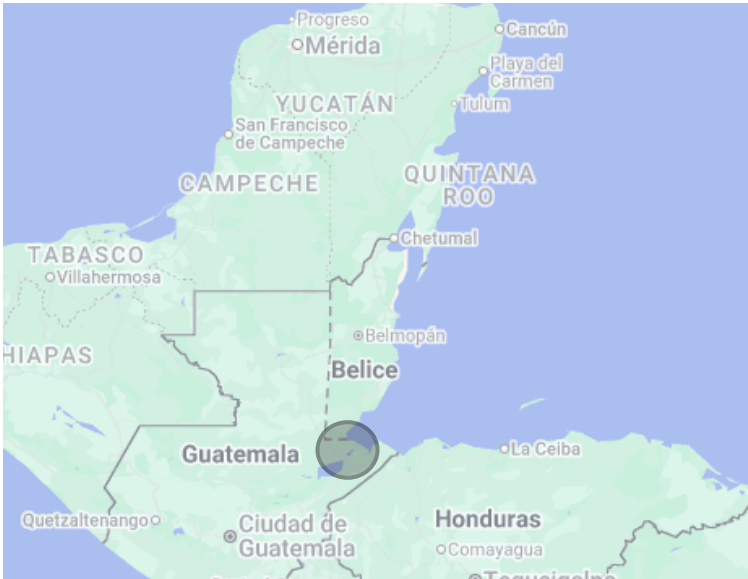
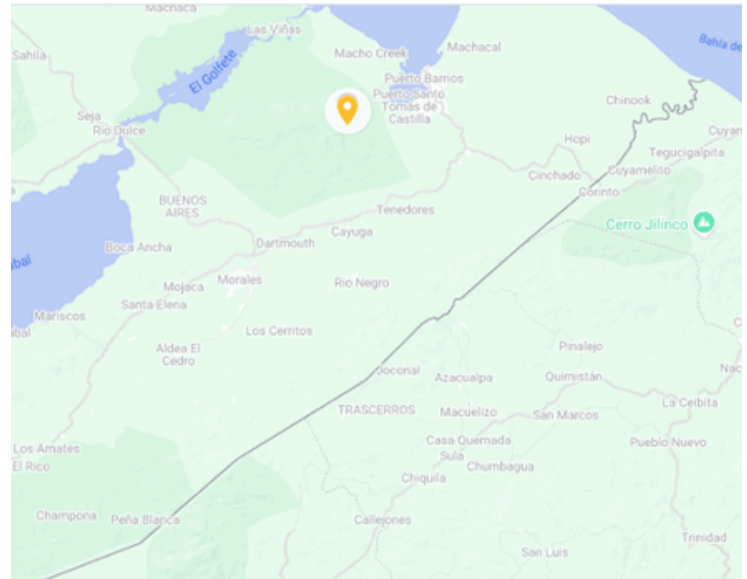


# PROTECTION OF MARITIME RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA III (PHASE III)

The Phase III project represents a joint effort to strengthen the effective management of coastal and marine protected areas of the Mesoamerican Reef System. With financial contribution from the German Cooperation through the KfW, and the active participation of managers and co-managers of the CMPAs, this regional initiative enhances the protection of strategic ecosystems and contributes to sustaining the benefits they provide to local communities.



Location of Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve



Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve

Map Data © 2026 Google

## STRENGTHENING CONSERVATION, CONNECTIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS IN CERRO SAN GIL SPRINGS RESERVE

<b>Country</b>	Guatemala
<b>Coastal Marine Protected Area (CMPA)</b>	Cerro San Gil Springs Reserve
<b>Comanager</b>	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)*
<b>Duration</b>	May 2024 - May 2027
<b>Reach</b>	46,713 hectares of protected area and 300 beneficiaries

\* The acronyms refer to the names in Spanish.



Photo: Azucena Mejía

## 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.

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.

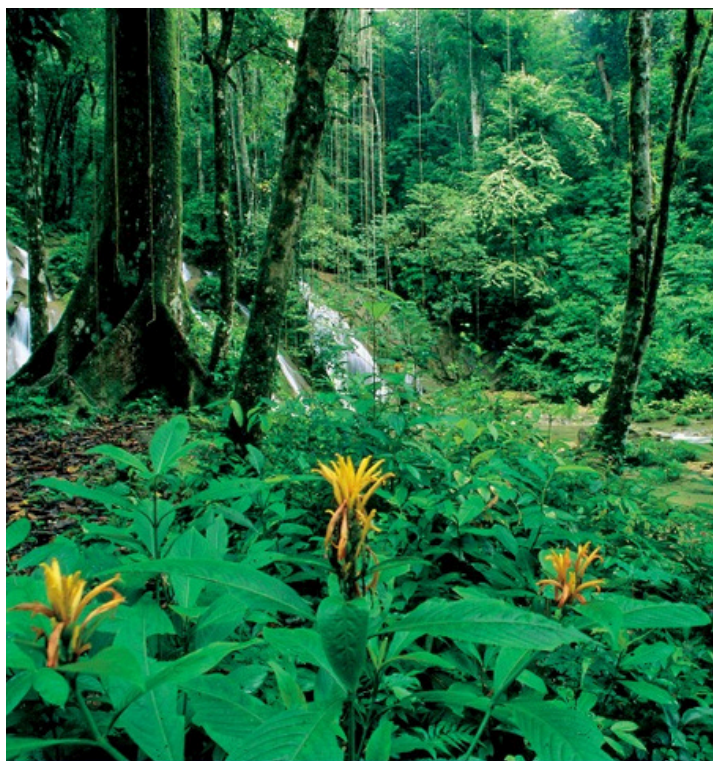


Photo: Fundaeco

## 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 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.



### 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.



### 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.

Visit the QR code to learn more:

