

# Integrated Coastal Marine Management

## Where and how we operate...

The Colombian Caribbean coastline has almost 2,000 km and a rich biodiversity that is at risk due to human impact and climate change. Although existing protected areas remain isolated, their ecosystems are often affected by over-use of the environment by the communities that live nearby. The main reasons for these impacts are a deficient territorial planning, control of fishing activity and the lack of coordination between representatives of counterpart entities and civil society working in environmental protection.

For a participatory governance in the management of natural resources, it is necessary to strengthen the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minambiente) and the environmental authorities both National Parks (PNN) and the Regional Autonomous Corporations (CAR's). Moreover, these institutions need to develop the strategic and legal framework for regional networks of protected areas and in marine-coastal zones. Unfortunately, resources for training and opportunities for participatory management are scarce.

Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to climate change and other impacts. Particularly in the department of Chocó, the Acaandí, Playón and Playona Fauna Sanctuary are fundamental for the reproduction of turtles in danger of extinction. Likewise, in La Guajira the PNN Bahía Portete and Bahías Honda and Hondita are crucial for biodiversity.

Both indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities depend on this biological diversity because it ensures their livelihoods.

For example, in these areas the use of resources in activities such as excessive fishing, uncontrolled tourism and others, represent a threat to the preservation of beaches and other ecosystems. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate the protected area into territorial planning and to support the authorities in the formulation of their environmental protection laws. Undoubtedly, there it is very complex to create and extend protected areas and their integrated management, since many different stakeholders and policy processes must be involved.

Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
German contribution	5.140.000 Euro
Political partner	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, MADS)
Implementing organizations	National Parks Authority, Regional governments of Guajira and Chocó
Project region	Departments of Guajira and Choco
Duration	01.01.2019 – 30.06.2023



Bahía Hondita, La Guajira



La Guajira

## A selection of what we want to achieve in facts and figures...

The MIMAC project aims at embedding the existing, expanding and newly designated protected areas in a marine development plan. To this end, the environmental authorities National Parks, regional and local environmental institutions and municipalities are being supported by developing integrated management plans. Governance and adaptation to climate change are pivotal in this process.

With these actions we expect to achieve:

- Around **1,000 km<sup>2</sup> of marine-coastal areas are declared as protected areas** or improved their governance and protect strategic ecosystems such as coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves.
- More than **23,000 people benefit** from maintaining and using the nature benefits in a **sustainable way**
- At least **260 families improve their income** through sustainable economic activities (eg sustainable traditional fishing, ecotourism)
- At least **400 people from local institutions and organizations know the management of marine protected areas** and climate change and apply it.
- Supporting the development of **financing mechanisms for the regional marine protected areas and organizational development** within the CARs to improve sustainable management of marine protected areas in La Guajira and Acandí.



Fisherman, Acandí

## Protected areas as an opportunity to maintain biological diversity

Solutions will be developed to compromise protection and management through various sustainable usage practices with partners. Only in this way biodiversity can be conserved and a climate change is addressed with a participatory approach.

A first important step is to sensitize everyone involved through knowledge regarding marine and coastal protected areas management. Ecosystem-based strategies for marine and coastal protection areas with appropriate measures are developed from the experience. This helps the communities to better deal with the local needs and challenges that have arisen because of climate change. In this context, cooperation between institutions and organizations is essential. Therefore, the project focuses on capacity development and its interaction with other institutions to improve the management of marine protected areas.

The experience generated by the project in the sustainable use of natural resources within the framework of integrated management is processed and made available to the partners. In addition, the management of marine protected areas will be incorporated into national and international knowledge with the cooperation of INVEMAR and the ZMT (Leibnitz Center for Tropical Marine Research).

The project contributes supra-regionally to the international sustainability goals (SDG 14) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi 11).



Mangroves

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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As at

February 2022

Photo credits List of photographers in alphabetical order  
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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)

In cooperation with Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (MADS) of Colombia