



Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Climate Change and
Disaster Risk Management

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2023 | 2024



Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM) is grateful to all key agencies, both state and non-state partners for their unwavering contributions toward meeting the MSDCCDRM's targeted goals and priorities. The Ministry looks forward to our continued collaboration and engagement in the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year.

A special thank you to all Head of Departments, Senior Officers and Technical Officers who provided the necessary information, data and photographs for the elaboration of this year's annual technical report. We extend gratitude also to Mr. Aurelio Sho for contributing some of his personal copyrighted photographs and Ms. Zana Kristen Wade for the design of this document.

Lastly, the MSDCCDRM congratulates and extends gratitude to Mrs. Marilyn Pinelo - Lee, Senior Technical Advisor in the Ministry, for her leadership in successfully compiling the Ministry's highlights and accomplishments, elaborating the contents and driving the completion of this year's Annual Technical Report 2023-2024.

Message from the Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Hon. Orlando Habet



It is with pride that I present to you the Annual Technical Report 2023-2024 for the Ministry of Sustainable Development Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. The past year was a testament of our resiliency as a nation and people to recover and “Build Back Better” after the unprecedented effects of the global pandemic and natural disasters faced in 2022. The Ministry recognizes that Belize is not insulated from the ravishing effects of climate change and various exogenous shocks as we strive to steer sustainable development. As such, we prioritize and remain committed to fostering and maintaining strong domestic, regional and international partnerships.

The Plan Belize Medium Term Development Strategy (PBMTDS) developed through a partnership between the MSDCCDRM and the Ministry of Economic Development continues to guide the development of our strategic objectives. This fiscal year saw the completion of my Ministry’s Strategic Plan 2023-2027 in alignment with the 6 target areas of the PBMTDS and developed through a consultative process with key stakeholders. This plan commits us to 6 development objectives: to Enhance, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Expand green-sustainable value chains, Strengthen biodiversity protection and conservation, Enhance Disaster Risk Management, Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Strengthen Policy Coordination.

The susceptibility of Caribbean countries to climate change is deeply ingrained in our geographic, environmental, and socio-economic fabric. The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management’s development of the Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiatives Bill, 2023, signifies a monumental step towards

comprehensive climate governance. This bill aims to establish crucial institutional frameworks such as the Climate Change Department and the National Climate Change Council. The bill also establishes a Carbon Trading Market which solidifies Belize's position as a leader in climate action and sets clear guidelines for transparent monitoring and strategic coordination in addressing climate change at national and international levels.

As the Ministry continues to deliver on its Climate Change Pillar, negotiations were finalized this fiscal year for the establishment of the Regional Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Climate Change Transparency Hub in Belize. This Hub will build capacity for climate transparency within the eight countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

Our National Climate Change Office has also been at the forefront of Belize Climate action. At COP28, significant strides were made in addressing climate finance and adaptation challenges, though substantial gaps and unresolved issues remain. Following extensive negotiations, the Loss and Damage Fund was successfully operationalized during the Dubai Summit. This fund aims to assist climate-vulnerable countries in managing impacts beyond their adaptive capacity.

The Ministry continues to realize its vision and synergize its efforts to achieve sustainable development throughout its various departments and units. The streamlining of projects and the implementation of a "One Ministry Approach" to planning and implementation has achieved greater developmental impact. Our achievements can only be realized with the support of our dedicated team, stake holders and partners. I therefore take this opportunity to

thank them. The Ministry will continue to make great strides on behalf of the Belizean People leaving no one behind! This Ministry is well poised and committed to doing its part to "Harness Resiliency to Build Belize Better."



Message from the Minister of State for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Hon. Ramon Cervantes

It is my distinct pleasure to serve the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, with responsibility for Disaster Risk Management and Solid Waste Management. Belize remains vulnerable to a range of natural and anthropogenic disasters including hurricanes, floods, droughts, and bush fires amongst others. These events increasingly threaten our environment, livelihoods and people making it abundantly justifiable why disaster risk management must remain a national priority. We are committed to conducting the requisite structural review, institutional strengthening and investment in human capital to adequately prepare the MSDCCDRM to systematically address disaster risk reduction and align with international standards.

The Ministry continues to re-engage and rekindle relationships with our regional partners and national stakeholders as we deliver on our mandate based on the fundamental pillars of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Through these partnerships the MSDCCDRM has been able to invest in policy development, early warning systems, emergency shelters, disaster risk reduction initiatives, capacity building and mitigating the impact of emergencies whether threatened or real.

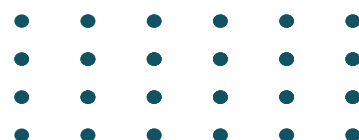
We can proudly boast that our Ministry continues to strategically position itself, to not only fulfil the commitments of #PlanBelize!, but to innovatively pioneer how it delivers on its core mandate of increasing climate change resiliency and comprehensive disaster risk reduction to ensure Belize's long-term sustainable development. The integration of disaster risk management into this broader framework aligns our work with the grander vision of economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability.





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Acronyms

AF	Adaptation Fund
ANRI	Agriculture and Natural Resource Institute
BBNJ	Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
BNFS	Belize National Fire Service
BNSS	Belize National Statistical System
CDB	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAD	Central American Commission on Environment and Development
CIS	Conservation Investment Strategy
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna
CRIS	Climate Risk Information System
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
DOE	Department of the Environment
EC	Environmental Compliance
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FD	Forest Department
FTIR	Fourier – Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCMS	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry
GEC	Strategic Coordinating Group
GHG	Green House Gas
GOC	Operational Coordinating Group
HF	High Frequency
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
KEI	Knowledge Enhancement Initiative
LID	Lives in Dignity
LLES	Limited Level Environmental Study
MBECA	Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MSDCCDRM	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
NBIO	National Biodiversity Office
NCCO	National Climate Change Office
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEMO	National Emergency Management Organization
NHS	National Hydrological Service

NMS	National Meteorological Service of Belize
NR	New River
OPAL	Online Permitting Application Licensing System
PACT	Protected Areas Conservation Trust
PBMTDS	#plan Belize Medium Term Development Strategy
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme Report
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDU	Sustainable Development Unit
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
SIDs	Small Island Developing States
S05	Strategic Objective #5
S06	Strategic Objective #6
SWaMA	Solid Waste Management Authority
UB	University of Belize
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USMLO	United States Government Military Assistance
VHF	Very High Frequency
VNR	Voluntary National Review



Executive Summary

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM) is charged with improving social ecological interactions and enhancing capacity of our ecosystems to cope with hazardous events, trends and disturbances while fostering comprehensive disaster risk reduction. This Annual Technical Report provides a snapshot of programmatic achievements, highlights of accomplishments and challenges of the MSDCCDRM for the period 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The report provides an overview of the Ministry's transformational change over the past year, outlines programmatic priorities and core principles which guide the work of the MSDCCDRM. The Ministry successfully delivered on several impactful development projects and continued to foster a fruitful working relationship with partners including several International Financial Institutions.

For this fiscal year the Ministry experienced an increase in its annual budget from BZ\$ 21.7 to 36.1 million an increase of 14.4 million when compared to the previous fiscal year. There was an increase in the budget for recurrent expenditure from 18.4 to 20.1 million that is a 1.7 million increase. CAP II increased from 2.1 to 12.4 million reflecting an increase of 10.3 million (as we assumed responsibility for SWaMA), and CAP III from 1.3 to 4.3 million showing an increase of 2 million when compared to the previous fiscal year 2022-2023. The increase in recurrent budget is testament to the Government's recognition and support of the critical work of this Ministry while the notable increases in CAP II and III attributed to Project Funding, is a demonstration of the confidence that the MSDCCDRM has earned from the donor community through its proven record of successful implementation of project funds.

The Ministry recognizes that the collective goals set forth can only be achieved if we improve collaboration, align synergies, and strengthen coordination to ensure that there is a comprehensive and integrated approach.

We continue to explore new ways to create strategic partnerships and strengthen existing ones. While external partnerships are essential so too are those with our very own Belizean People. For instance the Government of Belize through the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) is committed to enhancing the financial viability of the protected areas ensuring the continued provision of environmental services while safeguarding livelihoods and simultaneously generating jobs. Noteworthy for this year, PACT launched the Conservation Investment Strategy (CIS) 2023-2026 with a planned target of BZ\$10 million. PACT in fiscal year 2023-2024 also invested upwards of \$US550,000 million to develop the tourism product and true to its commitment, over the past 3 years PACT has invested US\$1.5 million for the enhanced management of the Chiquibul Forest - nationally designated as a Key Biodiversity Area. It successfully mobilized US\$2.5 million of Readiness and Preparatory Funding from the Global Climate Fund (GCF) to support building climate resilience of the Human Settlement Sector and strengthen the institutional capacity and structure of the Ministry of Economic Development in its pursuit of GCF accreditation. In addition, the Enhanced Direct Access Project valued at US\$5 million was approved during the 41st Adaptation Fund Board Meeting and will focus on the following 5 areas: Watershed management, access to climate financing, enhanced capacity development in addressing climate change impacts, improved livelihoods, and reducing vulnerability to flooding.

In compliance with international obligations and keeping with its mandate to manage Belize's forest resources, the Forest Department, which celebrated its centennial anniversary last year is leading the implementation of 3 projects which will inject a total of approximately US\$38 million into the economy of Belize focused on Integrated Management of Production Landscapes to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental benefits and Global Wildlife Program to enhance Jaguar Corridors through Improved Management and Threat education.

In keeping on pace with the United Nations goal to provide Early Warnings by the year 2027, the National Meteorological Service (NMS) with the support of the Ministry and wider Government of Belize support, has been able to secure over US\$1.2 million dollars through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to further develop its multi-hazard impact-based forecasting capabilities. This project, which will be piloted for Belize City and communities along the Belize River Watershed, will among other things, see the development of hazard maps which will aid the National Meteorological Service and NEMO in providing more precise information on the potential impacts of hazardous weather conditions on these communities thereby giving residents more time to prepare and protect life and property.

As the Ministry delivers on its Climate Change Pillar, negotiations were finalized this fiscal year for the **establishment of the Regional Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Climate Change Transparency Hub in Belize**. This Hub will build capacity for climate transparency within the eight countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA): Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic. This (ICAT) Hub is being established with an initial 3-year budget of US\$1.7 million and an additional US\$400,000 for staffing with both international consultants and Belizean Professionals.

Our National Climate Change Office has also been at the forefront of Belize Climate action. At **COP28**, significant strides were made in addressing climate finance and adaptation challenges, though substantial gaps and unresolved issues remain. Following extensive negotiations, the Loss and Damage Fund was successfully operationalized during the Dubai Summit. This fund aims to assist climate-vulnerable countries in managing impacts beyond their adaptive capacity. While the mobilization of approximately US\$700 million for the fund is a welcome development, it pales in comparison to the projected US\$580 billion in

climate-related damages vulnerable countries may face by 2030.

Hon. Orlando Habet and CEO Williams participated in 21 side events, including an official COP28 side event co-organized by Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan) on Cross-level Governance and solutions for Global Net-Zero Transition. Other prominent features included the SIDS Coalition for Nature and People Mangrove Breakthrough and a dialogue on the United Kingdom's 10-Point Plan for Financing Nature.

The delegation engaged in a series of bilateral meetings fostering collaborations with key nations and organizations. These included Cuba, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, the PEW Charitable Trust, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and Central American Commission for Environment and Development, among others.

Minister Habet delivered the national address on behalf of Belize. He noted that despite its annual impacts from climate change and the effects on its economy, Belize continues to ramp up ambition and implementation of its national mitigation and adaptation actions. Minister Habet called out the biggest emitters and contributors to climate change, emphasizing that "It is time for transformative action, impactful leadership, and climate justice!" In supporting both the national and international climate agenda, Belize accomplished the following:

1. Belize secured a seat on the Adaptation Fund Board, representing Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2024–2025 term. This reflects the nation's active involvement in shaping global adaptation strategies and ensuring a seat at the table in directing needed climate finance to SIDS like Belize. CEO Williams will serve as a Director on the Adaptation Fund Board.
2. Additionally, Belize will have seats on the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage Advisory Board and the Loss and Damage Fund Board for the 2025

term, further solidifying its position as a proactive force in addressing climate-related challenges.

3. Belize will serve as a founding member of the Commonwealth GENIUS (Geospatial Expert for United Solutions) program in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat. The initiative aims to utilize geospatial data supporting the management of natural resources, including supporting carbon stock assessments and overall climate-resilient development.
4. Belize will now have access to the toolkit for Climate Finance Advisors. This marks a significant step in empowering Belize to navigate and access climate finance effectively, as more than 200 Belizeans will have the opportunity to be trained and certified in climate finance.

Worthy of mentioning is that the COP28 saw an additional US\$3.5 billion in new pledges to the second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), bringing the total to US\$12.8 billion. The challenge now lies in ensuring that these pledges translate into actual financial disbursements to developing countries and Small Island Developing States like Belize. It is evident that addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change demands a concerted and multifaceted response, grounded in collective action, enhanced ambition, and strategic resource and financial mobilization.

