

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

MAR Fund was created as a mechanism to provide financial sustainability for the conservation efforts in the Mesoamerican Reef region. The multi-national structure of MAR Fund allows an effective and efficient distribution of funds across the entire reef system, while addressing region – wide strategic priorities.

MAR Fund leads the Project implementation together with its Member Funds:

- Mexico: Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C. (FMCN).
- Belize: Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT).
- Guatemala: Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala (FCG).
- Honduras: Fundación Biosfera (FB).



The national counterparts that will implement the Project in the target protected areas for each phase are:

PHASE I:

- Mexico: Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP) through a legally constituted NGO selected annually.
- Belize: Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE).
- Guatemala: Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP).
- Honduras: Bay Islands Conservation Association-Roatan (BICA-Roatan) and Roatan Marine Park (RMP).



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PHASE II:

- Mexico: Secretaría de Ecología y Medio Ambiente (SEMA) through a legally constituted NGO selected annually.
- Belize: Fisheries Department for South Water Caye Marine Reserve and Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) for Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Guatemala: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO).
- Honduras: Bay Islands Conservation Association-Utilla (BICA-Utilla).



The Project has international technical assistance provided by TYPASA, which provides support through a permanent expert and consultants on different topics.

LENGTH AND COST OF THE PROJECT

The Project implementation period is five years for each phase. Phase I started in January 2012 and Phase II in January 2014. Each phase has an approved grant amount of 5 million Euros.

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KFW



PROJECT CONSERVATION OF MARINE RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA



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BACKGROUND

The Mesoamerican Reef (MAR), like many other coral reef areas in the world, is vulnerable to a variety of threats including coastal development, habitat loss, unregulated tourism, overfishing and unsustainable fishing, large scale agro-industry, among others. Additionally climate change exacerbates the threats caused by human actions and decreases the resilience of ecosystems to recover from changes.

The Project “Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America”, developed by the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) and co-financed by the Government of Germany through KfW, supports the conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA) for the MAR region. Its objective is to consolidate the selected protected areas and secure the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the mid-term, during the two phases of implementation.

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The Project’s strategy is oriented towards implementing effective long – term conservation mechanisms in the nine protected areas. It supports planning processes, monitoring, updating management plans, surveillance systems, infrastructure and equipment, among others, to optimize the administration of the areas.

Support is also provided for a series of activities defined by each MCPA, with the aim of achieving sustainable use of the areas’ resources, goods and services. For example, these may include the following: codes of conduct for various extractive activities, incentive programs to involve communities in conservation, co-management of conservation zones designed jointly with users, strategies for recycling solid waste, mangrove reforestation, environmental education campaigns, sustainable fisheries and responsible tourism. This approach combines three strategies:

- Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Better management and sustainable use practices of coastal and marine resources.

- Small grants and implementation of mechanisms for knowledge and exchange of experiences between the Project implementers, for example administrators of the MCPAs, or among users of the resources.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

The Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) is the world’s largest transboundary barrier reef and is part of the interconnected system of coastal habitats and currents that extend throughout the Caribbean basin and beyond. Its coastline stretches for 1,000 kilometers from the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico down to the Bay Islands in Honduras, across Belize and Guatemala.

It is home to some of the world’s most stunning coastlines and vibrant waters, with an astonishing array of over 500 known fish species, some of the largest remaining populations of manatees and sea turtles, possibly the largest known aggregation of whale sharks and valuable concentrations of mangroves, sea grass, and coral reefs.

The following priority MCPA are the main investment areas of the Project:

PHASE I:

- Yum Balam Flora and Fauna Protection Area, Mexico
- Port Honduras Marine Reserve, Belize
- Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge, Guatemala
- Sandy Bay West End Special Marine Protection Zone, Honduras



PHASE II:

- Manate Sanctuary State Reserve, Chetumal Bay, Mexico
- Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Belize
- South Water Caye Marine Reserve, Belize
- Sarstun River Multiple Use Area, Guatemala
- Turtle Harbour Rock Harbour Special Marine Protection Zone, Honduras