



# THE FORCE PROJECT

## FUTURE OF REEFS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

### THE PROJECT

The FORCE project, a five-year initiative funded by the European Union, commenced in 2010 and brings together a team of researchers from 20 organisations based in 10 countries within the Caribbean, Europe, the US and Australia.

Caribbean people rely heavily on coral reefs, which contribute billions of dollars each year through tourism, fisheries and coastal protection. Coral reefs are being damaged by activities such as unsustainable fishing and pollution, and face an uncertain future with global climate change.

The FORCE project will address important questions about how changes will affect coastal communities and livelihoods such as fisheries and tourism. The project will identify ways of managing reefs that are best suited to regional and local contexts. Recommendations will be disseminated to stakeholders through-out the Caribbean on how to protect the reefs.

### HONDURAS NATIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING

August 1st, 2011, Florencia Plaza Hotel, Tegucigalpa

#### NATIONAL CONSULTATION

A national consultation meeting was held at the Florencia Plaza Hotel, Tegucigalpa on August 1st 2011. The objectives of this meeting were to:

- Explore key changes in Honduras with respect to the environment, society, economy, and the policies and management systems.
- Talk about the relationship between these changes and people's use of reef resources and services.
- Discuss the formal and informal groups and organisations involved in reef governance and management.

In order to address these objectives, participants at the meeting were asked to take part in two activities: a

historical scan to explore changes in Honduras and a policy cycle review to facilitate a discussion on the organisations involved in reef management. This report presents the results of the national level stakeholder consultation.

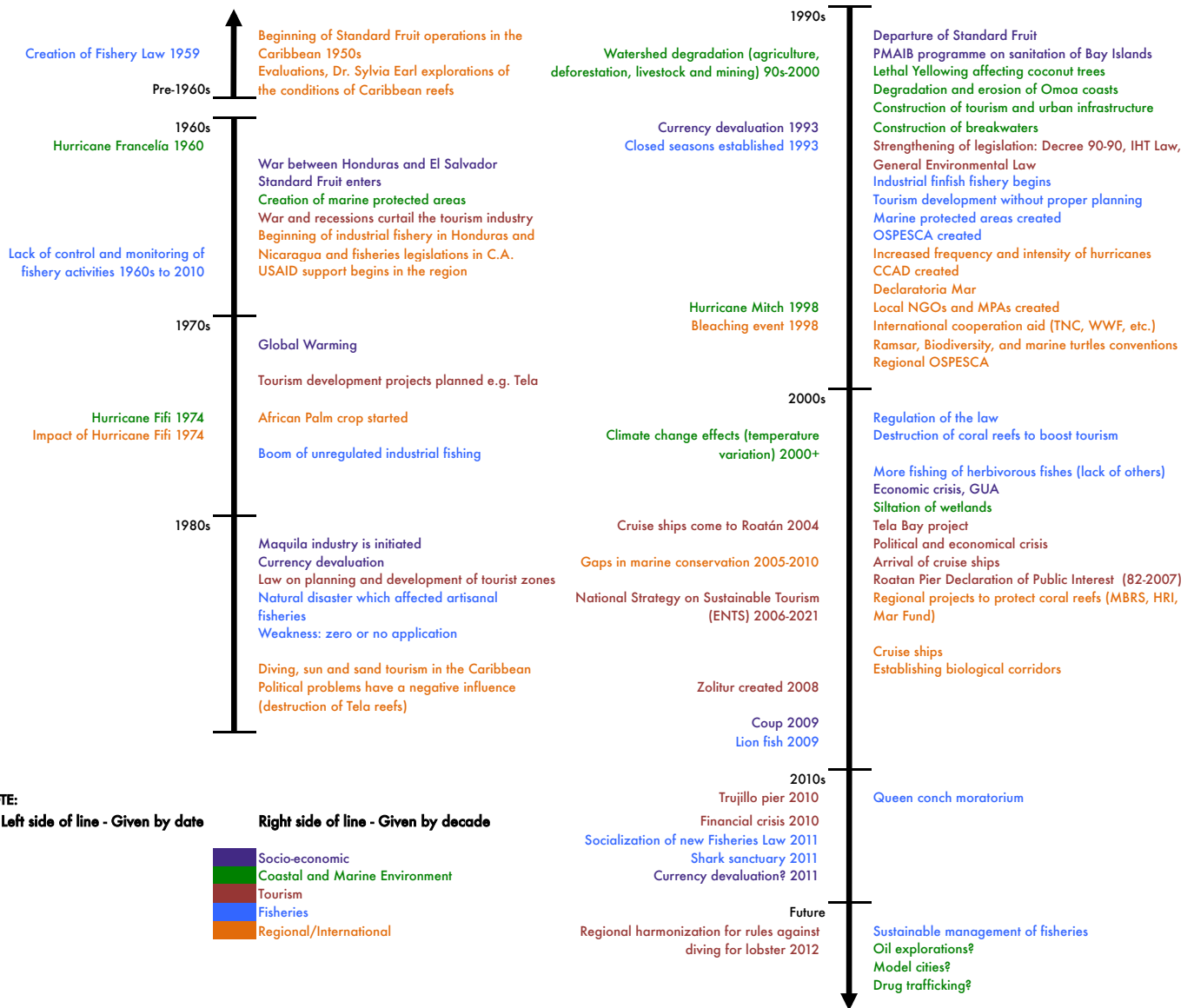
#### CONTENTS

Historical Timeline	2
Timeline Reflection	3
Key Events	3
Governance	4
Policy Cycle	5
Participants	6



# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

The purpose of the timeline was to learn more about the history of the country and the changes that have been important. The timeline shows events and changes in Honduras as identified by people at the meeting.



## REFLECTION ON THE HISTORICAL SCAN

As participants reflected on the timeline a consensus was reached about key turning points over the years. Turning points were defined as time periods when the country went from certain practices or ways of being to new or different practices. The group noted eight key shifts:

<i>From</i>	➔	<i>To</i>
Artisanal fishing	<b>1970</b>	Industrial fishing
Small scale tourism	<b>1990</b>	Large scale tourism
No management (areas)	<b>1990</b>	Co-management research
Little assistance for reef projects to	<b>1994</b>	Coral reef assistance projects
Stability	<b>2000</b>	Insecurity (investments)
Security	<b>2005</b>	Insecurity
Growing economic stability	<b>2008</b>	Less stability and investment
Diversified tourism	<b>2010</b>	Fewer types of tourism (more cruise ships)

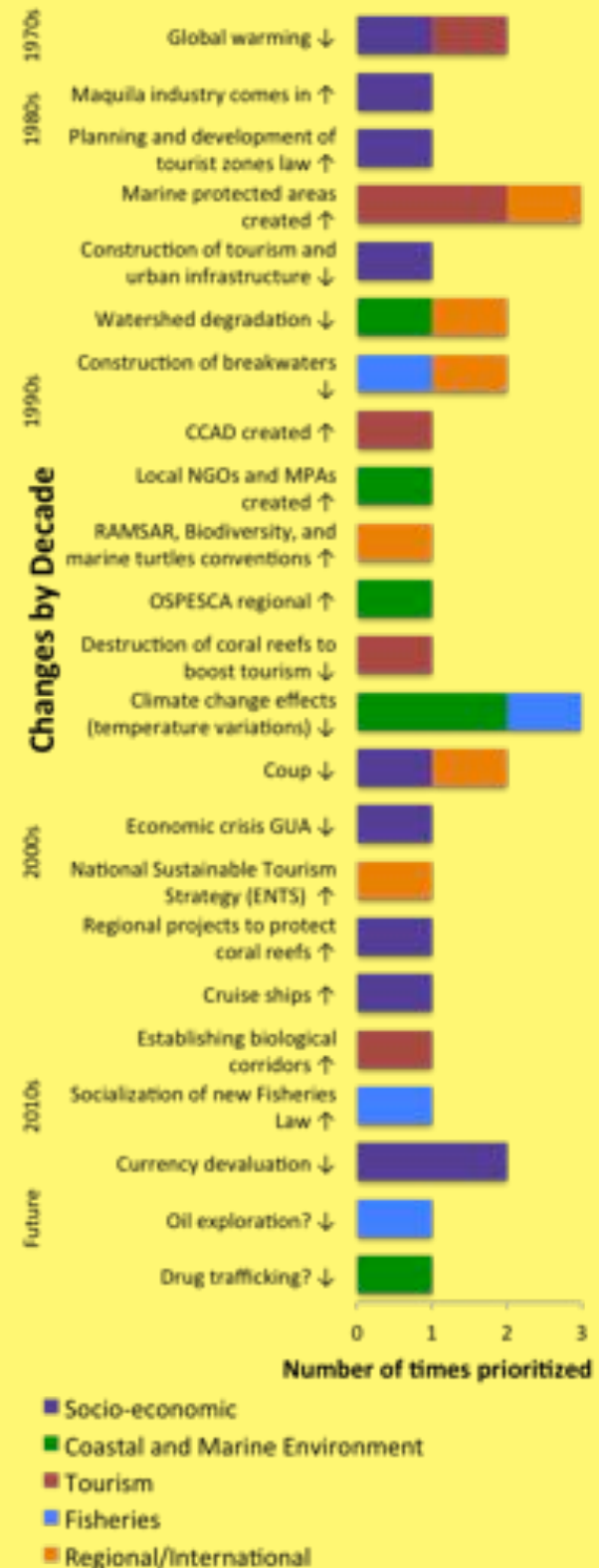
## DOT PRIORITISATION EXERCISE

The creation of marine protected areas during the 1990s and 2000s was highlighted as having the most significant positive impact on the relationship between people in Honduras and the coral reefs. The effects of climate change, and in particular the variation in water temperature, was identified as the most significant negative factor affecting the coral reefs and dependent communities in this country. The dot prioritisation exercise highlighted that a combination of local and national impacts (e.g. watershed degradation, through agricultural runoff, deforestation, farming and mining practices; the construction of breakwaters; political instability), and regional impacts (e.g. global warming) were recognised as influencing the coral reef and how people and communities use this resource in Honduras.



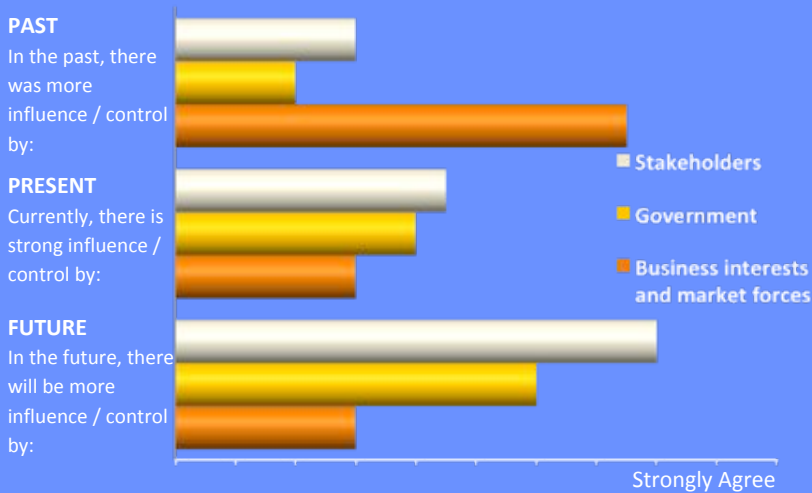
## KEY EVENTS

Changes identified in the historical scan that were prioritised by participants as being most significant in affecting the relationship between people and reefs. Colours reflect the theme of the table on which participants were working. The arrows indicate whether the participants felt that the event was positive (↑) or negative (↓).

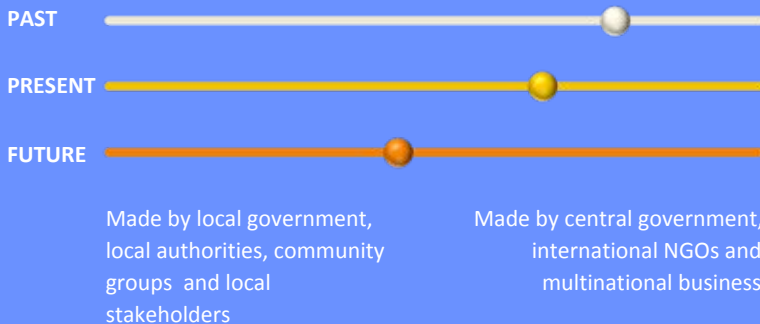


# REEF GOVERNANCE

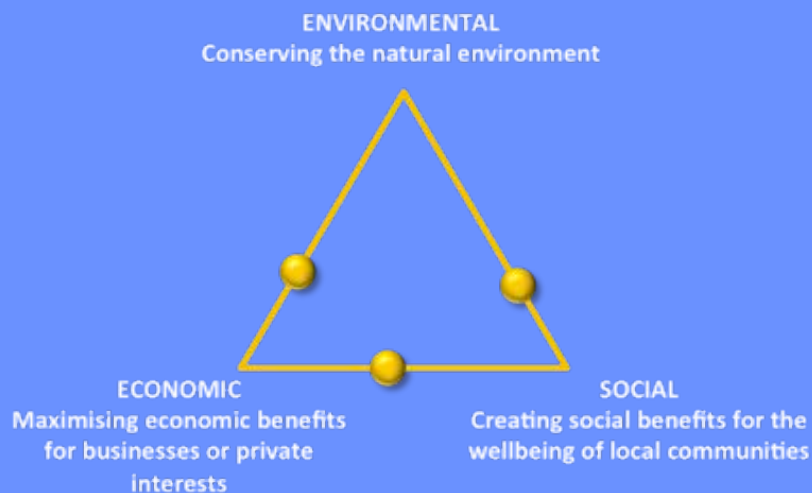
Results of a short questionnaire illustrated participant's views on reef governance in Honduras:



Participants felt that in the past there had been high influence by business interests and market forces, but that there has been a trend towards greater influence of stakeholders and government. Participants thought that this trend would continue in the future, with greater involvement of local stakeholders in decision-making.



Participant's perceptions of the trade-offs between the three pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) in reef-related decision-making in Honduras show a slight trend towards economic interests.



# ACRONYMS

- AMATELA Asociación Amigos del Arrecife de Tela
- BICA Bay Islands Conservation Association
- CANATURH Chamber of Tourism, Honduras
- CCAD Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo
- CCO Cuerpos de Conservación Omoa
- CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- COCONA Consejo Consultivo Nacional del Ambiente
- COPECO Comisión Permanente de Contingencias
- CORAL Coral Reef Alliance
- CREDIA Centro Regional de Documentación e Interpretación Ambiental
- DECA Dirección de Evaluación y Control Ambiental
- DIBIO Dirección de Biodiversidad
- DIGEPESCA Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura
- ENTS Estrategia Nacional de Turismo Sostenible
- FEMA United States Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FUCAGUA Fundación para la protección de Capiro Calentura y Laguna Guaimoreto
- FUCSA Fundación Cuero y Salado
- GAD Grupo de Apoyo al Desarrollo
- HCRF Honduran Coral Reef Foundation
- HRI Healthy Reefs Initiative
- ICF Instituto de Conservación Forestal
- IHT Instituto Hondureño de Turismo
- IRBIO Instituto Regional de Biodiversidad
- MAR FUND The Mesoamerican Reef Fund
- MAREA Management of Aquatic Resources and Economic Alternatives
- MBRS Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project
- MPA Marine Protected Area
- NGO Non Governmental Organisation
- ODECO Convocada por la Organización de Desarrollo Etnico Comunitario
- OFRANEH Organización Fraternal Negro de Honduras
- OSPESCA Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuicola del Istmo Centroamericano
- PARN Procuraduría del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- PMAIB Programa de Manejo Ambiental de las Islas de la Bahía
- PROCORREDOR Proyecto de Gestión Sostenible de los Recursos Naturales y Cuencas del Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano en el Atlántico Hondureño
- PROLANSATE Fundación para la Protección de Punta Sal, Lancetilla y Texigua
- ProTECTOR Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training Outreach and Research
- SAG Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganaderia
- SERNA Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente
- TNC The Nature Conservancy
- UCME Utila Centre for Marine Ecology
- UNDP United Nations Development Programme
- USAID United States Agency for International Development
- WWF World Wildlife Fund
- Zolitur Zona Libre Turística, Islas de la Bahía

## THE ACTORS IN THE POLICY CYCLE

The policy cycle review explored the organisations involved in reef management and governance in Honduras. Participants identified the government, non-government and private sector groups involved in the formal and informal structures governing natural resource use and dependent livelihoods, and mapped out where each group is involved in the policy cycle.

