



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Photo: Elisa Areano



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Foto: Ian Drysdale

In 2020, The Mesoamerican Reef Fund or MAR Fund will mark its 15th anniversary of professionally working towards conserving the most extensive reef system across the coast of the American continent.

As a member of a great global family including over 100 environmental funds and operating since the 80s in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and the Asian-Pacific region, MAR Fund stands out not only for its results and achievements but also for being the first regional environmental fund in consolidating and aligning collaboration and conservation efforts of the four countries (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras), through their own national environmental funds. It has exceeded its initial endowment capitalization goal by 600%. Also, it has successfully managed resources for direct allocation from different donors including The Summit Foundation, KfW, the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM, in French), the Oak Foundation, as well as The Overbrook Foundation, the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), just to mention 7 of 68 donors, among individuals and institutions. All of them have entrusted us to oversee and allocate their valuable resources, which we have invested with transparency and gratitude.

MAR Fund has formed an outstanding team. Each of the 16 members who comprise this group of professionals stand out for their productivity and decision-making skills. Thanks to our Executive Director's generous leadership style and great talent, the organization operates under a horizontal and shared leadership approach, in which innovation, commitment, and diversity of thought prevail, as well as a synergy and partnership for collaboration. To all of them, our utmost acknowledgment and appreciation on behalf of the Board of Directors.

The following are the key achievements of 2019:

1. The development of a Regional Strategy for Mangrove Management, Conservation, Restoration and Monitoring in the Mesoamerican Reef, with the German Embassy's support in Guatemala and the participation in the Project "Integrated Ridge-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef Ecoregion (MAR2R)" by CCAD/WWF-GEF.

2. Undersigning of the agreement with FFEM for the MAR Fish project: Knowledge, Monitoring, and Protection of Fish Spawning Aggregations in the Mesoamerican Reef, which promotes the replenishment of commercial fish species in the MAR region, by strengthening the protection and monitoring of a regional network of spawning areas (fish spawning aggregations) of these species.
3. The online launching of the 12th request for proposals of the Small Grants Program, with three finance windows available: Traditional, Reef Restoration Initiative, and the Belize Marine Fund.
4. Coordination of a regional meeting regarding the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, organized by MAR Fund under two of its programs: the Belize Marine Fund (BMF) and the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative (RRI).
5. The organization of the second regional meeting of the Reef Rescue Initiative, with the goal to exchange information and international experiences on the subject, approve the bylaws and strategic plan of the initiative, and put together a new Executive Committee for the 2020-2021 period.
6. The Phase II fieldwork closeout of the Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America Project, funded by the German cooperation, through KfW, and co-financed by the five protected target areas: Reserva Estatal Santuario del Manatí (Manatee Sanctuary State Reserve), Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, South Water Caye Marine Reserve, Rio Sarstun Multiple-Use Area, and the Special Protection Zone of Marina Turtle Harbour/Rock Harbour in Utila.
7. Coordination of technical efforts and public relations to launch the design of Phase III of the Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America Project, for an estimated amount of €13,000,000.
8. The strengthening of the Board of Directors with the addition of Ph. D. Cheri Recchia, as an advisor to the institution; Ph. D. Leandra Cho-Ricketts, as a national member of Belize, and M. Sc. in Natural Resources and

Rural Development, Adriel Castañeda, as a substitute.

We look forward to the opportunity to progress in our work plans and build on the technical, financial, and human capital achievements from these first 15 years. It is worth mentioning that the institution decided to systematically document and communicate accomplishments and narratives describing the MAR Fund operation to directly share our work's achievements and results and avoid misinterpretations from stakeholders who do not share an interest in conservation. There is also the opportunity to coordinate the development of impact metrics of different programs, and design a public relations campaign aimed at governments and diplomatic representatives of the four countries that share the MAR to strengthen collaboration ties. All this in close cooperation with our partners, donors, and Board of Directors.

As the president of the Board of Directors of this institution, it has been a real honor and privilege to contribute to the work of our advisors, the different technical committees, governments of the four countries, communities and field partners, the task force, and of course, all donors who have supported us with their trust, resources, and guidance throughout the 15 years of work and learning. To all of you, I am respectfully grateful.

*Lorenzo J. de Rosenzweig P.*

*MAR Fund*

*President of the Board of Directors 2005-2020*



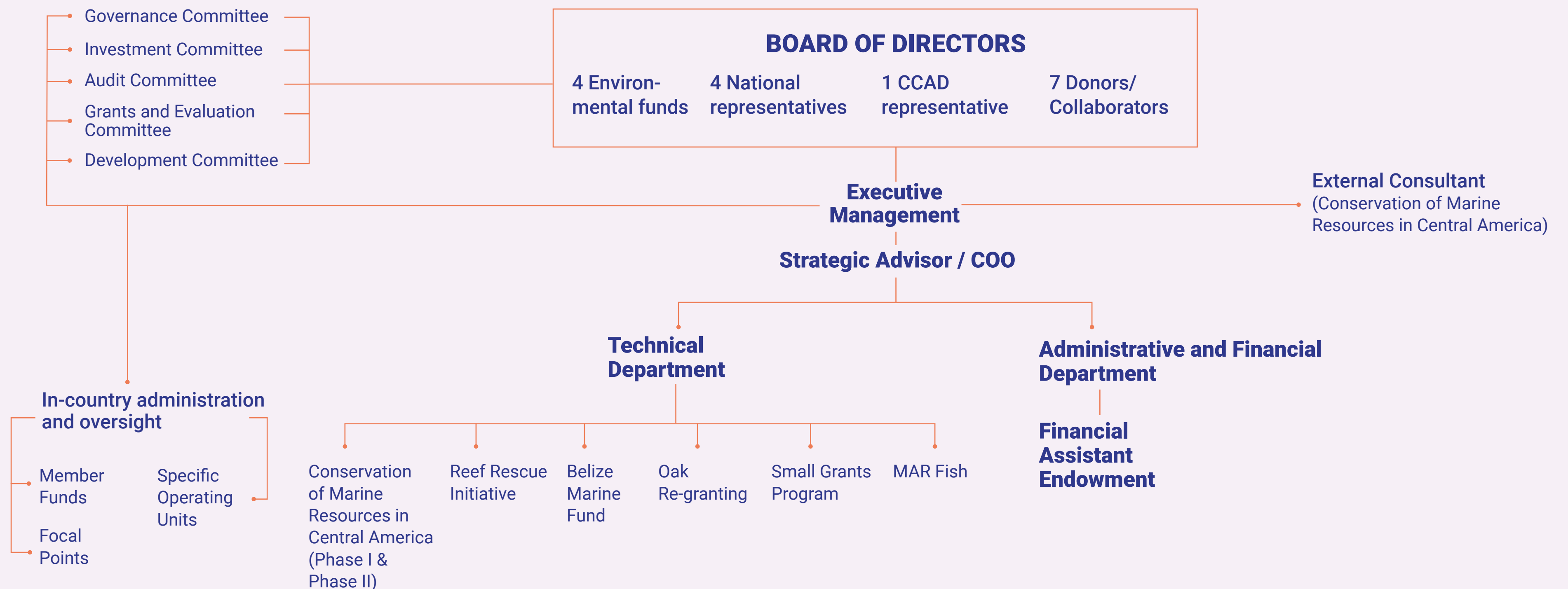
# 1. MAR Fund's Institutional Governance

## Organizational structure

MAR Fund is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status, incorporated in Delaware, United States, which has been operating for 14 years. With a team of 16 people, the Guatemala branch is responsible for the operative and administrative processes. The Board of Directors consists of representatives from the four founding environmental funds, one representative of the Central American Commission on Environment (CCAD, in Spanish), experts on conservation from each

participating country, and international collaborators.

The generous support of different donors interested in the Mesoamerican Reef has allowed MAR Fund to increase its support to conservation projects and sustainable use of resources in the region.



## New members of the Board of Directors



*Leandra Cho-Ricketts*



*Cheri Recchia*



*Adriel Castañeda*

We thank Beverly Wade and Vincent Gillent for having been a part of the Board of Directors and sharing their experience in favor of MAR Fund. We welcomed Leandra Cho-Ricketts and Adriel Castañeda, as the Belizean National Member and Alternate, respectively. It was also a pleasure to have Cheri Recchia, from The Summit Foundation, joining the Board of Directors.