Belize made written submission in June 2023 to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for an Advisory opinion on climate change and oral submission to the Court in September of the same year. In May 2024, the ITLOS Tribunal issued its ruling in favour of Belize and states with similar positions. ITLOS found that anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions absorbed by the oceans constituted marine pollution and therefore States are required to take “all necessary measures,” in line with the best available Science to reduce GHG emissions to the fullest possible

extent in accordance with ITLOS and other international legal obligations.

In March 2024 Belize also filed, along with other member states, a written submission to the International Court of Justice for a similar advisory opinion on the Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

The National Biodiversity Office has developed a national co-management framework which now streamlines the process of entering into co-management agreements. It now clearly indicates the requirements and necessary capacities a potential partner must possess and gives a clear evaluation procedure that the Government utilizes to assess readiness. As a result, co-management agreements have been formalized with 14 partners for a total of 24 areas (out of a total of 32 non-extractive protected areas) under the oversight and administration of the NBIO. This milestone serves to strengthen the biodiversity and protected areas protection efforts, securing the integrity and services of these ecosystems within the protected areas.

To assist with co-management oversight and in fulfilling the responsibilities of the government in the co-management agreement, the NBIO is currently implementing a PACT Project entitled “Strengthening the Protected Areas Through Strategic Investments”. This project will see investments worth US\$291,000 US\$ invested into areas of capacity building, compliance monitoring and education and outreach for the National Protected Areas System (NPAS). Notable capacity building initiatives through this project include providing government’s co-management partners with training in the usage of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and Special Constable Training for 31 rangers across the NPAS.

Through the efforts of the DOE, the Kigali Amendment was ratified by Belize on October 3, 2023, which demonstrates a commitment to phasing down the

production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are potent greenhouse gases, and the amendment aims to address climate change by promoting the use of environmentally friendly alternatives. While on June 12, 2023, Belize acceded to the Minamata Convention on Mercury - a multilateral environmental agreement that addresses specific human activities that are contributing to widespread mercury pollution. Implementation of this agreement will help reduce global mercury pollution over the coming decades. Under the Cartagena Convention, Belize benefitted from the establishment of a **revolving fund** to support projects aimed at improving waste water management. The government has allocated resources to assist both the public and private sectors in improving wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal.

The National Fire Service has been asserting itself and today boasts of the continued expansion of its services in 2023-2024. The NFS is committed to creating a safer Belize from fires, road traffic accidents, and explosive hazards. This fiscal year's highlights include the inauguration of a new state of the art Fire Station in January 2024 in Dangriga through a donation from the US Southern Command, Humanitarian Assistance Program valued at upwards of US\$733,000. Resolute to build its human resource capacity, the NFS has a recruit training underway for an additional eighty new fire fighters while six officers have been trained as Emergency Medical Technicians in Virginia, USA. To safeguard the fire fighters and the wellbeing of their families, upwards of thirty officers were promoted to their respective ranks after more than ten years working as volunteers.

This past year also saw an increase in the fleet of fire engines with three additional trucks and three ambulances through partnerships with the US Embassy through the CARSI Grant of US \$250,000 Quarter Million, and the Republic of China (Taiwan). Capacity building efforts were complemented by a donation of US\$9,500 worth of firefighting equipment from the USMLO and

commitment has also been expressed to support the construction of a new fire station in San Ignacio.

Cabinet's recent milestone endorsement for the integration of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Rescue Services (ERS) into the mandate of the NFS will enable the expansion of EMS services throughout the country starting this year with Corozal and Orange Walk Districts. The EMS, as you may recall, was successfully piloted last year in the Cayo District. In an effort to further expand its coverage the NFS is working closely with the newly established fire department in the Corozal Free Zone and their new chief, donating several breathing apparatuses, offering technical assistance and training. In the South, the NFS will open a 'Cooperation Station' with the Southern Environmental Services at the junction of Hopkins Village to begin offering fire coverage to that Village.

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) continued to fulfil on its mandate to preserve life and property in the event of an emergency, threatened or real, and to mitigate the impact on the country and its people. Under the leadership of a new coordinator, NEMO formulated its first "National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan", as required by the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Act, 2000. As NEMO evolves into a new role and aligns with international standards of humanitarian aid it has also commenced an institutional review of the organization. The intent of this review is to strengthen its structure and adequately prepare NEMO to meet the challenges of both anthropogenic and natural hazards which continue to affect Belize.

