



Healthy Reefs
for healthy people



2016 Healthy Reefs Initiative Regional Partners Meeting Results

Our HRI Regional Partners Meeting took place in Playa del Carmen, Q. Roo at the Hotel Grand Palladium, from December 1st to the 3rd, 2016. Over 40 people from the 4 Mesoamerican countries (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras), attended the meeting. This is a great venue for all to share advances in reef monitoring, as well as gather ideas for success stories and information to be presented in our next 2017 Report Card on the Health of the Mesoamerican Reef.

All agreed that the theme “Clear Water” should be portrayed in our Report Card cover, in order to highlight the importance and impact of water quality on coral reefs and the adjacent coastal communities. The 2017 Report Card will contain our Reef Health Index, including HRI’s and partner’s data, plus the results from the bleach monitoring efforts of 2015 and 2016. Each country will have an entire page to highlight their most pressing issues and threats to the reef, as well as their success stories. We will have an online supplement which will let readers dive more deeply into the content and specifics for each country, and which will also direct more traffic to our website. The management recommendations this year will focus more on themes such as sewage and sanitation, coastal development, and grazer protection (no-take and reduced fishing), which are the most pressing threats nowadays according to all our partners.

Everyone had the opportunity to learn about results from other partner’s projects, such as the *Sargassum sp.* bloom in Mexico, parrotfish connectivity, network of replenishment zones in the MAR, the newly discovered Cayman Crown reef in Guatemala, oil exploration in Belize, blue economy, and coral restoration programs in Mexico.

We at HRI look forward to publishing a very complete, robust and easy to understand 2017 Report Card, which is the result of the great collaboration with and among all our partners.