Buen Hombre, 
Dominican Republic 
A Hundred Years of Adaptation
Key Historic Points in This Case

- 5K BP – 1491 Native American adaptation
- 1492 Columbus - Impact of European Domination
- 1500-mid? Results of Abandonment – 300 years of being an MPA
- 1900 - Arrival of Cuban immigrants fleeing war
- 1950 – Lessons learned – Environmental Ethics
Native American Adaptation

Source: Keegan 1997
The Taino

- Farming & Fishing Peoples probably arose more than 4,000 years ago along Orinoco River in Venezuela
- Complex Social Organization - Chiefdoms
- Dense Populations
- Canoe Travel – Distance Trading
Arrival of Europeans in Hispaniola

- Disease 1507 – 1st recorded smallpox epidemic in Hispaniola – 75% depopulation loss of whole tribes (11 epidemics in the 1500s)
- Confusion, Conquest, and Forced Labor
- Pirates – illegal trade [mercantilism]
- Abandonment of north coast communities
Arrival of Cuban Immigrants

- 1890 War in Cuba produced at least two waves of immigrants to what they would call Buen Hombre village.
- Settlers were both agricultural, and would come late to major fishery use.
- Settlers arrived in a “pristine” land with forests, mangroves and sea.
The Folks of Buen Hombre
Forests
Mangrove
Mangrove
Sea
Combined in a Coastal Ecosystem
Environmental Disturbance

Fig. 12.2. Environmental disturbance by population & adaptive strategies
Buen Hombre Population

Fig. 12.3. Buen Hombre population changes
Note: These figures are based on data of varying quality so they should only be used to generally represent trends.
Forest Removal/Farming
Farming Erosion
Farm Erosion
Beach Overview
Beach
Lessons Learned
Don’t Cut the Trees
Don’t Farm on Steeper Slopes
Protect the Mangroves
Protect Coastal Wetlands
Don’t Catch the Smallest Fish
Don’t Catch the Biggest Fish – Village outlawed compressor
Grown Yard Plants & Bees
Plan for The Children
Scientific Studies
References
