

## **Mexico's inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"**

UNPD supports different initiatives in México to improve the perspectives of human sustainable development in the region of the Caribbean Sea.

The Country Office in coordination with the Natural Protected Areas Commission leads actions to strengthen the management effectiveness of 10 natural protected areas in the region, covering more than 15 million hectares of coastal and marine ecosystems, including more than half of the Mesoamerican Coral Reef in Mexico. The activities include the strengthening of local and interinstitutional governance; control improvement of invasive alien species, restoration of dune and mangroves, climate change adaptation actions, and the conservation of endangered species.

UNPD Mexico, through the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is supporting 2 projects to control the Lionfish invasive species in 19,000 hectares in 3 Protected Areas (Chinchorro, Xcalak, Isla Contoy). SGP also supported a project for reef restoration on 6 hectares. SGP also supported 3 cooperatives in 4 Protected Areas to strengthen youth engagement within the fishery sector.

Since 2021, UNPD supported the Ministry of Tourism and local communities to strengthen their capacities for biodiversity conservation in coastal ecosystems through the design and implementation of innovative policies and models of sustainable tourism in Mexico at the national and local levels. The project "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation Criteria in Mexico's Tourism Sector with Emphasis on Biodiversity-rich Coastal Ecosystems".

The project is working in the Area of Maya Ka'an to implement a sustainable tourism model, develop sustainable infrastructure, business plans and improve the sectorial policies. By implementing direct activities on the field with local communities, the project looks for biodiversity and cultural diversity conservation and promotes the inclusion of women and small cooperative enterprises and service providers considering local and ancestral forms of governance.

Finally, UNPD has been supporting regional activity projects to improve the management of the shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME). In coordination with other countries in the region, a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) has been developed which include policy, legal and institutional reforms, conservation measures, and pollution control.

Based on this previous initiative, The GEF approved the preparation phase of a new project named PROCARIBE+, which is a regional initiative for Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's Natural Capital, building Resilience, and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region).