

Socioeconomic Monitoring

Jobs Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



JBNERR

Characteristics

- Designated in 1981 as NERR System.
- Two estuaries in the Caribbean Biogeographic Region.
- Coastal ecosystem of 2,883 acres including mangrove forests, salt flats, coastal strand, seagrass beds and coral reefs.

Boundary Map



The stakeholders

Who are they?

- Community leaders
- Fishers
- Residents
- Visitors

Research techniques

- Literature review
- Visitor surveys
- Field observations
- Oral Histories
- US Census Data

The communities

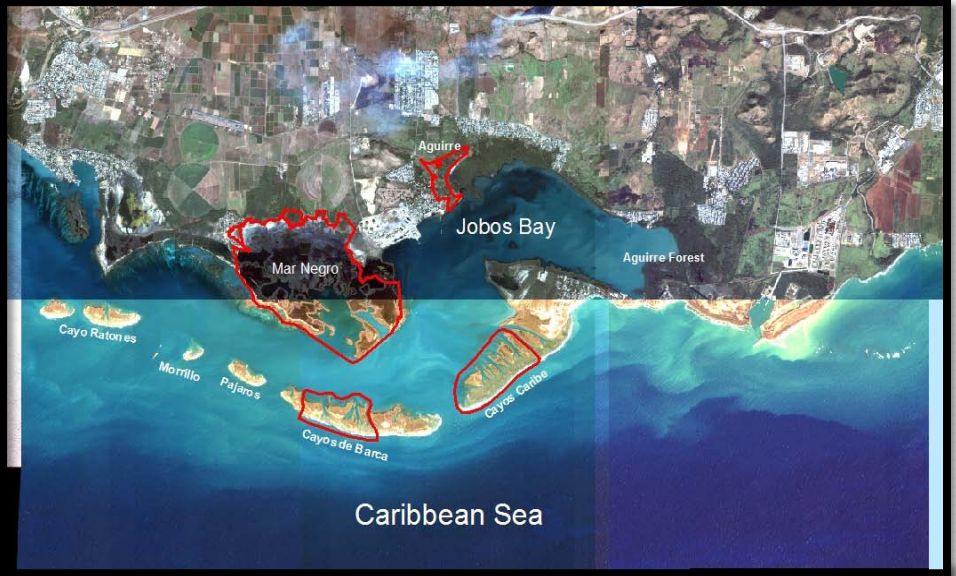
Communities



Characteristics

- Four communities categorized as “Comunidad Especial”
- Fishery and agriculture income
- High levels of school desertion

History of the site



Demographics: Salinas

Population: 31, 113

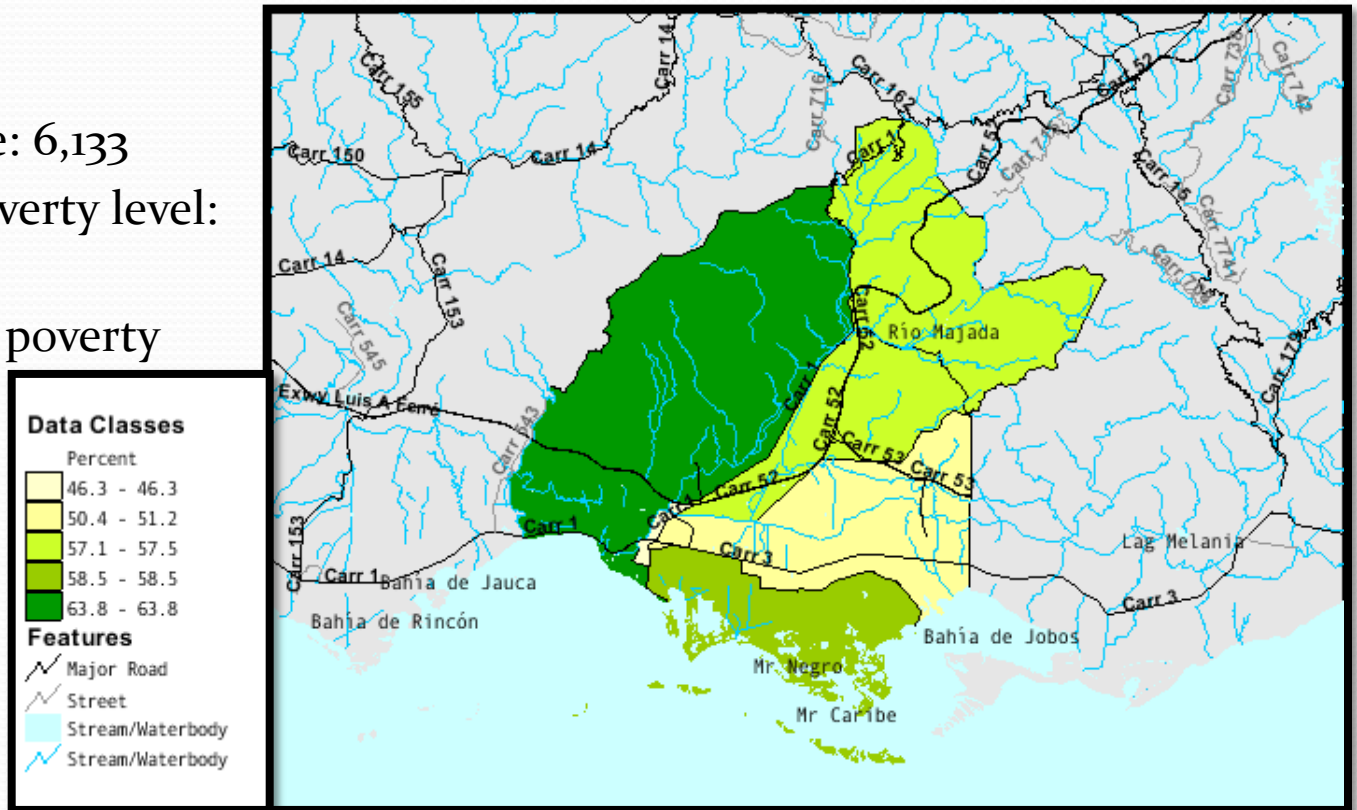
Female: 16,068

Male: 15,045

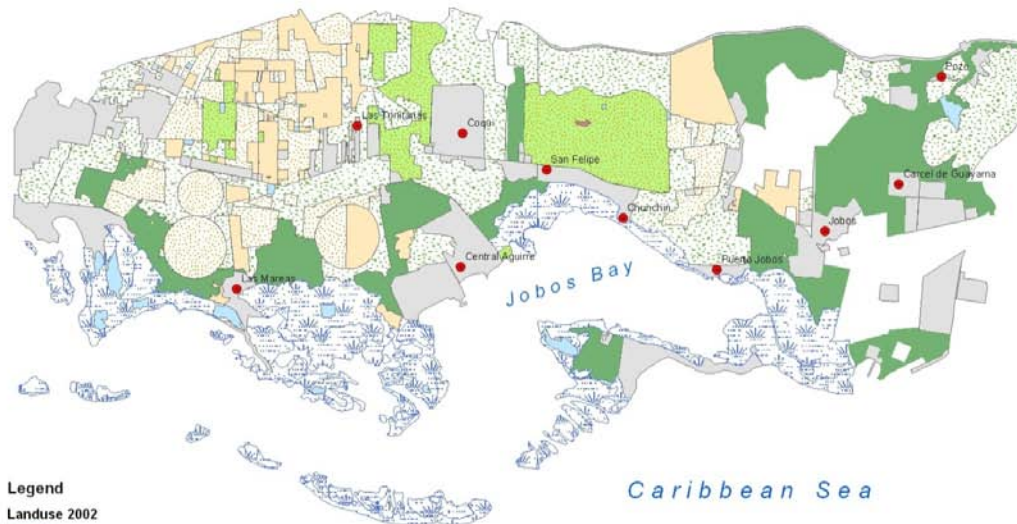
Per Capita Income: 6,133

Families below poverty level:
4,484

Individuals below poverty
level: 18,095



JBNERR Land Use Patterns



- Legend**
- Landuse 2002**
- Barren
 - Confined Feeding Operations
 - Cropland
 - Forest
 - Pasture
 - Rangeland
 - Urban or Built Up Land
 - Water
 - Wetland
 - Population Point

