

Group 2, Session 3 ... CREATIVE FINANCING

Q1: Whale-watching sustainability

- From Mexican perspective of failed whale watching, difficult to sustain financially due to fees that were not getting collected. After fishermen stepped in to assist monitoring visitor use, whale watching industry more stable.
- Ecological sustainability – activity too popular → so experiment on verge of collapse (people complaining that there were too many boats and they were harming the whales). Boat captains decided to limit number of boats.
- ISO certification
- Whale-watching companies can provide revenue from sales to MPAs.
- In Mexico, tour leaders take customers to see sites other than whales (e.g. bird areas)

... other programs, beyond whale-watching

- Gov't sources of funds
 - MX: meeting to determine other means of charging for use
 - CN: parks use scaled fees based on use
 - All fees captured by parks
 - US: scaled fees used in terrestrial parks, but illegal in MPAs (as established by law)
 - All fees captured by parks (80% to respective park, 20% to a pool to be split amongst less-funded parks)
- Non-government sources of funds
 - MX:
 - World Bank (25 years);
 - Private foundations fund in-kind services;
 - Adjacent businesses send fees to central offices (counties) – fees may not go directly to MPA, but

may assist in indirect means
(prevention of problems,
awareness of MPA, etc.)

- Fees collected with filming and research (?)

○ CN:

- Fees collected with filming and research (?)

○ US:

- Concession contracts for those providing services in National Parks;
- Municipalities provide funding to NPs as a means of keeping visitors in general area (money usually derived from taxes that businesses apply on visitors in services such as hotels)
- Fees collected with filming, not with research → but net benefit to NPS since they're not “paying” for research

Q2: Sustainable fisheries in B2B

- Tried a program to buyout by-catch, but it was too complicated → went to boat buy-outs
- In US, some NGOs (e.g. TNC) considering buying IFQs and applying them to MPAs
- Certification
 - ISO-type certification for fisheries (“green products”)
 - Mariculture (shrimp, tuna)
 - In MX, no way to limit number of farms → boom and bust potential
 - Certification by MPAs
 - Fair-trade fisheries (beginning in CN)
 - Agreements with restaurant chefs to buy sustainable fish
 - Not used in MX for fisheries
 - In US and CN, limited to certain populations (depending on education/awareness)

- Fish exportation from MX will vary depending on demand from other countries
 - Currently, overfishing fishes that Mexicans don't even eat
- Influencing legislative change (from within MPA community) as much as possible
 - Models of sustainability
 - In MX, no fisheries management areas established through legislation
- Certain fisheries in MX, like red lobster, established with a “property rights” ideal that has propelled an ethic towards better management
- Promote a more artisanal fisheries ethic in MPAs
 - Still need to connect to international community
 - Must link fisheries control to local resource recruitment and human use patterns

- May be able to take advantage of better markets that allows fishermen to fish less, while making more money (e.g. rather than selling anchovies for chicken feed, sell to Spain)

Q3: Capturing Financial Benefits

- Some listed above
- More lobbying to convince govt's that more taxes should be allotted to MPAs
- Donations:
 - MX: land, capital assets, charitable donations for tax credit
 - CN: land, charitable donations for tax credit
 - US:
- Potential for companies to buy for carbon sequestration (e.g. Kyoto credits)
- Mitigation banking
- Paying for environmental services (indirect benefits)

- EX: Tsunami experience – areas with reefs and mangroves to buffer water received much less damage
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