The exercise highlighted that although many stakeholders generate information relating to reef management, there is little review and evaluation of this information, and data is not communicated effectively to decision-makers. The group was uncertain whether there are close connections among organisations in the policy cycle, or if there are mechanisms to help information flow. Participants noted that many of the groups have complementary roles and responsibilities but often their specific objectives and activities is unclear, leading to organisations competing rather than working towards a common goal. It was perceived that recommendations about reef management proposed by stakeholder groups but are not considered by central government. Participants felt improvements to the policy cycle could include greater resources for 'implementation' (particularly for enforcement), improved data analysis to support policy, and greater communication and information-sharing among organisations.

## POLICY CYCLE

### Data and Information

Research and assessment, including social, environmental and economic at all scales.

### Analysis and Advice

Analyses that can lead to advice that is useable by decision makers, such as local groups and national committees.

### Decision Making

International and national organisations with a mandate to review advice and make decisions, such as government and NGOs.

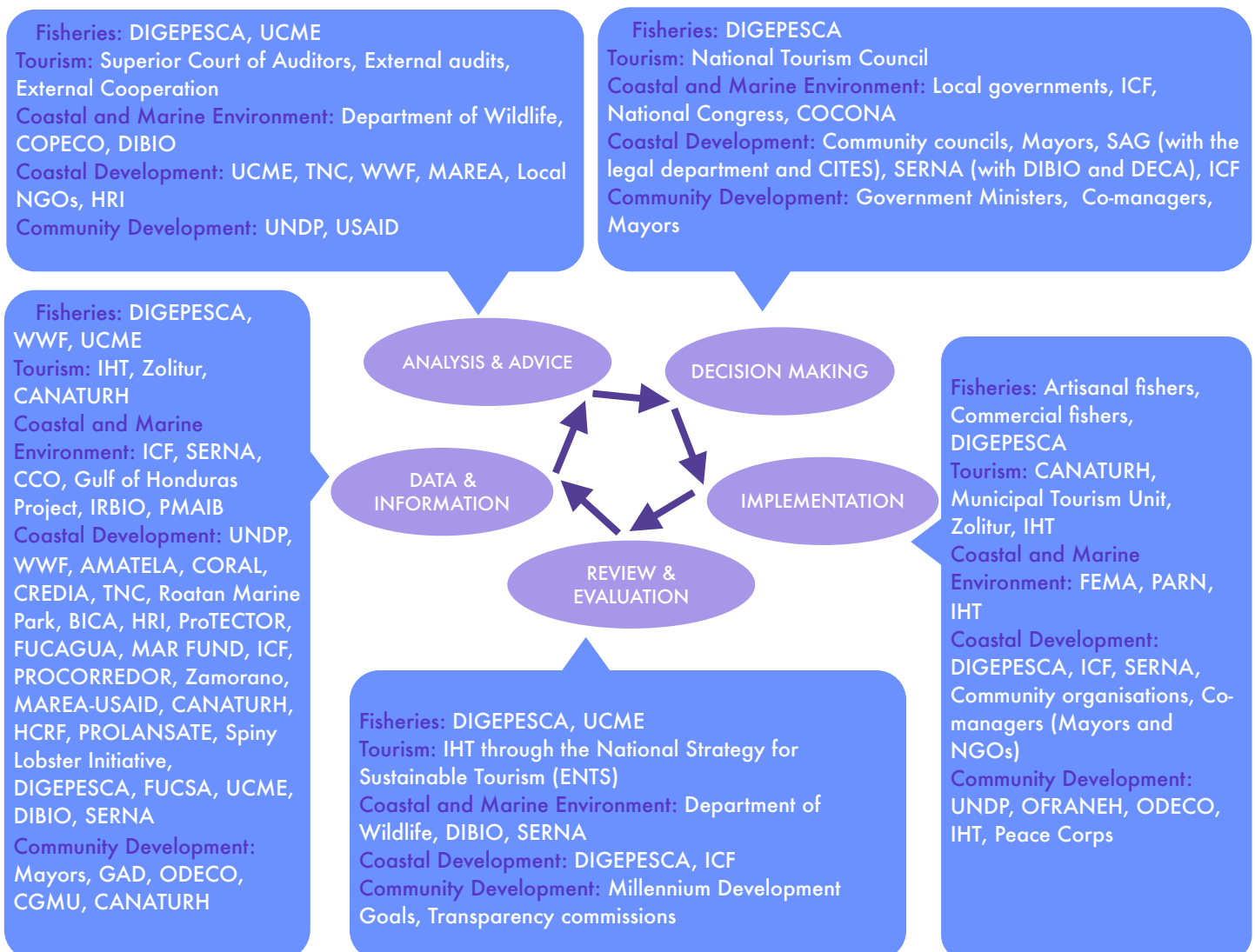
### Implementation

Primarily national and local agencies with a mandate to put decisions into action, e.g. capacity building, new legislation or direct enforcement.

### Review and Evaluation

Similar bodies to those that are responsible for analysis and advice and that often oversee the policy cycle.

Participants listed the organisations and groups involved in each stage of the policy cycle:





## The Future of... FORCE

The FORCE social science team will be conducting fieldwork in 3 additional countries in 2012

2012/2013

Presentations of project findings at the national level in each of our study countries

