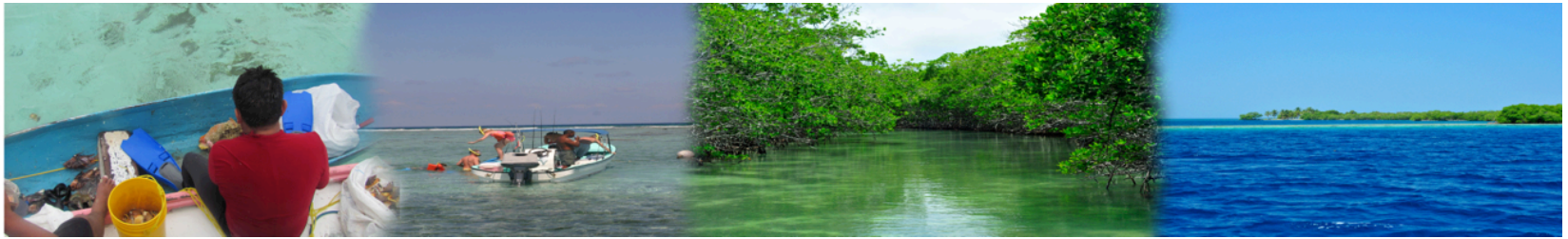


Objectives of Co-management Session

Objective:

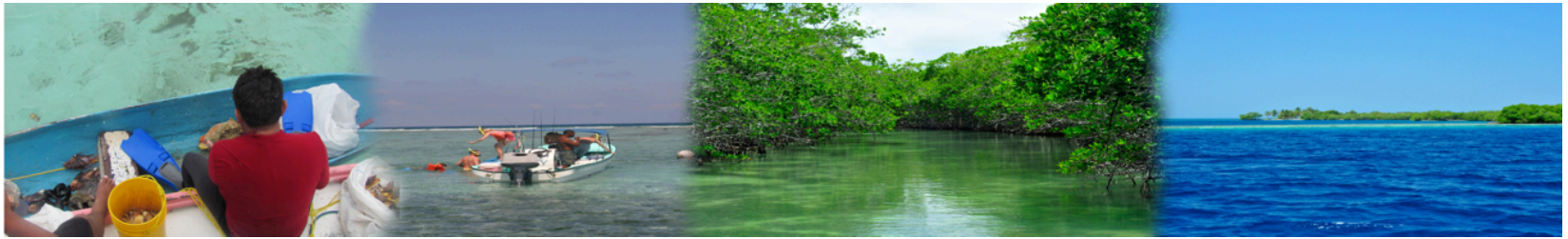
To familiarize the ICRI meeting on co-management of marine resources via a number of case studies from the region and to explore the possible applicability of this approach in various countries.



Co-management in Belize

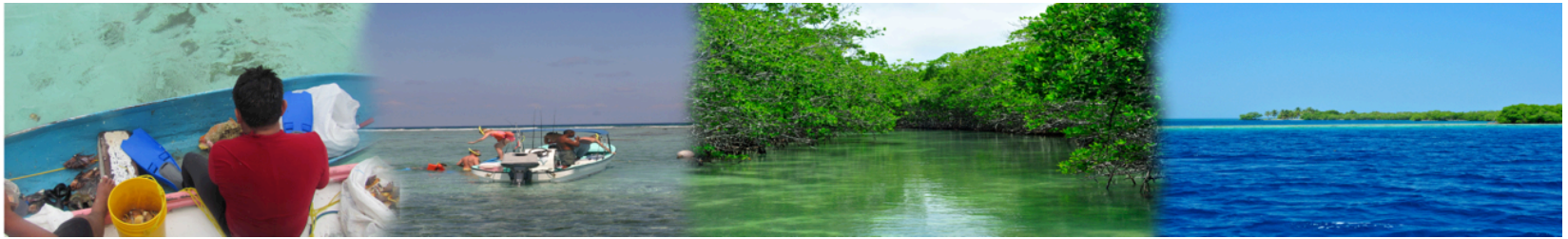
ICRI 28th General Meeting

Belize City, Belize
14-17 October, 2013



History of Co-management

- Co-management in Belize is an approach utilized within the last 20 years and is still relatively new to marine ecosystems in the country.
- Of the 13 MPAS only 4 are co-managed...In addition to this a co-management agreement for the newly declared Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve will be signed this week making it 5 Co-Management areas.
- Co-management agreements are made between NGOs and CBOs and the relevant government agency to manage the various sites.
- Co-management was utilized primarily as a means to ensure active management at sites generally characterized by a lack of adequate human and financial resources within the key government agencies for their management; and to encourage buffer communities and stakeholder participation in the day to day management of the areas.



Co-management Framework

- In 2012, a formal framework for co-management was developed and endorsed by the Government.
- The Framework specifies:
 - Duration (5 yrs)
 - Duties and responsibilities of the NGO & GOB
 - Means of protecting investments of party to the agreement
 - Resolving disputes
 - Procedures for review, reporting requirements, monitoring and evaluation
 - Community meetings
 - Termination and renewal
 - Confidentiality and other special clauses

BELIZE

THE NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM ACT

(Chapter 215)

AND

THE FISHERIES ACT

(Chapter 210)

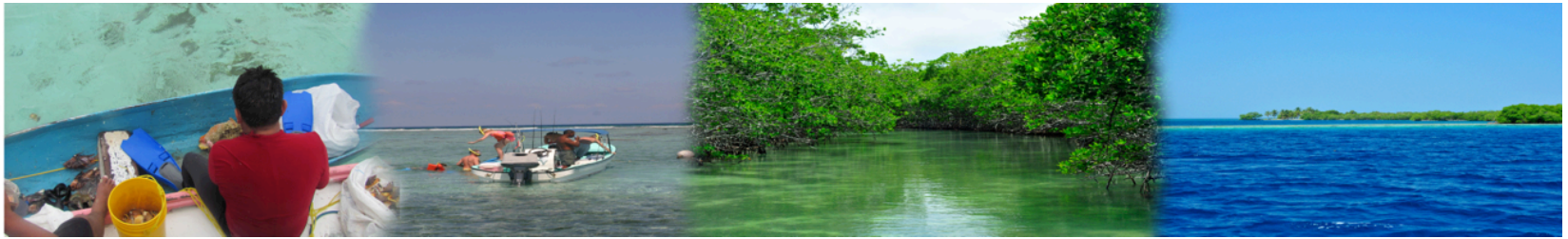
CO-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

between

THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE AS REPRESENTED BY THE FOREST AND FISHERIES
DEPARTMENTS
hereafter referred as:
[THE REGULATORY AGENCY]

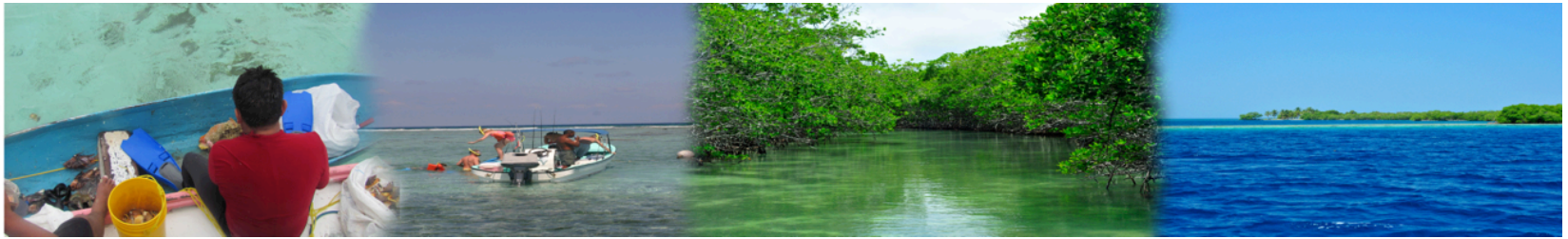
AND [NGO]

