2.3. LEARNT LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES UNDER CMA1 AND CMA2
THE CARIBBEAN MARINE ATLAS PROJECT: CHALLENGES AND LEARNT LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES
ATLAS IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Capacity Challenges
✓ Limited specialization at national level for coastal/marine data management

✓ Cross-institution data discovery and access limited (low institutional transparency)

✓ Limited resources (primarily time and manpower) to implement national actions

✓ Limited resources to dedicate to atlas data preparation tasks

✓ Low priority placed on data management/delivery

✓ Staffing changes reduce the level of participation on the project
ATLAS IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Technology Challenges

✓ Changes in atlas backend technologies (Mapserver to Geoserver) delayed implementation

✓ Steep learning curve for development languages (Javascript, PHP, etc) and open-source software (Geoserver, Geonetwork, SLD creation, etc) slowed application development
LESSONS LEARNT & BEST PRACTICES

✓ Identification of a suitable national representative is extremely important

✓ The national data sharing challenges need to be identified and mitigated against early, or they can negatively impact implementation

✓ The collection of data at national level requires the provision of additional staff resources or consultants by the project

✓ Participants of Atlas project should focus on national-level and regional coordination and not on atlas building

✓ The atlas application (website) must be user-friendly, and the maintenance of the data (adding, updating) should require minimal effort
LESSONS LEARNT & BEST PRACTICES

✔ The data on the atlas which is maintained by third parties (SST, hurricane tracks, world ocean database) needs to be kept up to date on the atlas

✔ A data use policy needs to be established and agreed early in the process to remove ambiguity or uncertainty on data use

✔ The atlas must feature policy-relevant functionality
LESSONS LEARNT AND BEST PRACTICES UNDER CMA2
LESSONS LEARNT

First Phase (2007-2013)

National Spatial Data portals
Project Coordinator Barbados


Regional Platform and Indicators
Project Coordinator Colombia - INVEMAR
LESSONS LEARNT: CMA2

 ✓ To start working there was the need to review the ProDoc. The reformulation is given based on the needs that are prioritized when working directly in the region/subregion is formulated.

 ✓ We do not use the same language, this workshop is done in order to unify all the participants in topics of common use (methodologies, use of standards, software and others) to assure the generation of correct information.
LESSONS LEARNT: CMA2

✓ It is easy to find secondary sources of information which help to fill the gaps existing, this is demonstrated by the information catalogue constructed for the CMA2.

✓ There is not establish a way of official communication, it does not allow partners to empower in the project.

✓ It is necessary to create a expert group for each country, that include the generators of the spatial and thematic information identified like priority.
LESSONS LEARNT: CMA2

✓ It is good to use geoservices, not all are useful, it is important the use of OGC standards to Exchange data and avoid incompatibilities that occur for special formats (ArcGIS REST Services).

✓ It is important to consider the online availability of the geoservices since many times it is impossible to know when a provider shut down a server or change the direction of access.

✓ It is important to document the information and services at the level of minimum metadata, this allows to search and access resources easily, and ensures that the user knows the restrictions of access and use.
LESSONS LEARNT: CMA2

✓ Collaborative editing of information tools (Office 365, Google Drive) become important allies to maintain up-to-date sources of information and allow you to enrich the catalog with new sources of data.

✓ It is valuable to have a procedure that filter, debug and grade levels that are likely to be included in the geovisitor, this, ensures that the data offered is quality for users.
In the development of the CMA2 Project there are four main reasons why it’s necessary to identify, join and promote Best Practices:

1. The allow learning processes based on other projects (CMA1, SPINCAM, ICAN, OBIS, CMLE+).
2. They allow to build connections between effective solutions.
3. They facilitate and promote innovating, successful and sustainable solutions to shared problems (SPINCAM Communication).
4. They provide excellent orientations for initiative development and concept definition (CMA1, SPINCAM).
The exchange of skills, knowledge and experience is fundamental in order to carry out every proposed action for the project’s improvement.

- Establishing teleconferences.

It is an excellent practice because when people have the willingness, the accomplishment of expected results in time is achieved.
• Traceability allows project participants to accomplish clear goals during the projects development.

• The main purpose is to facilitate the process and document each one of the project’s

• Projects that improve their traceability in their activities and the credibility of their results can more easily offer guaranties for their results and boost user confidence.
In the CMA2 project, identifying these milestones is fundamental to plan from the beginning all its activities.

Divide the project in Project Milestones every two months in order to follow up on every activity programmed in a controlled manner.

Clarity in the programmed work progress, motivation for the technical team and facilitate information management from people of different countries.
I AM PARTNER, I AM OWNER

Description
- CMA2 must create a sense of Project ownership.

Strategy
- INVEMAR as project coordinator must define and carry out a communication strategy with its partners.

Conclusions
- Make the participants feel like they can take active action in each of the planned activities and help meet all goals set and projecting a positive image to be positioned in the Caribbean region.
THANKS