

Coral Reef Conservation

Panama

Marine environment of Panama

Caribbean Sea

Low nutrient levels

Temperatures
26-28° C

Tides up to 0.5 m

Guna Yala

Narrow continental shelf

Bocas del Toro

Gulf of Chiriqui

Without
upwelling

Temperatures
Of 25-29° C

**Wide
continental
shelf**

Gulf of Panama

With upwellings

Temperatures of
15-29° C

Pacific Ocean

Tides up to 6.0 m

High nutrient levels

Anna Núñez Pereligina

Coral reefs of Panama

Caribbean Sea

~ 754 km²

Guna Yala

Bocas del Toro

Coverage until 75%

- 5-15% in coastal zones

Gulf of Panama

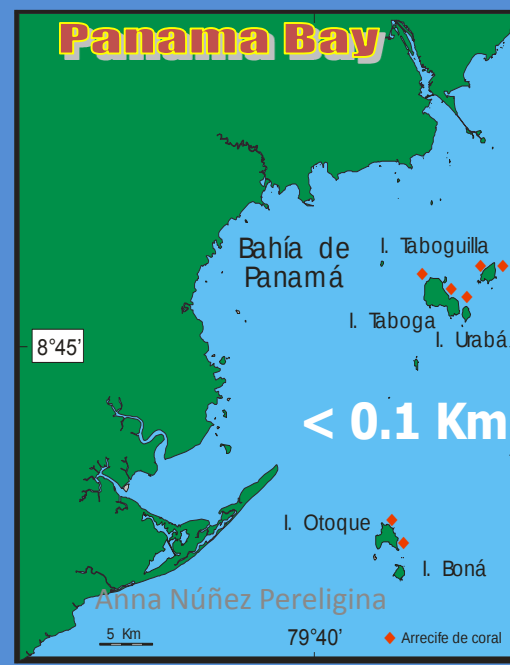
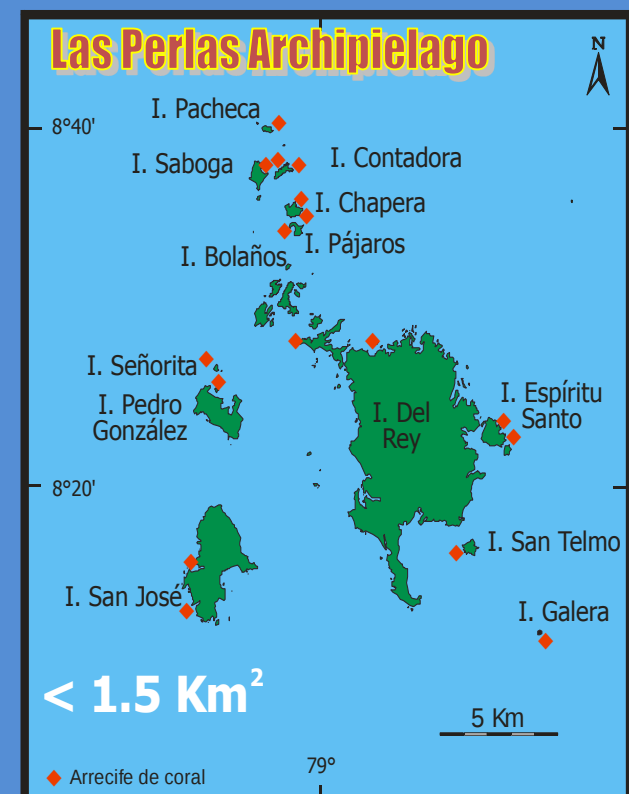
Gulf of Chiriqui

