

# 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 Tela Bay

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Bahía de Tela Marine Wildlife Refuge, Atlántida, Honduras.



Photo: Mario Motiño

## STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS, NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES, AND STAFF OF THE MARINE PROTECTED AREA BAHÍA DE TELA MARINE WILDLIFE REFUGE

<b>Country</b>	Honduras
<b>Coastal Marine Protected Area (CMPA)</b>	Bahía de Tela Marine Wildlife Refuge (RVSM)*
<b>Co manager</b>	Asociación Amigos de los Arrecifes de Tela (AMATELA)*
<b>Duration</b>	May 2024 - May 2027
<b>Reach</b>	89,259 hectares of protected area and 2,000 beneficiaries

\* The acronyms refer to the names in Spanish.

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project aims to strengthen the local population's knowledge and participation in the conservation of marine-coastal resources. Local authorities will be trained in application of current regulations, improving the capacities of the personnel in charge of managing the protected area and providing them with the necessary equipment.

A public use plan will be developed, tourism service providers will be certified, lionfish population control will be promoted, as well as sustainable fishing through workshops for fishermen and the promotion of responsible practices.

In addition, partnerships will be strengthened with co-managers of other coastal protected areas in the northern region of Honduras, such as Fundación Cuero y Salado and the Fundación hondureña para la Protección y Conservación de Cayos Cochinos.



## KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



### CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Train and develop protocols for the monitoring and evaluation of seagrass condition, as well as identify and map their presence sites.
- Train and coordinate coral disease and bleaching monitoring with the co-management committee (Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre - ICF, Municipalidad de Tela, Fundación para la protección de Lancetilla, Punta Sal y Texiguat - PROLANSATE, Telamarine).
- Train co-managers and key stakeholders of the Inter-Institutional Committee on Environment and Protected Areas of the Municipality of Tela (CIAT in Spanish) in the monitoring of fish aggregations, develop surveys to fishers to identify spawning sites, install hydrophones, and facilitate experience exchanges with organizations conducting fish aggregation monitoring in Honduras.
- Training in coral restoration techniques and lionfish hunting for the co-managers of the CMPA.



### SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Conduct outreach workshops on the close fishing season in the lagoon and on best fishing practices.
- Organize gastronomic fairs with artisanal fishers.
- Develop a certification program for local tourism service providers (tour operators, boat operators, and tour guides) to promote responsible tourism.
- Provide training on food safety and hygiene, accounting, and budgeting to strengthen the economic management of local communities.
- Implement an informational campaign to disseminate the regulations of the Tela CMPA and promote the adoption of sustainable fishing practices.



### STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Improve the operational, administrative, and financial capacity of the co-managing organizations of the Bahía de Tela MWR through the development of administrative, operational, and accounting manuals, and by providing training in financial management, budgeting, and the use of the billing system of the Honduran Revenue Administration System.
- Develop and socialize a gender policy for the staff managing the CMPA.
- Facilitate an experience exchange on sustainable financing with the Roatán Marine Park as a basis for developing funding proposals.
- Develop a financial sustainability plan to strengthen the long-term management of the CMPA.



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