



Integrating Local Community in Coral Reef Management

***Building Coral Reef Resiliency in a
Community-Based Model***



***Dr. Rubén E. Torres
La Caleta MPA Manager
Reef Check Dominican Republic***

LA CALETA MPA



LA CALETA MPA

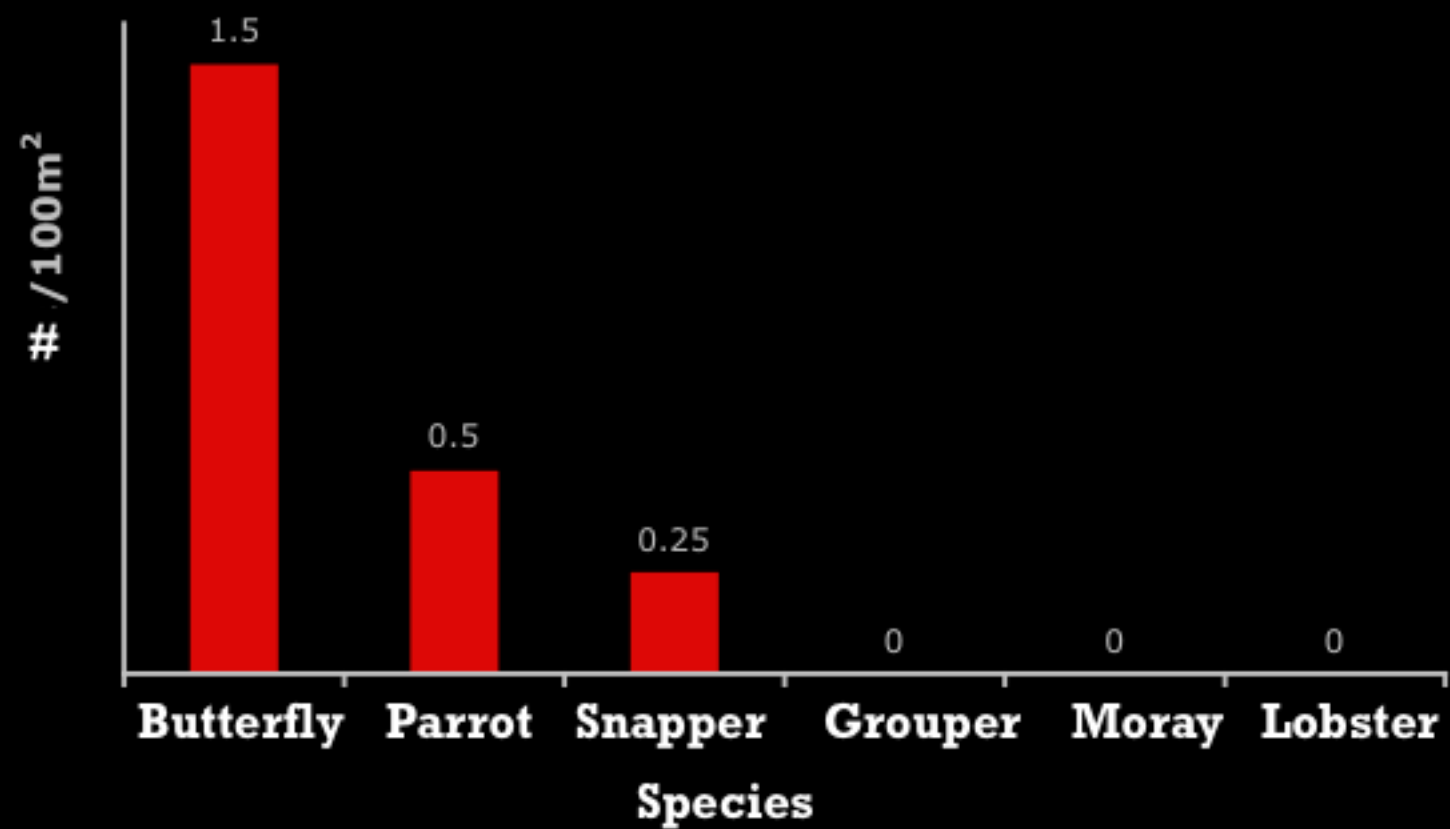


LA CALETA MPA



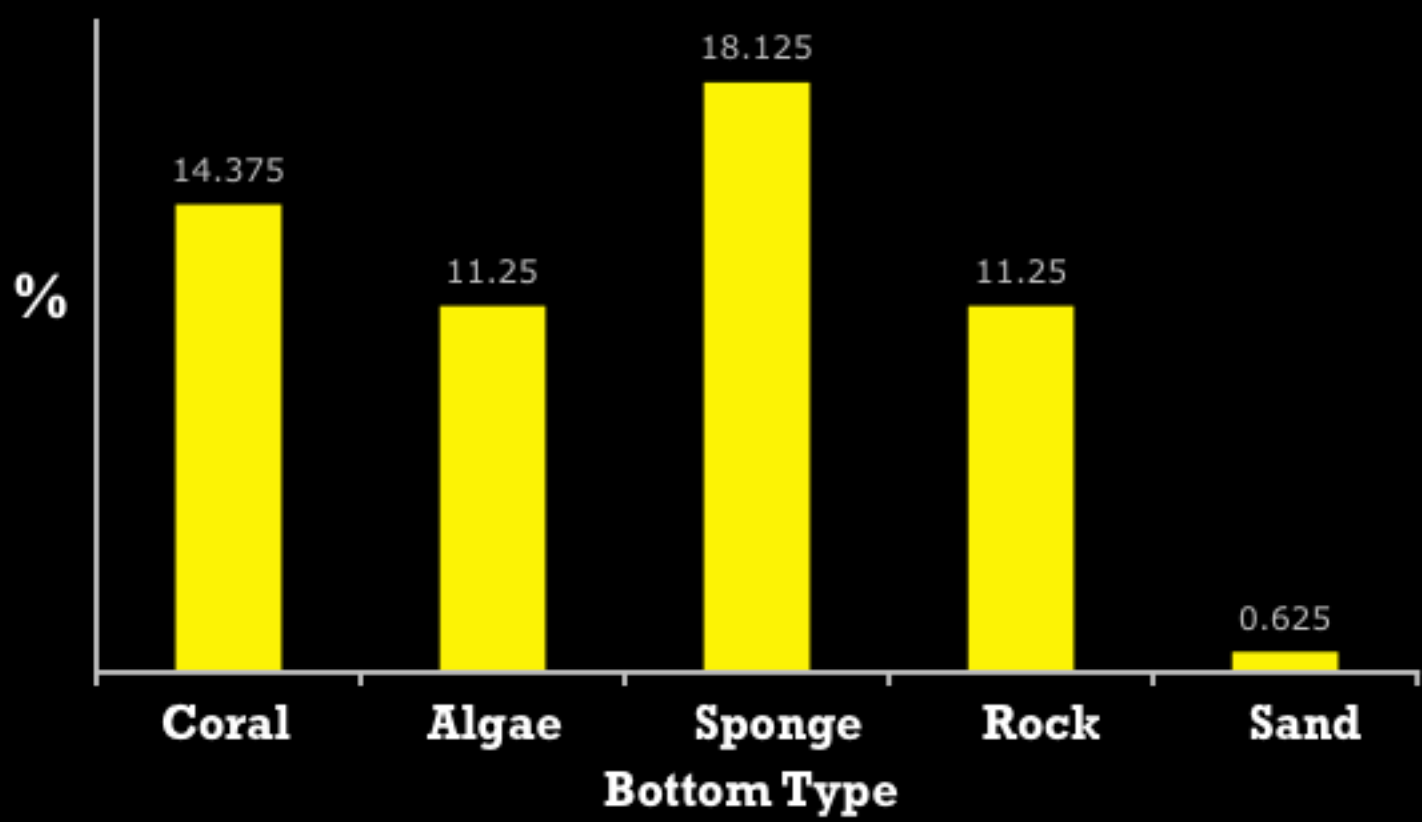
LA CALETA MPA

Reef Species Densities 2005



LA CALETA MPA

Bottom Coverage 2005



Local Problems...the usual

Over fishing

Anchoring

Un-regulated diving

No management structure

Local Solutions for Local Problems



Monitoring



Active Protection



Education



Alternatives

Co-management Model

Reef Check DR - Ministry of Environment - COOPRESCA

Education and exchanges for local stakeholders

Self-imposed No-take zone

Mooring and demarcation buoys

Alternative income activities to replace fishing and improve visitation

Communication, outreach and lots of PR

Improving Stakeholder Structure



Creation of the La Caleta Fishermen and Tourism Service Providers Cooperative (COOPRESCA)

Corporate Image



PARQUE
NACIONAL
SUBMARINO
LA CALETA



Local Community Taking Action



**Reef Check
Monitoring**



**Mooring
Buoy
Program**



**Coral
Nursery**



**Lion Fish
Control**



Eco-tourism Marketing

PARTNERS

Help protect biodiversity

USAID
DSTA
COOPERCA

REEF CHECK

Saving Reefs Worldwide

PADDLE

with kayak & snorkel

THE REEF

Foundation for all sea life

THE TAÍNO

La Caleta was their home

SCUBA

Explore the underwater world

VOLUNTEER

Help protect the reef

ENJOY

The Colors of La Caleta

Community-based Business Plan



Product Proposal

La Caleta National Marine Park will offer an authentic food and arts and crafts based out of the sound structure located right off of the highway Las Avencas. An afternoon dining area for guests will be created right off the road so as to offer a quiet and relaxing atmosphere to guests that want to enjoy the beautiful sea views of La Caleta's crystal blue waters. These products and services will act as compliments to visitors who want to take part to enjoy the rich culture and historical offerings of La Caleta.

