

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the OAS announces "ReefFix: An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Ecosystem Services Valuation and Capacity Building Project for the Caribbean"

Recognizing the priority given by the Caribbean Countries to preserve marine areas, Chile and the OAS, announced the 2nd phase Project "ReefFix: An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Ecosystem Services Valuation and Capacity Building Project for the Caribbean".

The ReefFix project has been designed to be replicated throughout the Caribbean by providing the building blocks for stakeholder involvement, socio-economic and bio-physical analysis, and lessons learned.

This project has the objectives to complete (i) Ecosystem Services Valuation: Countries will generate data on the value of ecosystem services of selected sites utilizing ecosystem valuation methodologies, (ii) Capacity Building: Civil society, coastal communities' stakeholders, and government officials will be trained in ecosystem valuation methodologies and co-management of marine protected area and (iii) Dissemination of Results and Lessons Learned: Conclusions and lessons learned will be disseminated to a wide audience throughout the Americas.

Chile has extensive experience in coastal zone management and marine protected areas on the Pacific Coast of the Americas. In 2017 the Chilean government declared the Rapa Nui (Easter Island) Rahui Marine Protected Area (MPA) to safeguard the waters surrounding the iconic Pacific Ocean island, which is known - as are its habitants - as Rapa Nui. The MPA, one of the largest in the world, will protect an area roughly the size of Chile's land area. The MPA will protect Easter Island from industrial fishing, mining, and other extractive activities within the Chilean exclusive economic zone that surrounds the island.

The project will build upon an earlier effort supported by the Government of Chile to improve technical capacity for ecosystem valuation of Caribbean countries to collect and manage data on their protected areas.

Department of Sustainable Development
31 January 2017