

Future MARES

Climate Change and Future Marine Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity



Our goals

FutureMARES is an EU-funded research project examining the relationships between climate change, marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We will develop strategies to work with and enhance nature to help coastal societies and businesses to survive and thrive. These strategies are called nature-based solutions (NBS).

Our main goals are:

- 1 Understand the relationships between the ecology of marine habitats and the ecosystem services they provide.
- 2 Predict future climate change impacts and determine which marine regions will be most affected.
- 3 Research how human communities living with the sea are affected by the changes in marine ecosystems.
- 4 Investigate how nature-based solutions can help us adapt to climate change, and calculate the economic costs and benefits of implementing them locally.

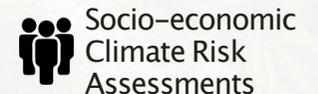
The Caribbean

In Belize healthy coral reefs, mangroves, and sea animals are essential for the tourism-based economy. Belize's coast is home to around 80% of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef system and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

FutureMARES is providing tools to map changes in habitat suitability of key commercial species and the vulnerability of coastal communities. This will benefit both Belize and the broader Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

FutureMARES in the Caribbean

- 1 NBS1 - Effective Restoration
- 2 NBS2 - Effective Conservation
- 3 NIH - Nature-inclusive Harvesting



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Restoring habitat-forming species that can act as 'climate rescuers'

Habitats such as seagrasses, mangroves, and shellfish reefs form natural coastal protection. This helps to protect against increased storminess, sea level rise and flood risks resulting from climate change.

Regional project partners in the Caribbean

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Conservation strategies that consider how climate change will affect habitat suitability

Conservation strategies are at their most effective when they consider the impacts that climate change will have on flora and fauna of habitats.



Sustainably harvesting seafood from fisheries and aquaculture

Ecosystem management and a multi-species approach can help adapt to shifts in species' productivity, distribution and interactions. For example, growing and catching seafood lower in the food web will be more sustainable in the long term.

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