



Michael Webster



Healthy Reefs
for healthy people

Healthy Reefs for Healthy People 2024 Annual Report

Major Achievements

**By Melanie McField, Marisol Rueda, Mélina Soto,
Raphael Martínez, Ana Giró, Claudia Guerrero,
& Israel Muñiz**



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1. Message from the Director

2024 marks our first year of operations as an independent NGO, and this our first Annual Report, reflecting our year of resilience, collaboration, and action. As we continue to face climate-related challenges and advocate for the protection of coral reefs in the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR), this report showcases the extraordinary efforts made by our team, partners, and supporters. Together, we have made great strides towards conserving and restoring the health of the reef and surrounding ecosystems.





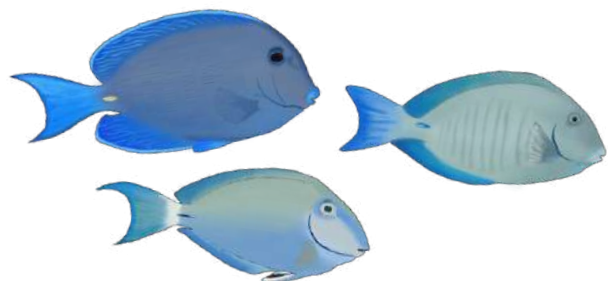
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2. Our Vision in Action: A Healthier Reef for Healthier People

Who we are

Healthy Reefs for Healthy People (HRHP) leads the Healthy Reefs Initiative (HRI), a collaboration of over 70 organizations dedicated to protecting the Mesoamerican Reef. Through innovative tools like the Reef Health Report Cards and Eco-Audit, HRHP advances science-based marine resource management and catalyzes action across the region. Our latest efforts include restoration and mariculture interventions to promote herbivory and support sustainable seafood. Now operating as an independent entity after nearly two decades with the Smithsonian and MAR Fund, HRHP continues with the mission to drive and strengthen regional reef conservation through strong partnerships and science-based collaboration, applied research, and financial innovation.

*Our **vision** is for a thriving and healthy marine ecosystem, where well-informed and influential reef shareholders are actively engaged in safeguarding this valuable natural asset.*



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Strength in Numbers: 2024 Highlights

Healthy Reefs for Healthy People (HRHP) envisions a future where the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) thrives, sustaining both biodiversity and the communities that rely on it. In 2024, we saw significant progress across the region, thanks to the dedication of our partners and allies. Below is a snapshot of our key accomplishments and metrics for 2024:

Monitored 63 reefs for coral bleaching.

Reef Monitoring



BleachWatch Training

Certified 33 local biologists in coral bleaching monitoring.

Engaged over 70 regional partners in conservation.

Partner Engagement



Conference Presentations

Gave 15 presentations at 4 different conferences.

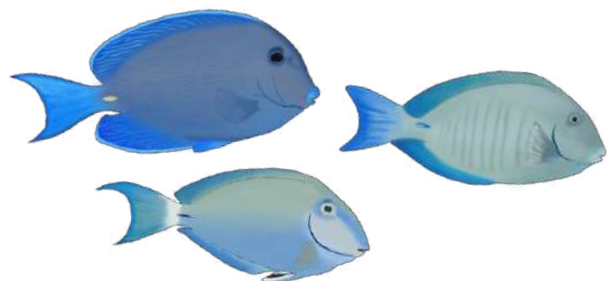
Co-taught a workshop about coral bleaching.

Coral Bleaching Workshop



Report Card Presentations

Gave over 60 presentations to partners, community, tourism associations, and the public.



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We collaborated on four peer-reviewed scientific papers published in 2024.

Coral Reef Research Highlights



Bleaching Risk¹ Analysis

Fuses depth, coral diversity, SST, and heat-stress history to pinpoint bleaching risk.



Defining² Collapse Thresholds

Shaping global UN climate discussions and spurring global action to avert irreversible reef loss.



Land-Sea³ Planning Benefits

Delivers both ecological gains and social benefits, offering a blueprint for integrated resilience.



Reef Fish⁴ Communities

Life-stage fish data can revolutionize MPA design, protect connectivity, and target local stressors.

1. Muñoz-Castillo, A.I., Rivera-Sosa, A., McField, M., et al. (2024). [Underlying drivers of coral reef vulnerability to bleaching in the Mesoamerican Reef](#) (Communications Biology)

- Led by the HRHP team, this analysis creates advanced insights in an early-warning system that pinpoints bleaching risk in near real-time by fusing depth, coral diversity, SST, and heat-stress history.

2. Pearce-Kelly, P., Altieri, A.H., Bruno, J.F., et al. (2025). [Considerations for determining warm-water coral reef tipping points](#) (Earth System Dynamics)

- By defining collapse thresholds, this work is shaping global UN climate discussions and spurring global action to avert irreversible reef loss.

3. Delevaux, J.M., Silver, J.M., Winder, S.G., et al. (2024). [Social-ecological benefits of land-sea planning at multiple scales in Mesoamerica](#) (Nature Sustainability)

- We demonstrate how scale-smart, cross-border land-sea planning delivers both ecological gains and social benefits, offering a blueprint for integrated resilience.

4. Canty, S.W.J., Nowakowski, A.J., Cox, C.E., et al. (2024). [Interplay of management and environmental drivers shifts size structure of reef fish communities](#) (Global Change Biology)

- Our analysis reveals that life-stage fish data can revolutionize MPA design, protect connectivity, and target local stressors using open-access reef datasets.

3. The Power of Partnerships: Regional Strategy & Collaboration



In 2024, HRHP continued to strengthen its regional partnerships and strategic interventions. Our active involvement in technical committees and policy development has advanced collaborative solutions for local challenges in the Mesoamerican Reef.

Key Country Highlights:

Honduras: HRHP is actively engaged in five technical and strategic oversight committees across the Honduran Caribbean, except for La Moskitia. Additionally, we are integral members of the technical advisory team to the Board of Directors of the Oceans, which comprises government entities responsible for managing the country's coastal marine resources. In addition to these committees, HRHP belongs to the national biological monitoring committee, the ecological technical team of the civil alliance for the review of exploration and exploitation concessions of hydrocarbons in the Honduran Moskitia and as part of the organizations that have firmly spoken out against the construction of the maximum-security prison in the Swan Island proposed by the government of Honduras. Both these projects threatened the entire MAR, but the prison plan was dismissed in September. We helped provide the scientific basis for the national decree banning grouper temporarily and herbivorous fish permanently, coming into effect in 2025.

Guatemala: HRHP has been consistently engaged in meetings with government entities and partner organizations regarding sustainable fisheries, coral health, and mangroves. Our engagement in the incorporation of reefs and mangroves as essential ecosystems to be safeguarded within the development of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the country has been notably significant. Currently, we are actively contributing to the development of a roadmap for the implementation of the NDCs. This marks a crucial shift in Guatemala's environmental strategy, with NDCs now prioritizing the preservation of reefs and mangroves, a first for the country. We have also presented to the National Congress of the Republic of Guatemala to strengthen the legal status of Cayman Crown reef as a MPA.



Mexico: HRHP participated in the Mexican Fund for Conservation of Nature's famous week of experience exchange, where high-level conservation organizations gather to share their work, challenges, and plans for Mexico's future. HRHP also participated in Quintana Roo's Natural Protected Areas authority's strategic planning workshop, about monitoring and restoration after hurricanes and bleaching. Several important meetings have taken place in Quintana Roo, such as the Ocean Forum, the regional meeting of Agua Nuestro Derecho, Wetland Symposium, where HRHP was participating and helping in the organization to keep pushing for better water quality standards and implementation of the law that we participated in updating. Quintana Roo has, for 5 years, been piloting parametric insurance to rescue reefs after hurricanes impact through the training and activation of local communities' brigades. HRHP partners have supported the initiative, standing in the State's scientific evaluation committee, sharing data on reef health, focusing on monitoring and analyzing post-storm actions results.

