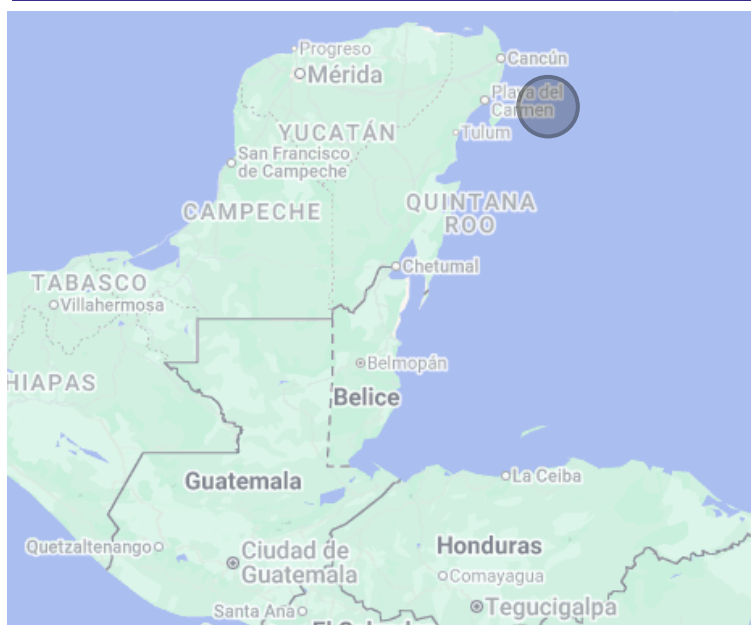
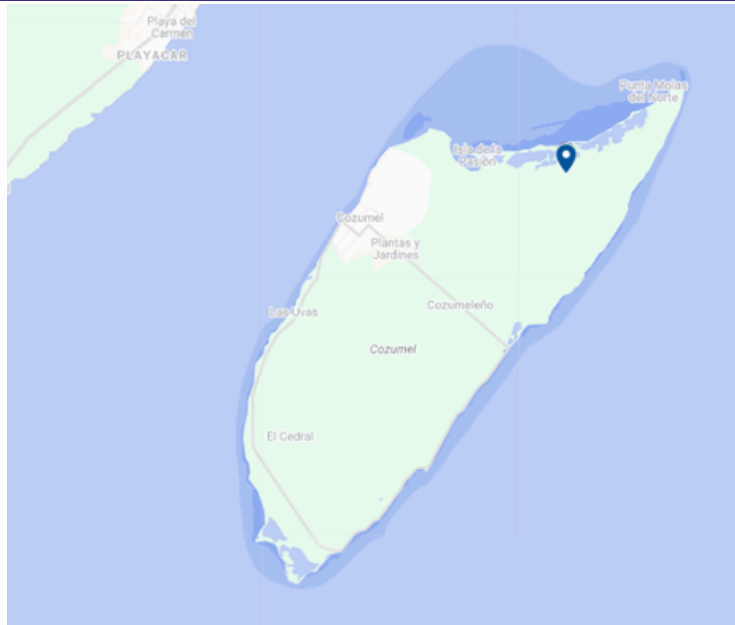


Proper management in 4 Coastal Marine Protected Areas in Cozumel Island, in the context of ecosystem connectivity and health, to improve management effectiveness in benefit of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.



Location of Cozumel Island



Cozumel Island

Map Data © 2025 Google

COUNTRY

México

COASTAL MARINE PROTECTED AREA (CMPA)

- Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park (PNAC)
- La Porción Norte y la Franja Costera Oriental, Terrestres y Marinas de la Isla de Cozumel Flora and Fauna Protection Area (APFFIC)
- Selvas y Humedales de Cozumel State Reserve and
- Laguna Colombia State Ecological Park

CO MANAGERS

National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and Institute of Biodiversity and Natural Protected Areas of the State of Quintana Roo (IBANQROO)

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSO)

Fundación Comunitaria Cozumel I.A.P. (FCC)

DURATION:

October 2024 - October 2027.

* Acronyms refer to the names of the organizations in English

REACH

Protected area
21,933
hectares



Number of
beneficiaries
2,700



Foto: Blanca Quiroga

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project aims to increase management effectiveness by 20% in four natural protected areas in Cozumel Island (two of federal order and two of state order) to improve the conservation and sustainable use of the ecosystem services the population depends on. The management of knowledge about the condition of the ecosystems will be strengthened through the implementation of an Integrated Information System for Cozumel (IISC), which will make it possible to identify the needs of the ecosystems and subsequently implement adaptive management with the support of the local population. Accurate and timely information will be available on key aspects and biophysical variables of the island's ecosystems.

In addition, an environmental education and awareness campaign will be carried out for the local population and visitors to improve understanding of the value of the CMPAs ecosystem services and promote better conservation practices through educational programs, events, and mass media. Intersectoral cooperation between the public, private, and social sectors will be strengthened to implement public policies related to water resources and sustainable tourism, guiding conservation processes and sustainable use of natural resources, and strengthening the governance of CMPAs.

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Strengthen the technical and operational capacities of CMPA staff and partners to improve conservation and sustainable management.
- Develop and implement a training program for sustainable development promoters, by creating groups of environmental leaders and an educational campaign on the values of the CMPAs.
- Build a Comprehensive Information System for Cozumel Island to strengthen management and knowledge about the state of ecosystems as an adaptive management tool.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of conservation and restoration actions in ecosystems capable of capturing blue carbon, such as mangroves and seagrass beds.
- Conduct studies on key variables in coastal resilience to identify indicators that will guide the development of a restoration and/or resilience strengthening strategy at sensitive points.

SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Improve the capacities of tourism service providers through training on best practices and sustainable reef management.
- Monitor tourism and public use in the marine area to assess its impact.
- Develop a tourism use plan for the sustainable management of water resources and tourism in the CMPAs.

STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Strengthen existing cross-sector programs and create a new program to implement public policies that improve water resource management and tourism.
- Strengthen the oversight and promotion of sustainable tourism through cross-sector work and the participation of community surveillance groups.
- Strengthen and coordinate work between state and federal CMPAs in conservation, surveillance, data collection, and analysis.



The project "Protection of Maritime Resources in Central America III (Phase III)" represents a joint and ongoing effort to strengthen the effective management of marine and coastal protected areas of the Mesoamerican Reef System. With the financial support of the German Cooperation through KfW, and the active participation of local managers and implementers, this regional effort strengthens the protection of key ecosystems and the benefits they provide to communities. Learn more: