GFA’s EXPERTISE AND SERVICES

Feasibility study FINANP in Mexico
KfW, 2017, contract value: € 85,000
GFA conducted a feasibility study for a project to support Mexico in reaching the Aichi Target 11. The management effectiveness and sustainable financing of Mexico’s Protected Area (PA) system shall be enhanced which also includes Private Protected Areas (PPAs). The intervention area focuses on 86m ha of coastal, marine and deep sea ecosystems which represent 21% of Mexico’s marine surface and reflects recently declared PPAs as well as future PPAs to be declared. GFA services encompassed the identification of measures for efficient and effective management of the PPAs, focusing on suitable administrative structures for large-scale Marine Protected Areas (LMPAs), including participatory community surveillance, sustainable fisheries, tourism regulation, certification and training, identification of ecosystem services and coral reef restoration.
For the deep sea PA measures comprise, inter alia, scientific studies and registration procedures within The MARPOL Convention.

Fishery surveillance in Mauritania
KfW, 2003 – 2020, contract value: € 4,895,000
GFA has been supporting the management of fishery resources in Mauritania since 2003, focusing on improving the monitoring of coastal fisheries and coastal surveillance that ensures the coverage of the Mauritanian coast according to the criteria established in the littoral surveillance plan. We assist the partners on technical, organizational and personnel level in their mission of monitoring and controlling Mauritanian and other international fishery vessels through the installation of a satellite based surveillance system and by the parallel installation of a radar-based and physical control-based system to contribute efficiently and effectively to the implementation of the Fisheries Code. Local administration and the local population cooperate for monitoring of the Parc National Banc d’Arguin as the park plays a central role as breeding and growth habitat for the conservation of the Mauritanian coastal fisheries resources.

Protecting the City of Nouakchott, Mauritania, against Climate Change
GIZ, 2016, contract value: € 127,000
In Mauritania, GFA supported the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk mitigation into urban planning in coastal cities, notably Nouakchott. Large parts of Mauritania’s capital are located below sea level and thus prone to flooding events, both resulting from marine intrusions and heavy rainfall, that are increasing in frequency and intensity due to a changing climate. GFA provided training for political stakeholders to enhance the relevant institutional capacities to plan, coordinate and manage climate change adaptation measures, and accompanied a participatory process to systematically integrate climate change adaptation into selected policy frameworks.

Feasibility study Strengthening the National System of Protected Areas of Honduras
KfW, 2017, contract value: € 209,000
GFA conducted a feasibility study for a project aiming at strengthening the National System of Protected Areas of Honduras (SINAPIH) by improving the co-management effectiveness of 17 Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Honduran Atlantic through a result-based payment mechanism. The intervention area reflects an ecosystem “Ridge to Reef” approach and comprises both, Caribbean islands, coastal and lagoon areas, as well as watersheds in the hinterland mountains of the Honduran Caribbean Biological Corridor. A large part of the target group is comprised of Afro-descendant communities (Garifuna) whose culture and traditions are highly intertwined with the Caribbean coastal environment. GFA services included, inter alia, the identification of measures for efficient and effective co-management of the protected areas, including reforestation and control of mangrove and watershed areas, improved management of fisheries within MPAs, and sustainable tourism management.

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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

More than 600 million people are living in coastal areas and 75% of all large cities are located on the coast. The oceans cover almost three quarters of the Earth’s surface and provide food for billions of people, as well as jobs and income for communities around the world, especially in developing countries. Specifically, coastal zones and marine areas account for economic (fishing/ aquaculture, tourism, transportation, energy production), environmental (biodiversity, ecosystem services, protection against natural hazards and climate change impacts), and social and cultural values (space for settlements, recreation and regional identity).

Yet, the resilience of coastal socio-ecological systems is increasingly tested through the impacts of climate change and patterns of development associated with rapid population and economic growth. Exploitation of seas and oceans must balance economic productivity and associated human uses with the protection of different habitats and species (“Blue Economy”). Over 90% of all fish stocks are exploited beyond their sustainable limits. Aquaculture offers an alternative for both, food security and income, but the development of fish and seafood farms has to be carefully planned and managed in order not to put ecologically sensitive areas at risk. Mangroves, for instance, fulfill important functions for biodiversity conservation, disaster mitigation, and ensure food safety and long-term income for local communities. As millions of tons of waste end up in the oceans worldwide every year, land- and sea-based marine litter is a global concern with far-reaching consequences for ecosystems, the economy, human health and food supplies.

Effective and sustainable coastal and marine governance is of increasing importance but has to take into account a multitude of topics, from conservation and management of marine and coastal biodiversity, including sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, to sustainable tourism development planning, pollution control and waste management as well as disaster risk mitigation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Tackling these multiple challenges and objectives requires cross-sectoral, interregional and international stakeholder coordination, cooperation and governance, since the spaces and processes associated with coastal and marine areas are often not bound by sectors or administrative borders.

GFA’s EXPERTISE AND SERVICES

Taking into consideration the multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral nature of marine and coastal governance, GFA offers holistic and encompassing approaches. MPA management including zonation, biodiversity monitoring and eco-tourism development are as much part of our daily business as satellite-supported fishery surveillance and sustainable aquaculture production or climate-proofed urban planning in coastal cities. Apart from a broad range of technical expertise and services:

• Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
• Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
• Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
• Integrated Coastal Area Management
• Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
• Disaster Risk Reduction & Coastal Protection
• Marine Pollution and Waste Management
• Sustainable Tourism Development
• Offshore Energy and Resource Use

SAMPLE PROJECTS

Investment Fund for the network of protected areas managed by Madagascar National Parks
KfW, 2009 – 2017, contract value: € 5,065,000

Since 2009, the consortium GFA/Denkmodell has been supporting Madagascar National Parks (MNP), the national association in charge of the management of 43 protected areas, for better conservation and valorization of the country’s sensitive ecosystems. MNP aims at improving the management of its protected areas network. In order to improve the supervision of the newly integrated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), a guidebook on ecological monitoring of marine eco-systems was developed and published. This includes a compilation of standardized monitoring methods, which have been adapted to the local context and can be applied in all marine protected areas. MNP has built up a specialized scuba diver team that was trained in the ecological monitoring of marine sites and is now assuring the annual collection of data in eight marine protected areas, focusing on coral reefs, fish biomass, seagrass beds and mangroves.