



Nassau Grouper

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THE MESOAMERICAN REEF ALLIANCE Project Activities

Through regional consultation, the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance has designed three initiatives to address the main threats to coral reefs, and the management and conservation needs of the region: **Improved Watershed Management, Sustainable Fisheries and Sustainable Tourism.**



Monitoring, Sian Ka'an, Mexico

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Improved Watershed Management

This initiative includes monitoring, assessment and mapping of watersheds, coastal and marine habitats, which will be used in models that can predict scenarios of future land use patterns, and communicate the impacts of land based activities on the marine environment and coral reefs.



lobster Fisherman, Sian Ka'an, Mexico

© Oscar Alvarez, Sian Ka'an

Sustainable Fisheries

Training in community based fishery management techniques, sustainable tourism and identification of alternative sustainable economic activities will allow selected communities to better manage their resources, and share their new skills with others in the region.



UNF Coastal Zone Ecotourism Meeting, Punta Allen, Sian Ka'an, Mexico

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Sustainable Tourism

Better operational practices will be promoted across the spectrum of coastal/marine resource users, from marine recreation providers (dive operators) and buyers (tour operators, cruise lines), to communities trained in sustainable tourism techniques to benefit the local people.

ICRAN's strategy is to expand alliances, especially with the private sector, and bring business leaders together with environmentalists and policy-makers to promote sustainable social and economic management of the Mesoamerican region. ICRAN aims to build capacity, emphasising the role of local communities and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and use successful examples to raise awareness at all levels, demonstrating effective management to the wider public.

ICRAN expects increased adoption of "better practices" throughout the region, and to see investment by the private sector supporting environmental management to sustain the Mesoamerican reef.



Threats

The MAR works to address principal threats to the Mesoamerican Reef. These were identified by the MBRS project as detrimental fishing and aquaculture practices, unsustainable tourism and development, industrial and land-based runoff/pollution, port and ship-based pollution and climate change.

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