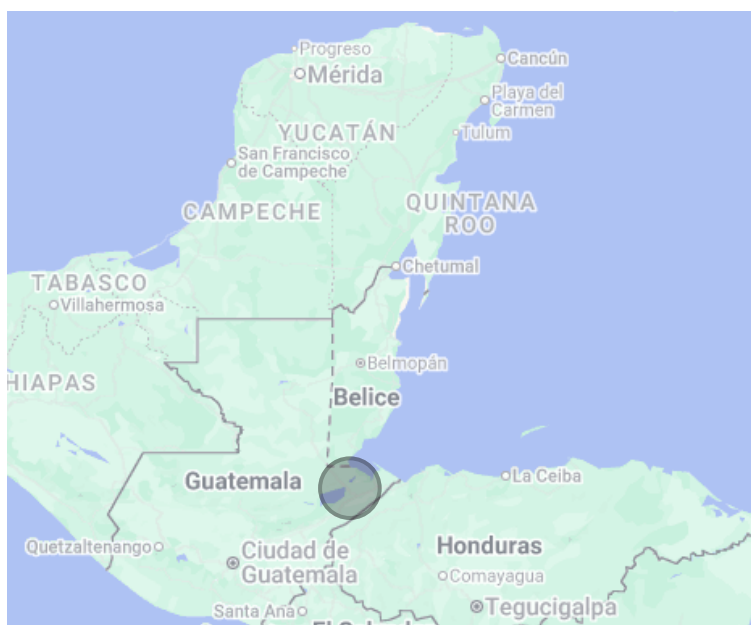
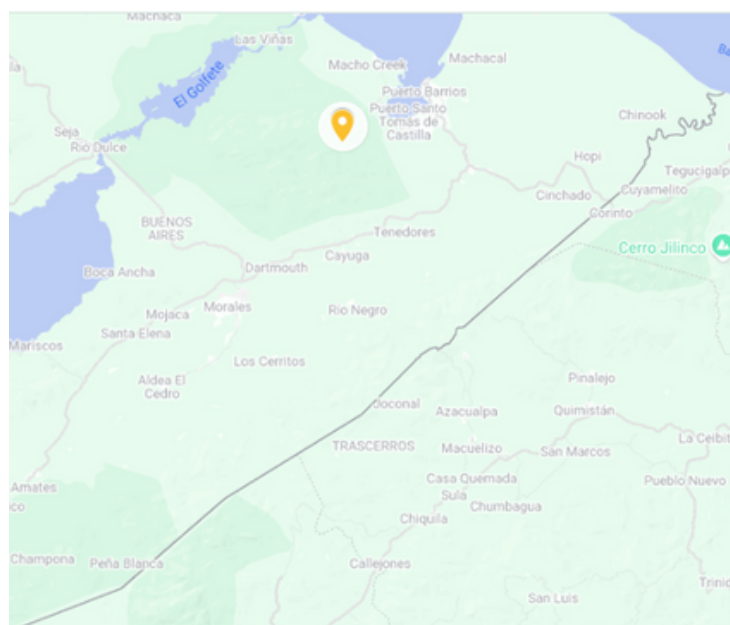


Strengthening Conservation, Connectivity and Sustainable Management actions in Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve



Location of Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve



Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve

Map Data © 2025 Google

COUNTRY	Guatemala
COASTAL MARINE PROTECTED AREA (CMPA)	Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve
CO MANAGER	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)*
DURATION	May 2024 - May 2027.

* Acronyms refer to the names of the organizations in Spanish

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project aims to achieve long-term sustainability of Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve by improving management effectiveness and increasing the participation of local stakeholders. A connectivity approach will be adopted between Cerro San Gil, Santo Tomás de Castilla Bay and, Río Dulce National Park (From ridge-to-reef). Sustainability mechanisms and investments in ecotourism and payments for environmental services will be developed.



Photo: Azucena Mejía

The forests of the upper basin will be protected and restored, the protection of coastal-marine habitats will be strengthened with local participation, personnel will be trained in surveillance and protection of coastal areas, fish replenishment zones will be established in a participatory manner, and community projects will be implemented to improve the quality of life and resilience to climate change, prioritizing women and young people. In addition, the development of a strategy to reduce plastic pollution in the Amatique Bay will be promoted, working with communities and municipalities to manage waste.

REACH

Protected area
46,713 hectares



Number of
beneficiaries
300



Photo: Fundaeco

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Strengthen the capacities of the CMPA, including human resources, equipment, and infrastructure, for the coastal and marine protection of C. San Gil.
- Support and empower key coastal communities that actively participate in the protection of the area's coastal and marine resources.
- Establish at least three Fish Replenishment Zones (FRZs) in collaboration with priority communities in Bahía de Santo Tomás de Castilla, Río San Carlos – Punta de Palma, and El Golfete – Río Frío, including the development of a biological and socioeconomic baseline for four potential FRZs.

SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Implement actions that contribute to increasing the resilience of coastal communities within the Cerro San Gil protected area to the impacts of climate change, such as the implementation of productive projects with the most vulnerable prioritized communities.
- Support the preparation of documentation required to access payments for environmental services (such as forest incentives or REDD+ mechanisms).
- Develop a strategy to reduce plastic pollution in the Amatique Bay, and establish agreements with landowners of prioritized sites and partners for the installation and management of three bio-barriers.
- Design a Master Plan for the development of ecotourism sites, including the improvement of basic services (restrooms, trails, rest areas, signage, and interpretation).
- Develop a long-term financial sustainability plan for the protected area.

STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Implement exchange programs between CMPAs and staff from the Río Sarstún and Río Dulce protected areas to strengthen CMPA management.
- Strengthen governance platforms for the management of natural resources and the protection of biodiversity in the CMPAs of Izabal.



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: