



**DEVELOPMENT OF CASE STUDIES ON REEF RESTORATION IN THE  
MESOAMERICAN REEF (MAR) REGION**

**WEBINAR MINUTES**

Prepared by: Ian Drysdale  
Date: August 2022



## Introduction

The Mesoamerican Reef Restoration Network (MAR-RRN), created in 2012 as an initiative of Oceanus A.C., is the meeting point for people, governmental, non-governmental, academic, private sector, cooperation and financing organizations, dedicated to restoration, conservation, and protection of coral reefs in the MAR Region. The MAR-RRN is led by an Executive Committee (EC), represented by an expert in restoration from each country within the MAR.

The MAR-RRN aims to be the main source of up-to-date information on restoration in the MAR, and a regional platform to coordinate and share resources to promote the scientific and technical capacity of organizations that conduct restoration, rehabilitation and repopulation of reefs in the region with a scientific basis.

The process to develop the Case Studies on Reef Restoration in the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) Region was supported by the "Integrated Ridge-to-Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef" Project (MAR2R)", through MAR Fund. This project is executed by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) in coordination with the environment ministries of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras with financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through World Wide Fund (WWF) as an agency implementer.

The webinar to present the Case Studies on Reef restoration in the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) Region was carried out on August 10th, 2022.

## Main Objective

The main objective for creating these case studies is to share the knowledge, experiences, best practices, and methodologies in reef restoration that exist in the MAR region with a broader audience, in the Caribbean and worldwide. These case studies will also serve as roadmaps for future projects, to allow them to be more effective and efficient, learning from others and sharing the learning curve.

## Agenda

The following is the agenda prepared for the meeting:

### Webinar Case Studies of Reef Restoration in the MAR

August 10th, 2022  
15:00-16:00 Central America



Start	End	Activity	Responsible
15:00	15:05	Welcome	MAR2R
15:05	15:10	Opening Words	MAR-RRN Chairperson
15:10	15:20	Description of Case Studies Process	Consultant
15:20	15:35	Results of 4 Case Studies	Consultant
15:35	15:50	Results of 10 other projects	Consultant
15:50	16:00	Questions and Comments	All
16:00	16:05	Closing Words	MAR Fund



## Webinar

### Beginning

The meeting started at 15:00, by admitting participants in the waiting room. First, the consultant gave some housekeeping remarks, such as available simultaneous interpretation and requesting participants sign up.

### Welcome Words: Ms. Andrea Godoy

The webinar was officially opened by Ms. Andrea Godoy, Chairperson of the Steering Committee and Honduras Representative. She introduced herself and welcomed everyone in the name of MAR-RRN. She stated that this consultancy has allowed getting to know restoration projects better, and not just the ones within her own country.

She stated that the main objective of this document is to be able to share knowledge, lessons learned and experiences between all project members, not only of the network, but with the rest of the Americas, the Caribbean and the rest of the world. Hoping that the results from this document will shorten the learning curve, and that these guidelines will strengthen other projects, both ongoing and in the future.

She thanked all participants for their time, as well as the MAR2R project, which has helped execute this consultancy. She thanked the consultant, but most importantly, she thanked all the people that took the time to answer the polls, interviews and questions that have populated this document.

### Development of the Webinar

Next, the consultant. Mr. Ian Drysdale, gave some housekeeping remarks, such as available simultaneous interpretation and requesting participants sign up.

He then proceeded to developed the webinar, in the following steps:

- Welcome words:
  - Thanking the donors (MAR2R/CCAD/WWF/GEF)
  - MAR FUND
- Presenting and thanking the MAR-RRN's Executive Committee members:
  - Andrea Godoy
  - Ana Beatriz Rivas
  - Kirah Forman-Castillo
  - Johanna Calle Triviño
  - Judith Morales
  
- Stating the 4 projects that were selected as the 4 case studies
  - Restauración Coralina en el Hábitat Arrecifal de Akumal (AKUMAL)
  - Programa de Restauración de Arrecifes del Golfo de México y el Caribe Mexicano (OCEANUS)
  - Laboratorio de Investigación Integral para la Conservación de Arrecifes (CORALIUM-UNAM)
  - Fragments of Hope (FOH)
- Describing the tools used to develop the case studies

