



CORAL
REEF ALLIANCE

Coral Reef Solutions

There Is Hope!

Individual Actions

Reducing Global Threats



One of the best ways to contribute is to reduce your “carbon footprint” or energy consumption. Examples of this include:

- Switching to more energy-efficient light bulbs
- Turning off lights and electronics when you’re not using them
- Taking public transportation instead of a car
- Not using AC if you don’t need it
- Downloading instead of printing

Reducing Water Pollution: Marine Debris

- Don't litter!
- Practice the "Three R's"
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Don't use disposable products like plastic straws or plastic water bottles.
- Volunteer for a beach-clean up.



Reducing Water Pollution: Nutrients & Sediments

- Conserve water; the less water you use, the less runoff ends up in waterways and eventually the ocean.
- Don't use fertilizers or pesticides in your garden.
- Never pour anything down storm drains.



Reducing Unsustainable Fishing

• DO NOT CONSUME •

Black Grouper



Goliath Grouper



Nassau Grouper



Tiger Grouper



Yellow fin Grouper



Yellow Mouth Grouper



Stoplight Parrot Fish



Triggerfish



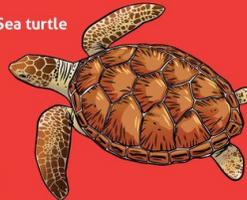
Lane Mahogany



Schoolmaster



Sea turtle



Shark



“Eat right, fish right.”

- Be a responsible consumer; consult your sustainable seafood guide before purchasing seafood.

If you are a fisherman:

- Be careful to follow best practices such as following catch and size limits.
- Don't drop boat anchors on the reef.

How To Be A Responsible Tourist

- Don't buy corals or other marine animals as souvenirs or jewelry.
- If you dive or snorkel: "Look, don't touch."
- Use reef-friendly sunscreens or, even better, a rashguard.
- Give your business to eco-friendly hotels and tour operators.



Support Conservation

You can support non-profit organizations working to protect coral reefs by:

- Donating money or products.
- Volunteering with them.
- Participating as a citizen scientist.



