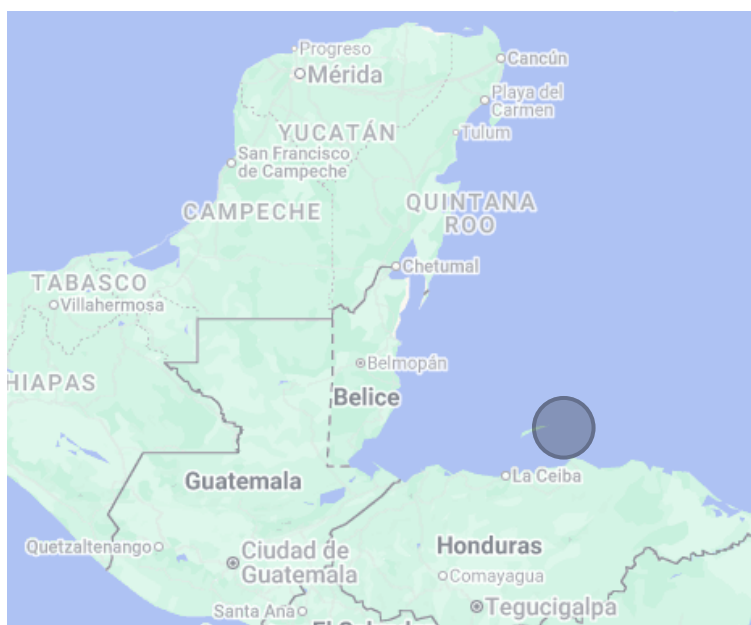
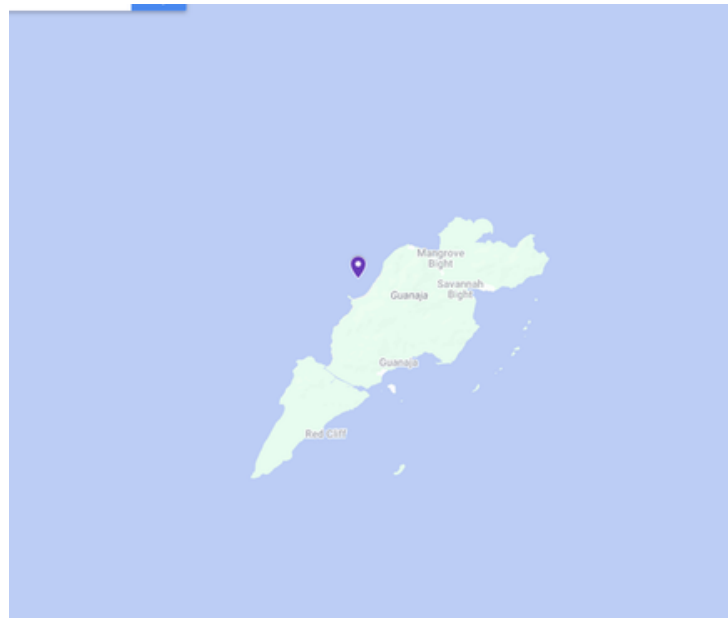


Strengthening actions for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal marine resources in Guanaja



Michael Rock Special Marine Protection Zone



Michael Rock Special Marine Protection Zone

Map Data © 2025 Google

COUNTRY	Honduras
COASTAL MARINE PROTECTED AREA (CMPA)	Michael Rock Special Marine Protection Zone
CO MANAGER	Bay Island Conservation Association (BICA)
DURATION	May 2024-May 2027



Photo: Laura Zaldívar

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of marine-coastal resources, addressing ecosystem restoration and promoting the declaration of two sites of importance for wildlife where there are FSAs. It will include the development of a waste management plan, as well as the development of communication and environmental education strategies.

Economic alternatives to fishing will be sought for the communities, mangroves will be restored, the management effectiveness of the area will be analyzed, and marine water quality will be studied for science-based management decisions.

Local stakeholders such as community savings clubs, students, and community boards will participate in the project, indirectly benefiting the entire population of Guanaja.

REACH

Protected area
2,816 hectares



Number of
beneficiaries
140



Photo: Cristina Cáceres

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Design a research plan to assess fish spawning areas.
- Promote mangrove ecosystem restoration measures to increase coverage.
- Conduct a conch and lobster population study in fishing and no-take areas, and collaboratively develop a responsible fishing plan in Guanaja.
- Assess reef health and water quality.

SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Promote sustainable fishing through the development of the awareness campaign “Fishing for Life.”
- Develop experience exchanges with key partners on responsible fishing.
- Train community members in mangrove restoration techniques.
- Identify alternative livelihoods through market studies, implementation and follow-up of business plans, and the exchange of productive experiences with other communities.

STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Update and implement a surveillance and protection plan with the participation of communities, NGOs, fishers, local authorities, the Naval Force, the Municipality and BICA.
- Identify and design financial sustainability mechanisms for BICA.
- Train co-managers, authorities and decision-makers in conflict resolution; BICA staff in the use of navigation safety equipment and maintenance of diving gear; and community members in the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment protocol (AGRRA), post-storm brigades, lionfish hunting and diving.



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:

www.marfund.org