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ROATAN
MARINE PARK

RMP is a nonprofit
conservation organization
in the Bay Islands

COMMUNITY FOR CONSERVATION

November
2018

Roatan Marine Park, protecting Roatan's marine ecosystems since 2005.

Punta Gorda Inaugurates Garifuna Cultural Center

November 9th marked the inauguration of the Garifuna Cultural and Tourism Center, SATUYE. The center is part of RMP's latest development in its alternative livelihood program and will be led by RMP community development coordinator, Yuri Rivera.

project from a grant from The Fund for the Management of Protected Areas and Wildlife (FAPVS).

The project has both public and private institutions providing key support including the Institute of Forest Conservation (ICF), Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA), and teams organized by the Punta Gorda



community who will be responsible for the development of the activities in the center.

This is the first step of a two part community development project for Santos Guardiola. The second phase will involve an additional alternative livelihood project within the community of Santa Elena that will begin in 2019.

The center will be based in Punta Gorda and will sustainably contribute to the economic development of the communities of Santos Guardiola and the rest of the Bay Islands. The project will be executed in a 12 month period and has been guaranteed funding of over \$353,000, a major milestone for the development of the Punta Gorda community. Yuri secured the funding of this



Community Spotlight



Volunteers Drive Mangrove Reforestation Project

On the 27th of September, the Roatan Marine Park and a group of volunteering staff members from Grand Roatan planted 54 red mangrove (*Rizophora mangle*) seedlings provided by the Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA) in Sandy Bay. This marked the beginning of a community based mangrove reforestation project with local student and volunteer groups.

The planting is the first step in a yearlong project that is part of an ongoing community-wide effort to reforest Roatan's coastline with these critical habitats. Data from the latest monitoring of the seedlings in late October showed that 42 of the 54 seedlings survived and are growing at a healthy pace. On November 27th, RMP plans to implement the second phase of the project and plant an additional 50 red mangrove seedlings to further populate the area.



RMP is following the Riley encasement method for mangrove reforestation, this method uses PVC pipe to encompass each individual seedling to facilitate adaptation to its new



25

Mangrove Reforestation

Join RMP in planting and monitoring mangrove forests in Sandy Bay. Contact Timna at education@roatanmarinepark.org for volunteering opportunities.



02

Beach Clean Up

Join RMP in cleaning up Roatan's beaches and reef. Contact us for volunteering opportunities.

environment. The pipes provide support and a higher chance of surviving tidal waves and strong ocean currents. RMP's education coordinator is leading the project and is training local Sandy Bay high school students to implement the planting and monthly monitoring and maintenance of the mangrove seedlings. Data is collected on key health indicators such as height and the number of leaves are monitored as they are indicative of overall reforestation efforts.

Mangrove forests are particularly important to coastal areas because of their ability to reduce sediment runoff into the ocean and provide nursery habitats that maintain coral reef fisheries. Mangrove ecosystems form a symbiotic relationship with coral reefs and each are affected by the proliferation or destruction of the other. Together mangrove and coral reef ecosystems protect shorelines from the erosion and physical



Environmental Education

Education coordinator, Timna Varela wraps up another busy two months as she implements environmental lectures and activities for 12 different schools and volunteering groups reaching 415 students and volunteers across communities on Roatan.

Timna organized a number of activities the groups including lectures, fieldtrips, mangrove reforestations, beach clean-ups, and other environmental workshops.



Ocean Guardians Camp

03

The two month environmental Summer camp for public school students begins. Contact us at education@roatanmarinepark.org to sign up.

Sodastream Project Ceremony

06

Schools receive funding and present their projects to reduce single use plastics from Sodastream's October competition "From Macro to Microplastics."

RMP Environmental Education In Numbers

Activity	Group	# of Participants	Location
Importance of Coral Reefs	Francisco Morazan (School)	136	Santa Elena
Reef Inhabitants & Crafts	Julian Sierra (School)	10	El Berrinche
Reef Inhabitants & Crafts	Ivan Jones (School)	10	El Berrinche
Monthly Lecture & Fieldtrips	Miguel Paz Barahona (School)	25	El Berrinche
Monthly Lecture & Fieldtrips	Guaymuras (School)	32	Sandy Bay
Mangrove Clean Up	Jose Santos Guardiola (School)	60	Punta Gorda
Monthly Lecture & Fieldtrips	Juan Lindo (School)	62	Sandy Bay
Monthly Lecture & Fieldtrips	Samuel Johnson School	29	Sandy Bay
Green Schools Workshop	Charmont Academy	8	Coxen Hole
Mangrove Reforestation	Grand Roatan Staff	12	Sandy Bay
Mangrove & Beach Cleanup	Biker Wolves	12	West End, Flowers Bay
Plastic Free March	Julian Sierra (School)	19	West End

New Dive Sites

We would like to thank Christine Celeste Arms Etches for giving the best 10 year anniversary present to Aaron Etches. While the celebrations were a while back, it took a while to decide on the name, install the chain, reinstall another chain and finally attach the line. "Aaron's Backyard" is located just to the east of Key Hole right by their property.



Aaron's Backyard

New Moorings and Maintenance on South Side before the Storms

With the winds about to switch and the heavens about to open, it was time to renovate the dive moorings between Flowers Bay and Key Hole. With 14 dive sites to choose from, with multiple training sand patches, it won't be too congested this rainy season We are ready for the bad weather, are you?

We have Monica Cisneros to thank for the newest addition to these moorings. Monica supported the RMP by naming a new dive site "Cisneros Point", it is located just to the east of Pirates Cove near Flowers Bay and is located directly in front of her house. With the weather taking a turn for the worse next week, we are sure this site will be dived a lot in the following months. Thank you again, Monica.

If you wish to name a dive site for a loved one or just to help our organization, please email us at info@roatanmarinepark.org



Cisneros Point



A Plastic Free Christmas

20

Ocean Guardians campers will bring a night of plastic awareness to the West End community.

RMP Receives Substantial Grant for the Bay Islands National Marine Park

The Roatan Marine Park's submission to The Coral Reef Conservation Fund was 1 of 13 projects chosen by the National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to be awarded grant funding for its programs this year. The fund awards over \$1 million dollars a year to help protect coral reefs globally.

RMP's project will improve coral reef health by filling three priority capacity needs within the Special Marine Protection Zone Sandy Bay - West End through initiatives that address sustainable tourism, fisheries management, and financing. The organization will receive \$95,974 in total funding over two years to accomplish its objectives and is expecting to begin in early 2019. Project will reduce threats to coral reefs within the Bay Islands National Marine Park and inform management across Honduras.

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