The Coalition for the Northeast Ecological Corridor Reserve has integrated approximately 14 organizations in addition to individual members; these include local fishermen, surfers, animal rescuers who work as volunteers in leather back sea turtles monitoring program, and young individuals who enjoy adventuring/exploring throughout the Corridor’s coastal ecosystems. Our goal is to promote the conservation of the Corridor’s socio-ecological value as a nature reserve. We work under a ‘gateway community’ model to develop economic opportunities within the region based on eco-tourism; due to the natural beauty, high biodiversity, history, and local culture. Our constant challenge has been to maintain a balanced, clear, and inclusive communication strategy among the majority of the organizations in order to support and sustain our goals and vision.

This is an ongoing exercise and requires work which can sometimes be a ‘walk in the park,’ and sometimes it is a Mad Max road!

Our Coalition works hard to focus on and gather new tools to reinforce and make sure that any information that is shared among organizations and communities can be understood; as well as used for the purposes intended (i.e. management of the reserve and developing infrastructure). Another challenge is to acknowledge how the communities evolve and identify their needs as they change, based on their lived experience. These changes can also offer new perspectives on how to approach the issues at hand, but they are often delicate interactions that require re-orientation among the Coalition and hours of meetings and discussion.