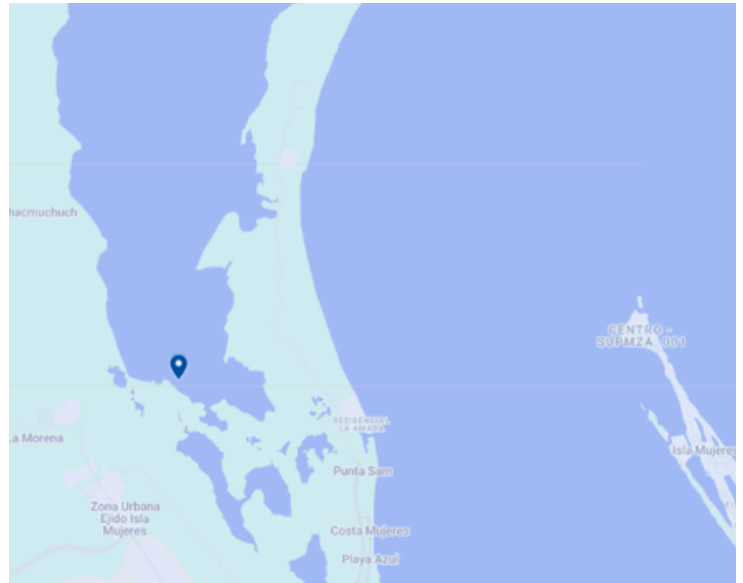


PROTECTION OF MARITIME RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA III (PHASE III)

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

CHACMOCHUCH-MANATÍ, A COASTAL-MARINE CORRIDOR THAT CONNECTS NATURE AND PEOPLE; AN ECOSYSTEM THAT PROVIDES ECONOMY, SECURITY, AND LIVELIHOODS

Country	México
Coastal Marine Protected Area (CMPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laguna Manatí Flora and Fauna State Refuge (REFFLM)*, Sistema Lagunar Chacmochuch Flora and Fauna State Refuge (REFFSLCH)*, and Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve (RBCM)*
Manager	Institute of Biodiversity and Natural Protected Areas of the State of Quintana Roo (IBANQROO)* and National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)*
Civil Society Organization (CSO)	Pronatura Península de Yucatán A.C. (PPY)*
Duration	October 2025 - June 2028
Reach	30,301 hectares of protected area and 460 beneficiaries



* Acronyms refer to the names in Spanish

Photo: Gonzálo Aldana



Photo: Gonzalo Aldana

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project aims to improve the Chacmochuch–Manatí Corridor management by strengthening the connection between people and nature, biodiversity conservation (mangroves, seagrasses, and fisheries), and the sustainable use of natural resources.

To achieve this, a communication and environmental education strategy will be developed for communities, resource users, and visitors. Citizen science will be encouraged through community committees, and experience-exchange and training will be promoted to strengthen actions in surveillance, conservation, restoration, and sustainable fishing.

Laguna Manatí will be established as a community observatory for children’s environmental education. An Environmental Surveillance and Control Center will be built, including mobile units, and participatory governance will be reinforced through community guardians.

Additionally, technical studies will be carried out to assess ecosystem health, including: a lagoon ecosystem assessment, a pre-feasibility analysis for mangrove restoration, blue carbon estimation, and ecosystem service valuation. These studies will support efforts to strengthen corridor protection at both national and international levels. Also, community development will be promoted through support for sustainable productive projects that provide alternative livelihoods, economic benefits, and reinforce local identity.

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Conservation of natural resources
- Train and strengthen community committees in surveillance activities and citizen science participation.
- Strengthen REFFLM as a community observatory for environmental awareness, especially targeting children.
- Improve infrastructure and equipment of the three CMPAs to implement a multisectoral surveillance strategy.
- Conduct feasibility studies for mangrove and/or seagrass restoration actions, with a focus on blue carbon capture.
- Develop an assessment of the lagoon ecosystem general condition in the Chacmochuch-Manatí corridor to strengthen its management.
- Develop a mass communication strategy to disseminate the importance and value of the CMPAs natural resources among communities and key stakeholders.



SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Develop community workshops to identify alternative productive activities.
- Promote sustainable livelihoods and participatory governance by supporting three community projects focused on the sustainable use of natural resources.



STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Strengthen coordination and cooperation between the state-level CMPAs and the Mexican Caribbean Biosphere Reserve.

Visit the QR code to learn more:

