

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



Blanca Janeth Kawas Fernández National Park

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Photo: PROLANSTATE

EMPOWERMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS, COMMUNITIES, AND STAFF TO PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE PROTECTED AREAS BLANCA JANETH KAWAS FERNÁNDEZ NATIONAL PARK AND PUNTA IZOPO NATIONAL PARK

Country	Honduras
Coastal Marine Protected Areas (CMPAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanca Janeth Kawas Fernández National Park (PNBJKF)* and Punta Izopo National Park (PNPI)*
Comanager	Fundación para la Protección de Lancetilla, Punta Sal y Texiguat (PROLANSTATE)*
Duration	August 2025 - June 2028
Reach	102,124 hectares of protected area and 2,000 beneficiaries

*The abbreviations refer to the names in Spanish

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project aims to strengthen the management of the coastal marine protected areas (CMPAs) through training, equipment provision, and community participation, addressing threats such as overfishing, invasive species, agricultural expansion, and pollution. It is structured around four main components:

- Institutional strengthening of co-managers through equipment provision and training in biological monitoring and data analysis;
- Promotion of community participation to encourage sustainable practices in the use of natural resources;
- Increasing knowledge of local stakeholders through the development and implementation of a communications plan;
- Sustainable fishery resources management by promoting alternative livelihoods to fishing.



Photo: PROLANSTATE

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Train staff and co-managers of the CMPA in coral bleaching and disease monitoring, statistical data analysis, and geographic information systems.
- Conduct a mangrove cover study using drones.
- Develop a standardized protocol for the capture and handling of lionfish and train co-managers and artisanal fishers in its eradication.



STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Improve the financial capacity of co-managing organizations through training in financial administration, development, management, and negotiation of proposals.
- Develop and socialize a gender policy for the co-managing organization.



SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Develop and share community participation strategies for the PNBKJF and PNPI, together with co-managers and key stakeholders.
- Create two life plans for the Garífuna communities of La Ensenada and Río Tinto.
- Train youth from various target groups in leadership, empowerment, and sustainable natural resource use practices.
- Train community members in the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Build a pilot aquaponics system and share the initiative with local communities.

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