

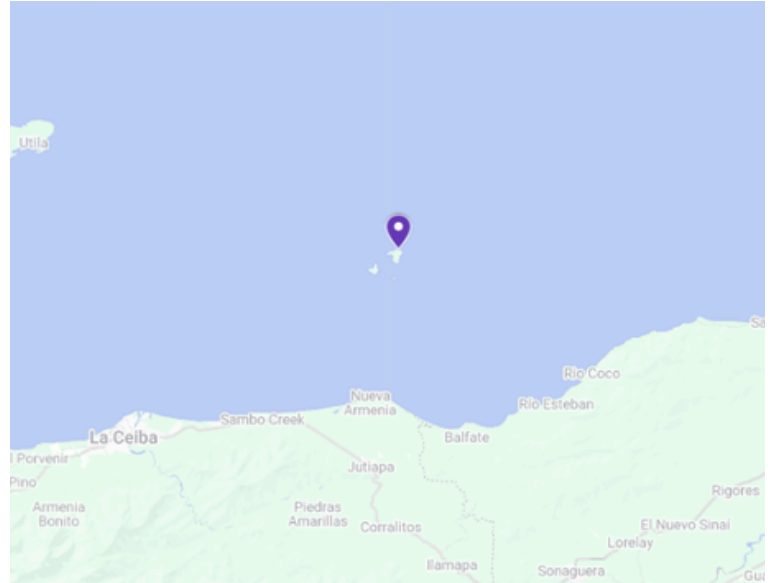
PROTECTION OF MARITIME RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA III (PHASE III)

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

Map Data © 2026 Google



Cayos Cochinos Archipelago Natural Marine Monument

STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION AND CONNECTIVITY OF FISH SPAWNING AGGREGATION SITES THROUGH PROTECTION, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, AND RESEARCH IN THE CAYOS COCHINOS MARINE NATURAL MONUMENT, CUERO Y SALADO WILDLIFE REFUGE AND BAHÍA DE TELA MARINE WILDLIFE REFUGE

Country	Honduras
Coastal Marine Protected Area (CMPA)	Cayos Cochinos Archipelago Natural Marine Monument (MNMACC)*
Comanager	Fundación hondureña para la Protección y Conservación de Cayos Cochinos
Duration	June 2024 - June 2027
Reach	121,848 hectares of protected area and 566 beneficiaries

* Acronyms refer to the names in Spanish



Photo: Abraham Canaca

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project will strengthen the protection of fish spawning aggregations (FSA) sites against illegal fishing by equipping boats and training park rangers for surveillance activities, as well as conducting studies on the status of FSA sites.

Public awareness will also be promoted by training local communities in catch monitoring techniques and marine governance and access rights to fishery resources will be strengthened. Conservation will be promoted by updating the protection plans of three CMPAs. In addition, the Roatán Banks site will be included in the ministerial agreement for fishing closures to promote its protection.



Photo: Abraham Canaca

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Update the protection plans of three coastal marine protected areas.
- Promote scientific research through training in FSAs monitoring techniques and specific studies on key species such as the Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) in Cayos Cochinos.
- Upgrade the patrol vessel to improve protection and surveillance efforts in the MNMACC.
- Advocate for the inclusion of the Roatan Banks fish replenishment zone (FRZ) in the ministerial closed-season agreement including its official publication and technical follow-up.



SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Develop and implement business plans and training on innovative sustainability mechanisms, fundraising, and alternative livelihoods to fishing, diversifying local economic options.
- Launch an awareness campaign in the communities of the MNMACC to promote the protection of FRZs.
- Conduct a regional exchange of experiences with other CMPAs that have successful FRZs.
- Promote community strengthening through training programs aimed at the Community-Based Commission and young leaders.



STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Train justice officials in current environmental legal regulations, the definition of inter-institutional strategies and procedures, and the development of action protocols for environmental protection.
- Develop administrative and operational manuals to organize and optimize functions within the MNMACC.
- Train staff in statistical analysis, geographical information system, and the use of specialized equipment such as drones.

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