- Rigorous selection process: first began by the EC.
- Poll A: 51 questions
- Guided interview: 20 questions
- Poll B: 27 questions
- General results obtained from Poll A, focusing on only certain aspects that who the overlap between these projects, such as:
  - All work with grants and donations
  - All work with *Acropora cervicornis* (ACER)
  - They all work with volunteers, and the background of these volunteers is that they are part of the local community where the project is being developed
  - All projects engage the local community and local government, involving local stakeholders such as dive masters, dive shops and tour guides.
  - They all have all the legal permits required to operate, and they all implement best practices.
- Results from each of the 4 case studies
  - Each project was summarized on two pages, where the information was portrayed:
    - General Information
    - Contact Information
    - Species and Methods
- Description of the guided interviews
  - Stated the names of the 4 people that run the four projects who were interviewed, and how much fun it was to be able to talk to these incredible people:
    - Anastazia Banaszak
    - Lisa Carne
    - Gabriela Nava
    - Baruch Figueroa Zavala
- Stating the 10 other projects that replied to Poll B
  - 22 projects were contacted, as stated in MAR-RRN's project database
    - 12 in Mexico
    - 2 in Belize
    - 1 in Guatemala
    - 7 in Honduras
  - 10 projects responded to the polls:
    - 3 in Mexico
    - 1 in Belize
    - 1 in Guatemala
    - 5 in Honduras
- General results obtained from Poll B
  - A short description of the results was stated, separating them by the country in which they operate
    - 7 projects work with *Acropora cervicornis* (ACER)
    - 8 work with *Acropora palmata* (APAL)
    - 6 projects use tree type nurseries
    - 5 projects use table type nurseries
    - 5 projects use epoxy to carry out their replanting
- How the 4 case studies measure success:

- Science
  - Can be measured, can be replicated and is exact
- Community engagement
  - The main reason is humans, and engaging them creates buy-in and sense of ownership
  - Source of (free) labor
- Investing in people
  - Train! Train! Train! Focusing on the local population
  - There is turn-around, but it is worth it
- Long term thinking
  - Corals grow slowly, so these projects need to be seen in terms of decades, as the positive impact is not immediate
- Securing funding
  - Tied to a larger project / university / government dept.
  - Thinking outside the box
  - Establish a close relationship with a donor or group of
- Holistic approach
  - Cannot be seen as separate from the ecosystem, as other issues will have a direct impact on the project. Projects must consider multiple factors simultaneously (don't be blindsided!)
- Increasing the pace
  - Climate change is real and happening faster and more and more areas need restoration
  - Scaling up efforts: lesser effort, larger returns

## Recommendations

- Looking to the future of restoration
  - Spreading the word
    - Share your story, your successes and your difficulties
    - Promote other projects = everybody wins!
    - Keep your friends close... keep the press closer
    - Is truly imperative!
  - Becoming a catalyst
    - There are other pressing issues
    - Projects can make these other issues stand out
    - Cute project = easier to talk about not-so-cute project
    - Is truly a multiplying effect
  - How to use the MAR-RRN
    - Encompasses all 4 MAR countries
    - Brings forth access to CCAD (ministers of environment)
    - Opens access to funding and donors
    - Is a hub of information that can be exchanged
  - How to be the MAR-RRN
    - Encompasses all 4 MAR countries
      - Homogenize standards
    - CCAD (ministers of environment)
      - Simplify permitting process
    - Opens access to funding and donors
      - Secure long-term funding
      - Make it a govt priority
    - Is a hub of information that can be exchanged
      - Keep the MAR-RRN alive

## Wrap up

The webinar was then closed with a Q&A session, in which some participants asked through Zoom's chat box, while other questions and comments were addressed verbally. We had the participation of Dr. Anastazia Banaszak and Ms. Judith Morales during the Q&A section.

Ms. Claudia Ruiz asked as to where the results of the 4 case studies could be found. The reply was to show the slides that point at the results per project, as well as to please read the final doc once it is available online.

Another comment made by Mr. Drysdale was to showcase that only one project is working with *Diploria labyrinthiformis* (DLAB, pillar coral).

Ms. Judith Morales made a request to one of the 4 showcased projects attending the meeting to please speak up and let us know what they consider needs to be done to make a project successful. The floor was opened and Dr. Banaszak commented via chat that it is important to use best practices, to use the scientific method and to engage the local community. Ania then opened her microphone and stated that science based restoration is getting more attention, as that is used to write the best practices manual. Follow what has worked, but that you need to adapt to your local conditions, be creative, flexible and patient. Be passionate about what you do.

The consultant then made comments based on Ania's participation, stating how unique her project is, as it works with microscopic larvae, not with fragments as other projects do. And that during the guided interview, Ania stated how great it made her feel once she had seen one of the larvae that her project had planted settle and grow enough to reach sexual maturity and reproduce.

The meeting was then closed by Mr. Carlos Rodriguez from MAR2R/CCAD/WWF/GEF project, who thanked all participants and stated how the network is there to support and promote restoration throughout the MAR. He stated that when one knows a project, one gets more involved. That these projects are very complex and need support. He stated that MAR2R will continue supporting, through finances and links to the government through CCAD. And that hopefully projects can begin that will focus on restoring mangroves and seagrass beds.

Ms. Daniela Larios then thanked all participants and the 4 case studies, as well as the other 10 projects. She also thanked MAR2R and the Committee at MAR-RRN and stated a series of new videos will soon be released related to the case studies.

The webinar closed at 16:00.

## Interpretation Services

Simultaneous interpretation services were provided by Oxford Center, through Gloria Perdú and Becky Myton.



## Participants

A total of 27 people signed into the attendance form, as can be seen in Annexes 1 & 2, which includes gender and country distribution, as well as a screenshot that shows a maximum total of 34 people connected to Zoom platform during the webinar.

## Photos

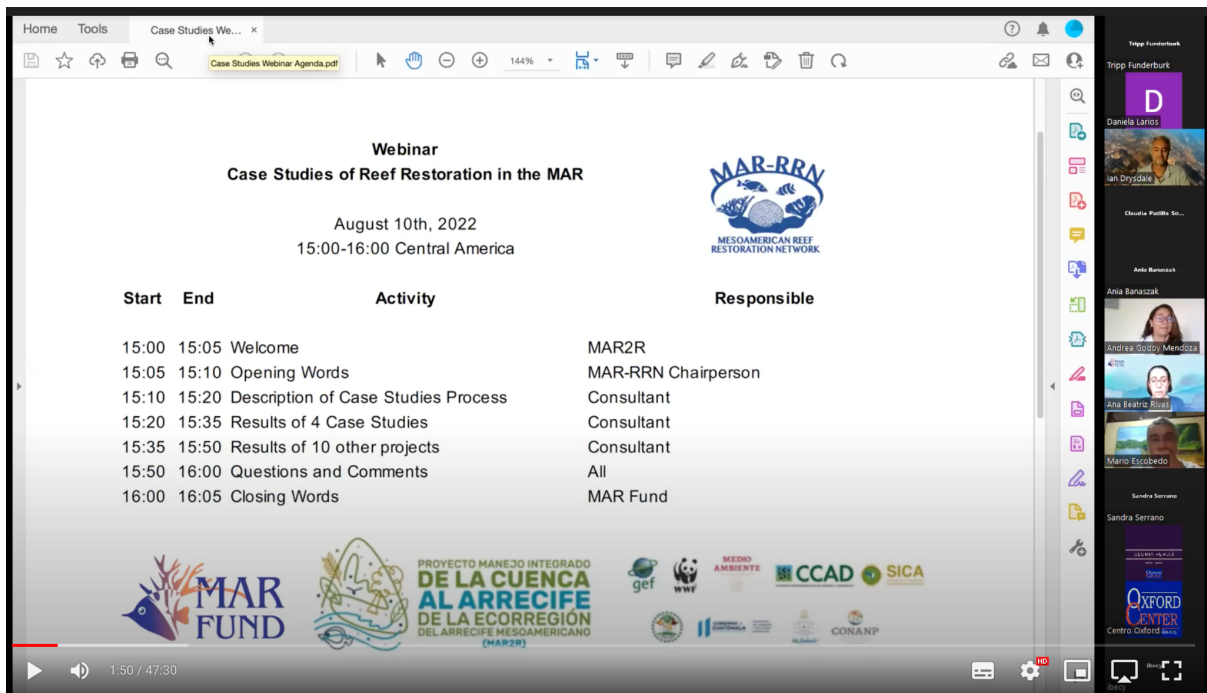


Photo 1.

Screenshot when Ms. Andrea Godoy was opening the webinar.

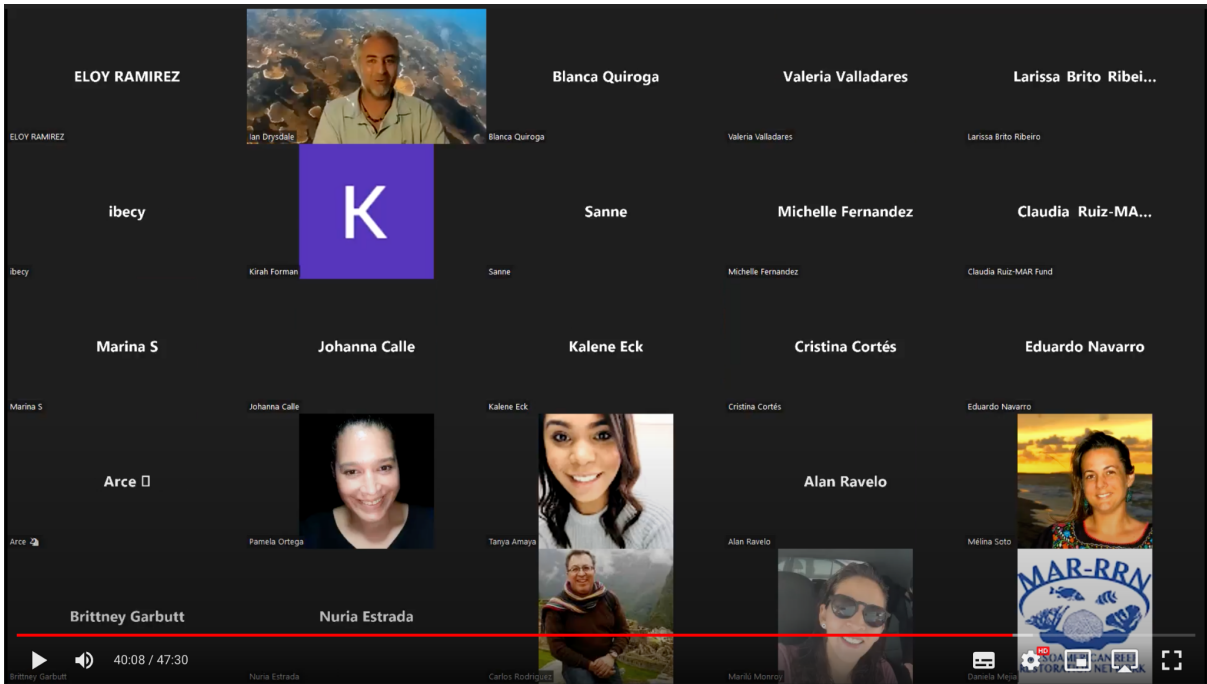


Photo 2.

Screenshot of some of the participants.

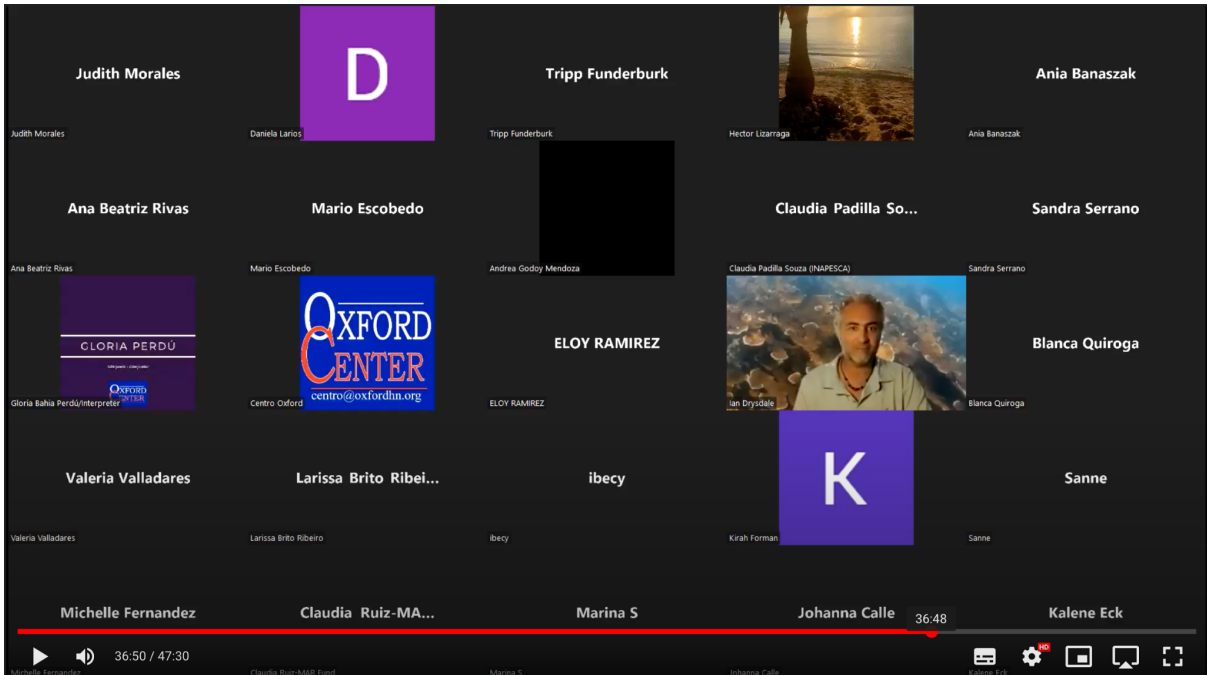


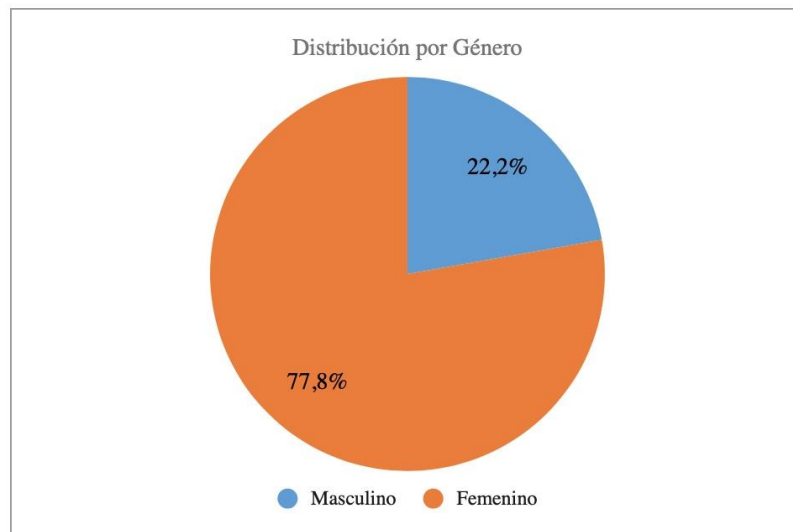
Photo 3.

Screenshot of some of the participants.

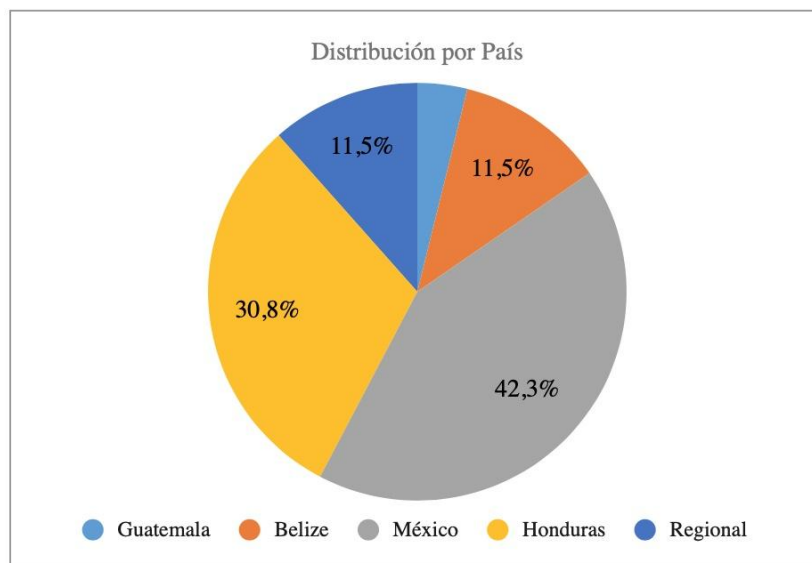
Annex 1

<b>No.</b>	<b>Nomb̄re / Name</b>
1	Judith Morales
2	Kirah Forman-Castillo
3	Claudia Padilla Souza
4	Johanna Calle Triviño
5	Kalene Eck
6	Daniela Larios
7	Ana Beatriz Rivas Chacón
8	Michelle Fernandez
9	Mario EScobedo
10	Sandra Serrano
11	Eloy Ramirez Mata
12	Claudia Ruiz
13	Valeria Valladares
14	Andrea Godoy Mendoza
15	Eduardo Navarro Espinoza
16	Brittney Garbutt
17	Tanya Amaya
18	Anastazia Banaszak
19	Pamela Ortega
20	Andrea Marina Sánchez López
21	Diego Alberto García Medrano
22	Tripp Funderburk
23	Blanca Alicia Quiroga García
24	Nuria Estrada Saldívar
25	Sanne Verhoef
26	Daniela Mejia
27	Ian Drysdale

Of these, 21 were female (77.8%) and 6 were male (22.2%), as can be seen in the graph below:



One person attended from Guatemala, 3 from Belize, 11 from Mexico, 8 from Honduras, and 3 from the MAR region.



A maximum total of 34 participants connected to the webinar, as can be seen in the following screenshot:

The screenshot displays a Zoom webinar interface. At the top, a status bar indicates "Recording" and "You are viewing Daniela Larios's screen". The main content area shows a presentation slide with the following text:

**MAR-RRN**  
MESOAMERICAN REEF RESTORATION NETWORK

**Case Studies of Reef Restoration  
in the MAR**

August 10th, 2022

On the right side, a vertical list of participants is visible, including:

- Andrea Godoy Mend...
- Larissa Brito...
- Larissa Brito Ribeiro
- Claudia Padill...
- Claudia Padilla Souza...
- Oxford Center (Centro Oxford)
- Gloria Bahia Perdu/In...

The bottom toolbar contains various controls: Unmute, Start Video, Participants (34), Chat, Share Screen, Record, Live Transcript, Reactions, Interpretation, Apps, and a red "Leave" button.

## Annex 2.



### Registro de Participantes de Capacitaciones

Nombre del Evento / Name of the Event:	WEBINAR DE ESTUDIOS DE CASO DE RESTAURACIÓN DE ARRECIFES EN EL SAM / MESOAMERICAN REEF RESTORATION CASE STUDIES WEBINAR		
Organización Responsable / Responsible Organization:	RRA-SAM	Componente / Component:	3
Modalidad / Mode:	Evento	Formato / Format:	virtual
Horas / Hours:	1	Fecha / Date:	10-ago-22

No.	Nombre / Name	Género / Gender	Organización / Organization	Cargo / Position	Correo / Email	País / Country
1	Judith Morales	Femenino	MAR Fund	Directora Técnica	<a href="mailto:jmorales@marfund.org">jmorales@marfund.org</a>	México
2	Kirah Forman-Castillo	Femenino	Hol Chan Marine Reserve	Técnica Manager	<a href="mailto:sciencedirector@holchanmarinereserve.org">sciencedirector@holchanmarinereserve.org</a>	Belize
3	Claudia Padilla Souza	Femenino	INAPESCA-Puerto Morelos	Investigador	<a href="mailto:klaus.padilla@gmail.com">klaus.padilla@gmail.com</a>	México
4	Johanna Calle Triviño	Femenino	Grupo Iberostar	Science Coordinator AME	<a href="mailto:johanna.calle@iberostar.com">johanna.calle@iberostar.com</a>	México
5	Kalene Eck	Femenino	Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute	Resilience Officer	<a href="mailto:resilienceofficer@coastalzonebelize.org">resilienceofficer@coastalzonebelize.org</a>	Belize
6	Daniela Larios	Femenino	MAR Fund	Asistente Técnico	<a href="mailto:dlarios@marfund.org">dlarios@marfund.org</a>	Honduras
7	Ana Beatriz Rivas Chacón	Femenino	Representante para Guatemala de la RRA-SAM		<a href="mailto:arivas@marfund.org">arivas@marfund.org</a>	Guatemala
8	Michelle Fernandez	Femenino	ZOLITUR	Gestión Ambiental Marina	<a href="mailto:michellef@zolitur.gob.hn">michellef@zolitur.gob.hn</a>	Honduras
9	Mario Escobedo	Masculino	CCAD/MAR2R	Director de Proyecto	<a href="mailto:mescobedo@sica.int">mescobedo@sica.int</a>	Regional
10	Sandra Serrano	Femenino	CCAD/MAR2R	Comunicaciones	<a href="mailto:sandraserrano2010@gmail.com">sandraserrano2010@gmail.com</a>	Regional
11	Eloy Ramirez Mata	Masculino	INAPESCA	/INVESTIGADOR SISTEMAS DE	<a href="mailto:biol.elayrm@gmail.com">biol.elayrm@gmail.com</a>	México

12	Claudia Ruiz	Femenino	MAR Fund	Coordinadora RRI	<a href="mailto:cruiz@marfund.org">cruiz@marfund.org</a>	Regional
13	Valeria Valladares	Femenino	BICA UTILA	Coordinadora Investigación y Monitoreo	<a href="mailto:valeria.valladares@bicatcn.org">valeria.valladares@bicatcn.org</a>	Honduras
14	Andrea Godoy Mendoza	Femenino	Fundación Cayos Cochinos / Reef Restoration Network	Investigación and Social Development	<a href="mailto:andrea@cayoscochinos.hn">andrea@cayoscochinos.hn</a>	Honduras
15	Eduardo Navarro Espinoza	Masculino	INAPESCA	Técnico especializado	<a href="mailto:eduardone70@gmail.com">eduardone70@gmail.com</a>	México
16	Brittney Garbutt	Femenino	Hol Chan Marine Reserve	Biologist	<a href="mailto:brittneylindamoniquegarbutt@gmail.com">brittneylindamoniquegarbutt@gmail.com</a>	Belize
17	Tanya Amaya	Femenino	CORAL	Directora Regional	<a href="mailto:tamaya@coral.org">tamaya@coral.org</a>	Honduras
18	Anastazia Banaszak	Femenino	UNAM	Investigadora	<a href="mailto:banaszak@cmarl.unam.mx">banaszak@cmarl.unam.mx</a>	México
19	Pamela Ortega	Femenino	Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)	Program Manager	<a href="mailto:portega@coral.org">portega@coral.org</a>	Honduras
20	Andrea Marina Sánchez López	Femenino	INAPESCA	Técnico	<a href="mailto:andmarina15@gmail.com">andmarina15@gmail.com</a>	México
21	Diego Alberto García Medrano	Masculino	INAPESCA	Técnico	<a href="mailto:diegogarciamedrano@gmail.com">diegogarciamedrano@gmail.com</a>	México
22	Tripp Funderburk	Masculino	Reef Renewal Foundation Curacao	Manager	<a href="mailto:trippfunderburk@gmail.com">trippfunderburk@gmail.com</a>	Otro
23	Blanca Alicia Quiroga García	Femenino	CONANP-Cozumel	Directora	<a href="mailto:blanca.quiroga@conanp.gob.mx">blanca.quiroga@conanp.gob.mx</a>	México
24	Nuria Estrada Saldivar	Femenino	INAPESCA	Técnico	<a href="mailto:nuria.estradasaldivar@hotmail.com">nuria.estradasaldivar@hotmail.com</a>	México
25	Sanne Verhoef	Femenino	UNAM	Voluntaria		México
26	Daniela Mejia	Femenino	MAR RRN	Coordinator		Honduras
27	Ian Drysdale	Masculino	Independent	Consultant		Honduras

Total de Personas Capacitadas	17
Total de Personas Registradas	27
Total Máximo de Personas	34

	Masculino	Femenino	Otro
Total Por Género	6	21	0

	Guatemala	Belize	México	Honduras	Regional
Total Por País	1	3	11	8	3