



BIOPAMA



Financing Marine Protected Area Management for continued effectiveness through COVID-19 economic crisis Hol Chan Marine Reserve

Type of priority area

Marine Protected Area

Key Biodiversity Area

Primary objective

Management Effectiveness

Livelihoods

Target groups

Local Communities

National or Local PA Agency

Main activity focus

Enforcement

Illegal Activities

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness



Duration
22.10.2021 – 21.04.2022



Type of grant & budget
Rapid Response Grant | 49,999.44€



Location
Belize, Caribbean



Protected & Conserved Areas
Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Belize



WDPA ID
555624215



BIOPAMA RRIS Link
<https://rris.biopama.org/pa/555624215>

Project Lead

Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Belize

Project Partners

N/A

Description of the project

The project aims to support the effective management and governance of The Hol Chan Marine Reserve through continued patrols and environmental and biodiversity monitoring. With high unemployment rates and an increase in fishing activities it is important to maintain a presence to deter encroachment of fishing into the no-take and conservation areas. Funds will support staff salaries and the purchase of personal and protective equipment for staff members.

The project will include the development of strategies for financial diversification that allow management to cope with the current financial limitations because of COVID-19 and recover financial stability at a faster rate once the threat of COVID-19 has been reduced.





Diagnostic Tools Used

N/A



The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

- ✓ Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations.(strengthening on-site infrastructure/equipment for patrolling, poaching control, developing capacity of staff)



Priority Need Addressed

The grant addresses the need for financial assistance to sustain operational activities within the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, due to loss in revenues as a result of the COVID19 pandemic.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The project implementation will help to buffer the long-term effects/impacts due to the loss of revenues because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial obligations can be met and preventing the Reserve from plunging into a debt hole that would take a long time to recover from. Enforcement, biodiversity monitoring, education and outreach, and visitor management activities will continue to be sustained ensuring that the Reserve meet its conservation objectives.

Indirectly the project implementation will support community livelihoods by ensuring compliance with regulations and protection strategies, securing the livelihoods of over 300 license fishers, over 625 licensed tour guides, and 91 registered tour operators, and their families.

The project Financing Marine Protected Area Management for continued effectiveness through COVID-19 economic crisis Hol Chan Marine Reserve is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

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.

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