A body corporate pursuant to the Laws of Belize hereafter referred as:
[The MANAGER]



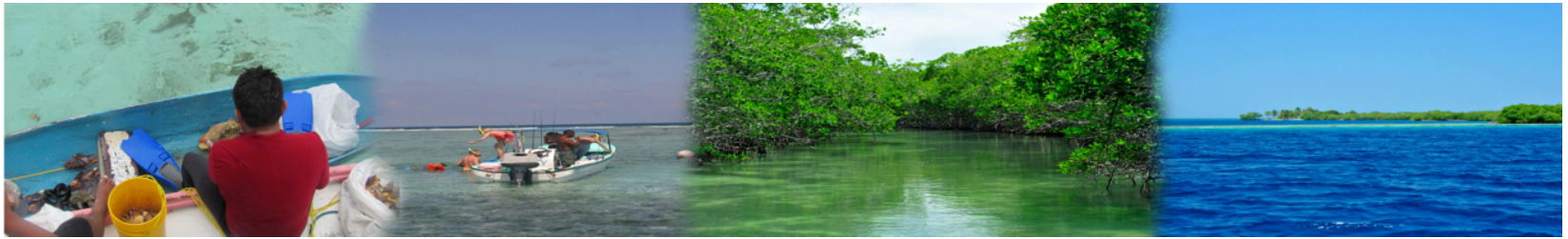
Positive Impacts of Co-management in Belize

- Increased Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas
- Increased protection to key biodiversity and associated ecosystems
- Sustained management presence and enforcement in areas
- Community participation and ownership of areas and conservation efforts
- Strengthened relationship between Government and NGO partners.
- Effective engagement and lobby by non state actors with Government for reform and comprehensive framework for Protected Areas management.



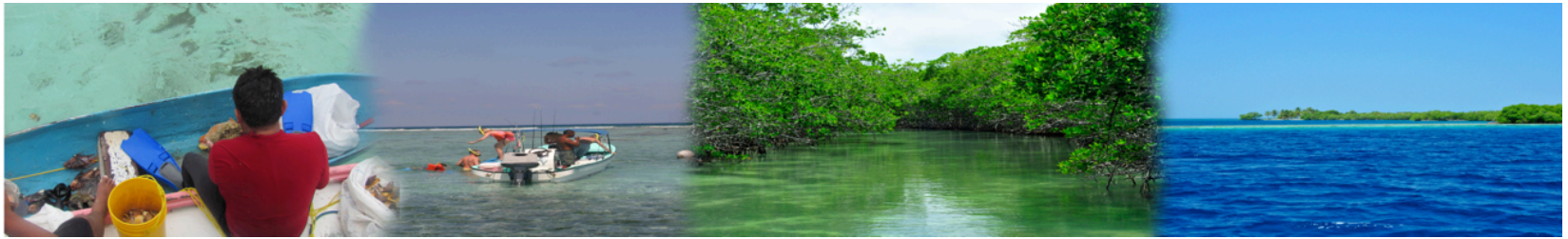
Conclusion

Marine resource use and conservation involves multiple stakeholders and multiple conflicts which can be addressed effectively through co-management given that it is supported by an enabling framework for its success.



Lessons Learnt

- Need for National Policies and legislative Framework for Co-management:
 - Government enabling policies and legislation from the top-down are needed to support co-management initiatives from the bottom-up.
- Change in attitude towards devolution of responsibilities:
 - Government authorities need to change their attitudes and behavior in order to share power with community and stakeholder organizations.
 - Strategic participatory planning should be employed as one of the main tools for encouraging information exchange and building trust among stakeholders in new arrangements.
 - Restricting user access, especially to marine resources, will be difficult due to existing property rights arrangements and philosophies that favour open access
- Institutional Strengthening:
 - Government authorities and other non-governmental stakeholders need to build/strengthen their capacity to effectively engage in co-management.
 - Capacity in Leadership is critical in order to manage change and sustain collective action.
 - Imbalances in individual and organizational capacity and power amongst stakeholders could impact the ability to achieve equitable outcomes.
 - Strong non-governmental organizations are needed to serve as change agents and mentors in



