to protect Lobster Marine Ecosystems.

Activity Manager: José Vasquez

Key objectives for two-months workplan:

KRA 1.3 Promote transparency and accountability and support public participation

MAREA KRA 1.3: Promote transparency and accountability and support public participation		
MAREA Approach: Adequate government involvement, foster co-management and rights – and market – based fisheries.		
Activity	Deliverables	Strategy
Activity #3: Design training programs for NGO's, community organizations, and private sector associations to advocate for sustainable management of lobster fisheries and important fishery areas for this specie.	<p>Deliverable #2. Design of locally adapted training program for organized civil society, NGOs, government and private sector</p> <p>The program will include subject such as: policies, laws, and regulation; regulation compliance, sustainable management of lobster fisheries; critical fishery areas (e.g. transboundary zone of Honduras and Nicaragua)</p>	Activity Manager: Jose Vásquez MAREA: Sergio Martinez

KRA 1.4 Strengthen fisheries and environmental institutions and organizations on improved enforcement practices and rights-based, market driven mechanisms

MAREA KRA 1.4: Strengthen fisheries and environmental institutions and organizations on improved enforcement practices and rights-based, market driven mechanisms (WWF)		
MAREA Target (s): At least fifteen hundred (1500) people from fisheries and environmental governmental and non – governmental institutions receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and or biodiversity conservation.		
MAREA Approach: Cross – fertilization of experience throughout the four assessments accomplished and training designed with representatives of regional partners CCAD and OSPESCA to participate.		
Activity	Deliverables	Strategy
Activity #1: Overall capacity needs assessment will be carried out to develop, Institutional Capacity building plans (ICBPs)	Deliverable #3. Diagnostic of institutional capacity needs of government and non-governmental organizations of the fisheries sector related to lobster fisheries.	WWF will carry out diagnostic as input to ICBPs, but will not develop ICBPs. The science-based technical information used for the diagnostic will come from expertise and previous investigation carried out by WWF.
Activity #3: Establish a training program for government concurrence to the key institutions	Deliverable #5. Training Program, including one transboundary awareness field trip for government	The objective of courses, to be held during the field trip for the local and national technical government teams, is to improve their understanding on

	officials, development of training manuals, courses for Honduras and Nicaragua.	the value of BFPs, regional regulations (OSPESCA), FAO Code of Conduct. *Fieldtrip expenses and manual printing costs to be covered by MAREA.
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KRA 2.6: Promote coastal and marine protected areas management as an important tool for sustainable fisheries and tourism (WWF)

MAREA KRA 2.6: Promote coastal and marine protected areas management as an important tool for sustainable fisheries and tourism (Chemonics, TNC, WWF)		
MAREA Target (s): At least 50,000 hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance		
MAREA Approach: The importance of the management of marine protected areas will be disseminated in various forums and management plans will be drafted in all selected zones		
Activity	Deliverables	Strategy
Establish a strategy among countries to create better conditions to guarantee recruitment into lobsters' fisheries	Deliverable # 7. Lobster Critical Habitats Atlas (maps)	Cost for maps printing will be covered by MAREA.

Time frame: 2 months (February 2011 to March, 2011)

Deliverables and Schedule:

D.#	Deliverable Name	Due Date
1	Work plan and Monitoring Plan	February 9 th
2	Design and execution of training program for organized civil society, NGOs, government and private sector	March 15 th
3	Diagnostic of institutional capacity needs	February 14 th
4	Institutional Capacity Building Plan (ICBP) for the Miskitos Coast	February 25 th
5	Training Program on BFP for government officials from Honduras and Nicaragua.	March 15 th
6	Lobster Critical Habitats Atlas	March 30 th

Installment Number and Amount	Corresponding Deliverable Number(s) and Name(s)*
1. \$ 2,500.00	1. Work plan and Monitoring Plan
2. \$ 15,500.00	2. Design and execution of training program for organized civil society, NGOs, government and private sector ((MAREA will cover costs of participants and logistics)
3. \$ 8,000.00	3. Diagnostic of institutional capacity needs
4. \$ 10,000.00	5. Institutional Capacity Building Plan (ICBP) for the Mískitos Coast
5. \$ 15,500.00	6. Training Program on BFP for government officials from Honduras and Nicaragua. (MAREA will cover costs of participants and logistics)
6. \$ 11,367.95	7. Lobster Critical Habitats Atlas
Total: \$ 62,867.95	