

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



Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge

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BLUE NODE: NORTH-EAST REGION – A SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE MODEL TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PNRD AND RVSPM, AND TO SUPPORT LOCAL LIVELIHOODS THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER AND CROSS-SECTORAL COORDINATION

Country	Guatemala
Coastal Marine Protected Area (CMPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Río Dulce National Park (PNRD)* and • Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge (RVSPM)*
Manager	National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)*
Civil Society Organization (CSO)	Alianza de Derecho Ambiental y Agua (ADA2)*
Duration	August 2025 – June 2028
Reach	168,468 hectares of protected area and 2,418 beneficiaries



Foto: Eliseo Bo

* The acronyms refer to the names in Spanish.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project aims to consolidate an inclusive governance model that promotes the conservation of priority ecosystems, the creation of advocacy spaces, and the establishment of strategic partnerships to improve comprehensive and sustainable management effectiveness, of two coastal marine protected areas (CMPAs).

To achieve this, actions will be implemented focusing on the conservation and restoration of key ecosystems, updating and systematization of biological information, strengthening local governance spaces, boosting of local community economies, and designing and implementing a financial sustainability model for both protected areas.

By the end of the project, the goal is to have a consolidated governance model that has contributed to the recovery of territorial governance and the sustainable conservation of natural resources through strong and lasting partnerships.

While the project primarily focuses on PNRD and RVSPM, it also includes activities at national and trinational levels (Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras), such as participation in conferences, exchanges, meetings, and workshops.

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Promote strategic actions to conserve and restore 6 hectares of mangrove and 363 hectares of seagrass beds associated with mangroves, through the implementation of 8 management plans.
- Design a protocol for the protection and monitoring of the mangrove ecosystem in the Guatemalan Caribbean, within both protected areas.
- Design and implement an inter-institutional monitoring protocol and tools to achieve the conservation of seagrass beds.
- Design an environmental education plan to promote the appreciation and awareness of the importance of mangrove and seagrass ecosystems, targeting students, priority communities, and the general public.
- Establish two fish replenishment zones (one per CMPA), identifying and defining the technical-legal pathway.
- Strengthen CONAP Nor Oriente's and the management teams of the PNRD and RVSPM protected areas capacities through the updating of monitoring methodologies and protocols, resulting in a 10% increase in the effectiveness of protected area management.



SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Implement at least 13 initiatives to promote good conservation practices and generate alternative livelihoods for local communities, increasing household income by 2% through business plans.



STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Create and reactivate five coordination platforms under the proposed governance model, which contributes to management effectiveness and promotes the extension of protected areas co-management agreements.
- Design a participatory financial mechanism for the two CMPAs, validated and presented to Guatemala's environmental authorities, local partners, and potential national and international funding sources.
- Implement two Community Leadership Diploma Programs in the project's priority communities, including members of the governance platforms.

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