Conservation Strategies

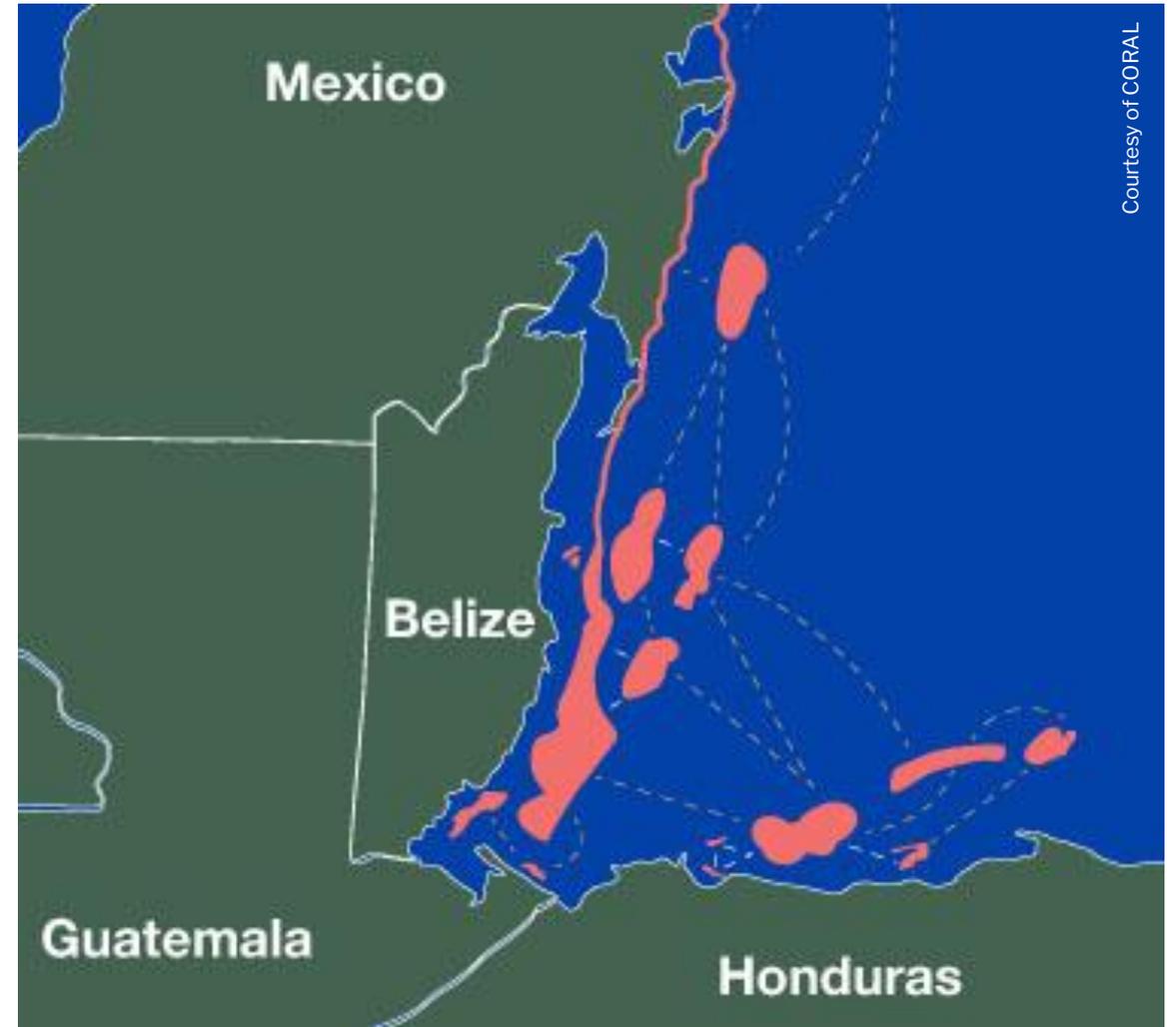
Conservation Strategies That Work

- Efficient use of scarce resources
- Win-win solutions that benefit both communities and people
- Partnerships with the buy-in of government and other relevant stakeholders
- Policies and regulations that support conservation
- Science-based solutions that have a proven impact on coral reef health



Adaptive Reefscapes

- CORAL's vision is for 35% of the MAR's coral reefs to be included in a Mesoamerican Adaptive Reefscape.
- Reefs in Honduras are likely important source populations for reefs in Belize and Mexico.
- We focus on improving water quality, management and governance, and sustainable tourism.



Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



- About 57% of the territorial seas in the MAR are within MPAs.
- Many of the existing MPAs are “paper parks”.
- One of the most effective conservation strategies is building capacity for management, governance, and enforcement of MPAs.

Reducing Nutrient Pollution

How do we resolve wastewater issues?

- Monitoring water quality
- Updating ineffective wastewater infrastructure
- Building awareness about the detrimental effects of poor water quality on human health and the environment



Reducing Marine Debris

As a conservation strategy, organizations can do a number of things to take on the trash issue:

- Installing waste bins
- Working with municipalities to schedule regular pickups and properly dispose of trash.
- Encouraging businesses to go plastic free
- Educating the public
- Organizing beach clean-ups



Reducing Unsustainable Fishing

- Establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Conducting patrols to enforce fishing regulations
- Conducting studies on the status of fisheries over time
- Educating fishermen about regulations and marine conservation



Providing Alternative Livelihoods

Alternative livelihoods reduce fishing pressure by transitioning communities to more sustainable economic opportunities.

Some initiatives have included:

- Sustainable Seaweed Farming in Belize
- Beekeeping in Corozal
- Egg-Laying Hens in Tela



Reducing Anchor Damage

- Boat anchors and heavy chains are often dropped directly onto reefs, breaking or dislodging corals and causing significant damage to the reef ecosystem.
- Moorings are a great alternative to anchors.
- Conservation organizations and governments work to install moorings in strategic locations.



Controlling Invasive Species

Fishermen and experienced divers are allowed special permission to hunt lionfish with a spear. This is an all around win-win because it:

- Protects coral reefs
- Generates income
- Provides a sustainable (and tasty!) food source
- Moves fishermen away from overfishing native species



Coral Reef Restoration

Sometimes corals need a helping hand. Restoration techniques include:

- Growing corals on artificial reef structures in the water
- Breeding corals in tanks and transplanting them onto reefs
- Coral gardening



Courtesy of Patric Lengacher

Education & Awareness: Local Communities

- Education and awareness is one of the most powerful tools we have.
- This can take the form of educating youth, consumers, businesses, and even tourism professionals.



Courtesy of Caroline Power

Education & Awareness: Consumers

- Consumer pressure can be a powerful tool for encouraging businesses or products to become eco-friendly.
- Informed consumers purchase sustainable seafood, reef-friendly sunscreen, and souvenirs from non-wildlife sources.



Education & Awareness: Businesses

Groups like Go Blue Bay Islands, The Mesoamerican Reef Tourism Initiative (MARTI), and Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) work with restaurants, tourism operations, and other small businesses to:

- Provide guidelines for best practices.
- Provide certification for sustainable businesses.
- Institutionalize sustainability standards.

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 BELIZE TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

You're Invited to:

BTIA: Paving the Road to Sustainable Tourism in Belize Symposium

 **9 AM** | **05 | 31 | 2019**
 **FRIDAY**

 **Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza**

 What the conservation and protection of natural resources represents for our tourism industry and for the future of Belize?

 Policies and regulations that promote the sustainable development and management of businesses and properties in Belize with a regional and global perspective.

Education & Awareness: Tourism Professionals



Building awareness of tourism professionals is essential because they are in a unique position to help coral reefs...

We'll learn all about this in Module 4!

Sources

Facts and Figures

“Adaptive Reefscapes are networks of effectively managed (healthy) reefs that help corals adapt to climate change because they are diverse, connected, and large.”

Source: <https://coral.org/adapt/>

“About 57% of the territorial seas in the MAR are within MPAs.”

Source: Healthy Reefs for Healthy People 2018. Meso American Reef Report Card 2018.



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Questions?

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