

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



Río Sarstún Multiple Use Area

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STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATORY PROTECTION ACTIONS FOR KEY HABITATS IN THE RÍO SARSTÚN MULTIPLE USE PROTECTED AREA, THE PUNTA DE MANABIQUE WILDLIFE REFUGE, AND CONNECTIVITY ZONES FOR THE MAR

Country	Guatemala
Coastal Marine Protected Area (CMPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Río Sarstún Multiple Use Area (AUMRS)*, • Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge (RVSPM)*, and • Cayman Crown No-take Zone (ZVCC)*
Co manager	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)*
Duration	July 2025 - June 2028
Reach	114,377 hectares of protected area and 300 beneficiaries



Photo: FUNDAECO

* The acronyms refer to the names in Spanish.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project aims to strengthen the protection of key ecosystems and the connectivity of the Mesoamerican Reef System (MAR) by improving management capacities, enhancing participation and benefits for local stakeholders, and the coordination between the protected areas of Río Sarstún and Punta de Manabique, including Cayman Crown.

To achieve this, activities will be implemented to improve area management capacities, strengthen the protection of priority ecosystems, promote territorial governance and community participation, promote the sustainable use of natural resources, and increase the generation of scientific information for informed management.

The project will provide equipment and basic infrastructure for area management, staff training, the signing of conservation agreements with communities, the strengthening of local capacities, and the development of sustainable productive projects that increase community resilience to climate change.

It is expected to achieve a greater management effectiveness of the protected areas, improved conservation of key MAR ecosystems, and increased community resilience as a result of active participation in the sustainable management of coastal marine resources.

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Develop and implement the annual plans of the Operational Technical Working Group and the Surveillance and Control Working Group of Cayman Crown.
- Update and implement the Environmental Education Plan for the marine-coastal zone of Izabal.
- Update the monitoring protocol for key ecosystems in Cayman Crown.



SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Negotiate and sign Conservation Agreements with communities.
- Provide technical and financial assistance for the implementation of five productive projects.



STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Reactivate and update the Río Sarstún's Local Executive Council for management decision making of the protected area, ensuring equitable participation with a gender focus.
- Strengthen dialogue spaces for fisheries management and regulation in the Gulf of Honduras.
- Implement coordination meetings for the Operational Technical Working Group and the Surveillance and Control Working Group of Cayman Crown
- Establish the Río Sarstún Women's Working Group to contribute to the management of the protected area.



Photo: FUNDAECO



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