

## 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

### STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION FOR EFFECTIVE FISHERIES AND MPA MANAGEMENT IN THE COROZAL/CHETUMAL BAY

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Country</b>                                | Belize and Mexico  |
| <b>Coastal Marine Protected Areas (CMPAs)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS) and</li> <li>• Santuario del Manatí Bahía de Chetumal State Reserve (RESMBCH in Spanish)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Comanager</b>                              | Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation & Development (SACD)   |
| <b>Duration</b>                               | August 2025 - February 2028  |
| <b>Reach</b>                                  | 349,734 hectares of protected area and 180 beneficiaries   |



Photo: SACD

## PROJECT SUMMARY

The project aims to strengthen transboundary management between Belize and Mexico in the protected areas CBWS and RESMBCH.

To achieve this, the institutional capacity of the responsible organizations - SACD in Belize and the Institute of Biodiversity and Natural Protected Areas of the State of Quintana Roo (IBANQROO in Spanish) in Mexico - will be improved, sustainable fishing will be promoted, and management effectiveness will be increased to 75% in both protected areas.

Conservation plans for the Antillean manatee and the blue crab will be implemented, along with monitoring platforms and data exchange. Additionally, surveillance programs will be strengthened using the SMART tool, a fish replenishment zone will be established in RESMBCH, and sustainable fishing and tourism management plans will be developed.

Environmental education and community participation will also be promoted through a citizen science program and transboundary training for tour guides and women community leaders.



## KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



### CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Improve SACD's human resources policies, processes, and frameworks to strengthen institutional effectiveness.
- Develop a transboundary Antillean manatee species conservation plan for the Corozal/Chetumal Bay.
- SACD and IBANQROO will be equipped with vehicles, tools, and technology to improve monitoring, enforcement, and surveillance in the CMPAs.
- Evaluate management effectiveness for both CMPAs.



### SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Establish a fish replenishment zone (FRZ) in RESMBCH (49,000ha).
- Develop sustainable fishery plans for both CMPAs (sports fish species plan in the RESMBCH FRZ, and sustainable finfish fishery plan in CBWS).
- Develop a transboundary blue crab/jaiba sustainable fishery plan.
- Develop a sustainable tourism-use plan for RESMBCH.



### STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Train fishers in crab fishing best-practices in both CMPAs.
- Strengthen CMPA governance and capacities, and foster gender equality leadership.
- Replicate CBWS site-specific best-practices training for tour guides in RESMBCH.
- Establish a citizen science program for RESMBCH (inc. exchanges between RESMBCH citizen scientists and CBWS community researchers)



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