Restaurant La Caleta



Authentic Dominican dishes and fresh international fare will be available through a basic park restaurant located at the front of the park in a rehabilitated existing building. Snacks and basic meals will be available a la carte during certain hours of high turn over and more complete buffets will be pre-arranged for planned tour groups and parties.

Gift Shop La Caleta

A Gift Shop, housed in the same structure as the restaurant, will sell authentic 100% Dominican made products including Hot Trade Art and Crafts, Dominican specialty items and Cigars as well as a niche boutique for the La Caleta National Marine Park.

Coastal Lounge La Caleta

A comfortable coastal seating area will be created for park patrons to relax and enjoy La Caleta's natural atmosphere. Food and drinks will be available here from the restaurant offering a more laid back atmosphere away from the road. Beach style bean bag lounge seating, wooden platforms and chairs will be available with removable shading.

Community and Conservation

The La Caleta National Marine Park will be selling high quality services that hold conservation and local community benefits at the utmost of importance. All profits will go to conservation of the marine park and social projects in the surrounding community. The integrity of this key philosophy will not be compromised for personal profit as the businesses will remain non-profit. The aim is to set a standard for National Park Tourism Development in the DR that respects local communities and their natural resources.

Clientele

Patrons of the restaurant, gift shop and coastal lounge area will include arranged pecked tourists, independent divers and travellers as well as local Dominican. These distinct groups will be marketed to through various channels including sales contracts with tour operators, print media, press campaigns and web advertising.



Need Statement

Various international funding organizations have put forth large financial and technical assistance commitments in order to put these projects into action. The Dominican government agencies of SEMARENA and SECTUR can help push these projects through with a firm commitment on the rehabilitation of park structures and their support of Reef Check as a co-management partner. Reef Check will be bringing close to half a million USD in funding to the park over the next couple of years but it relies on the Dominican government to support its work with conservation and communities by:

- SEMARENA solidifying Reef Check's co-management standing for La Caleta National Marine Park.
- SEMARENA and SECTUR putting forth a solid timeline and budget to complete the rehabilitation of park structures starting with the circular restaurant structure.
- SECTUR granting Reef Check the right to manage tourism operations within the park.
- The Ayuntamiento offering their continued positive support of the park programs.



Product Proposal

Reef Check DR will be developing a comprehensive suite of water based activity offerings complete with all equipment, instruction, guiding and safety needs. Services will include snorkeling, diving, kayaking and the development of an underwater Taino Art Trail. Reef Check will develop an Aquarius Center for the park which will house an conservation education and research center.

Aquatic Activities

La Caleta National Marine Park will offer Snorkeling, Diving, kayaking and boat trips. Snorkelers will be able to independently rent equipment or take guided tours around the coastal line where they will learn about marine life, coral and coverts and local history leading all the way back to Pre-Columbian times. Those who wish to dive La Caleta can either come from an external dive shop with a package, using La Caleta's boat service and paying the park entrance fee, or dives may be directly coordinated by the park where equipment, dive master and transport will be arranged. Kayaks will be available as well as guides that will take clients on a tour of the area, teaching about correct kayaking techniques while teaching about Marine life and La Caleta's history.



Underwater Taino Art Trail

La Caleta will be home to an underwater Taino Art Trail where scuba divers can rent an dive about Taino history and culture. This trail will also act as an artificial reef, creating new habitats for marine life and fauna. Divers will use underwater guides to identify different Taino deities and read about their unique attributes. A trail may be developed for snorkelers as well where diverger have and interactive games could be developed.

Guiding and Safety

All guides working for La Caleta National Marine Park will be trained in interpretation, safety and technique for the activities they guide. La Caleta operations will also hold all necessary insurances to run these activities so as to work with large tour operators.

Conservation and Community

The La Caleta National Marine Park will be selling high quality services that hold conservation and local community benefits at the utmost of importance. All profits will go to conservation of the marine park and social

projects in the surrounding community. The integrity of this key philosophy will not be compromised for personal profit, as the businesses will remain non-profit. The aim is to set a standard for National Park Tourism Development in the DR that respects local communities and their natural resources.

Clientele

Clients of aquatic activities will include packaged tourists, independent divers and travellers as well as local Dominicans. These distinct groups will be marketed to through various channels including sales contracts with tour operators, print media, press campaigns and web advertising.

Need Statement

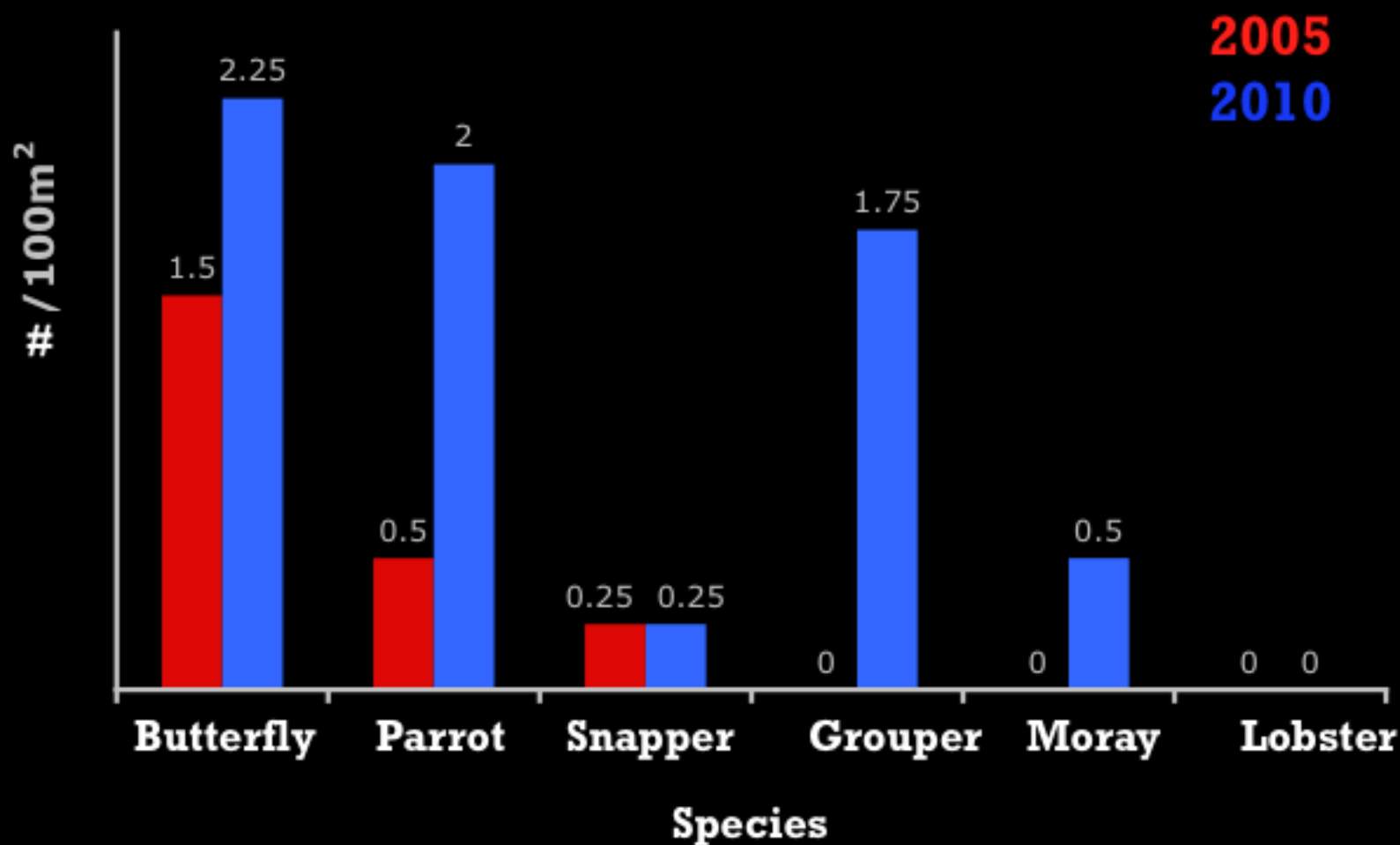
Various international funding organizations have put forth large financial and technical assistance commitments in order to put these projects into action. The Dominican government agencies of SEMARENA and SECTUR can help push these projects through with a firm commitment on the rehabilitation of park structures and their support of Reef Check as a co-management partner. Reef Check will be bringing close to half a million USD in funding to the park over the next couple of years but it relies on the Dominican government to support its work with conservation and communities by:

- SEMARENA solidifying Reef Check's co-management standing for La Caleta National Marine Park.
- SECTUR granting Reef Check the right to manage tourism operations within the park.
- The Ayuntamiento offering their continued positive support of the park programs.