Belize has made history by being the first Caribbean nation to officially ratify the groundbreaking Ocean Biodiversity Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). The global commitment to safeguard 30 percent of the ocean by 2030 hinges greatly on the implementation of

the BBNJ Agreement, which spans two-thirds of the world's ocean. This agreement is designed to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, presenting opportunities for deep-sea research, capacity building, and the development and transfer of marine technology, particularly beneficial for small developing countries like Belize.

Belize's ratification now sets the pace for the Caribbean's engagement. The nation is actively collaborating with other Caribbean Community Member States to raise awareness and build momentum for regional participation. A workshop for the members of the Caribbean Community is scheduled for April 11 to 12, 2024, to further bolster the Region's efforts towards ratification, with Belize also slated to host a wider Caribbean BBNJ workshop later in the year.

These accomplishments are a testament to the diligent work that the Ministry of Sustainable Development Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management has been undertaking in the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. The Ministry is positioned and committed to delivering on its mandate. We will continue resolutely to serve the nation and people of Belize.





Introduction

In leading Belize's sustainable development via the wise management of human and natural capitals, MSDCCDRM is achieving economic development and enhanced resiliency and social well-being for the benefit of all. The Ministry continued to strategically position itself, to not only fulfil the commitments of #PlanBelize!, but to innovatively pioneer how it delivers on its core mandate of increasing climate change resiliency and comprehensive disaster risk reduction to ensure Belize's long-term sustainable development. Within the three portfolios of the Ministry sits ten (10) Units and Departments with the recent addition of the Solid Waste Management Authority.

The 2023-2024 fiscal year was a transformational year for MSDCCDRM, one that was filled with numerous great accomplishments, but with those accomplishments we also faced challenges. The challenges however afforded the Ministry an opportunity to demonstrate its ability to harness its strengths and shine resilient in the face of adversity. In the last fiscal year, the MSDCCDRM realized actions toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the strategic objectives fundamental to the #planBelize Medium Term Development Strategy. These achievements promote environmental and social protection, economic transformation and growth, good governance, and poverty alleviation. The collective commitment to achieving the strategic objectives set out in Plan Belize and realizing the goals in the Ministry's Strategic Plan required operationalizing core strategic actions, building human resource capacity and making a mark both nationally and internationally to establish networks, build partnerships and mobilize resources. Some of the MSDCCDRM's major accomplishments for the 2022-2023 timeframe include:

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUICK TAKES

- Establishment of the Regional Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Climate Change Transparency Hub in Belize

- Active and high-level participation at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- MSDCCDRM High level delegation represented MSDCCDRM at COP28 in Dubai.

Outcomes of the COP 28 included:

Climate Finance: The Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) called for a New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG). The NCQG is positioned to succeed the current US\$100 billion a year pledge. The outcomes of these deliberations will play a pivotal role in shaping the future trajectory of global climate finance commitments. Minister Habet served as ministerial lead, and Ambassador Janine Felson served as lead negotiator on behalf of AOSIS. Establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund: Starting on a high note, the Loss and Damage Fund received unanimous approval during the opening of COP28. Parties have pledged over US\$700 million. The World Bank has assumed the role of interim trustee while hosting the fund's secretariat.

Market and Non-market Mechanisms (Article 6, Paris Agreement): Limited progress was made on the rules, modalities, and procedures for the implementation of Article 6 mechanisms, which are critical for Belize's carbon market. Negotiations will continue during subsidiary bodies 60 to achieve transparency, accountability, and integrity of the mechanisms.

Mitigation: AOSIS, working with other parties, was able to secure key priorities, which should put the world on a path to achieving the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. These priorities include the tripling of renewable energy capacity, the doubling of energy efficiency by 2030, the phase-down of coal power, a just transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, and the phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. Ambassador Fuller co-facilitated the negotiation, while Mr. Colin Mattis, Belize's Deputy Chief Climate Change Officer, was AOSIS' chief negotiator.

Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA): The GGA framework is being developed to unify countries to drive political action and enhance adaptation financing. The GGA should guide and strengthen efforts on adaptation, including enhancing adaptive capacity and resiliency.

Global Stocktake: COP28 adopted the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, with parties agreeing to transition away from fossil fuels.

As the Ministry pioneers and explores establishing Carbon Markets in Belize, the Forest Department has prepared and presented its second iteration of the Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL), to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNCCC).

The Climate Finance Strategy 2021-2026, developed under the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) spearheaded by the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Partnership, represents a concerted effort to bolster our climate ambitions. The (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals particularly, in our case, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of climate change mitigation.

Also this fiscal year, the Permanent mission of Belize to the United Nations deposited the Instrument of Ratification to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice on Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazu Agreement) signed on 27 February, 2023 by our Foreign Minister, Eamon H Courtenay.

Through the efforts of the DOE, the Kigali Amendment was ratified by Belize on October 3, 2023, which demonstrates a commitment to phasing down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are potent greenhouse gases, and the amendment aims to address climate change by promoting the use of environmentally friendly alternatives.

While on June 12, 2023, Belize acceded to the Minamata Convention on Mercury - a multilateral

environmental agreement that addresses specific human activities that are contributing to widespread mercury pollution. Implementation of this agreement will help reduce global mercury pollution over the coming decades.

Under the Cartagena Convention, Belize benefitted from the establishment of a **revolving fund** to support projects aimed at improving wastewater management.

The National Biodiversity Office (NBIO) has formalized agreements with 14 partners for a total of 24 of the 32 non-extractive protected areas. This milestone serves to strengthen biodiversity, secure integrity and ensure ecosystem services within the protected areas.

In an effort to align the national disaster structures with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Framework and rekindle regional relationships, **NEMO** developed its first draft of the National Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Policy.

The commendable work of the National Meteorological Service, in this fiscal year, led to Belize being selected as one of the first countries globally to launch the Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF). As a result, the country will benefit from a total of US\$ 806,000 that will help in building the infrastructure and human resources capacity to produce weather observations for ingestion into the global models as part of World Meteorological Organization (WMO's) Global Basic Observing Network (GBON).





The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management



MISSION

To contribute to Belize's sustainable development, improve climate resiliency and foster comprehensive disaster risk reduction.



VISION

An enabled, strong, social-ecologically resilient Belize through long-term sustainable development.



VALUES

INTEGRITY

Honouring our commitments to our staff, partners, communities, and country; and maintaining the highest ethical and professional standards.

SUSTAINABILITY

Striking a balance between human and environmental needs for a sustainable future for all Belizeans.

INCLUSION AND RESPECT

Being mindful and inclusive of the voices and knowledge of the people we work with and serve; embracing diverse perspectives and beliefs; being fair, kind, and respectful. Actively welcoming, connecting and valuing all.

PROTECTION

Believing that protected areas management, resource use planning and adaptive management are effective in safeguarding our natural resources for present and future generations.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Reporting and taking responsibility for our actions and inactions.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

ADAPTABILITY

Understanding that the work environment is ever-changing and being able to adapt to and welcome innovative changes.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Fostering an environment that enables our staff to build success and achieve their full potential.

COLLABORATION & INTEGRATION

Working together as one team to achieve our goals and objectives for sustainable development and resiliency.

INNOVATION

Striving to remain focused, strategic, and calculated in our risks, learning from past mistakes, and embracing creative and innovative solutions for change.

Sustainable Development Unit



The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) serves as a central coordinating body for sustainable development efforts, working collaboratively with stakeholders to promote inclusive, equitable, and environmentally sustainable development. Through its integrated and participatory approach, the unit strives to catalyse action towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles of the broader sustainable development agenda.

The SDU works closely with government bodies, civil society organizations, academia, private sector and other stakeholders to ensure that sustainable development considerations are mainstreamed across all levels of decision-making processes and to facilitate building awareness of the SDGs. This involves providing technical assistance, conducting capacity – building initiatives, and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of national development strategies.

The SDU tracks and reports on the progress of sustainable development initiatives, including the implementation of SDGs. Through the collection and analysis of relevant data, the unit informs progress being made in implementation of the SDGs, challenges being faced, gaps in information, and opportunities for improvement. This is aimed at facilitating evidence-based decision making and policy formulation.

