



More than 6,200 m² of coral will be restored in the largest mass transplant in the region

- Mass transplantation of corals will take place in Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. Transplants are carried out almost simultaneously in eleven areas throughout the three countries.

Honduras, November 14, 2022 – To continue with the objective of restoring and protecting marine biodiversity, Coralmania returns, the largest massive coral transplant in the region. This year, again, organizations, foundations, tourism companies and state entities come together to summon volunteer divers in the mission of restoring more than 6,200 m² of degraded reef.

Volunteer divers from the three countries are summoned to participate during the month of November and December in this massive transplant. Coralmania began in 2016 through a cooperation between the Dominican Coastal Restoration Consortium, the Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies (Fundemar), the Grupo Puntacana Foundation, Counterpart International, CEBSE and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), with the technical support of the German Development Cooperation, GIZ.

In Coralmania 2021, the participation of 138 volunteer divers from Costa Rica, Honduras and the Dominican Republic was achieved, thanks to which more than 1700 coral fragments were transplanted.

This year in Honduras, the transplant of the coral species *Acropora cervicornis*, *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora prolifera* is carried out. Roatan Marine Park, Utila Coral Foundation, Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative, Bahía Islands Free Tourist Zone (Zolitur), Bica Roatán, Bica Guanaja, Bica Utila, Fundación Cayos Cochinos and MARFund participate in the transplant.

Sandy Pereira, general director of Biodiversity of the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment, affirms: *"Coralmania not only contributes to the conservation actions of the reef, it also positions Honduras as a country that ensures the restoration of its spaces and marine and coastal resources, as it is attached to international agreements and commitments such as RAMSAR, CBD, CIT and the Cartagena Convention for the conservation of the Greater Caribbean"*.

"Through Coralmania we contribute to maintaining and preserving the ecosystem services, goods, habitats and natural landscape that the Mesoamerican Reef System offers us, of which we are a part"; concludes Pereira.

According to reports from the organizations involved in Coralmania 2021 in Honduras, today the results of last year are visible. Many of the colonies that were transplanted during the previous event have been monitored to verify that they were established successfully and are continuing to develop. Of the 100 transplanted colonies, 90% survived in the restoration area, which allows the area to recover its ecological functions.



Michelle Fernández, marine environmental management specialist at ZOLITUR, comments: *it is important for us to participate in Coralmania since, through this restoration initiative, we contribute to our objective of providing a sustainable use of natural resources, protecting the environment in harmony with the ecological carrying capacity and reinforce the tourist vocation of the area”.*

Coralmania 2022 is part of the cooperation between Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Germany, which seeks to promote the conservation and restoration of coral reefs in the three countries, through the transfer, exchange and consolidation of experiences and tools. This initiative is carried out jointly with the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines, with the technical support of GIZ, through the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, commissioned by the Federal Ministry German Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Svenja Paulino, director of the Biodiversity and Business Program in Central America and the Dominican Republic, explains: *“From GIZ it is important to contribute at a technical level with initiatives that contribute to the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. Coralmania is an example of a collective effort at the regional level, which seeks to encourage the exchange of experiences and actions that involve the participation of key actors, civil society and the private sector, in the conservation of marine diversity”.*

This event will contribute to various Sustainable Development Goals to improve biodiversity on the planet. Likewise, this initiative is aligned with the "Decade of the Oceans" or the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), which seeks to change humanity's relationship with the ocean. Coralmania also converges with the start of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which seeks to prevent, stop and reverse the degradation of marine ecosystems.

In order to contribute to the protection of the oceans and their diversity, the participation of the countries of the region is essential since, without the collective commitment of key actors, efforts to conserve natural resources would not have the same impact. Coralmania this year also seeks to motivate communities and local and national authorities, so that they have an increasing involvement in these initiatives that, through the restoration of degraded areas, seeks to protect the necessary resources for life throughout the planet.

To find out all the details of Coralmania 2022, or to apply as a volunteer diver, visit the official page: [Coralmania – Coral MAR – Red de Restauración del Sistema Arrecifal Mesoamericano](#)

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