

# URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## BUENA VISTA - LA RIBERA - CABO PULMO



The East Cape region in southern Baja California - especially Cabo Pulmo - is once again facing a great challenge, this time much more worrying than in previous years when there was a plan to create a new type of tourism in this area.

This time, the government has begun the process of creating an Urban Development Program (UDP) that when completed, will allow a change in the plan for land use from Buenavista to Cabo Pulmo.

UDPs are planning instruments where all policies are aligned so that cities grow in an orderly manner, maintaining the balance between economic activities, care for the environment and society. The UDP will determine if this región is designated "rural" or "commercial" – a finding that could significantly change the future of land use on this coastal región.

Until now, the team that is developing the UDP (a consultant and the Los Cabos Municipal Government) are using very limited scientific data in their evaluation of land use. The preliminary maps they are producing are extremely coarse and lack solid data on the distribution of species (with special emphasis on endemic and threatened), habitats that provide essential ecological services for life (such as wetlands, dunes, and of aquifer recharge, etc.) and other important socio-environmental aspects.

Therefore, the **Cabo Pulmo Vivo** coalition is carrying out a series of actions. Upcoming actions include:

- 1) Participate in the process involving planners and local communities in the PDU proposal.
- 2) Write official letters addressed to the Urban Development office of Los Cabos to consider the guidance offered by:
  - the background and current regulations in relation to the Los Cabos Ecological Program, which provides the minimum guidelines that the PDU must observe;
  - the international agreements of UNESCO and RAMSAR of which Mexico is a party;
  - our concerns regarding the availability of limited fresh water, the fragile environmental condition, social stratification and the lack of public services.
- 3) It is evident that a rapid process of integration and mapping of biological data is urgently needed in order to offer robust tools to the PDU process and to participate effectively in the public consultation required by law. Therefore, a workshop was organized for scientists who study biodiversity, water resources, land integrity and marine resources to integrate information from the Eastern Cape region.

We invite the entire community join us in tracking this process so that Cabo Pulmo and all of the region of the East Cape does not lose the natural resources that make it a unique place in the world. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE NEXT PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP: PRESENTATION AND FEEDBACK OF THE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SEPTEMBER 14, 2018 AT 5:00PM AT THE DELEGATION BUILDING OF LA RIBERA. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT.**

September, 2018