GENERAL LANDUSE, 2002 FOR THE LOWER PART OF THE JOBOS BAY WATERSHED

Resource use: Field Observations

- Social Groups: 35 groups, 18 couples, 12 individuals
 - Activities: Fishing (24), Picnic (7), Snorkeling (6)
 - Boating: Boats (141), yolas (44), jet ski (9)
 - Natural areas: Las Mareas (18), Cayo Barca (11), Cayo Caribe (11)
- Additional observations:
- ✓ Illegal docks
 - ✓ Boats at high velocity and moor to mangroves
 - ✓ No law enforcement
 - ✓ People walking in the shallow reef
 - ✓ Manatee observations

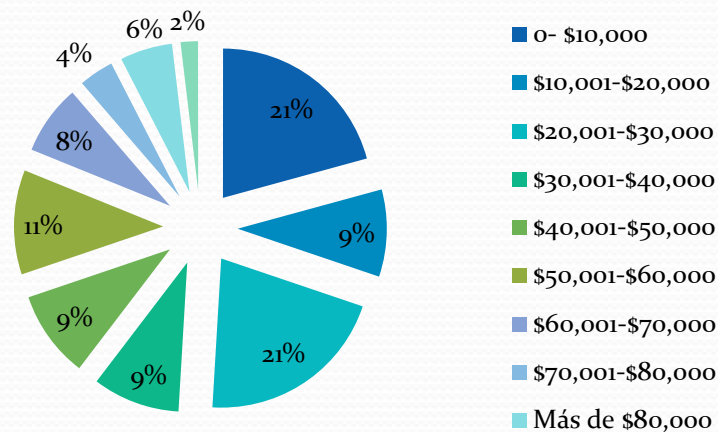
Resource use: Surveys (n=52 in six month period)

- Gender: Female 72%, male 28%
- First time visitors: 58%

Reasons for the visit:

- Open House Activity: 27%
- Local recreation: 21%
- Education trip: 28%
- No answer: 23%

Visitors Income Per Capita



Resource use: Oral Histories

- In Aguirre residents want to talk about the “Central” and sugarcane production as their cultural setting or environment. They do not have a clear view of the physical and natural environment other than of the social environment and history of Aguirre.
- Community leaders from Las Mareas recognize the reserve as a key in the conservation and protection of natural ecosystems from urban sprawl. Today the reserve is working together with the communities in the watershed in the development of sustainable strategies for socioeconomic development.