Belize: HRHP has been actively engaged in Belize's Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) process, part of the ambitious Resilient Bold Belize initiative, aiming to unlock over BZ\$360 million in long-term financing for conservation. Within this effort, HRHP contributes meaningfully through the Livelihood and Wellbeing and Protected Areas Management subgroups, helping shape science-based recommendations and outputs. A central goal of the initiative, reaffirmed by the Prime Minister's commitment, is to increase fully protected coral reef areas from 7% to 20% by the end of 2025, while expanding overall marine protection to achieve the 30 by 30 targets. HRHP's ongoing technical input ensures that proposed conservation measures are grounded in data and reflect community priorities. We wrapped up the FFEM funded MAR Fish project coordinated by MAR Fund and including the continued research efforts at Cayman Crown, along with TIDE. In addition, HRHP is an active member of the Coral Reef Monitoring Network, a coalition of organizations coordinating monitoring and research. Even the Prime Minister received a copy of our 2024 Report Card (picture below).





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4. Turning Data into Action: The 2024 Report Card

With data collected in 2023 from 286 sites across the MAR, HRHP successfully launched the Mesoamerican Reef Health Report Card in October 2024, a critical tool that assesses the status of coral reefs and highlights the key conservation efforts across the region. This year's Report Card was developed in collaboration with international experts and local shareholders, with key findings including insights on coral health, restoration progress, and macroalgae challenges.

HRI's Regional Partners Meeting:

The 8th HRI Regional Partners Meeting was held at La Ceiba, Honduras from the 10th to the 14th of March 2024. We had 50 participants from 6 countries: 7 International, 14 from Honduras, 13 from Mexico, 4 from Guatemala, and 12 from Belize.

The meeting's objective was to serve as the primary venue for assessing, reviewing and approving data for the 2024 Report Card, sharing conservation issues and strategies from across the region that were included in the Report Card, and developing the timeline and production process.

We had several sessions with presentations from our partners and international collaborators, such as Patricia Kramer from AGRRA, Deng Palomares from the University of British Columbia, Jade Delevaux from Stanford University, Craig Dahlgren from the Perry Institute of Marine Science, and Morven Rae-Seaman from University of Leeds.

The Report Card's design and writing was accomplished from April to September 2024, led by HRHP staff with contributions by key partners. It included the development of in depth reef health highlights, country pages, stories of hope and the issues and solutions pages, such as water quality, restoration, MPAs, fisheries, coral bleaching and disease. Printing and shipping of the Report Cards was completed just in time for the launch events.



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Report Card launches:

The 2024 Mesoamerican Reef Health Report Card was successfully launched at the end of October in all four MAR countries and at the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia. All launches were a success with over 40 attendees, including members of the press, partners, and other stakeholders, and generating new coverage in more than 50 media outlets (25 Mexico, 5 Belize, 7 Guatemala, 14 Honduras and 5 International).

Our social media posts during launch events reached over 6,400 views in our main outlets, Facebook and Instagram.



The 2024 Report Card offers a comprehensive overview of the Mesoamerican Reef's health, expanding beyond the Reef Health Index, associated indicators and changes over time for each of the countries and the overall MAR. It includes detailed analyses of water quality, reef restoration efforts, data on MPAs, fish biomass in fully, highly and general use zones, coral demographics, including the impacts of bleaching, diseases, and restoration efforts. Additionally, it highlighted inspiring stories of hope from across the MAR region, showcasing efforts in coral restoration techniques, mangrove restoration and conservation efforts, among others. You can download it here: www.healthyreefs.org.



5. Facing the Crisis: Coral Bleaching & BleachWatch



2023/2024 marked an unprecedented coral bleaching event, which HRHP responded to through BleachWatch training and prioritizing monitoring of affected sites. In total, we trained 128 people across 4 countries, enabling a collaborative effort to track coral resilience and mortality in real-time.

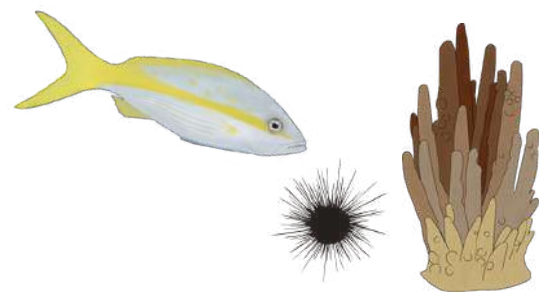
Key Actions Taken:

- 25 in-person and 103 virtual attendees in BleachWatch training sessions. **Certified surveyors** – Mexico: 11, Honduras: 13, Guatemala: 4, Belize: 5.

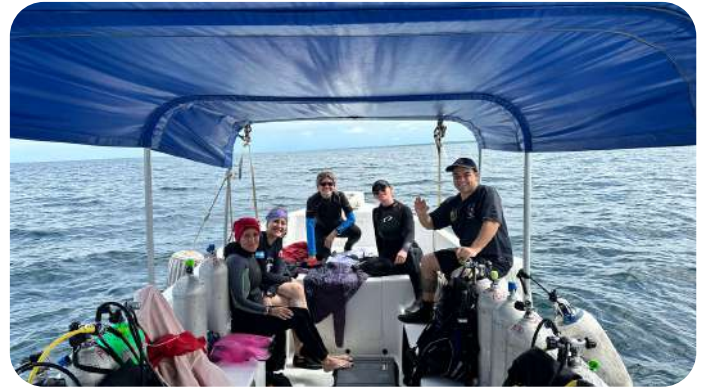
We conducted training workshops on the BleachWatch methodology and photo quadrats, offering both in-person and virtual options with English-Spanish interpretation at UNAM's Reef Systems Academic Unit in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, from October 14–17, 2024. Virtual attendees participated via Zoom, engaging in real-time presentations and discussions. A recording of the whole event can be seen [here](#).

A total of 25 people from Mexico (14 women and 11 men) attended in-person, and 103 via virtual, using the Zoom platform (registrations [here](#)). The field sessions were organized in each country. Following training, partner teams were supported to monitor reefs included (but not limited to) in the prioritization exercise.





- Collaborative BleachWatch monitoring of 63 sites (35 in Mexico, 9 in Guatemala, 10 in Belize, and 9 in Honduras).



We were invited by the Reef Rescue Initiative / MAR Fund financed by the German cooperation through KfW, to submit a funding proposal for Collaborative Coral Bleaching Monitoring to assess the impacts of the 2023/2024 MAR bleaching event and support BleachWatch monitoring. We prioritized 100 sites across the MAR using a database of historical and current heat stress and coral resilience indicators. Metrics such as Degree Heating Weeks (DHW), Rate of Temperature Change (ROTC), and Bleaching Severity Index (BSI) for 2023 informed our selection. The finalized 2024 site list ensures spatial representation and includes cluster assignments for targeted monitoring, as explained in our site prioritization worksheet (Link [here](#)).



When the Mesoamerican Reef faced its greatest test, we came together across borders to watch over its corals, share knowledge, and stand as guardians of its future.





Sara Gutiérrez



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6. Innovating for the Future: Reef Restoration of Herbivory

Innovation is a critical aspect of HRHP's approach to coral reef conservation. In 2024, we made significant strides in the development of our nature-based solution, the Caribbean King Crab aquaculture project aimed at restoring herbivory on coral reefs. The first tests of the vertical tank system for crab reproduction were conducted, and an expert in the field was brought in to facilitate the learning of the technicians involved in the project. Modifications to the original design were made, and funds have been received for the installation of solar panels exclusively for the laboratory.

Main Achievements:

Through MAR+Invest, we are supporting the development of a Caribbean King Crab (CKC) aquaculture project in collaboration with Mexican Fisheries Institute IMIPAS, which continues to advance its ongoing research and development to improve larval survival, increase growth rates of juveniles and improve feeding processes. Vertical farming and special feed trials have been designed for the project and keep being fine-tuned and achieving increased survival rates from 0.5% in 2023 to 8.06% in 2024, representing a 16-fold improvement, while we are also studying new locations for “satellite” sites to replicate the king crab cultivation and restoration of reef herbivory.

Additionally, the king crab mariculture business model consultancy is currently underway, analyzing the different paths, challenges and opportunities the project could undertake to generate profits and scale up impact. To expand the impact of this initiative, we are working with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund on a proposal to pilot production in six other Caribbean countries.

7. Enabling Conservation Finance: MAR+Invest and Belize PFP



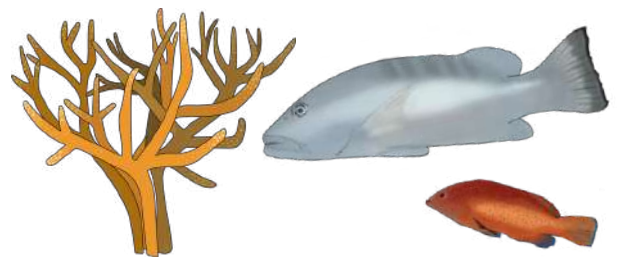
HRHP's involvement in MAR+Invest and the Belize Project for Permanence (PFP) continues to help shape the future of marine conservation finance. Through these initiatives, we support sustainable business models and help secure long-term funding for marine protected areas and coral reef restoration efforts.

Key Actions:

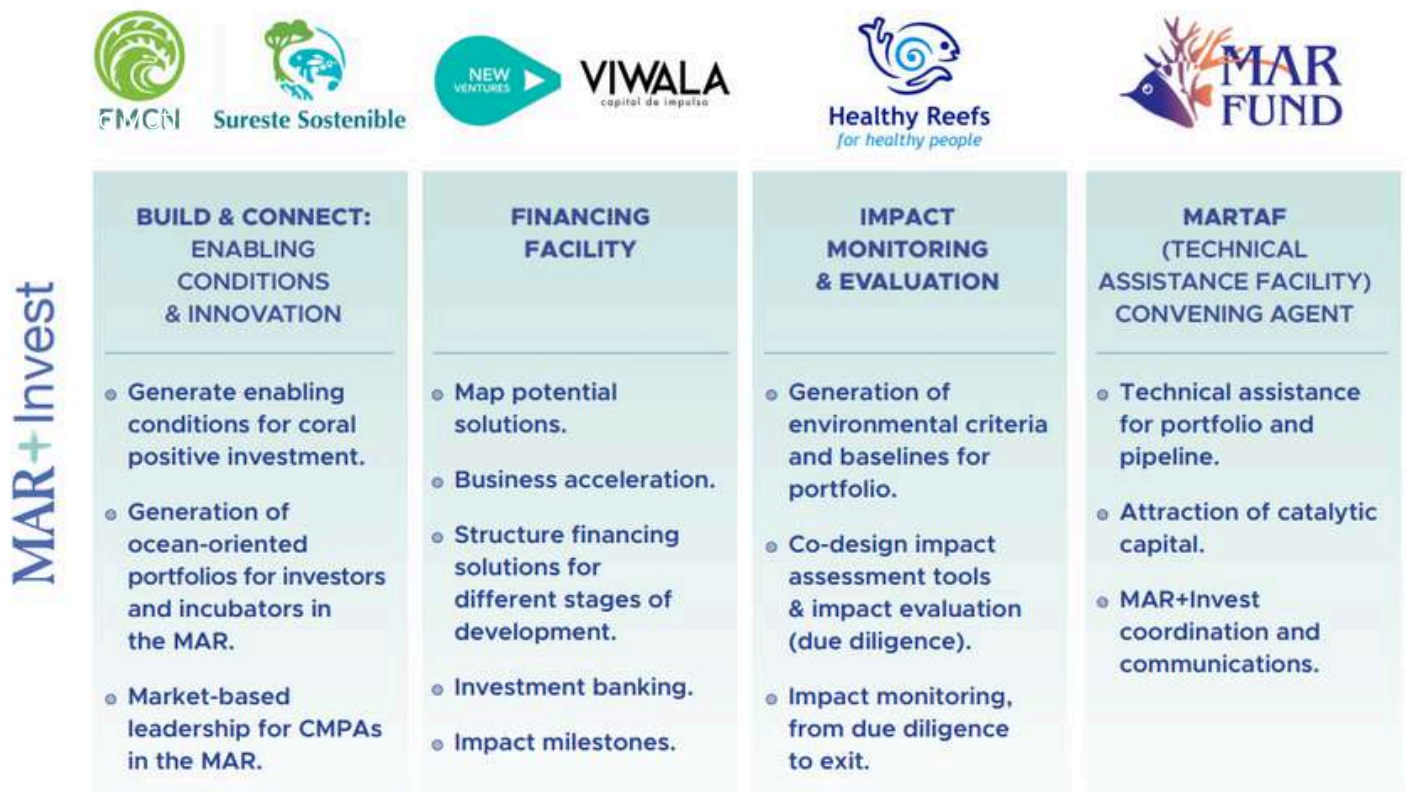
- Evaluation and mentoring of five MAR+Invest projects.
- Continued support for Belize's goal of expanding marine protection to 30% by 2030, and fully protected coral reefs to 20% by 2026.

