Inspiring Creative Leadership for the Conservation of the Mesoamerican Reef

Mesoamerican Reef Leadership Program
Empowering the next generation of Mesoamerican Reef Conservation Leaders

2.2 Million inhabitants

500 Fish species

65 Coral species

71 Fellows

50 Projects incubated

65% Projects implemented
WHAT do we do?

We work for the long-term **conservation** of the Mesoamerican Reef by **empowering** the next generation of local conservation leaders.

We provide our Fellows with the necessary **technical tools, leadership skills, and networking** opportunities to design and implement **high impact projects**.

We identify **regional** conservation priorities and rally Fellows around a **shared set of solutions** for greater impacts.

To this end, our Fellows come together in **annual cohorts** that identify an **overarching theme**:

- **2010**: Coastal Development & Tourism
- **2011**: Sustainable Fisheries & MPAs
- **2012**: Marine Reserves Network
- **2014**: Solid Waste Management
- **2015**: Mangrove Conservation & Valuation
- **2016**: Promoting Blue Economy

Our Fellows are **bold and passionate, true agents of change** who work on **innovative solutions** to conservation challenges at scales **never before attempted**.

They come from a great **array of backgrounds** and sectors in order to **break down communication gaps** and promote institutional **cooperation**.
Our 6-STEP Process

1. Define the Cohort Theme
   Our team identifies regional challenges and environmental threats that need innovative solutions.

2. Select 12 Fellows
   Motivated young leaders from different backgrounds with great project ideas are recruited.

3. Train and Mentor
   Renowned international experts are invited to provide technical trainings.

4. Strengthen Leadership Skills
   Fellows are trained in strategic communication, personal development, conflict resolution and advocacy.

5. Incubate Projects
   Design projects and mobilize resources.

6. Build a Leadership Network
   Support regional conservation leaders’ ongoing impactful projects.

MAR LEADERSHIP
Mesoamerican Reef Leadership Program
Joel Verde
2012 Fellow
SACD
Belize

MAR-L has helped with my conflict resolution and negotiation skills. My project deals with balancing diverging interests in fishing and conservation. Collaboration is essential to securing the health of the ecosystems well as the livelihoods of traditional fishers of Northern Belize.

I will need these skills during my entire professional life, beyond my tenure in the program.

Cindy Flores
2014 Fellow
ICF
Honduras

Solid waste can become a serious problem on an island such as Roatan. My project seeks to solve this issue at its roots through education with the implementation of Green Classrooms and recycling collection center in Roatan.

Being a MAR Fellow has given me the tools to believe in myself and connect with important partners. I am now promoting my project to greater scales in order to replicate it to the Bay Islands.

Gabriela Nava
2011 Fellow
Oceanus A.C.
Mexico

My project is restoring vital Elkhorn coral reefs in order to recover overfished stocks in critical marine protected areas. Being part of MAR-L Network has enabled me to place my work in a regional context like never before, expanding into neighboring countries.

Healthy reefs and replenishment zones promote spillover effects benefitting both conservation and fishing communities.

José D. Caal
2015 Fellow
Fundaeco
Guatemala

I come from the Río Sarstún area, on the Belize-Guatemala border, where my project promotes community participation for mangrove conservation.

Through MAR-L program I have been able to make critical connections and synergies with other Fellows that helped my project. With support from the program, I have grown professionally and gained responsibilities.
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To find out more about our Fellows and their projects:

www.marleadership.org

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