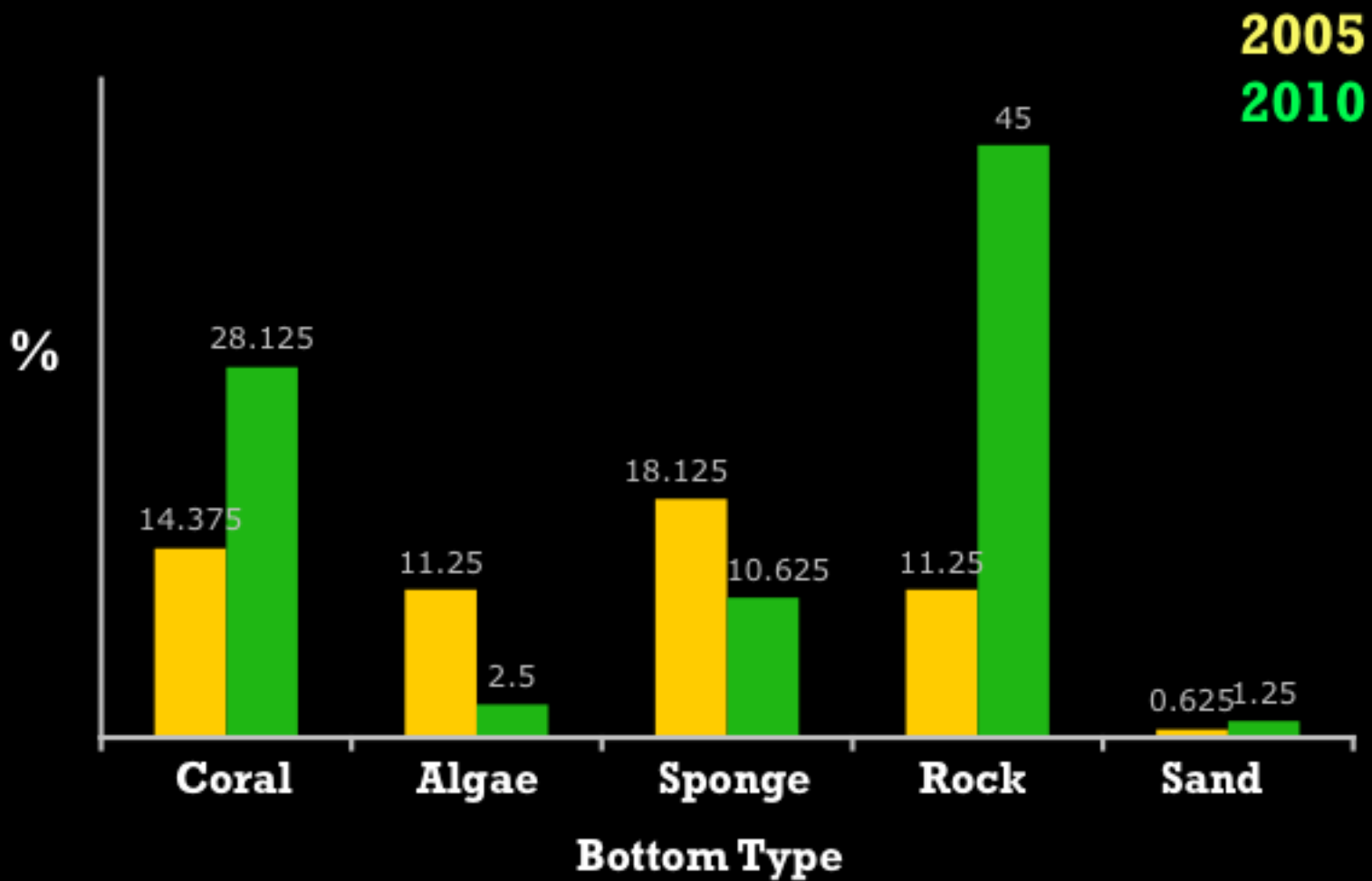
Alternatives to Unsustainable Fishing



Getting Results



Getting Results



Coral Gardening for Bleaching Resistant Colonies





For more information:

Rubén Torres, Ph.D.

**Reef Check
Dominican Republic**

809-227-4409

ruben@reefcheck.org

**www.reefcheckdr.org
www.parquemarinolacaleta.org**

PS.



La Caleta está abierta para la investigación



La Caleta is open for research



La caleta est ouvert pour la recherche