As part of our involvement in the MAR+Invest project we actively participated in the selection and mentoring of projects within the Acceleration Program. The team conducted detailed diagnostic sessions to identify the environmental and social strengths and needs of each enterprise. In addition to the Acceleration Program, HRHP team brings scientific support to the New Ventures and Viwala Transactional Services (TS) team whenever they require it to review and assess the potential for reef health benefits of projects they are adding to the MAR+Invest TS pipeline. Five companies were evaluated between July and November 2024.





The MAR+Invest project has four pillars, each carried out by one of the partners: Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature & Sureste Sostenible, New Ventures & Viwala, Healthy Reefs for Healthy People and Mesoamerican Reef Fund.



What is the solution offered by Invest? MAR+Invest is a blended finance mechanism with strong monitoring and evaluation of impacts, business acceleration and a capacity building program to enable conditions for a sustainable ocean-based economy in the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR). It will invest in market-based initiatives that make a positive contribution to the health and resilience of the coral reef ecosystems and communities of the MAR. This will require raising additional philanthropic capital. The ultimate goal is to unlock private capital for investment in reef conservation in this ecoregion.



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8. Driving Global Impact: International Networks & Conferences.

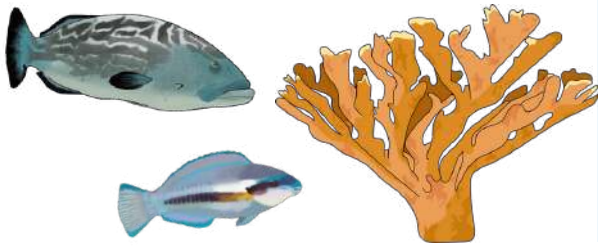
Networks:

MAR Fund/ Reef Rescue Initiative: HRHP supported the Reef Rescue Initiative to evaluate how well emergency response actions improve coral reef recovery after hurricanes in the Mesoamerican Reef. Findings from the study revealed gaps in response and communication, emphasizing the need for adaptive management to strengthen reef resilience. Read the full report here: [Study on the Impacts of Emergency Reef Response Programs for Hurricane Impacts in the MAR.](#)

MAR Fish- FFEM project: Since discovering the Cayman Crown reef in 2013, HRHP compiled extensive ecological data from 144 sites, including temperature, bleaching, fish acoustics, and mapping through dives and drop-down cameras. The project concluded in December 2024. Read the final report here: [Generating solid science to support the protection of Cayman Crown and Fish Spawning Aggregation sites in the MAR.](#)

Alianza Kanan Kay: HRHP currently serves as interim coordinator of Fish Replenishment Zones within the Alianza Kanan Kay, participating actively in membership renewals and governance processes. Key outcomes were presented at the alliance meeting held in Celestún in May 2024.

Watershed Committees, Agua Nuestro Derecho (Water Our Right): HRHP participates in several watershed committees across the Yucatán Peninsula and co-founded Agua Nuestro Derecho to promote clean water policies. These platforms help advocate for improved water quality standards and wastewater treatment to protect reefs and coastal communities.



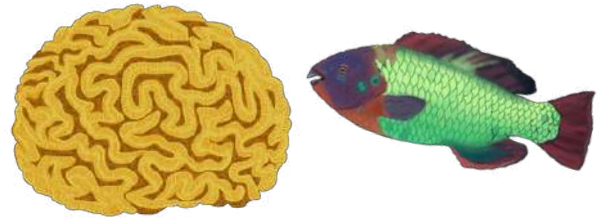
Water Quality: In 2023, a tri-national effort led by Coral Reef Alliance, monitored water quality across 90 sites in Mexico, Honduras, and Belize, with HRHP supporting logistics, permits, and sampling. Key findings were shared at a funders forum in March 2024, calling for urgent action against untreated wastewater and nutrient pollution from agriculture.

