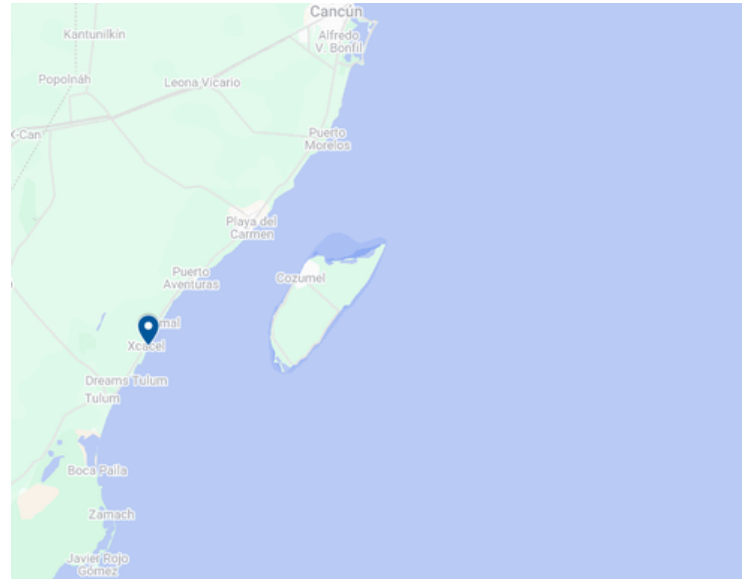


PROTECTION OF MARITIME RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA III (PHASE III)

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 COORDINATION AND CAPACITIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STMX-X TRANSVERSAL BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR AND THE CENTRAL ZONE OF THE RBCM

Country	México
Coastal Marine Protected Areas (CMPAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribe Mexicano Biosphere Reserve (RBCM)*, and • Santuario de la Tortuga Marina Xcacel - Xcacelito Zone Subject to Ecological Conservation (STMX-X)*
Manager	National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)* and Institute of Biodiversity and Natural Protected Areas of the State of Quintana Roo (IBANQROO)*
Civil Society Organization (CSO)	Pronatura Península de Yucatán A.C. (PPY)*.
Duration	August 2025 - June 2028
Reach	202,924 hectares of protected area and 745 beneficiaries

* Acronyms refer to the names in Spanish



Photo: Gonzalo Aldana - CONANP

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project aims to strengthen inter-institutional coordination in the management of the STMX-X transversal biological corridor and the RBCM, in order to improve biodiversity conservation, promote the sustainable use of natural resources, and support the development of local communities. Throughout the project, groundwater quality will be assessed and mitigation measures for pollution will be proposed.

The current state of artisanal fishing will be analyzed, including the identification of unregulated fishing activities. Fishers will receive training in sustainable practices, product added value, fish refuge zones, and reproductive aggregations. Also, tourism activities will be evaluated for management measures, and training will be provided to the tourism sector.

Studies will be conducted on the condition of key ecosystems (reefs and seagrasses) for future restoration efforts. Invasive species will be controlled, and joint management actions will be implemented between both protected areas.



Photo: Alejandro Arenas Martinez

KEY TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES



CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Conduct a water quality assessment of the bodies of water that flow into the STMX-X and RBCM (central zone) in order to propose mitigation actions and reduce pollution.
- Restore reefs and seagrass beds in the STMX-X.
- Improve management effectiveness in the CMPA.
- Strengthen control and management actions for invasive species, such as lionfish and beach cabbage (*Scaevola* spp.), in the coastal dune.
- Develop technical capacities within the community to enable their participation in wildlife management.



SUSTAINABLE USE WITH LOCAL PARTICIPATION

- Identify, through social participation, fish spawning aggregation sites to assess actions for their protection.
- Strengthen studies on acceptable change limits to regulate and improve tourism-recreational practices with the involvement of local stakeholders.
- Evaluate the artisanal fishing condition and regulation, and train and raise awareness within the fishing sector on responsible and sustainable fishing, added value, aggregation sites, and fish refuge areas.



STRENGTHENING AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNANCE

- Strengthen coordination and cooperation between the RBCM (federal CMPA), the STMX-X (state CMPA), and key stakeholders to jointly implement the project initiatives.

Visit the QR code to learn more:

