

Three ways to support the sustainable management of the Mesoamerican Reef

10th request for proposals

The Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) launched in 2017, two new financial boxes in the request for proposals to support projects in the MAR region.

The new financial boxes, along with the one already existed, have similar requirements between them but also specific ones. They are: Supporting and Strengthening Science-based Restoration, Repopulation and Rehabilitation of Coral Reefs in the MAR region; and Collaborating for Sustainable Marine Resources Management in Belize.

Meet the winners

The call for this 10th request for proposals had a very good number of participants for each of its three financial boxes. Let's meet the themes, the approved projects and who will be their implementers.

The first financial box

The first financial box that will be covered is Supporting and Strengthening the Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mesoamerican Reef. The main objective is to contribute to the conservation of the ecological functions of the MAR. This joint call was supported by the French Global Environment Facility, the Government of Germany through KfW, the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation and the MAR Fund.

Eleven projects, which representatives are already reviewing the grant agreements, were recommended and approved for support. After they sign the agreements, the notifications to the proposals not approved will be sent.

The approved projects will be developed in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, and we expect that they begin their field activities between March and April, 2018.

The approved projects in Mexico are:

1. Implementing of Good Practices in Sustainability for the Tourist Operation in Holbox. It will be developed by the community NGO Casa Wayuu.
2. Participatory monitoring of reef fish recruitment: indicator of connectivity in the Mesoamerican Reef. It will be developed by ECOSUR.
3. Strengthening strategies and surveillance operations in Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park. It will be developed by the Cozumel Community Foundation.

4. Participatory formulation of the biosecurity protocol of Cozumel Island. It will be developed by the NGO GECEI.

5. Juvenile Leadership School for the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems of three MPA of Quintana Roo. It will be developed by the NGO Moxviquil.

The approved projects in Guatemala are:

1. Strengthening strategic planning and financial management of the protected area Bocas del Polochic Wildlife Refuge. It will be developed by Fundacion Defensores de la Naturaleza.
2. Promoting the sustainable management of the marine and coastal zone of the Sarstun Region. It will be developed by the community-based NGO APROSARSTUN.
3. Climate change adaptation strategies in four communities of the Punta Manabique Wildlife Refuge -RVSPM-. It will be developed by Fundacion Mundo Azul.

The approved projects in Honduras are:

1. Taking care of my reef and my water system. It will be developed by the Polo's Water Association.
2. Promotion of new productive activities and environmental education related to the recycling of discarded materials for the proper management of solid waste. It will be developed by the Bay Islands Conservation Association – Roatan.
3. Apicultural alternative for the conservation and sustainable development of my community. It will be developed by the community-based association APICOR.

The second financial box

This is Supporting and strengthening science-based restoration, repopulation and rehabilitation of coral reefs in the MAR region. It is the first Reef Rescue Initiative's request for proposals that will focus on coral reefs in the region, and will not be restricted to specific protected areas. It was also supported by the Government of Germany through KfW, MAR Fund, and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD).

Its general objective is to promote and contribute new techniques for reef restoration, repopulation and rehabilitation.

Two projects were recommended and approved for support. Their representatives are currently reviewing the grant agreements. After they sign the agreements, the notifications to the proposals not approved will be sent.

The approved projects that we expect to begin their field activities between March and April are:

1. Strengthening science-based reef restoration efforts in Belize and Mexico with exchange site visits including experts. It will be developed regionally by the Belizean NGO Fragments of Hope.
2. Colony transplant and implementation of new techniques for the rehabilitation of reefs in Xcalak-Mahaua. It will be developed in Mexico by the NGO Oceana.



Photo credit: Kate Sutter

The third financial box

It is Collaborating for Sustainable Marine Resources Management in Belize. It was the second request for proposals for the Belize Marine Fund, and it will specifically address marine resources management and conservation in Belize. This is a new financial mechanism established within the MAR Fund with technical and financial support from Oak Foundation to provide long-term financial sustainability for high-priority natural resources management and conservation initiatives.

Its general objective is to support high-priority natural resources management and conservation initiatives in Belize.

This mechanism has a different evaluation process than the first two. The six proposals received and currently under revision are:

1. Planning for the Future, Preparing for Change. It will be developed by the Belize Federation of Fishers.
2. Protecting Belize's Marine Resources. It will be developed by Oceana.
3. Increasing Effectiveness of Sustainable Marine Resource Use Management in SEA Protected Areas. It will be developed by the Southern Environmental Association.
4. A Scientific Assessment of the Emerging Deep-water Fisheries in Belize. It will be developed by the MAR Alliance. Stakeholder Participation in Sustainable Fisheries Management. It will be developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society.
5. Assessing the Environmental Impact of Offshore Oil on Belize's Marine Assets. It will be developed by the Belize Coalition to Save Our Natural Heritage.

As stated in the terms of reference of the request for proposals, these projects will be notified about the results of the selection process by the end of March 2018.



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