

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)



The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef

The Mesoamerican Reef system stretches over 1000km, spanning the eastern coasts of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras and forming the second largest barrier reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

THE MESOAMERICAN REEF ALLIANCE

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is the largest reef in the Western Hemisphere. Communities in neighbouring countries rely on the diverse coastal areas for much of their livelihood and sustenance, but evidence shows that the reefs are under threat.

In response to the impacts on this unique ecosystem, and in support of the 1997 Tulum Declaration, the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) has established the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR). The Alliance will work in close collaboration with existing regional programmes to strengthen ongoing conservation efforts with common goals.

With generous funding from the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and US Agency for International Development (USAID), and coordinated by the Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP, the Alliance focuses on bringing new partners and international expertise into the region, and working with the private sector, to better manage the reef.



Working with Regional Programmes

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project (MBRS) and Regional Environmental Programme for Central America (PROARCA) are two regional-level initiatives that contribute significantly to conservation and sustainable development efforts in Mesoamerica.



Making it Possible

USAID and UNF have entered a pioneering and unique alliance for the benefit of one ecosystem on a regionwide scale. Under the ICRAN banner many international organisations and initiatives from the region are brought together in one project to aid the survival of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, coordinated by the Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP.

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Mesoamerican Reef Alliance ICRAN

The ICRAN partnership includes many of the world's leading coral reef science and conservation organisations, and draws on its partners' investments in reef management and monitoring to create strategically linked actions at local, national and global levels.