## New team members



*Magdalena Lares*  
*Administrative assistant of*  
*the Reef Rescue Initiative*



*Ana Silvia Martinez*  
*Officer of the MAR Fish Program*





# 2. Key Achievements in 2019

Despite the conservation challenges in the Mesoamerican Reef region (MAR), the collaboration of partners and donors continues to achieve further progress. Below are some of the results of 2019 that MAR Fund would like to share.

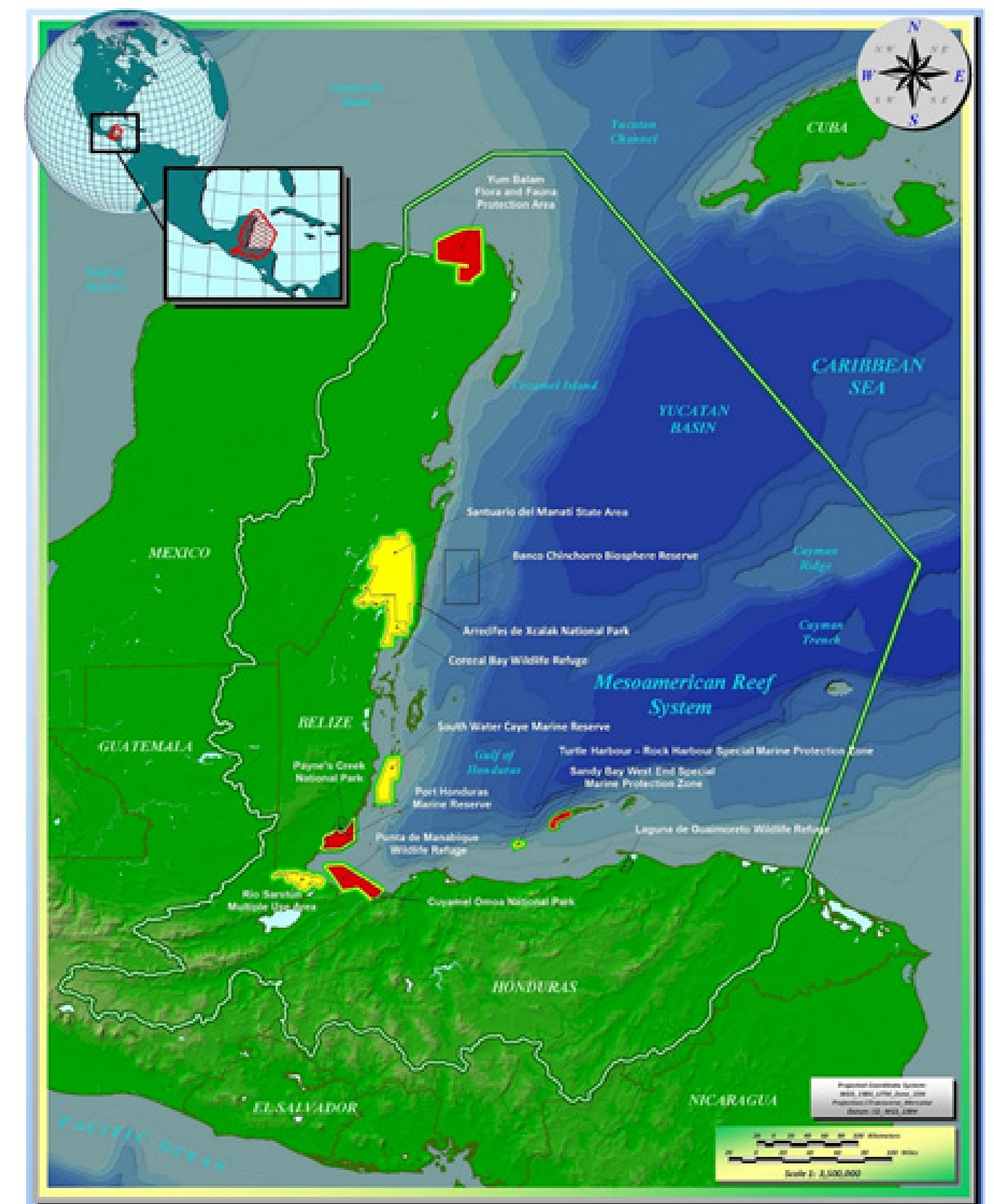
**Saving our protected areas: a legacy of care.**  
Establishment and protection of an interconnected network of priority coastal and marine protected areas in the region

## Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America, Phase II.

On the project's fifth year, financed by the German Cooperation through KfW, has a general approach of improving the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in five selected protected areas. This project ensured the continuity of Phase I and has three components:

1. Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems.
2. Improvement of management and sustainable use practices of coastal marine resources.
3. Implementation of mechanisms to exchange knowledge and experiences among target groups of the project and the Small Grants Program.

Selected protected areas for the Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America Project, Phase II.





The five protected areas (see table below) organized events to present the project’s results. Attendees included government authorities, non-governmental organizations, academia, and community leaders, who took part in implementing activities throughout the project.

The following disbursements were made throughout the year for each protected area, earmarked for equipment, control and surveillance, biological monitoring, institutional strengthening, community development, and environmental education. The table below shows some of the key results in each area.



Biologist José Juan Domínguez, Director of Natural Protected Areas of IBANQROO. Photograph by Valentine Rosado, Grassroots Belize

Country

Protected Area

Organization

Amount granted (US dollars)

Mexico	Results
Reserva Estatal Santuario del Manatí (Manatee Sanctuary State Reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A control and surveillance built on common lands (ejido) of Calderas Barlovento. A total of 45 signs were installed in the reserve polygon.</li> <li>• A report prepared on satellite monitoring of Daniel the manatee (March 2017-June 2019). The collected information will allow establishing a subzone of Laguna Guerrero to protect this species.</li> <li>• Infographics and signs installed at the Marine Mammals Care and Rehabilitation Center (CARMA, in Spanish).</li> <li>• The setup and legal incorporation of two coops, Tuunich Ha Barlovento and Yaalcab Ha, in the Public Registry of Property and Trade. The creation of the civil society Xi'ipal Kana'an (Youths for the conservation and sustainable use).</li> <li>• Implementation of four community projects for strengthening community kitchens (La Lupita and Pez de Oro) and ecotourism (Tuunich Ha y Yaalcab Ha).</li> </ul>
Quintana Roo Institute for Biodiversity and Natural Areas	
\$ 153,778	

Belize

Results

Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development

\$ 121,106

- Office remodeling of Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD).
- Implementation of three productive projects based on the community development strategy: 1) boost ecotourism with the Beach Trap Pesca Tours Association of Sarteneja, 2) promote smart climate agriculture with a fisher from Chunox, and 3) reactivation of water taxi service with the Sarteneja Tour Guide Association.
- Recruitment of four community interns trained to support research and monitoring, as well as environmental education programs implemented by SACD in the protected area.
- Third consecutive year of the Fishers Fair, with the goal to raise awareness in conservation. An estimate of 500 people from the communities of Chunox, Copper Bank, and Sarteneja attended the event.





Belize	Results	Guatemala	Results	Honduras	Results
South Water Caye Marine Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park rangers received defensive and tactical training.</li> <li>• Monitoring of commercial fisheries species (lobster, queen conch, and fish spawning aggregations).</li> <li>• Educational presentations were developed for approximately 75 students regarding the marine reserve rules and regulations and the biological monitoring program.</li> </ul>	Multiple-Use Zone of Rio Sarstun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of the protected area master plan submitted to the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP) for approval.</li> <li>• Legalization of the San Juan Fishers Committee and reactivation of the fishing collection center with equipment and seed funds to begin operations.</li> <li>• Establishment of the Tourism Self-Management Association of Barra Cocolí (AUTBAC, in Spanish) committee, improved infrastructure, equipment, and training in order to offer tour services to visitors.</li> <li>• Implementation of Closed Season Schedule Workshop with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulation Directorate (DIPESCA), with the participation of representatives from the Protection of Nature Division (DIPRONA, in Spanish), Caribbean Naval Command (CONACAR, in Spanish), Marine Corps Brigade (BIM, in Spanish), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN, in Spanish), CONAP, Ecologic, APROSARSTUN, Fishers Network, FUNDAECO-AAT, and a total of 70 community leaders of the Guatemalan Caribbean fisheries.</li> </ul>	Special Protection Zone Turtle Harbour / Rock Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remodeling of the Visitor Center of the Bay Islands Conservation Association–Utila (BICA-Utila), volunteer residence, storehouses, and parking area for ATVs.</li> <li>• Museography setup in exhibits at the Visitor Center and the installation of posters and banners showcasing different programs implemented by the organization on the island.</li> <li>• Implementation of the project “Weaving Dreams with the Network of Artisan Women.” The women’s group produced the first batch of 86 reusable bags, promoting and displaying them in several sale points on the island.</li> <li>• 14 people were trained on the characterization of solid waste, contributing to Utila’s waste management.</li> </ul>
Belize Fisheries Department		Fundación para el Eco-desarrollo y la Conservación		Bay Islands Conservation Association – Utila	
\$ 22,772		-		\$ 59,123	

TOTAL: \$ 356,779





# Climate Change: a pressing need. Supporting adaptation to climate change and its impacts on the reef.



1. Members of the Technical Committee of the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative during a meeting in Guatemala, November 2019. Photograph by Eddy Chamalé/Viatori



2. From left to right: Carlos Rodríguez, Ana Giró, Gabriela Ochoa, Anastazia Banaszak, and Lisa Carne, the new members of the Reef Rescue Network Executive Committee. Photograph by MAR Fund.



3. Claudia Ruiz, coordinator of the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative. Photograph by MAR Fund.

## Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative

MAR Fund and Willis Towers Watson collaborate to develop a parametric reef insurance as a practical solution to address the risk of climate change on the Mesoamerican Reef System and the communities that depend on it. This tool will provide predictable and timely funds to support emergency response activities to restore and conserve this critical natural infrastructure.

Pilot sites to develop the model were selected in a participatory way in the four MAR countries. The sites selected by country are the following: 1) Mexico: Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve and Xcalak Reef National Park; 2) Belize: Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Turneffe Marine Reserve; 3) Guatemala: Cayman Crown in Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge; and 4) Honduras: Bay Islands National Marine Park and Cayos Cochinos Marine Natural Monument.

Three preliminary feasibility studies were conducted for the parametric insurance:

- 1) Risk assessment and vulnerability analysis, with the goal to understand and model the vulnerability of reefs due to hurricanes.
- 2) Cost analysis for reef restoration, with the goal to identify actions and response costs at short, mid, and long terms to repair the damage caused to the reef.
- 3) Develop a preliminary conceptualization of the parametric insurance, with the goal to come up with polygon scenarios, parameter thresholds, and payout proposals for the selected pilot sites.

Moreover, financial sustainability studies and beneficiary analysis were carried out for an emergency response and parametric insurance for reef restoration in the MAR. Studies were developed by Willis Towers Watson (WTW), with the financial support of InsuResilience Fund.

In order to complement the parametric insurance, it is essential to have the **response capacity** of countries to address the emergencies caused by natural events. Advances in each country were as follows:

### Belize

- Exchange of letters with the Belize Fisheries Department to formalize the commitment of creating and strengthening post-storm response capacity.
- A task force formed that will follow up the formalization of the Response Coordination Committee.
- The work plan with activities was drafted to build response capacities.
- Post-Storm Coral Response Plan was prepared and approved. It is a document that supports the implementation of post-storm emergency response capacities.

### Guatemala

- Two workshops presented the Early Warning and Post-Storm Response Protocol in the Guatemalan Caribbean. Participants included representatives of CONAP, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), Healthy Reefs Initiative (HRI), and TNC.

### Honduras

- Two meetings with stakeholders from protected areas of the Bay Islands National Marine Park and the Cayos Cochinos Marine Natural Monument were held to present the Early Warning and Post-Storm Response Protocol.
- Agreement signed between MAR Fund and the Biological Monitoring National Roundtable, a platform including the Forestry Conservation Institute (ICF, in Spanish), the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat (SAG, in Spanish), and MiAmbiente.
- ICF will support the creation of at least two Response Coordination Committees, one for each protected area. DiBio will follow up the formalization of the collaboration agreement between MAR Fund and the Government of Honduras.

A second regional meeting of the Regional Reef Rescue Network (RRN-MAR) was held on October 9th and 10th, 2019, in Belize City to exchange information and international experiences on reef rescue, approve the Bylaws and the Network Strategic Plan, as well as to form of a new Executive Committee 2020-2021. More than 60 stakeholders and 30 institutions were represented at the biennial event. More information at <https://coralmar.org/>

A partnership was established to collaborate between the Reef Rescue Network, the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative, and the project MAR2R to develop a regional reef restoration protocol as a product of this meeting. More information at <http://bit.ly/30NCPOr>





# Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Restoration of Mangroves in the Mesoamerican Reef.

A Regional Strategy for the Mangrove Conservation and Restoration in the Mesoamerican reef was developed during a workshop carried out in September 2019, in Guatemala City. The workshop was sponsored by the German Embassy in Guatemala and the Project “Integrated Ridge-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef Ecoregion (MAR2R)” (CCAD/WWF/GEF, under the coordination of MAR Fund and the Smithsonian Institution. Participants included 71 stakeholders of 43 organizations from and outside the region. The event report, as well as other products related to the workshop, can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/37k2W1W>



Participants at the regional workshop, Guatemala City. Photographs by Lucy Calderón, Sergio Rodríguez De León



Photo: Ian Drysdale

# Fishing for the Future: sustainable fisheries for a thriving reef.

## Community participation in the co-management of their fisheries, establishment of fish replenishment zones, and monitoring and protection of fish spawning aggregations.

### MAR Fish Project

This project’s long-term objective is to foster the replenishment of fisheries in the MAR by strengthening the protection and monitoring of fish spawning aggregations (FSA), as critical areas in the life cycle of species. The project is carried out by partners in the four countries of the MAR.

In June 2019, the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM, in French) signed a financial agreement with MAR Fund to implement the project “MAR Fish: Knowledge, Monitoring, and Protection of Fish Spawning Aggregations in the Mesoamerican Reef.” The Summit Foundation and Marisla Foundation granted additional funds essential for the project.

Two key regional workshops were carried out as part of the project. The first one was held in April in Guatemala City to develop a detailed project work plan. In November, the second one was held in Cancun to standardize the monitoring protocol for fish spawning aggregations in the MAR.



Photo: Elisa Areano

El segundo, celebrado en noviembre en Cancún, para estandarizar el protocolo de monitoreo de agregaciones reproductivas en el SAM.

Carlos Pérez conducted on-site interviews to understand how fishers of the three countries in the Gulf of Honduras use the Cayman Crown reef. It is the first characterization study of reef resour-

ce use conducted in the area. It will be useful to put forward adequate plans for the protection and sustainable management of this beautiful reef, shared between Guatemala and Belize.

During 2019, the project MAR Fish carried out the following activities:





Country	Guatemala	Guatemala	Mexico	The workshop was facilitated by COBI in Cancun, Mexico, on November 21st and 22nd, 2019. The FSA data collection protocols were standardized using the work done in Belize as a reference and adding new components, such as measuring fish size using laser devices. A sharing agreement of FSA data was also discussed, maintaining restriction levels of publicly sharing key aspects, such as the coordinates of spawning aggregations.	Mexico	Belize	Colombia / Mexico / Guatemala
Organization	MAR Fund	Mundo Azul Foundation	COBI		COBI	SEA	AIDA / COBI / MAR Fund
Project Activities	Initial planning workshop	Diagnostic assessment of the current use of Cayman Crown	Regional workshop to validate protocols and a joint monitoring strategy		FSAs status report in the MAR region, reviewing historical data (approved in 2019, the start of activities in 2020)	Supporting and maintaining the monitoring program for FSA sites in the MAR	Policy Brief (approved in 2019, the start of implementation in 2020)
Donor	Marisla Foundation	Marisla Foundation	FFEM – Summit Foundation			FFEM – Summit Foundation	Summit Foundation – AIDA - COBI
Amount granted (US dollars)	\$ 17,080	\$ 2,920	\$ 40,000			\$ 2,565	-
Results/ Progress	Three-Year Action Plan for the project MAR Fish, developed during the initial workshop held in Guatemala City on April 11th and 12th, 2019.	Interviews were conducted with 56 local fishers and sport fishing guides from the Gulf of Honduras (Honduras, Belize, and Guatemala).			FFEM – Summit Foundation	Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, Belize. Southern Environmental Association (SEA) monitored fish spawning aggregations on December 16th to 18th of 2019. The monitoring was conducted only for three days due to bad weather.	Development and approval of the policy's general content. This document aims to increase the understanding of the importance of FSAs and the need for effective actions to protect them.
					\$ 22,000		



For detailed information on some of the results indicated above, please visit the link: <http://bit.ly/2NOGh6h>

Regional workshop to validate protocols and a joint monitoring strategy. Photograph by COBI





# Clean water for the reef: improving wastewater treatment and solid waste management for a healthier ecoregion and its people.

The project Solid Waste Management of Roatan, Honduras, implemented by Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA) and financed by the Small Grants Program, is developing a second phase. It has successfully involved the community and the local authorities in addressing this critical issue. Scavengers are important stakeholders as they separate solid waste. During 2019, efforts were made to improve their working conditions and set up a board of directors for the scavenger association. The section of MAR Fund's Small Grants Program has more information.

In August 2019, Seeds of the Ocean organized the First Youth Leadership Summit for the 4Rs in Guatemala City. The goal was to empower young Guatemalans

on 6 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The British Embassy in Guatemala and MAR Fund provided funds for this activity. As part of this initiative, a grant fund named "Mini-grants: the 4Rs," was awarded to groups of young winners who participated in a contest of project proposals with environmental impact.

The **Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide** (ELAW) and the Environmental and Water Law Alliance (ADA2, in Spanish) implemented the project "Legal Advocacy to Protect Marine and Coastal Resources in the MAR" in Guatemala. This project provided support to municipal leaders in Puerto Barrios, Los Amates, and Morales, and formally established the Common Management of Izabal (Mancomunidad de Izabal) in Guatemala. Mu-

nicipal leaders participated in workshops to analyze the composition of waste and learn sorting and composting techniques and were also able to map illegal landfills. The section on Re-granting by the Oak Foundation has more information about this project.



Above: Alerick Pacay, founder of Seeds of the Ocean, during a talk on environmental education. Photograph by Seeds of the Ocean



Above right: Alerick Pacay, founder of Seeds of the Ocean, during a talk on environmental education. Photograph by Seeds of the Ocean  
Below right: Poster featuring the First Youth Leadership Summit for the 4Rs. Photograph by Seeds of the Ocean







Belize Marine Fund Biennial Conference. Photograph by Estela Requena



Photo: Ana Giro Petersen



Photo: Ian Drysdale

## Belize Marine Fund: enhancing marine conservation in Belize with the participation of local stakeholders, for a wider regional benefit.

During 2019, The Belize Marine Fund (BMF) continued working to provide long-term financial sustainability for addressing high-priority marine resource management and conservation issues in Belize, for a more significant impact in the MAR ecoregion. BMF completed its Strategic Plan 2019-2021, focused on three investment areas: 1) effective marine protected areas contributing towards a functional national protected areas system, 2) reduce pressures on the marine resources, and 3) effective marketing of Belize's reef at national and international levels.

The first BMF Biennial Conference was held on October 7, 2019, in which partners and beneficiaries exchanged information, experiences, and lessons learned after the implementation of projects. The event brought together 50 participants from 24 key organizations, funding agencies, civil societies, and government re-

presentatives active in the marine conservation field in Belize.

The work meeting "Health and Management of Mesoamerican Reefs: response to the crisis of the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease" was held on October 8, 2019, and was organized by MAR Fund, through the Belize Marine Fund and the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative. The goal was to provide input and hold discussions, which allowed building action plans to offset the effects of the disease in the region: <https://marfund.org/es/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SCTLD-Recommendations-Final-2020.pdf>



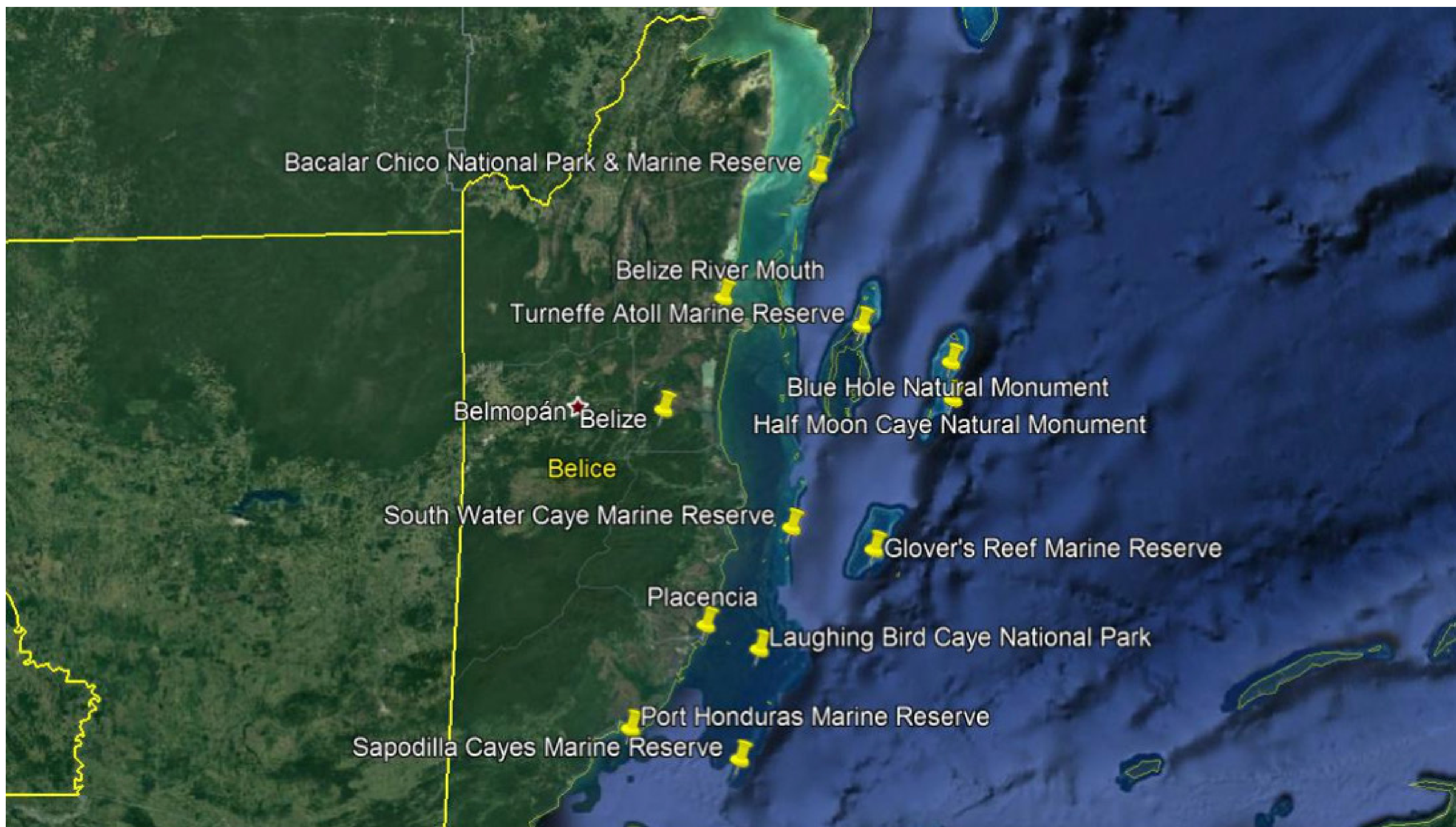


The progress and results of grants awarded during 2019 are shown below.

Organization	Directed Grants		Discretionary Grants			
	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)	Belize Audubon Society (BAS)	National Institute of Culture and History—Belize International Film Festival	Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA)	Toledo Exposure Documentary Films/ KREM TV/Radio	Wildtracks
Name of Project	Contributing to the knowledge, monitoring, and protection of Meso-american Reef’s fish spawning aggregations and replenishment zones	Reef Week 2019	Fostering a Green Belize in the 21st Century: Belize International Film Festival 2019 (Green Globe)	Participation in the 72nd Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)	Toledo Exposure and KREM TV / Radio participation and live coverage of UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25)	Assessment of the management effectiveness of the Belize National Protected Areas System
Amount granted (US dollars)	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Results	Progress in the characterization and protection of the Cayman Crown site, one of the designated areas for legal protection by the Government of Belize, in the context of expanding fish replenishment zones in the country. This grant contributes to the project MAR Fish (see section Fishing for the Future).	The implemented activities of Reef Week 2019, aimed at showcasing the importance of reefs in all Belizeans’ lives. Events had 250 participants. One of the activities named “Ride for the Reef” included a bicycle tour with 75 attendees.	The Green Globe Discussion Panel of the Belize International Film Festival. There was an exchange between experts on environmental aspects and issues, including the effort Belize makes to control single-use plastic and Styrofoam containers, the spread of sargassum, and response actions for the devastating Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. The event had 65 attendees, with 1,869 individual viewers on the Facebook Live event, and 5,856 viewers with 687 interactions	Presentation of the impact of using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to follow up surveillance activities and its application on the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (TAMR).	National coverage of the COP25 meetings, celebrated in Spain, through KREM TV, KREM Radio, Amandala newspaper, and PGTV, in December 2019. Through the coverage of KREM TV, their audience in Belize had access to a week of real-time interviews and discussions with climate experts, including Dr. Kenrick (then Executive Director of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre) and Belize Ambassador to the United Nations, Lois Young.	Development of an updated National Protected Areas System: assessment of the management effectiveness (2019). An essential tool for the conservation of Belize’s natural resources, the protection of critical ecosystem services, and the supply of socioeconomic benefits. Thanks to this financial support, all marine protected areas were part of the assessment process.







Location of projects supported by the Belize Marine Fund during 2019.





# Re-granting by the Oak Foundation

The Oak Foundation generously supports the ongoing initiatives of seven organizations working on managing and conserving coastal marine resources in the four MAR countries. Below are the main results of 2019:

Country	Regional	Regional	Mexico	Honduras
Organization	Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)	Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative (HRI)	Comunidad y Biodiversidad A.C. (COBI)	Centro de Estudios Marinos (CEM)
Name of Project	Legal advocacy for the protection of coastal marine resources in the MAR	Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative: strengthening scientific basis	Assuring the long-term success of the network of fish refuges in the Mexican MAR	Ensuring the sustainability of No-Take Zones in the Honduran Caribbean
Amount granted (US dollars)	\$ 75,000	-	-	\$ 40,000
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The formal establishment of the Common Management (Mancomunidad) of Izabal Municipalities, which includes the municipalities of Puerto Barrios, Los Amates, and Morales.</li> <li>• Development of the Solid Waste Management Plan for each municipality included in the Mancomunidad de Izabal.</li> <li>• Identification of 15 illegal landfills in Puerto Barrios, 18 in Los Amates, and 22 in Morales, under the responsibility of the Environmental Management Units of each municipality. Of these illegal landfills, 15 in Puerto Barrios, four in Los Amates, and four in Morales were cleaned up.</li> <li>• Training of municipal leaders to analyze the waste composition, sorting and composting techniques, and using the app to report illegal landfills.</li> <li>• Training of communities of the Rio Motagua watershed to prepare compost and recycling.</li> <li>• “Clean-a-thons” were carried out on beaches near Punta de Manabique.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with strategic partners in the region to generate scientific data and raise funds for the Cayman Crown Reef management and other important fish spawning aggregations sites.</li> <li>• Collaboration with the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA, in Spanish) to raise public awareness on the importance of protecting the parrotfish. Two factsheets were developed describing the importance of protecting these fish species and other herbivore fish. Factsheets also describe coral reef ecosystems and their current threats.</li> <li>• The Mexican law for protected species –NOM-059–, was published late in 2019, including 10 species of parrotfish presented to Mexican authorities in 2018. The Official Mexican Standard (NOM, in Spanish) is the technical regulation of mandatory compliance. The NOM-059 refers to protecting the environment and flora and fauna species native to Mexico, risk categories, and their specifications to include, exclude or exchange them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Planning Meeting of the Fishing Improvement Program (FIP) for lobster fishing and the development of the 2019 work plan.</li> <li>• Characterization of 39 potential fish spawning aggregation sites across the coast of Quintana Roo. Of these, eight have been verified as fish spawning aggregations sites and six of them are protected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of socioeconomic data of fishers in the region to establish four new No-Take Zones (NTZ) in the northern coast of Honduras. Two of them are located in Utila.</li> <li>• Presentation of results to communities in the municipalities of Trujillo, Santa Fe, and Iriona.</li> </ul>





Belize	Belize	Belize
Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD)	Toledo Institute for Development and Education (TIDE)	Southern Environmental Association (SEA)
Strengthening of the institutional and management capacity of SACD for long-term sustainability	Strengthening of financial sustainability initiatives to support the management of Port Honduras Marine Reserve	Improve the financial stability of the Southern Environmental Association (SEA)
\$ 45,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 16,636
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of the commercial entity SACD Green Ltd, through which financial mechanisms will be developed for the organization's self-sustainability, for example, a tour operator agency.</li> <li>• Strategic patrols within the protected area thanks to the data collected with the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). SMART data shows the location of most fishing encounters and the time of the year when different fishing activities occur.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four forums developed with fishers to discuss aspects related to the fisheries in protected areas, such as updates on the controlled access program, market studies, capture records, and scientific data generated with monitoring events carried out by the organization, among others.</li> <li>• Strategic patrols within the protected area thanks to the data collected with the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART).</li> <li>• Renovation of TIDE facilities and a house in Big Falls for an Airbnb accommodation, as an alternative to create income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of five signs showing the regulation for protected areas, managed by SEA.</li> <li>• Purchase of items to sell in the gift shop. Reported sales from April to September amounted to more than \$3,805.</li> <li>• Development of an activity plan for a clear-bottom kayak rental.</li> </ul>

TOTAL: \$224,636

Location of projects supported by Oak Re-granting.

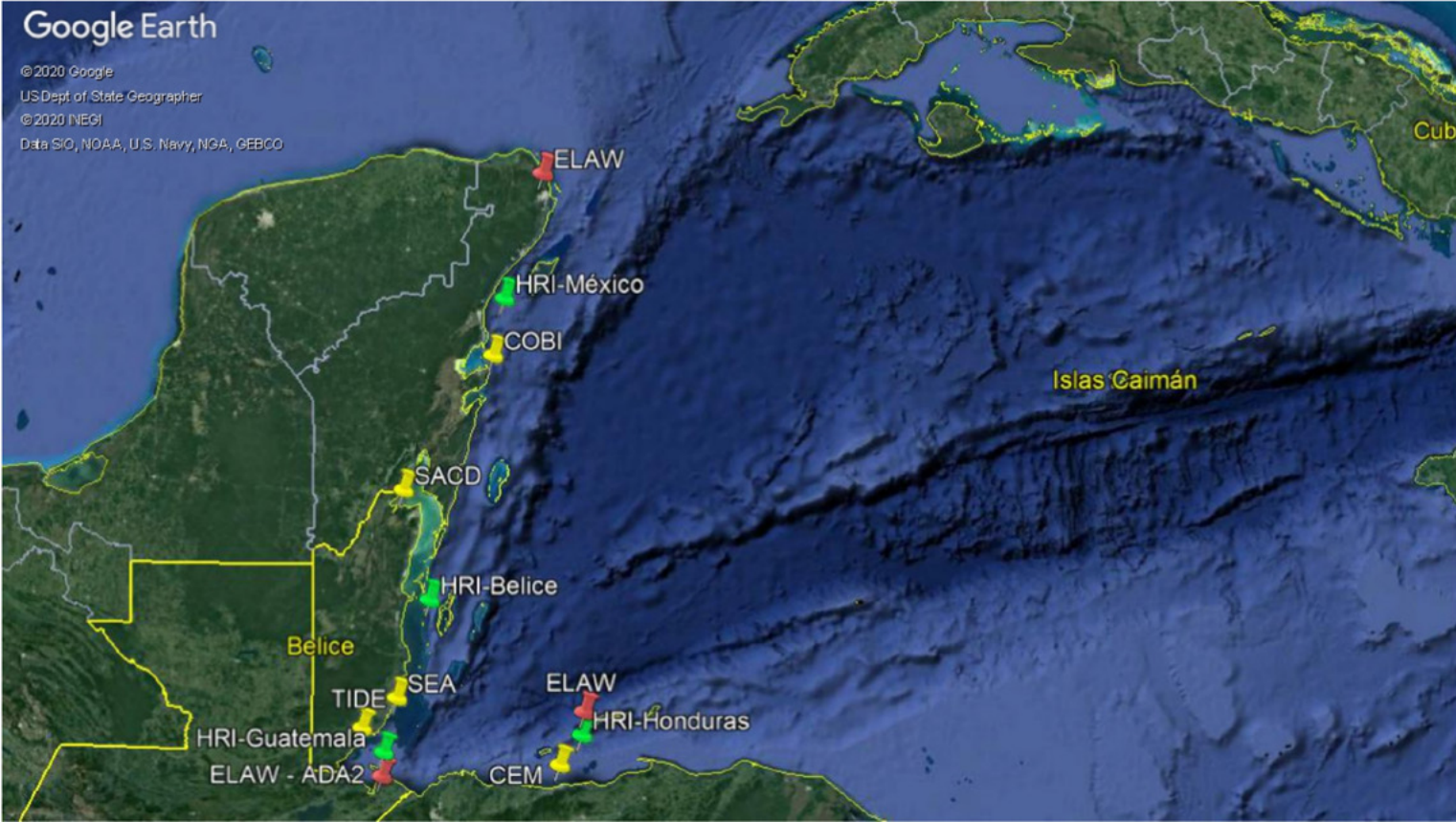


Photo: José Manuel Del Busto





# MAR Fund's Small Grants Program

On August 20, 2019, the 12th request for proposals of the Small Grants Program was launched thanks to the generous support of the Paul M. Angell Foundation, the German Cooperation through KfW, the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM, in French), the Oak Foundation, The Overbrook Foundation, and MAR Fund, to choose from three available financial windows:

- Traditional window. Two main components are considered:
  - Monitoring and conservation of fish spawning aggregations sites.
  - Wastewater and solid waste management (limited to 18 prioritized marine protected areas and their areas of influence)
- Reef Rescue Initiative (RRI). Geared to promote and implement new restoration, repopulation, and rehabilitation techniques for reefs.
- Belize Marine Fund (BMF). Support to highly prioritized conservation and natural resource management initiatives in Belize.

The deadline to submit proposals was October 11, 2019. Proposals were submitted exclusively through the new online system for project management. A Spanish and English manual and video tutorials were prepared on how to use the platform, as well as the necessary support to applicants through e-mail and phone/Skype throughout the call.

Between all windows, a total of 34 proposals were submitted. Of these, 21 were directed to the traditional window, five to the RRI window, and eight to the BMF window.

## Results of the 11th request for proposals

Launched on August 22, 2018, the 11th request for proposals received 27 proposals, nine of which were approved on January 19, 2019. The main progress is presented below.

### Proposals approved and under implementation with the traditional window

Country	Guatemala	Guatemala	Honduras
Organization	Mundo Azul Foundation /Healthy Reefs Initiative (HRI)	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)	Bay Island Conservation Association (BICA) – Roatán
Name of Project	Cayman Crown: support for conservation of the jewel of the MAR through solid science	Conservation and management of Cayman Crown – The jewel of the Mesoamerican Reef	Promotion of new productive activities and environmental education related to recycling of discarded materials for the proper management of solid waste
Amount granted (US dollars)	\$ 22,927	\$ 10,000	\$ 29,932
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two expeditions to Cayman Crown (May 24-27 and October 10-21, 2019).</li> <li>Selection of two reef sites based con the coral coverage, diversity, reef rugosity and location, and monitoring of health using the methodology of Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA).</li> <li>Generation of two photo mosaics to assess the species composition and coverage.</li> <li>Installation of pH and temperature gauges to assess physical factors related to climate change.</li> <li>This grant contributes to the project MAR Fish (see section Fishing for the Future).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of the political advocacy action plan for the conservation and management of the protected area Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge, including Cayman Crown reef. It was divided into two phases: presentation to different legislators in Congress and presentation of the amendment project for Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge - Cayman Crown Act to the Board of Directors of the Guatemala Congress.</li> <li>This grant contributes to the project MAR Fish (see section Fishing for the Future).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of four recycling workshops to raise awareness of elementary, middle, and high school students on the adequate management of solid waste and plastic, and two workshops to present an amendment proposal of the Integrated Management of Solid Waste Act to the local authorities.</li> <li>Establishment of the Scavengers' Board of Directors.</li> <li>The ACROPORA 2019 race took place on August 10, 2019. It was the third event organized by BICA, which included an Eco-Trail Run "Life for the Island," 2, 5, 10, and 20 kilometers long, with the goal to promote and raise awareness on the four Rs (refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle) and eliminate single-use plastic.</li> </ul>





Honduras	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico
Bay Islands Foundation (BIF)	Amigos de Sian Ka'an A.C. (ASK)	Casa Wayuú A.C.	Centinelas del Agua A.C. (CDA)	Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature, A. C. - MAR Leadership	Programa Mexicano del Carbono, A.C. (PMC)
Strengthening of the leadership of conservation and community empowerment on Utila island, Honduras	Conservation of the MAR through better sustainable tourism practices in the Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve (BCBR) and Xcalak National Reef Park–Phase II	Climate change mitigation and protection of blue carbon sinks: Valuation Phase	Diagnostics of water quality in Yalahau lagoon in the Yum Balam FFPA	Mesoamerican Reef Leadership Program: building a new generation of leaders	Climate change mitigation and protection of blue carbon sinks: Certification Phase
\$ 29,712.50	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 27,689
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of eight young eco-leaders on the importance and species identification of fish, coral, and mangrove.</li> <li>• Four beach cleanups during May and June 2019: three in Pumpkin Hill area, and one in Turtle Harbour, with the participation of 91 people. A group of taxi drivers (with motorcycles adapted to transport people within the island) volunteered to carry out two of the cleanups in Pumpkin Hill. BICA and the Merchant Navy supported the logistics and took part in the activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of 360 kg of solid waste in the Cayo Centro Island of the BCBR, with the support of 55 volunteers led by Parley for the Oceans.</li> <li>• Information visits to supervise the solid waste management in premises/homes of fishers and permit holders located in Centro Cayo Island of the BCBR, as well as visits to Xcalak, Mahahual, and Chetumal. The supervision was based on the Good Practices of Biosafety Handbook for Holbox Island, financed by MAR Fund in the 9th request for proposals in 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of at least 30 key stakeholders from different sectors to preserve blue carbon sinks in the Yulam Balam Flora and Fauna Protection Area (FFPA) and four ecosystem services that need to be valued (fisheries, coastal protection, ecotourism, and blue carbon).</li> <li>• Four interview formats were designed (local fisher, local hotel owner, and community and local tour guides).</li> <li>• As a result of the collaboration with CINVESTAV and the Mexican Carbon Program (PMC, in Spanish), the project “Mitigation, adaptation, and vulnerability reduction of the coastal ecosystem through the conservation and restoration of mangroves in natural protected areas of Celestún, Yum Balam, Nichupté, and Sian Ka'an” was approved by the Climate Change Fund of the Mexican Federal Government, for an amount of US\$250,000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design of the monitoring plan for water quality analysis in 30 selected sites.</li> <li>• Presentation of the request to set up the Lázaro Cardenas Watershed Committee to the local director of the National Water Committee of Quintana Roo.</li> <li>• 60 interviews with community members of Solferino, Holbox, and Chiquilá on the perception of wastewater to identify wastewater sources in the Yulam Balam Flora and Fauna Protection Area. According to results, most hotels, tourism activities, and fishing boats directly pollute water bodies and their ecosystems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening leadership skills of 20 youths, divided into six multi sectoral teams (one from Belize, two from Guatemala, one from Honduras, and two from Mexico). Four leaders from fishing coops, 11 organizations from the civil society, five from the private sector, and one from the government (53% are women and 47% are men).</li> <li>• Exchange visit to Cabo Pulmo (May 15-17, 2019) in Baja California, which allowed 14 leaders of the 2018 cohort to exchange experiences and share their sustainable fisheries projects with leaders of other regions in Mexico, and keep building relationships within the group. A total of 36 people participated in the event.</li> <li>• The Executive Committee of the MAR Sustainable Fisheries Network held a meeting in Cancun on July 2 and 3, 2019, to advance the network's consolidation and promote the sustainability of artisanal fisheries in the MAR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data systematization to develop a baseline of blue carbon in Cozumel.</li> <li>• Comparison of the four existing certification standards (Verified Carbon Standard, Plan Vivo, Gold Standard, and Climate Action Reserve), suitable for Quintana Roo to recommend the best option for Cozumel.</li> </ul>

TOTAL: \$ 260,260.50





Country  
Organization  
Name of Project  
Amount granted (US dollars)  
Resultados

Proposals approved and under implementation with the Reef Rescue Initiative window

Mexico	Honduras
Centro Ukana I Akumal A.C. (CEA)	Roatan Marine Park (RMP)
Coral restoration in the Akumal reef habitat (ARPEA).	Coral restoration project of Roatan Marine Park.
\$ 21,739	\$ 21,739
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Characterization of 85% of the projected reef area.</li><li>• Implementation of seven search and collection campaigns of 3,000 coral fragments.</li><li>• 6,210 coral fragments were planted in the reef through 15 planting campaigns.</li><li>• 21 monitoring campaigns and 47 maintenance campaigns. Results show a 75% average survival.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparation of the Coral Restoration Manual of Roatan Marine Park (RMP) for participating dive shops.</li><li>• Training of seven divers on coral planting.</li><li>• Establishment of 18 coral nurseries, with the participation of six leading dive shops.</li><li>• Collection and establishment of 18 genotypes: 9 elkhorn corals (<i>Acropora palmata</i>), 8 staghorn corals (<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>), and one fused staghorn coral (<i>Acropora prolifera</i>) in a nursery at the diving site Seaquest, in collaboration with the diving community. The trees in the nursery are growing a total of 910 corals.</li></ul>

Proposals approved and under implementation with the Belize Marine Fund window

Belize	Belize	Belize	Belize
Belize Audubon Society (BAS)	Ecology Project International Belize (EPI)	Sea to Shore Alliance (S2S Alliance)	MarAlliance
Building capacity of fishing stakeholders for participation in marine conservation through education, public awareness, and collaboration	Involving young Belizeans as the next generation of leaders in conservation	Safeguarding manatees and livelihoods in Placencia and Belize City through research and education	Monitoring effectiveness of the Turneffe Marine Reserve through long-term monitoring of marine megafauna
\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization of a fair called "Removing Plastic from North to South" at the Copper Bank K School (November 2019). Debates and activities addressed single-use plastic.</li><li>• Presentations on plastic pollution and a national removal of single-use plastic were delivered at the primary school Chunox RC, with 81 middle and high school students.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The first Youth Forum on Conservation and Climate Change from the Ecology Project International (EPI) was carried out and geared towards high school students at the P. Francis Ring Parish Hall, in Punta Gorda Town. Participants included approximately 140 students from four important high schools of southern Belize: Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute (ANRI), Georgetown Technical High School (GTHS) (Stann Creek District), Julian Cho Technical High School (JCTHS), and Toledo Community College (Toledo district).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of the work carried out in Belize through the National Geographic Kids Matinee and National Geographic Live, for audiences of 300 and 400 people, respectively.</li><li>• Two health assessments and tagging of seven manatees conducted in Placencia lagoon. Unfortunately, three tags broke off and came off from the animals. However, four manatees remained marked and are still being monitored.</li><li>• Analysis of five-year beaching data will be published in a document describing the research conducted for the past 25 years.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field trips organized to visit the Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve and the Laughing Bird Caye National Park (LBCNP), and a one-day workshop titled "Introduction to Marine Research and Monitoring," for 16 young participants from the Reef Protection Program of Belize Audubon Society. During the workshop, attendees enjoyed a special presentation by the education coordinator of MarAlliance and the outreach official on marine megafauna monitoring in the Lighthouse Reef Atoll.</li><li>• Field trips allowed reef protectors to be exposed to interactive lessons regarding mangroves and coral reefs. Lisa Carne, from Fragment of Hope, shared a few remarkable success stories about coral planting and its potential for reef restoration in Belize and the world.</li></ul>







Location of the projects supported by the traditional window of MAR Fund's Small Grants Program



Photo: Ian Drysdale

## Evaluation of the Small Grants Program.

An ex-post evaluation was conducted through an external consultancy of eight projects financed by MAR Fund's Small Grants Program, from the 5th to the 9th request for proposals. The Project Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America, Phase II, supported this consultancy. The eight evaluated projects achieved important results, showed high efficiency in managing funds, and met established deadlines without significant changes. Its implementation enabled important and innovative achievements for the conservation of the Mesoamerican Reef: in Honduras, the Center for Marine Studies (CEM, in Spanish) trained the staff and supplied equipment (computers, tag makers, etc.) to regional offices of the General Directorate for Fisheries (DIGEPESCA) of La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula (covering Omoa and Puerto Cortés), Trujillo, and Roatán, in order to carry out the General Registration of Fishers. This registration transformed and modernized the process in which DIGEPESCA previously used notebooks and card stock licenses. In Guatemala, FUNDAECO, along with fi-

shers' associations of Barra Sarstun and Cocolí, designed the first no-take zones of the Multiple-Use Area of Rio Sarstun. Although the authorities have not yet officially declared the zones, fishers respect and protect the resources. The consultancy also identified some problems and limitations, such as a) objectives and results too ambitious to be achieved on the project's timetable and resources, b) expected results depended on external factors, c) internal administrative processes in some of the implementing organizations delayed the budget execution, and d) lack of effective maintenance plans for infrastructure and acquired equipment.

Photo: Francesco Garzón





## 4. Effective communications in the MAR

As of 2017, the new section of MAR Fund's website and its social media publish news, interviews, and reports of the projects it supports.

The production of stories has been prolific this year. Between news, reports, and interviews, 34 pieces were published, and 20 of those stories talked about the projects that MAR Fund supports in the Mesoamerican Reef. Additionally, different printed media of Guatemala and digital media of Guatemala and El Salvador published six pieces mentioning MAR Fund.

Close to 110 snapshots (Spanish and English) were published between July 2018 and September 2019, for the Conservation of Marine Resources in Central America Project, Phase I.

Also, seven bulletins and three progress updates of the supported projects were produced.

A contest on Facebook was promoted to vote for the best photograph of Earth Hour 2019, specifically in the MAR Fund stand.

### MAR Fund on social media



**Instagram**  
1,342 followers



**Twitter**  
941 followers



**Facebook**  
3,260 followers



Photo: Lluvia Soto

## 3. Partnerships for conservation and sustainable development

During 2019, MAR Fund continued working to strengthen partnerships and relevant synergies to accomplish its mission and vision and improve the governance in the MAR.

From the synergy established with the MAR2R/CCAD/GEF/WWF project on the regional mangrove strategy, initial discussions were carried out to collaborate on mangrove and coral reef restoration initiatives, as well as on the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.

There were also discussions with the Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDE-NAC, in Spanish) to exchange geographic information and formally collaborate on implementing the emergency response capacity in three of the four countries comprising the MAR (Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras). CEPREDENAC showed interest in adopting the Post-Storm Response Protocol in its comprehensive set of training documents.







Above: Photo pieces produced for the Conservation of Marine Resource in Central America Project, Phase I.  
Below: Earth Hour 2019. Photograph by MAR Fund.

Raising awareness of the MAR's current state is essential so more people in the four countries that comprise this region can understand its importance on everyday livelihoods. To this end, MAR Fund provided a small financial contribution to the Mesoamerican Reef Reporting Project that Earth Journalism Network (EJN) launched in 2019.

MAR Fund's financial support was added to the matching funds from EJN, which enabled two Guatemalan journalists to publish pieces regarding the MAR. The links to these pieces are the following:

- "La batalla por la Bahía de Amatique": <http://bit.ly/38prndt>
- "Las drogas, la minería y el monocultivo amenazan los ecosistemas de manglares de Guatemala": <http://bit.ly/2UhGVNu>

For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2v32M07>.



Publications in news media





# 5. Transparency and accountability

The external audit for the 2019 period was conducted by the Arévalo Pérez, Iralda y Asociados firm, a PKF International Limited member. The firm's opinion revealed that the financial statements of MAR Fund reasonably present, in all its important aspects, its financial position.

## MESOAMERICAN REEF FUND

### BALANCE SHEETS As of December 31, 2019 (Expressed in US\$)

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	<u>2019</u>
CURRENT:		CURRENT:	
Cash	2.380.564	Accounts payable	25.023
Investment	62.702	Labor fringe benefits payable	9.927
Advances	1.870	Taxes and contributions payable	4.620
Current assets	2.445.136	Total liabilities	39.570
		FUNDS NOT USED	250.000
		FUNDS PENDING TO BE APPLIED	1.547.205
Endowment Fund investments	27.776.585	PROVISION FOR COMPENSATION	64.807
		NET ASSETS	
FURNITURE AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	99	Endowment Fund	27.776.585
		(Deficit) Surplus of the year	543.653
		Total Net assets	28.320.238
Total Assets	30.221.820	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	30.221.820

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES For the year ended December 31, 2019 (Expressed in US\$)

	<u>2019</u>
INCOME	
Income from donations	3.210.711
EXPENSES	
Operating	-573.307
Project	-2.097.393
	-2.670.700
OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES	
(+) Bank interests earned	6.357
Other expenses	-2.715
	3.642
Net (deficit) surplus of the year	543.653





# 6. Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the following government entities for their institutional support, as well as the political, strategic, and technical support, which contributes to achieving the conservation and management objectives of the MAR through collaboration:

- **Central American Integration System (SICA, fo in Spanish)**
- **Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD, in Spanish)**
- **Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico (SEMARNAT, in Spanish)**
- **National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, Mexico (CONANP, in Spanish)**
- **National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Mexico (CONAPESCA, in Spanish)**
- **Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of Belize**
- **Belize Fisheries Department**
- **National Council of Protected Areas, Guatemala (CONAP, in Spanish)**
- **Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala (MARN, in Spanish)**
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulation Directorate, Guatemala (DIPESCA)**
- **Secretariat of Environment in the Natural Resource Office, Honduras (SERNA, in Spanish)**
- **Forestry Conservation Institute (ICF, in Spanish)**
- **General Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Honduras (DIGEPESCAH, in Spanish)**
- **Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment–MiAmbiente+, Honduras**
- **Project Coordination Office–MiAmbiente+, Honduras**
- **Integrated Ridge-to-Reef Management of the MAR Ecoregion Project (MAR2R) CCAD/GEF-WWF.**

MAR Fund would like to thank all donors and collaborators for their trust and strategic, technical, and financial support that enabled regional interventions which have strengthened the network of coastal marine protected areas, ecosystems, and goods and services in the MAR:

- **KfW**
- **FFEM**
- **Oak Foundation**
- **The Summit Foundation**
- **Overbrook Foundation**
- **The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation**
- **Coral Reef Alliance**
- **The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation**
- **United Nations Environment Programme**
- **Oak Hill Fund**
- **German Embassy in Guatemala**
- **National Geographic Society**
- **Global Giving Foundation**

We are especially grateful to the Board of Directors for their commitment, collaboration, and time invested, as well as the management, strategic, technical, and financial team of the founding member. We also thank the advisory committees, networks, regional partners, and coordination platforms in the four countries, who support and strengthen MAR Fund.

We extend our gratitude to the strategic, technical, and administrative staff in MAR Fund for their dedication and passion.

We invite you to visit our website [www.marfund.org](http://www.marfund.org) and our social networks: Facebook [@MARFund](#), Twitter [@MAR\\_Fund](#), and Instagram [@mesoamericanreef](#)

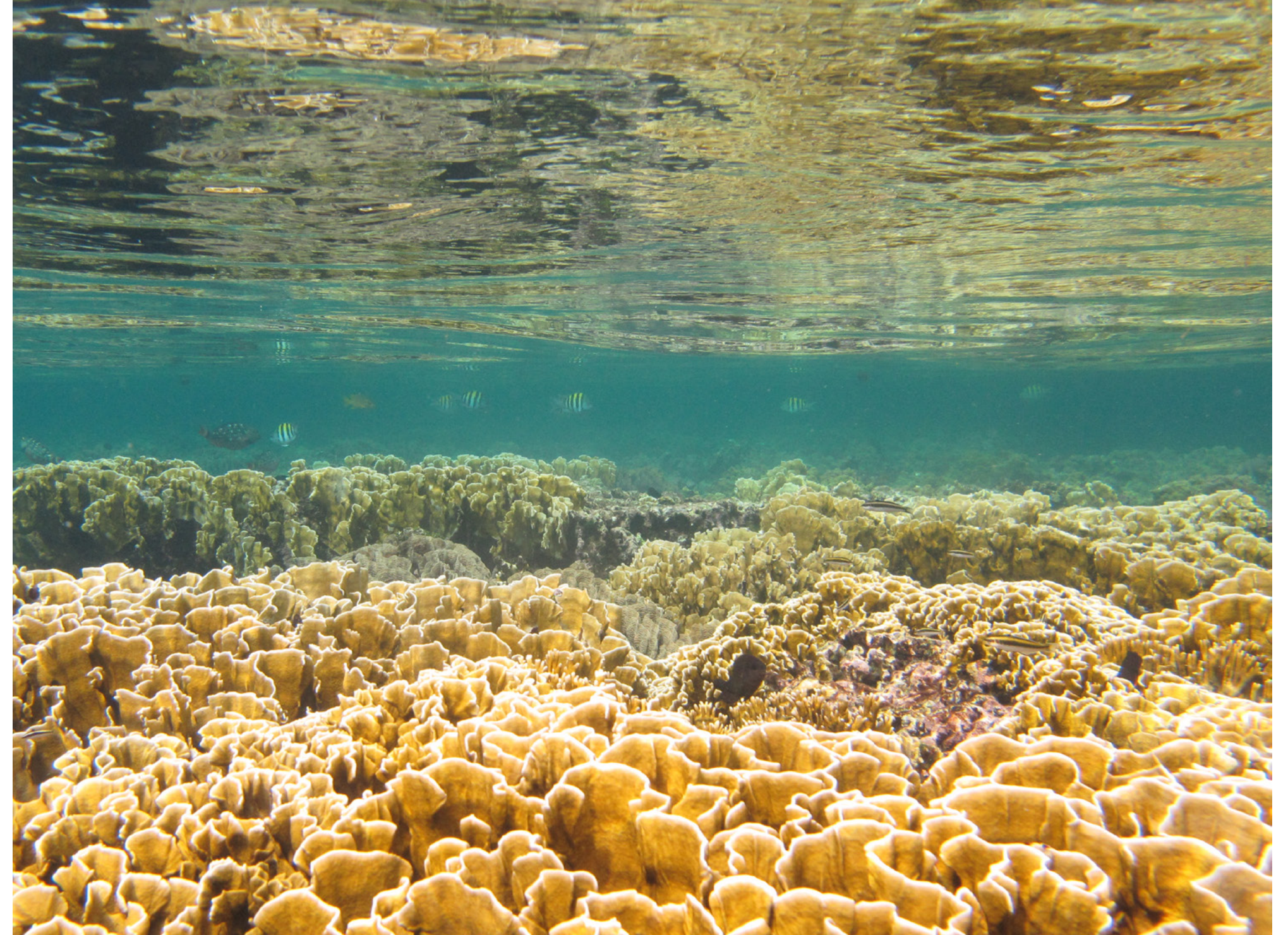


Photo: Elisa Areano







Photo: Elisa Areano