

TRAIN OF TRAINERS BRIGADE'S COURSE IN MEXICO

REEFS IN DANGER

The impact of tropical cyclones on coral reefs is documented, and as a strategy to reduce these impacts, a Post-Storm Emergency Response Capacity has been created in the Mesoamerican Reef countries. This includes the establishment of Coordinating Committees, the creation of financial mechanisms, and the training of Response Brigades for the implementation of the Early Warning and Rapid Response Protocol.



CREATING POST-CYCLONE CAPACITIES

Between 2018 and 2019, 6 brigades consisting of 60 people were trained in Puerto Morelos, Isla Mujeres and Cancun. These brigades actively participated in mitigating the damage caused to the reefs by hurricanes Delta and Zeta in October 2020.

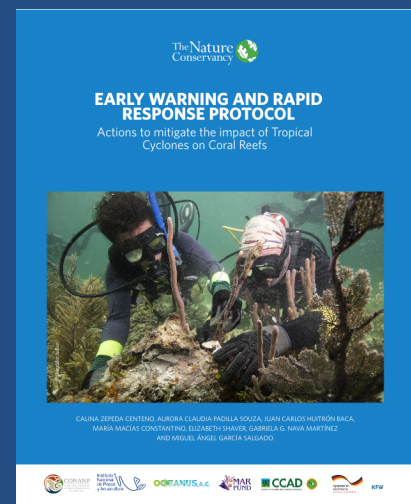


RESPONSE PROTOCOL

The Early Warning and Rapid Response Protocol aims to guide protected area managers, first responders and other relevant actors on the actions to be done before, during and after a tropical cyclone to mitigate the impacts to coral reefs in an orderly and timely manner.

The brigades are in charge of repairing the reef immediately after the cyclone retreats, by removing coral debris, fixing corals that were overturned, detached, buried and fragmented. This timely response action can reduce the mortality of corals impacted by a cyclone.

To download the Protocol, click on the image:



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The first Brigade's Train of Trainers was held in Mahahual, Quintana Roo, Mexico from June 10 to 12, 2021. The objective of the course is to train five new instructors to replicate the brigades course and in this way, expand country's capacity for rapid response to address cyclone's impact in the reef. The profile of the participants is to be dive instructors or divemasters and to be a certified active member of the brigades.

This training provides pedagogical guidance in both theoretical and practical aspects, so that participants develop knowledge and skills to replicate the Rapid Response and Emergency Reef Restoration Course.

The course was designed by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) through the Mesoamerican Reef Rescue Initiative and in coordination with the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP). In August and September 2021, this course will be replicated to participant from Belize, Guatemala and Honduras.



@CalinaZepeda



@JuanCarlosHuitrón



@CalinaZepeda



@SaraGutierrez