WWW.FORCE-PROJECT.EU

C/O CERMES  
UWI CAVE HILL CAMPUS

TEL: 246.417.4339  
FAX: 246.424.4202

CONTACT:  
DR. RACHEL TURNER  
EMAIL: RACHEL.TURNER@CAVEHILL.UWI.EDU  
TEL: 246.417.4830

### PARTICIPANTS

Adoni Cubas  
Management of Aquatic Resources and Economic Alternatives (MAREA-USAID)

Adrian Oviedo  
Honduran Coral Reef Fund (HCRF)

Alicia Medina  
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Calina Zepeda  
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Claudio Trabanino Young  
Depto. de Investigación y Transferencia de Tecnología- Digepeca

Daisy Johanna Samayoa  
Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal, Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (ICF)

David Jaen  
Dirección General de Biodiversidad de SERNA (DiBio)

Elmes Ramos  
Federación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales (Fenapesca)

Gustavo Cabrera  
Cuerpos de Conservación de Omoa (CCO)

Juan Antonio Meza  
Secretaría de Turismo - Instituto Hondureño de Turismo (SETUR-IHT)

Eloisa Espinoza  
Depto. de Investigación y Transferencia de Tecnología- Digepeca

Noe Chavarria  
Federación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales (Fenapesca)

Oscar Torres  
Dirección General de Biodiversidad de SERNA (DiBio)

Rafael Amaro  
Dirección General de Biodiversidad de SERNA (DiBio)

Silvia Flores  
Dirección Nacional de Cambio Climático de SERNA (DNCC)

### FORCE SOCIAL SCIENCE TEAM MEMBERS

#### FIELD TEAM

Dr. Rachel Turner  
Dr. Johanna Forster  
Mr. David Gill  
Ms. Angelie Peterson  
Mr. Rohan Ford  
Ms. Sara Brune  
Ms. Sara Bonilla

#### WITH ASSISTANCE FROM UCME

Dr. Steve Box  
Ms. Beatriz Osorio  
Ms. Dana Hincapie

#### SUPPORT TEAM

CERMES, UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
Professor Robin Mahon  
Professor Hazel Oxenford  
Dr. Peter Schuhmann  
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE, UK  
Professor Selina Stead  
Dr. Clare Fitzsimmons  
INTERNATIONAL MARINE MANAGEMENT, UK  
Mr. Philip Townsley  
Mr. Ben Cattermoul