Pacific Ocean

~ 16 km²

Anna Núñez Pereligina





Pacific coral reefs of Panamá

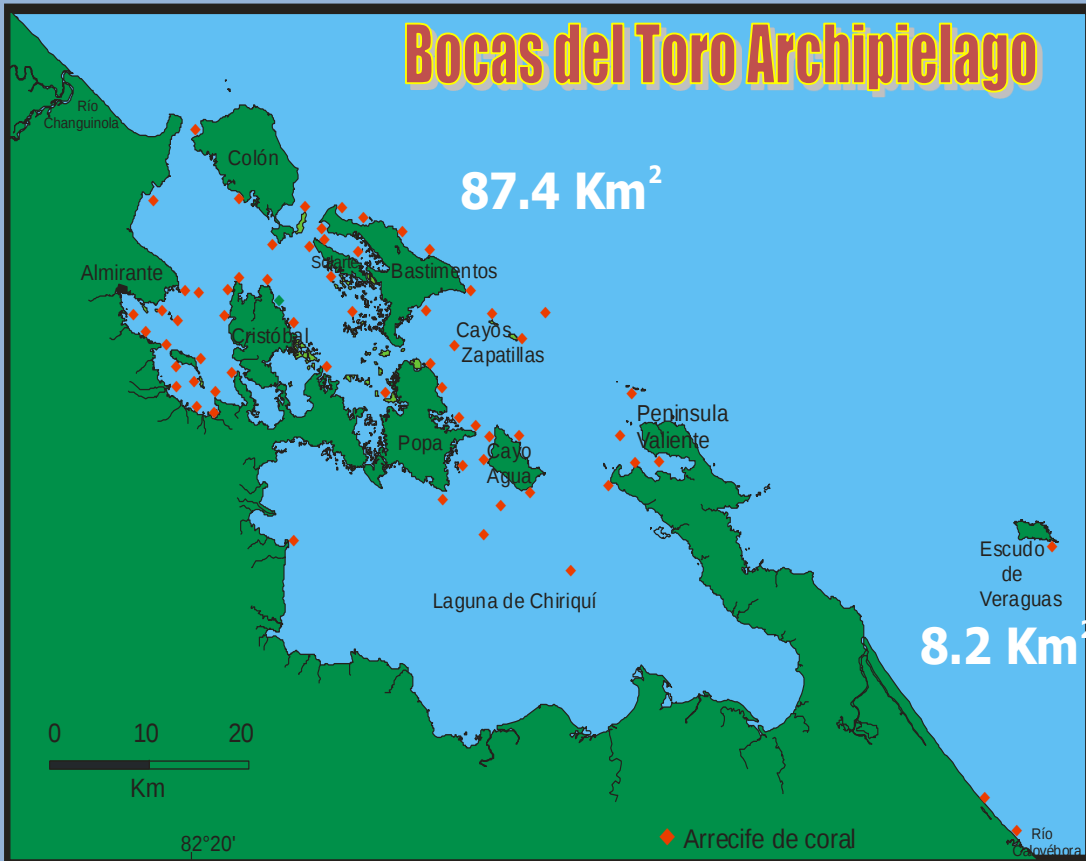
<15.7 km²

Coverage: 25-50%

26 spp

Bocas del Toro Archipiélago

87.4 Km²

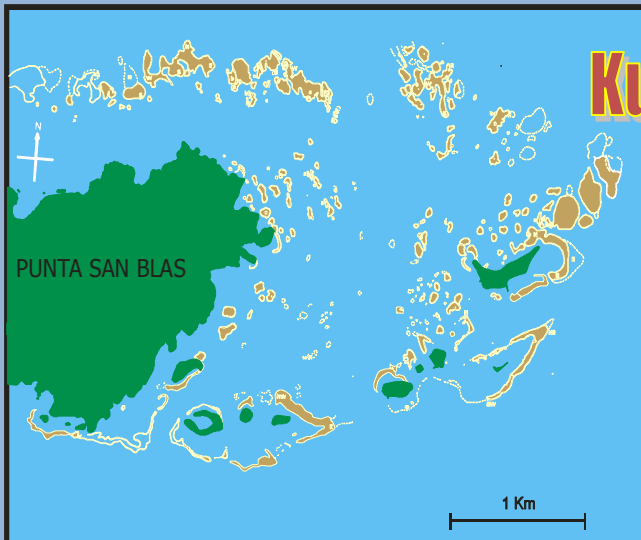


Caribbean coral reefs of Panamá

70 spp

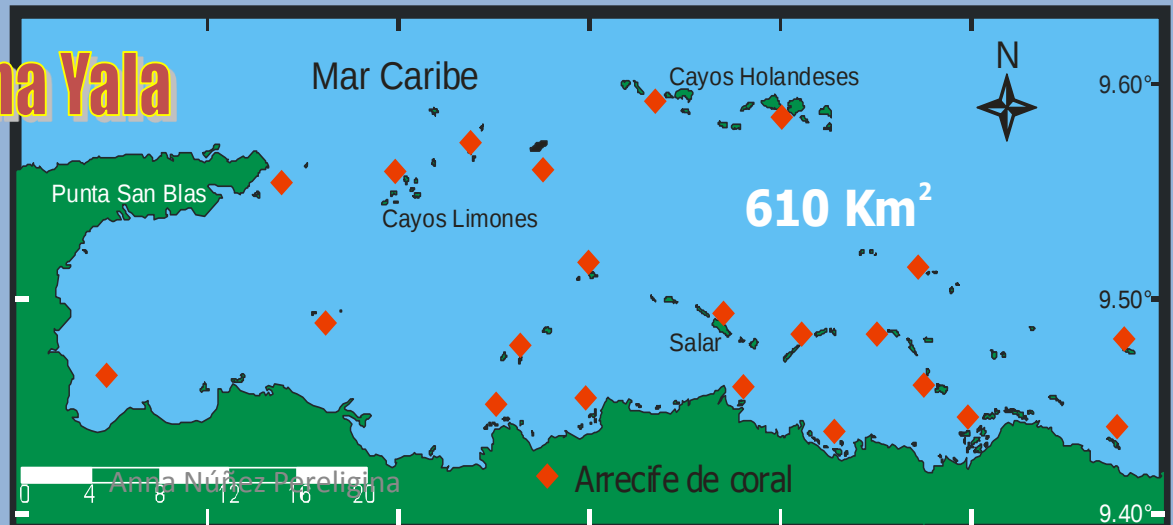
≈753.6 km²

Coverage: 25-30% (5-15% on coasts)



Kuna Yala

610 Km²



Tourism

Extraction for landfill and construction

12,923 m³ during the colonial period

Dredging

Curio trade

Coral and Fish extraction

Exotic species

Sedimentation

Anchoring,
stranding

Overfishing

Coastal development

Coastal Refineries

Marine Debris

Eutrophication

Chemical and organic
contamination

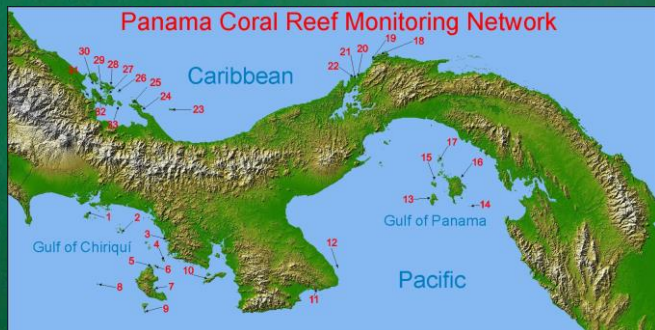
Deforestation

Sea warming and diseases
(El Niño)