JBNERR activities

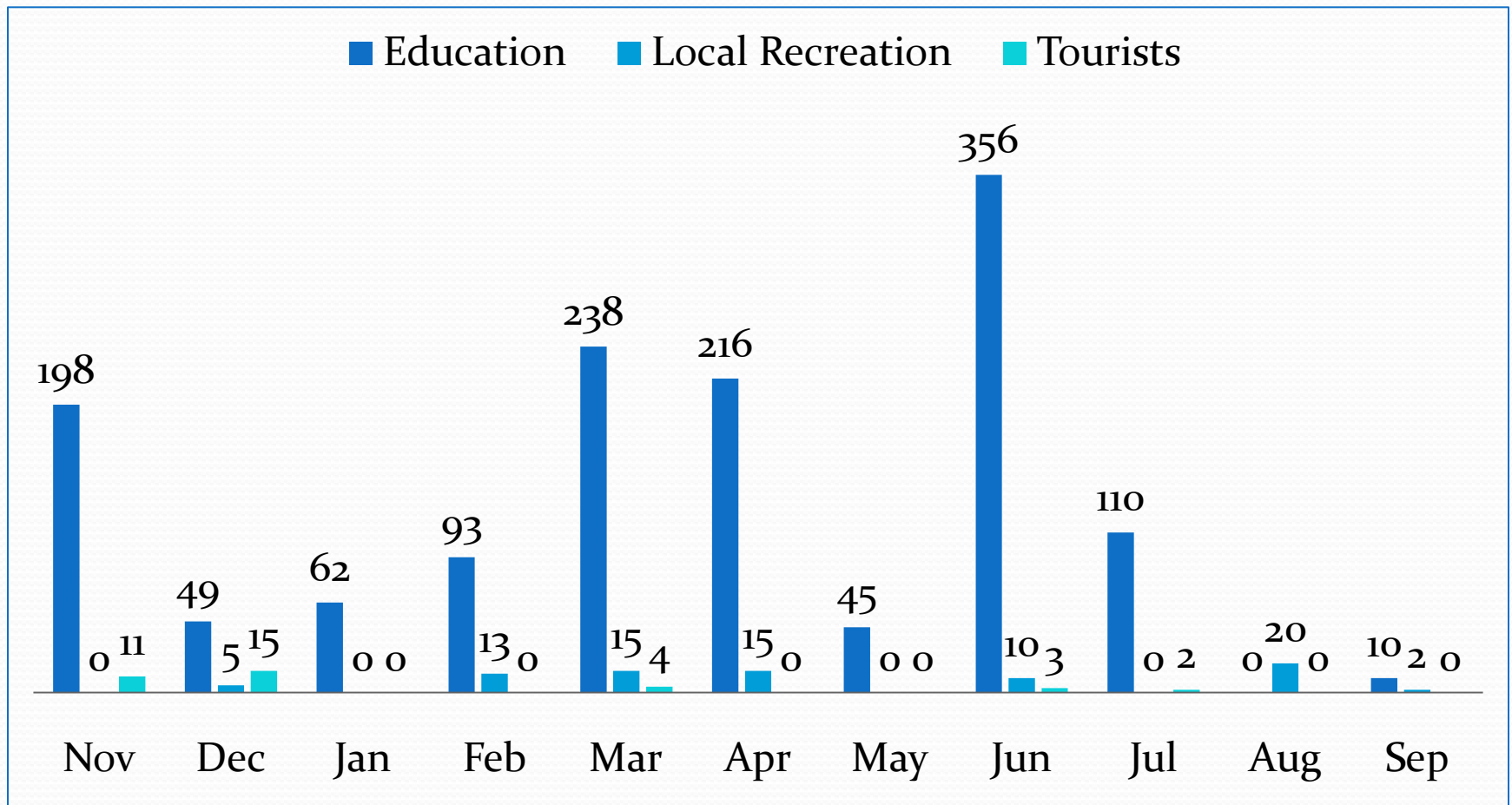
Fishing activities (gears)

- Hook and line
- Beach seines
- Spearfishing

Other activities

- Education groups from schools , scouts groups and universities
- Hiking
- Kayak excursions

Calendar of resource use



Key results:



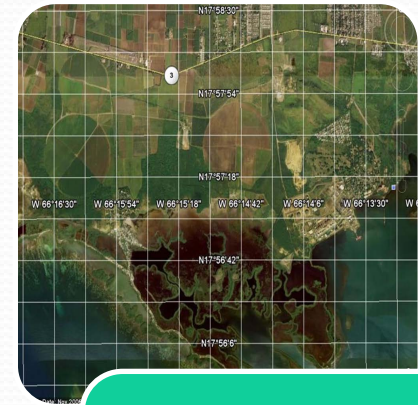
Identification of potential areas for land acquisition and extension of JBNERR boundaries.

Development of collaboration opportunities within the reserve communities.



Research Projects:

- “Oportunidades de Co-Manejo en JBNERR”
M.S. Thesis, 2009.
- “Proyecto para Fideicomiso de Tierras de la Comunidades Aledañas a JBNERR”.
M.P. in process.



Initiative of IDEBAJO:
a strategy for the socioeconomic development of JBNERR watershed communities.

SocMon and management

Results have been use to identify and develop management priority issues and strategies for the next five year JBNERR Management Plan.

Review the process of enforcement in the reserve boundaries, specifically in the bay.

Provide education to promote the active participation of communities in the decision making processes and development of collaborative strategies for the watershed socioeconomic development.

The process provides the reserve the opportunity to identify key stakeholders to get engage in the Friends of the Reserve NGO.

Develop a plan for the acquisition of areas such as Cayo Cabeza de Barca and Cayo Pajaros.

JBNERR SocMon Team

- JBNERR Staff
- CIEL work team

