

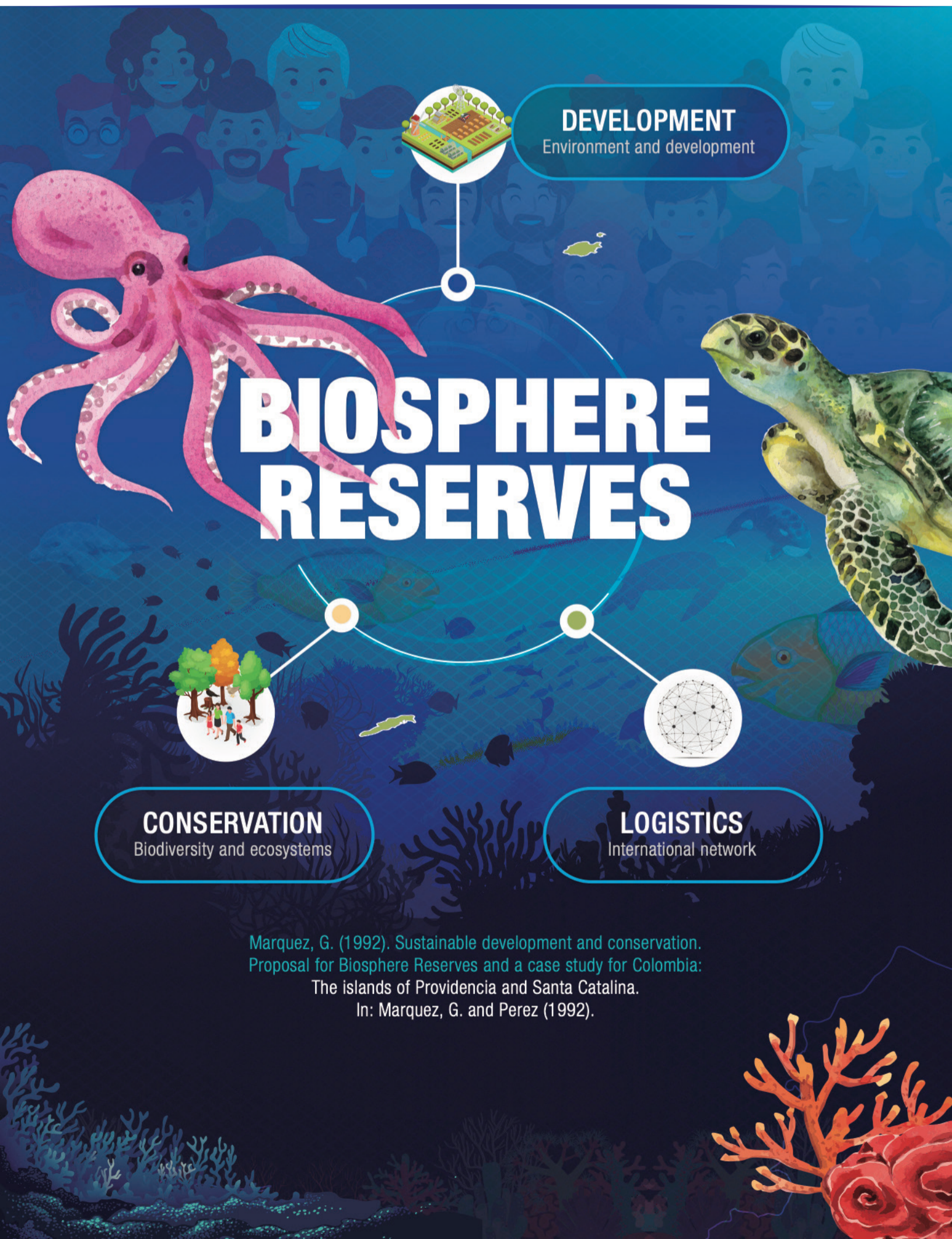
# The Biosphere Reserve Concept, Seaflower and Climate Change

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## Abstract

Based on UNESCO's biosphere reserve concept and on the paper originally proposing an archipelago biosphere reserve, this chapter supports going deeper in implementing the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve as a social, economic, and environmental sustainability model. To this, it proposes some actions, from reconsidering its regulatory status to its integration with national development plans, including payment schemes for ecosystem services (PES), as Seaflower ecosystems provide society with many goods and services, estimated to be huge, but not reflected in their management and financing. Seaflower's meaning has not been properly understood and is not taking advantage of this status. The current situation is worrying and unsustainable; it threatens the natural, historical, social and cultural heritage of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina, stressed by a questionable mass tourism development model and worsened, mainly in Providencia, by hurricanes Eta and Iota and because of climate change whose impact, mainly in coral reefs, could be extreme. Some of the ideas developed in this chapter were proposed by the author with the name Seaflower Initiative; now, could be integrated with Gran Seaflower Initiative, a recent proposal for the creation of a transboundary biosphere reserve in the western Caribbean.

*Keywords: Sustainability model. Ecosystem services. Hurricane Iota. Seaflower Initiative. Coral reefs.*



Marquez, G. (1992). Sustainable development and conservation. Proposal for Biosphere Reserves and a case study for Colombia: The islands of Providencia and Santa Catalina. In: Marquez, G. and Perez (1992).