Lessons Learnt Cont'd

- **Meaningful and Sustained Stakeholder Participation:**
 - All stakeholders should be identified and, if possible, included to the extent of their ability in the co-management arrangements.
 - Incentive structures (economic, social) related to the shared recognition of problems and solutions are necessary for individuals and groups to actively engage in co-management
- **Financial Sustainability:**
 - Many existing stakeholder organizations are highly dependent on government for their existence and will need to become more independent and self-sufficient.
 - Need for national strategy for financial sustainability of the protected areas system.
 - Financially strapped organizations results in the ineffective management of the areas and defunct programs ensuring stakeholder participation.



Thank You!

Questions??????????

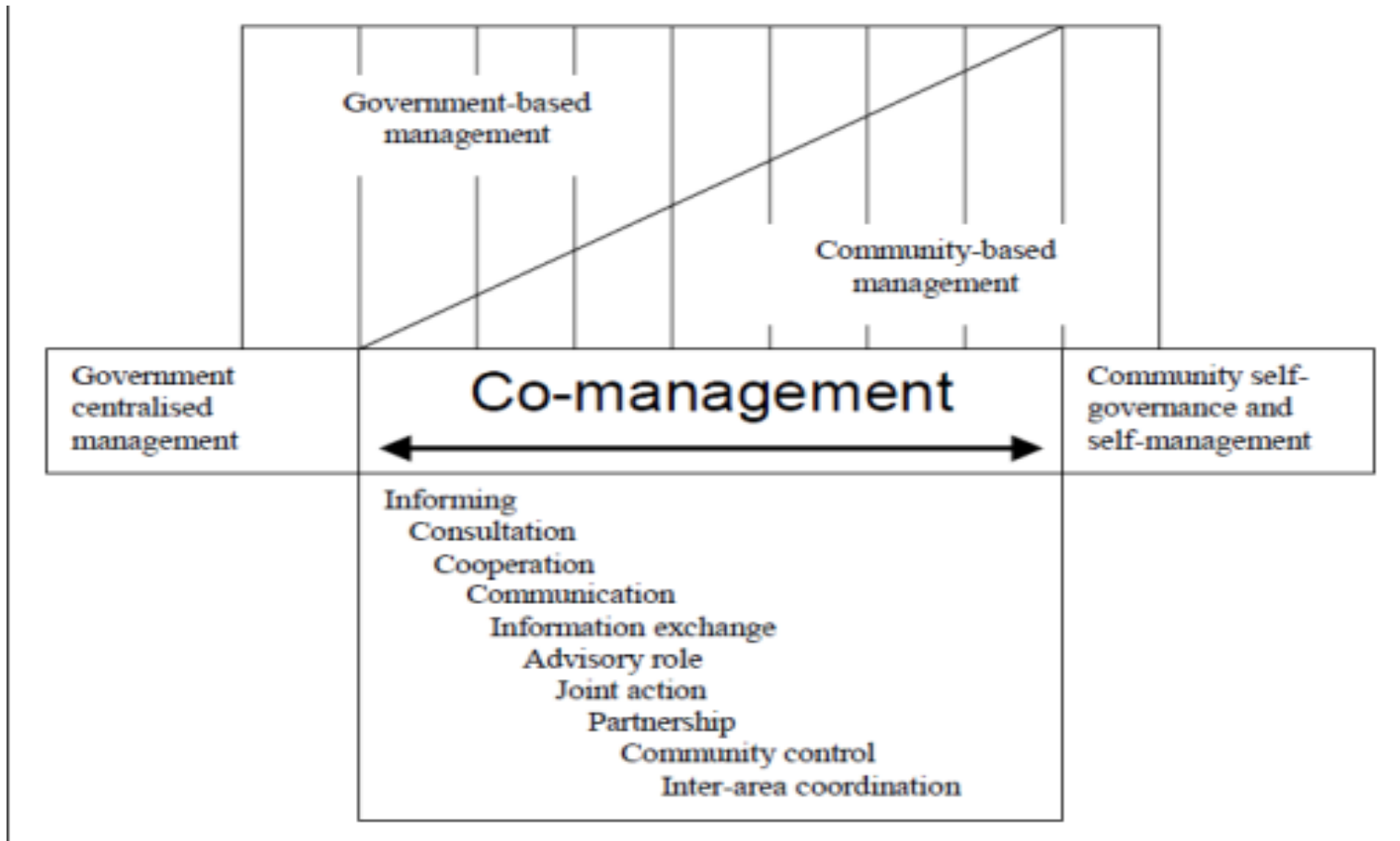
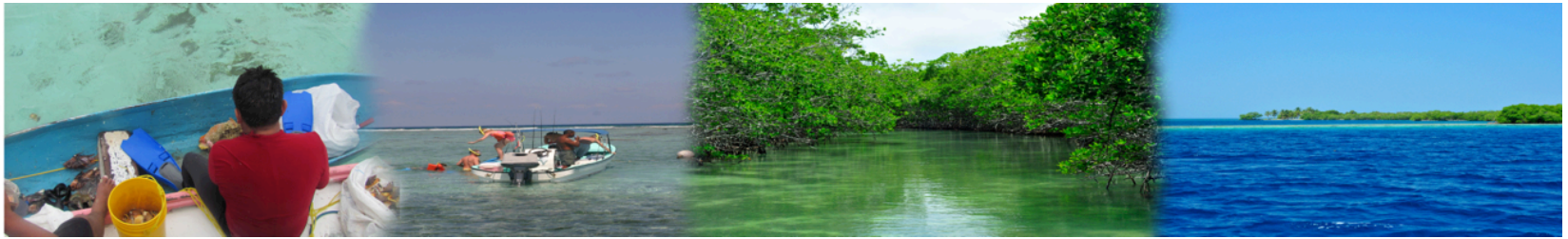
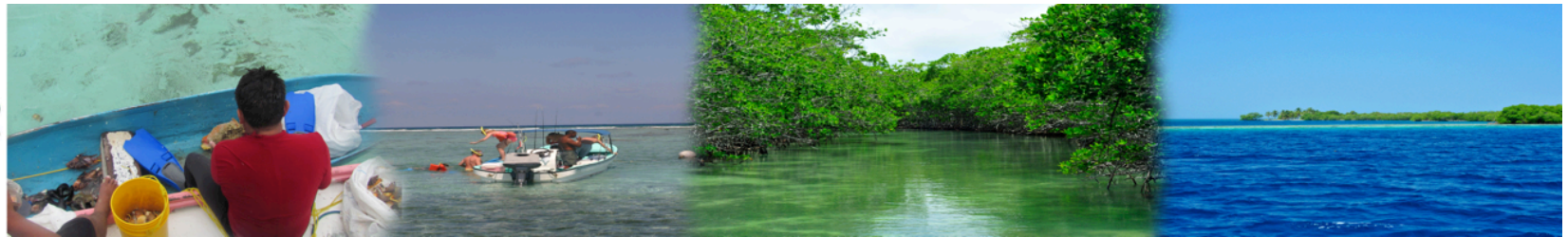


Figure 2.1. Sliding scale showing various degrees of co-management
Based on Pomeroy and Williams 1994



	Consultative co-management	Collaborative co-management	Delegated co- management	
<i>Government has the most control</i>	Government interacts often but makes all the decisions	Government and the stakeholders work closely and share decisions	Government lets formally organised users/stakeholders make decisions	<i>People have most control</i>

Figure 2.2 Degrees and labels of co-management

Adapted from: ICLARM and IFM 1998