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, Advancing the 2025 Caribbean Report: HRHP is contributing data and expertise to the upcoming 2025 GCRMN-Caribbean Status and Trends Report, aligning regional monitoring techniques and indicators. A regional workshop in Puerto Morelos in October 2024 marked a major step in improving reef data integration under increasing climate threats.

Belize Coral Reef Monitoring Network: HRHP has supported Belize's Marine Spatial Plan by reviewing proposals and providing technical input on coral reef data layers. Their involvement helps advance the country's marine conservation goals under the Blue Bond Agreement and the global 30x30 pledge.



Shawn Jackson



International Conferences:

UN Ocean Decade Conference (Barcelona, April 2024)

Ana Giró represented HRHP at the UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, showcasing how long-term reef monitoring in the MAR contributes to global ocean sustainability goals. Her presentation emphasized the role of science-based data in driving conservation and restoration aligned with the Decade's mission.



XII Mexican & III Pan-American Coral Reef Congress

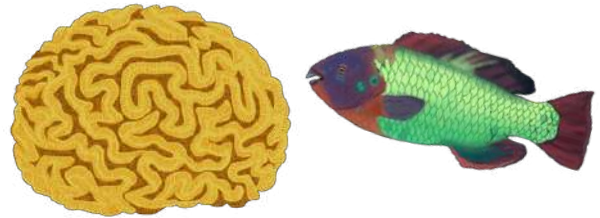
Israel Muñiz actively contributed to the Coral Reef Congresses through seven presentations and posters, as well as leading a capacity-building workshop in collaboration with CORAL, CONABIO, MERMAID, and WCS. Around 25 participants benefited from this knowledge-sharing and training initiative.



ROCRAM & PSSA Initiative

At the XXX ROCRAM meeting in Roatán, HRI showcased MAR-wide conservation and research efforts, supporting Honduras' push to designate the MAR as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). In a major policy step, Honduras approved a ministerial agreement in December 2024 to protect parrotfish, surgeonfish, and groupers, expected to be published in early 2025.





The Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

At COP16, Melanie McField joined the event *The Road from Cali to Belém: The Last Stand for Coral Reefs*, highlighting Healthy Reefs' Report Cards, partnerships, and the unique absence of SCTLD in reefs of southern Belize and Guatemala. The session, led by UN Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson (picture below), underscored that 2025 COP is the last opportunity to secure a stronger climate accord capable of saving coral reefs.



Reef Futures Conference (Quintana Roo, Mexico)

The 2024 Reef Futures Conference gathered over 800 global reef experts to exchange strategies for coral reef conservation and restoration. HRHP team members Mélina Soto, Ana Giró, and Israel Muñiz presented key work from the MAR, underscoring science-driven, collaborative solutions for reef health and resilience.

- Mélina introduced innovative solutions to reduce macroalgae impacts on coral reefs, focusing on water quality improvement, herbivore restoration (including King Crab mariculture), and mobilizing private funding.
- Israel addressed unprecedented heat stress and bleaching in the MAR, calling attention to species at risk and the need for urgent climate adaptation and restoration efforts.
- Ana highlighted 20 years of regional monitoring and capacity building, demonstrating how collaborative efforts have strengthened reef management; she also shared the 2024 Report Card with attendees.

9. Connecting People with Reefs: Communication & Outreach



In 2024, HRHP amplified its communications efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of coral reefs. Our website redesign and strategic use of social media allowed us to engage with a broader audience, with over 3,500 visits to our site following the Report Card launch, with more than 1,000 [Report Card downloads](#).

HRHP uses several social media platforms to convey the importance of sustainable fisheries, important herbivorous species, marine and related ecosystems, megafauna, plastics, coral reefs, ghost nets, and many other environmental issues and solutions. We have increased our followers and engagement organically through the years, being at 9,500 for Facebook, 4,000 for Instagram, 1,600 for X, 270 for YouTube, and our most recent account on LinkedIn with 600.

