



## Improving the Knowledge, Monitoring and Protection of Mesoamerican Reef's Fish, Spawning Aggregations and Replenishment Zones

### Type of priority area

Marine Protected Area

Key Biodiversity Area

Transboundary Areas

### Primary objective

Management Effectiveness

Livelihoods

Governance

### Target groups

Local Communities

Indigenous people

Farmers/Fishermen

### Main activity focus

Management Plan

Legal Framework/Regulation

Co-management



#### Duration

01.07.2020 – 30.06.2023



#### Type of grant & budget

Medium Grant | 761,753€



#### Location

Belize, Caribbean



#### Protected & Conserved Areas

1-mile San Antonio Rd. Toledo, Belize C.A.



#### WDPA ID

342407, 220100, 220039



#### BIOPAMA RRIS Link

<https://rris.biopama.org/pa/220100>

### Project Lead

Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)

### Project Partners

Belize Southern Environmental Association and Healthy Reefs for Healthy People

### Description of the project :

This project will address the following objectives based on the protected areas associated with the project:

1. *To obtain legal recognition and management of Cayman Crown in Belize, a recently discovered fish spawning aggregation site by 2022.*
2. *To promote participatory monitoring and protection of 3 sentinel spawning aggregation sites in Belize as an integral part of the Mesoamerican Reef spawning aggregation network.*
3. *To gain support for project activities through communication and income diversification programs.*





#### Diagnostic Tools Used

**Not provided**



#### The BIOPAMA Action Component Objectives Addressed

- ✓ Enhance the management and governance of priority areas by addressing existing limitations (strengthening on-site infrastructure/equipment for patrolling, poaching control, developing capacity of staff);
- ✓ Strengthen the legal framework required to achieve effective biodiversity conservation;
- ✓ Support local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected areas management



#### Priority Need Addressed

Improved management effectiveness and governance indices at the end of action by 2023



#### The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The implementation of this project will bring significant positive change for the protected areas (Gladden Spit Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve including the Cayman Crown Site and the Port Honduras Marine Reserve) associated with the project. Foremost, by providing information on spawning aggregation sites and engaging local actors for their protection: Policies will be put in place, in countries where this is necessary, for the full protection of spawning aggregation sites or temporary protection during spawning seasons; the law will be applied during spawning periods in spawning sites, not only in already protected areas but also in new areas proposed at Cayman Crown; local fishermen will adhere to no-fishing guidelines according to the rules set out in the spawning aggregation sites; and the number of fish documented in these areas during the spawning period will be stable or increase for all species.

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BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.

