



Gulf of Honduras Project

Belize – Guatemala - Honduras



FIRST STEPS TO INITIATE CONTAMINATION MONITORING IN THE GULF OF HONDURAS REGION

New tendencies in world trade, technological changes in the maritime industry, and anthropogenic activities that revolve around the Gulf of Honduras have generated negative environmental effects and potential focal points of the spread of contamination at a transboundary level, which have had a negative impact on the health of ecosystems and their resources. This is due to the fact that the predominant direction in ocean currents varies according to the season contributing to the interconnection of waters in Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras.



Aerial View of Puerto Cortes in Honduras

For this transboundary interconnection, the Gulf environmental protection, particularly the pollution prevention and control issues, requires strategic

approaches that direct the activities towards confronting the most relevant polluted sources, monitoring trends, and building durable and sustainable schemes of regional cooperation for its management.

Considering the above, the Gulf of Honduras Project is working to develop an



Aerial View of Big Creek Port in Belize

effective safety clearing house to discuss environmental protection rules to improve the use of strategic plans to prevent and control pollution. In order to achieve this objective, the Project hired The CONSORTIUM: INTERNATIONAL MARCONSULT INC, CSI INGENIEROS/OCEAN POLLUTION CONTROL, S.A. to conduct a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of regional magnitude.

The general objective of the consultancy is to generate technical and scientific information to develop a baseline and environmental, social and economic indicators, focused on the region's ecosystems and current contamination levels.

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The information will be used as input for the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). From this complete and objective understanding of the Gulf of Honduras current situation, a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) will be developed. The plan will detail the activities and schedule that must be considered by the Governments of the region to solve the diagnosed problems.



Moment when the contract was signed, this initiates the first steps in conducting a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis in the Gulf of Honduras Region. Honduras, Belize and Guatemala.

The signature of the contract to conduct the studies above mentioned was carried out during the Meeting of the Central American Isthmus, Belize, and Dominican Republic Port Businessmen (REPICA, by its acronym in Spanish). The meeting, sponsored by the Central American Commission of Maritime Transport (COCATRAM, by its acronym in Spanish), was held in April 25th at Montelimar, Nicaragua. Mr. Edas Muñoz, Regional Director of the Gulf of Honduras Project; Mr. Jose Dopeso, Temporary Director of COCATRAM, as a Project implementing agency and Mr. Ruben Reina, representative of the consortium, MARCONSULT INC, endorsed the contract.