Echoes from the Reef, amplifying Reef's voice:

- Screenings across the 4 MAR countries of ***Treasure of the Caribbean***, the award-winning PBS Nature documentary on Ana Giró's discovery of the Cayman Crown reef (Belize–Guatemala), produced by Ana Salceda (Beluga Smile Productions/Big Fish Initiative).
- Mario Cuesta's ***Shield*** is a powerful documentary merging history and science to raise awareness on protecting Caribbean marine and coastal ecosystems, screened in Mexico and international film venues.
- We continue to support the Big Fish Initiative with shared campaigns about fisheries and fish spawning aggregations.
- Our [campaign](#) highlighting the Swan Islands' importance successfully helped halting the prison plan in September 2024.
- Social media collaborations with key partners like Nuestros Mares, Manta México Caribe, Mar Sustentable, Coral Hero and Parley TV.
- Other campaigns included climate change/bleaching/disease/ with UNAM from Mexico City, and sunscreens with Nanah company and Coral Hero.
- Assisted in the Open Call for MAR+Invest projects in our social media outlets.



10. Financing Our Work

Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage
Donations	3,243.68	1%
Grants	404,093.25	99%
Total Operating Revenues	407,336.93	100%
Expenses	Amount	Percentage
Management & General	30,129.79	7%
Program	364,397.29	90%
Fundraising	12,535.48	3%
Total Expenses	407,062.56	100%

Grant Funds Carryover for Future Years \$983,719.30

These funds were supplemented by remaining grant funds expended through MAR Fund and Smithsonian Institution, as we completed our existing grants in 2024.



We thank the generous support of our primary donors for this grant cycle:



**The
Summit
Foundation**





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Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

Assets

Current Assets		Totals
Undeposited Funds		\$2,100.00
Checking (8955)		133,506.77
PayPal		138.73
Belize Bank		18,387.93
Grants Receivable		825,368.90
	Total Current Assets	979,502.33
Fixed and Other Assets	Total Fixed and Other Assets	0.00
	Total Assets	\$979,502.33

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities		Totals
Accounts Payable		\$1,979.01
Divvy Payable		745.96
	Total Current Liabilities	2,724.97
Other Liabilities	Total Other Liabilities	0.00
	Total Liabilities	2,724.97
Net Assets		976,777.36
Net Asset-Without Donor Restrictions	Total Net Assets	976,777.36
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$979,502.33

Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Board Members



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Jenny Myton (Honduras, Chair)

An environmental engineer from Honduras with over 20 years of experience in coral reef monitoring and community-based conservation. Jenny was among the first AGRRA-certified trainers and has been part of HRHP since its beginning. She has led innovative wastewater treatment initiatives in Roatán and co-founded the Ocean Sewage Alliance. Now as Conservation Director of Coral Reef Alliance, she shares lessons from the Mesoamerican Reef globally, while remaining a respected conservation leader in Honduras and beyond.



Armando Laborde (Mexico, Treasurer)

Based in Mexico, Armando brings extensive experience in social entrepreneurship, microfinance, and sustainable business. He has held leadership roles at Ashoka Latin America, ProMujer Mexico, and Conservation International's fair-trade coffee project in Chiapas. As Managing Partner of New Ventures, he continues to catalyze businesses with social and environmental impact across Latin America, bringing financial and strategic expertise to HRHP.



Dr. Melanie McField (Belize, Secretary)

Founder and Director of Healthy Reefs for Healthy People, Melanie has led HRHP's regional monitoring and reporting for nearly two decades, expanding the network to 73 partner organizations. With a PhD in Marine Science and over 40 peer-reviewed publications, she has been a leading voice for reef science and management across Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.



María José González (Guatemala, Board Member)

Executive Director of the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) since 2005, María José has mobilized over \$50 million for reef conservation and strengthened the region's environmental financing. With a career spanning the Wildlife Conservation Society, Fundación para la Conservación de Guatemala, and RedLAC, she brings deep expertise in policy, sustainable finance, and protected areas management to support the long-term resilience of the Mesoamerican Reef.





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Raúl Tecalco

Looking ahead, HRHP remains committed to strengthening regional scientific collaborations to enhance reef monitoring, management and conservation, including the expansion of fully protected zones to 20% of the reef and further development of king crab mariculture / restoration of reef herbivory. In 2025, we will contribute to the Caribbean and Global Coral Reef Monitoring Reports, through our director's continued co-chairmanship of the Caribbean GCRMN Steering Committee. We are also initiating work advocating for the protection of the MAR as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) and exploring "Rights of Nature" legal tools to help secure the future health of the Mesoamerican Reef as the stress of Global Climate Change continues to escalate.



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