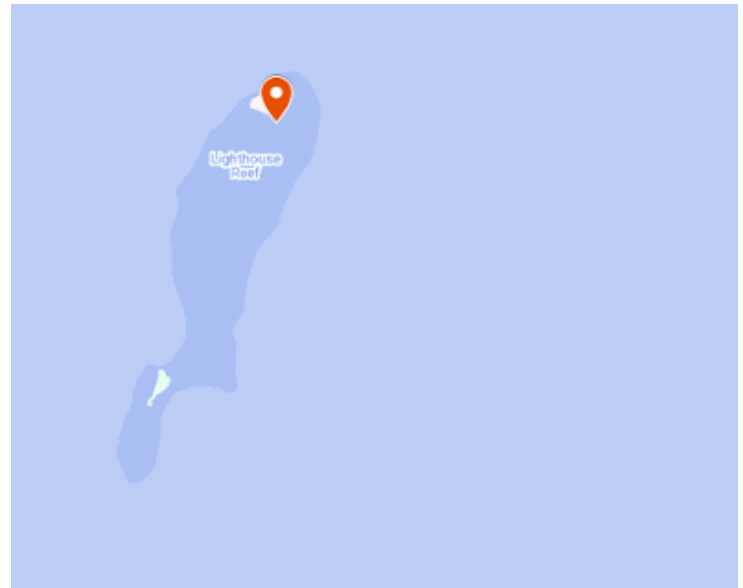


PROTECTION OF MARITIME RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA III (PHASE III)

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

ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION ZONES WITHIN AND AROUND HALF MOON CAYE AND BLUE HOLE NATURAL MONUMENTS FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Country	Belize
Coastal Marine Protected Area (CMPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half Moon Caye Natural Monument (HMCNM), • Blue Hole Natural Monument (BHNM) and • Fish Spawning Aggregation (FSA) sites: Sanbore, Northern Two Caye, Half Moon Caye Wall y South Point.
Comanager	Belize Audubon Society (BAS)
Duration	August 2025 - June 2028
Reach	5,446 hectares of protected area and 230 beneficiaries



Photo: Tony Rath



Photo: Tony Rath

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project aims to improve management effectiveness in the HMCNM and BHNM areas through the introduction of innovative surveillance technologies, strengthening of surveillance personnel capacities, and the pilot implementation of HMCNM as a landing site to monitor commercial fishing across the Lighthouse Reef Atoll.

To support evidence-based management, the capacities of research staff will be strengthened, new studies on coral reefs and fish spawning aggregation sites will be conducted, and specialized equipment will be installed to enhance monitoring and decision-making.

The project recognizes key stakeholders as essential partners for its success. Therefore, their participation will be promoted through community initiatives that improve local well-being, align incentives toward pro-environmental behavior, and raise awareness of existing regulations.

The project will contribute to advancing conservation goals, support sustainable use, and foster resilience in the face of challenges posed by climate change and other environmental pressures, enabling informed decision-making for adaptive management in both areas.

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Integrate innovative technology (radar, drone, mobile water-based weather station) and tools to improve enforcement, surveillance, monitoring and research.
- Carry out a knowledge, attitude, and practice survey with users to improve management effectiveness of both HMCNM and BHNM.
- Install demarcation and mooring buoys within HMCNM & BHNM.
- Capacity building for staff on enforcement of fisheries regulations and monitoring protocols.
- Evaluate management effectiveness for both CMPAs.



SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Pilot Half Moon Caye as a fisheries catch landing site.
- Develop and adopt sustainable tourism best practices guidelines for recreational activities.
- Pilot a fisher apprenticeship program.
- Pilot a marine pollution drop-off and incentive program.



STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Support knowledge exchange opportunities for staff (Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute's annual conference).
- Support two alternative livelihoods initiatives with fishing communities.
- Strengthen Chunox Fisherman Association.



Visit the QR code to learn more: