Building Diverse Funding Portfolios for Marine Protected Areas

Kalli De Meyer
Coral Resource Management

Comment on:
- User fees
- Trust funds
- Government support
- Networks and transboundary MPAs

User fees:
(entry fees / fees for recreational activities)
- Local support is critical

User fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bunaken National Marine Park</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% split between govt authorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>equity addressed with split fee levels</td>
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<tr>
<td>5% incentive to collect fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>money used to support local projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>one day tickets</td>
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User fees

- Local support is critical
- Fees need to be retained on site
- Fees are often lower than willingness to pay
- Under utilized mechanism

User fees: divers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARIBBEAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>attracts 57% of scuba divers</td>
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<tr>
<td>estimated 15 million dives/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>50% of dives conducted in MPAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>484 MPAs in Wider Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 charge user fees</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MPA efforts at cost cutting

- Community / stakeholder support
- Local volunteers / volunteer groups
- International volunteer programmes
- Tourism industry “in kind” support
- Tourism industry support for management
- Tourists
- Sharing resources between MPAs

Trust funds:
(endowment, sinking, revolving funds)
National level: Mexico
Local level: Kwa Zulu Conservation Trust

Trust Funds:
Objectives and criteria for project funding need to be clear

Trust fund

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<tr>
<th>Belize: PACT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue stream derived from:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- conservation fee of $3.75/visitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 20% commission on recreational licenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 20% commission on cruise passenger fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operate grants programme</td>
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</table>
Government support:
(national budgets, fees, levies, taxes)
- Support for salaries and operational costs

Government support:
(national budgets, taxes, levies, surcharges)
- Support for salaries and operational costs
- Creating funds for conservation:
  - tax: room, meals, car hire
  - permits
  - “eco tax”

Government support:
(national budgets, taxes, levies, surcharges)
- Support for salaries and operational costs
- Creating funds for conservation
- Incentives - exemptions:
  - tax deductibility for charitable donations

Government support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUTCH ANTILLES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>taxation: land tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>import duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>driving licenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAT on goods and services</td>
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</table>
Funding MPA networks:
(nationally, transboundary)
- Nationally: Mexico, Seychelles, Palau
- ICRA

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- Sharing resources, expertise, personnel

Summary:
Recognise:
- Developing diverse funding portfolios is critical
- There is no “one size fits all”
- Managing MPAs is expensive
- These were shining examples and far from the norm
Statia National Marine Park

“We are hanging on by a thread and if we don’t receive any money by October then we will have to let two staff go…”

Solutions

Building diverse funding portfolios:

- User fees
- Partnerships with the private sector
- Donations from individuals and corporations
- Trust funds
- Government support
- Resource sharing