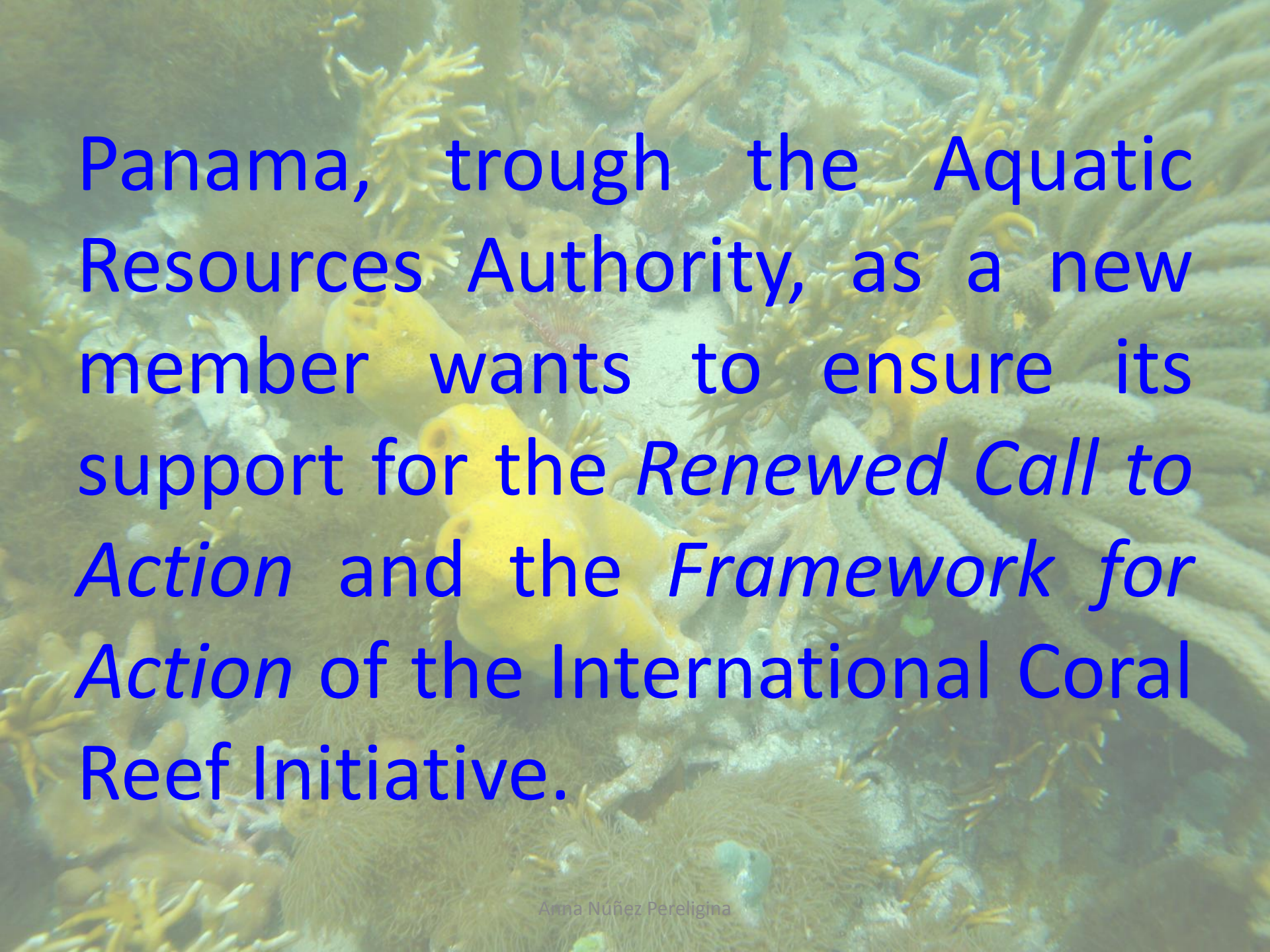
CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

- Law Nº 2 (January 2006) that regulates the touristic concessions on islands prohibits the construction on coral formations, and any activity that can cause their death, bleaching or the destruction.
- Project: Extraction and recollection of marine debris (ghost nets) through the communitarian participation in Chiriquí and Darien.
- Panama Coral Reef Monitoring Network-H. Guzman & A. Croquer STRI(since 1985)- 33 reefs, 17 in the Pacific Ocean and 16 in the Caribbean Sea. Bahía Las Minas Oil Spill Monitoring-STRl
- MPA's Management plans (Coiba, Bocas del Toro and Las Perlas Archipelagos)
- Communitarian activities to promote the extraction and consumption of the Lion Fish in the Caribbean Coast of Panama.
- Lion Fish Studie on parasitism, predation, relationship with other species in Panama (A. Sellers).



Why to join the ICRI?

- Panama has coral reefs on the Pacific and Caribbean coasts with different characteristics and very high diversity components.
- The major coral reef of the East Pacific is in Coiba National Park- UNESCO's World Heritage Site since 2005 and the Third Marine Protected Area in The Mesoamerican Marine Corridor.
- Panama as a member of the UN has the obligation of make all possible efforts to accomplish a better management and protection of its ecosystems, including coral reefs.
- Coral reefs provide important economical and ecological goods and services to island and costal communities of our country
- It is of the interest of the Panamanian government to improve the conservation and management of the coral reefs in and out MPA's.

The background of the slide is an underwater photograph of a coral reef. It features various types of coral, including branching and table corals, in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. Several bright yellow fish are swimming in the water. The overall scene is slightly hazy, giving it a serene, underwater feel.

Panama, through the Aquatic Resources Authority, as a new member wants to ensure its support for the *Renewed Call to Action* and the *Framework for Action* of the International Coral Reef Initiative.

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. In the foreground, there is a large, rounded brain coral with a complex, maze-like pattern. To its left and right are patches of smaller, more rounded coral. In the background, several tall, thin, vertical coral structures rise from the reef. The water is a clear, light blue-green color.

Thank You!!