
**IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS IN THE CARIBBEAN**

Venue: Crowne Plaza Miami Airport Hotel; Miami, Florida (USA)
Dates: June 20-22, 2006



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – Country Breakout

1. Have you done, and what are your plans, for doing a comprehensive system wide assessment?

We have completed a General Diagnostic on the basis of 7 key features (presented at the workshop).

Future Plans are to work on and complete the Assessment of Management Effectiveness on the basis of the RAPPAM methodology.

2. What specific barriers do you have and what do you need to get this done?

a. Legal Barrier.

Issue: Undefined boundaries of the PA system under the recent Sectorial Law 202-04.

We are under a current revision of this Law regarding the various conflicts on fragmentation of PAs, its boundaries, etc. It is an important issue now to lobby at the Congressional and in the society, specifically with those productive sectors that constitute conflicting issues and interests (tourism, mining and agriculture sectors).

b. Lack of awareness of the Value of the PA system, and

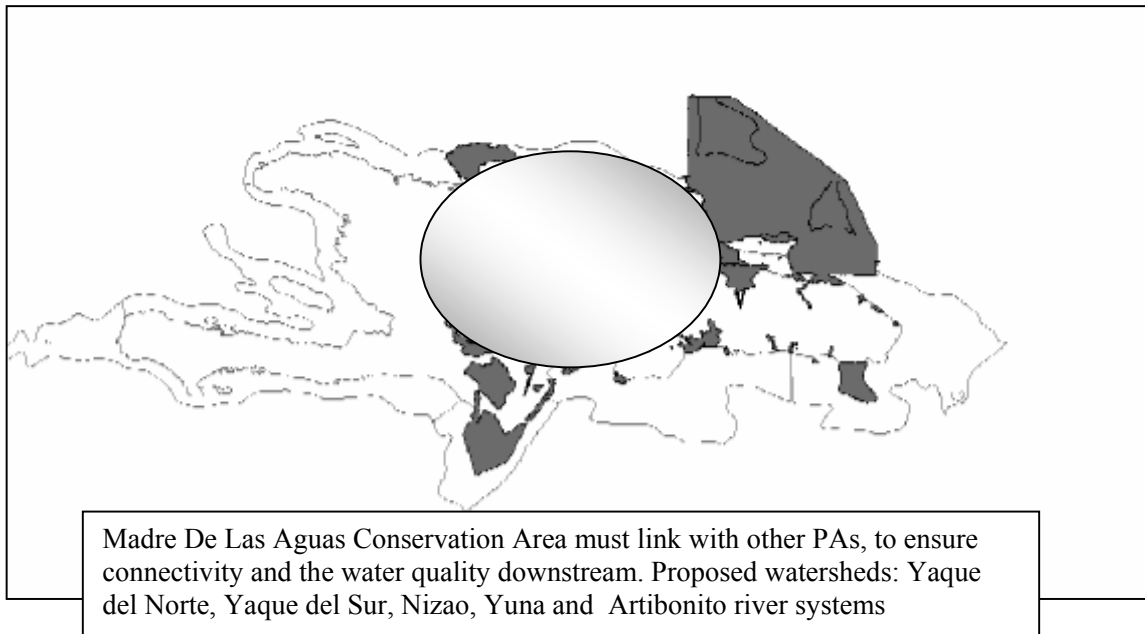
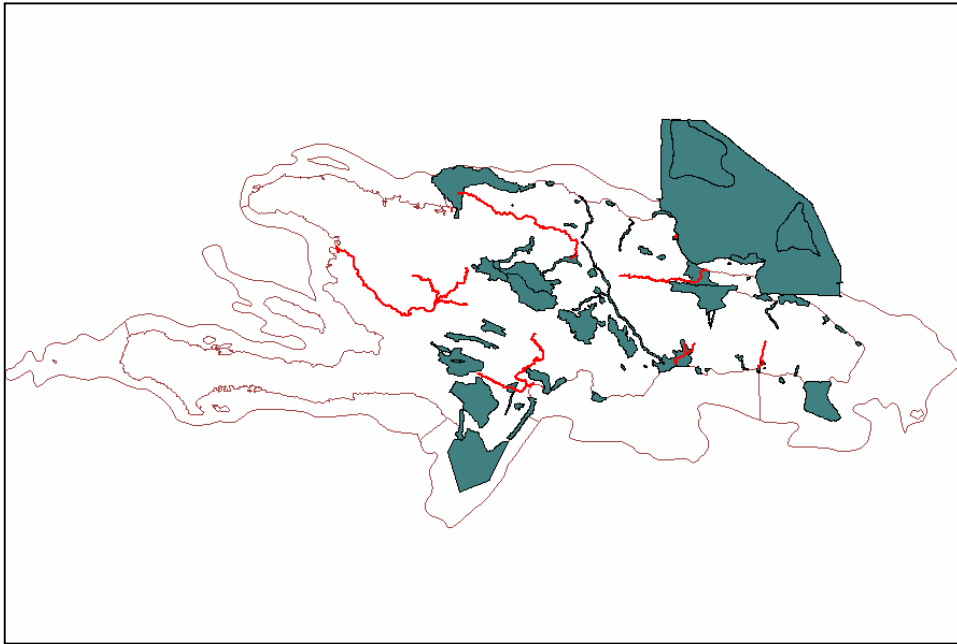
Issue: High level Government remains unaware of the value of the PA system, thus the financial support is very small or lacking.

c. The current concept of the conservation areas of the PA system is restricted and should be aiming towards a more strategic vision that includes interconnectivity and different management categories.

Issue: the conservation areas within the system physically and administratively are now isolated blocks that fulfill their objectives only inside themselves.

Proposal:

In view of the current revision of the Sectorial Law 202-04 we would like to seize this opportunity to propose to the higher authorities the inclusion of this wider concept for the PA national system.



3. Based on where you are now, how will you integrate the pillars of protected area system master planning?

Using the existing GIS tools, the information and methodologies available, it is possible to integrate the pillars and produce a sound master plan for the PA system of the Dominican Republic, including also the GAP and Capacity Assessment, enriched with the RAPPAN methodology.

We understand that for the DR, there is a need to work more on the Financial and Capacity aspects of the system. These can only be focused upon with the political support from the Government, knowing that these aspects are (in the case of the DR) are dependent upon the Government's Financial System and Political Priorities.