

# REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS IN THE MESOAMERICAN BARRIER REEF

**Status – Challenges – Mistakes – Opportunities**

# CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING REGIONAL COOPERATION

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- Issues that support integration among two or more countries
- Actions that support the formulation and adoption of policies for a common position against third parties
- Actions that specifically address transboundary issues
- Actions that promote joint resolution of conflicts using shared resources, resulting in economies of scale
- Actions that can elevate the importance of certain issues if treated regionally
- Opportunity of diluting counterpart responsibility while improving investments of incremental costs

# Satus of Regional Coooperation

- Typically North to South
- South to South coperation still has not matured
- Existing south to south cooperation not independent of support from north
- Efforts strangled by limitations in human capacity to effectively negotiate
- Primitive organizational and political structures do not attract potential partners - Vulnerability
- Skewed conditions of partnership disguised by attractive elements

# Challenges and Mistakes

- Not having identified one's own agenda and priorities
- Having one's own agenda is like a distant wish
- Improper valuation of one's contribution at the negotiating table
- It all starts with our inability to be effective when the rules of the game are being defined
- Shared agenda, different priorities, incompatible pace

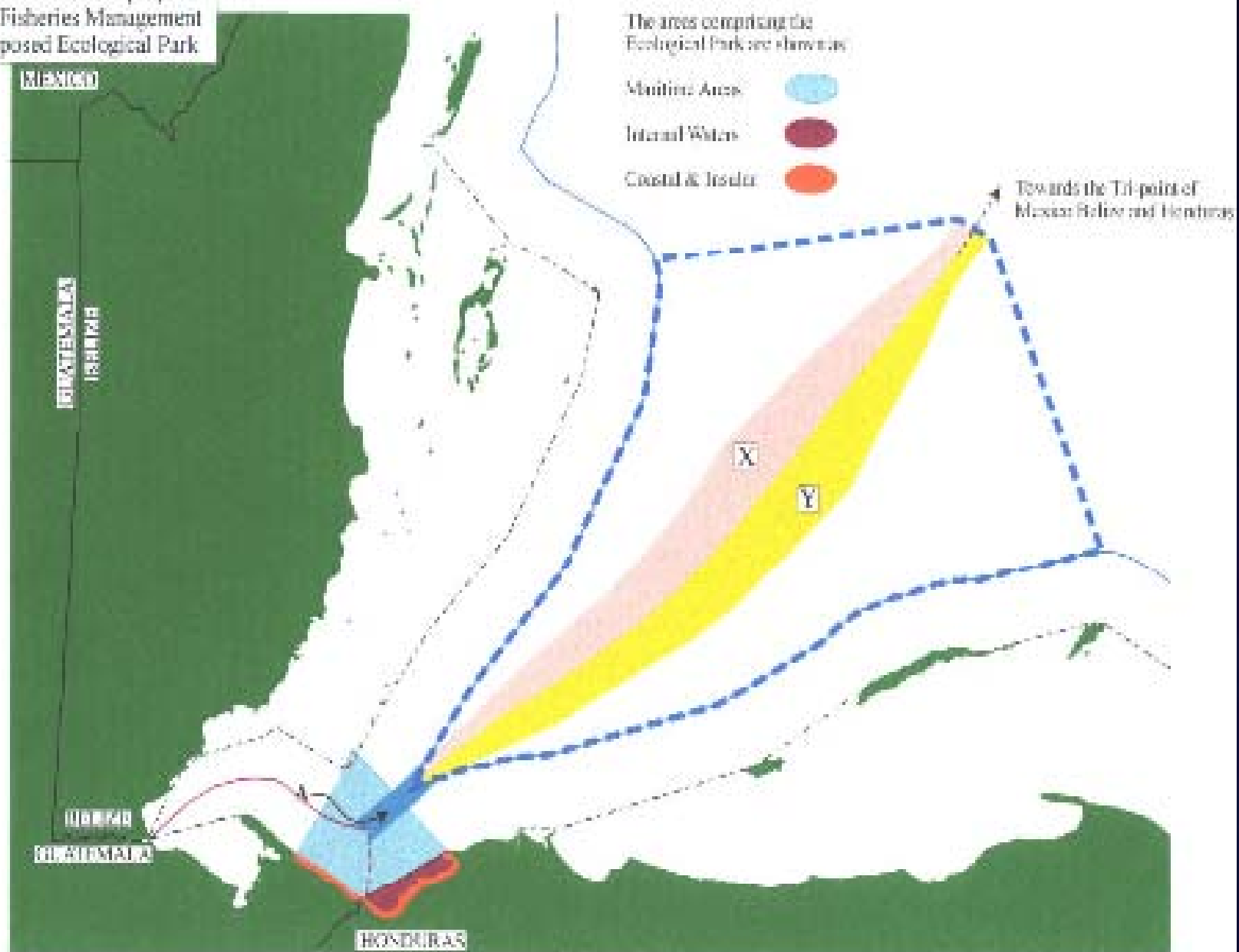


# Existing Cooperation and Opportunities

- Access and possibilities defined by partner contributing the “bigger share”
- Bilateral, Multinational, Regional
  - MBC
  - MBRS
  - PROARCA
- GEF, EU, USAID through ‘imposed’ intermediaries
- Bilateral with European partners limited; bilateral with Japan impossible
- Thematic areas – international waters, deep-sea exploitation, bio-prospecting, watershed management, land-ocean interaction, environmental management, capacity building

Showing the relevant areas of the proposed  
Tripartite Regional Fisheries Management  
Regime and the proposed Ecological Park

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# Management Structure of Tri-National Park





Southern Transboundary Park Commission Meeting in Guatemala



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