MISSION

The SDU's mission is to support the process of achieving sustainable development through the facilitation of an integrated and participatory approach to the integration of the principles of sustainable development and SDGs in national and sector plans, tracking and reporting on its progress, building awareness of the SDGs and resource mobilization in support of the SDGs implementation.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- **Capacity Building for the SDU:** The SDU staff received training on MS Project and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Systems (MEALS) which built the capacity of the SDU to assess and provide support to 47 SDG Custodians to collect, process and submit SDG data.
- **SDG Mainstreaming:** The SDU mainstreams the principles of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and SDGs through the different Committees it serves in including the MICS 7 Technical and Policy Committee, the National Council for Families and Children (NCFC) M&E Sub-Committee, Belize Food System Pathway Inter-ministerial Committee, Environmental Statistics Advisory Council (ESAC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Global Environmental Fund (GEF) – 6 Board, ESCAZU Steering Committee and the National Report Universal Periodic Review.



The SDU organized an SDG Partnership Dialogue that served as a platform to strengthen and scale up multi-stakeholder and multi-sector engagement; promote a common understanding of the added value of partnerships to accelerate the SDGs; share experiences, success stories, and best practices of existing partnerships; serve as a platform to launch new partnerships; and explore how the UN Development System and the Government of Belize can create the enabling conditions that support collaboration for the country's sustainable development. The inputs and takeaways from the dialogue aimed at enriching Belize's global commitments at the 2023 SDG Summit, fostered buy-in and practical actions by all.

The results of the dialogue were integrated into the 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the SDGs that the Government of Belize endorsed. Participating in this event were 135 stakeholders across government, private sector, civil society, academia, and vulnerable populations. The Nation's SDG Commitments were delivered by Hon. Prime Minister John Briceno.

A very important achievement for SDU at the national level, was its continued fulfilment of responsibilities as Co-secretariat of #PlanBelize Medium Term Development Strategy along with the Ministry of Economic Development.

- SDG Data Ecosystem Report 2023:** The SDU in partnership with the Statistical Institute of Belize, undertook an SDG Data Ecosystem Assessment. The primary objective of this endeavour was to evaluate the availability of SDG data in Belize. It aimed to map data sources for each indicator and identify gaps in both data and capacity. The main goal was to enhance evidence-based reporting structures and streamline the effectiveness and efficiency of the "follow-up and review" processes. Consequently, the assessment report provided recommendations for enhancing the data ecosystem and management in Belize, emphasizing the use of the Belize National Statistical System (BNSS) portal. This assessment examined 228 out of 247 SDG indicators, with 212 being unique. A total of 73 meetings were held with national data sources. Data was available for 105 indicators, partial data for 60, and 41 lacked any data. Additionally, 11 indicators were deemed irrelevant, while 11 required further discussion.

Reporting of SDGs Progress towards SDGs Implementation

Preparation of VNR 2024

The 2024 VNR aims to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the

implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Belize in this challenged decade of action. This VNR report will assess the progress to date, inclusive of Belize's past medium-term strategy, GSDS 2016-2020. It will also serve to inform the necessary adjustments to be made to the current medium-term development strategy, #PlanBelize 2022-2026 to be more impactful and effective in its efforts to build a more democratic, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient Belize. The report will also assess GOB's PSIP contribution to the SDGs.

Based on this context, the specific objectives of the VNR process are to:

- i. Conduct a detailed and comprehensive assessment that reflects the efforts, successes, challenges, and strategies of Belize in attaining the 17 SDGs for presentation at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF); and
- ii. Conduct an analysis of the contribution of the Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP) to the SDGs.
 - a. Host 73 BNSS meetings with data sources.
 - b. Reactive IRC
 - c. Coordinate 21 SDG data request sent by UN Agencies

Outreach and Advocacy

- a. SDU representation at 4 fairs.
- b. Sister department strengthening
- c. Regular SDU social media updates





ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: Building Climate Change Resilience and Social Integration of Displaced People in Western Belize

Funded By: European Union

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 2,300,000

- Enhances prevention, protection and solutions for communities facing disaster and climate-related displacements in settlements in the Northeast Cayo District.

- Beneficiaries are 1,150 households with access to safe, adequate, and affordable drinking water with the provision of a water bowser. A garage was also constructed for safe keeping of the bowser.
- Access to health services for a total of 1,600 households. Provision of a polyclinic in Duck Run 1 to service this community and neighbouring Billy White, Duck Run 2 and 3, and Los Tambos. This facility plans to benefit 5,180 residents of these settlements especially displaced persons with limited access to health services (women, children and elders)
- Four settlements equipped with firefighting equipment training for 12 women 12 men and establishment of fire-fighting brigade.
- Other trainings included first aid and training of health professionals
- Three new hurricane shelters in Duck Run 1 and 3 to which 500 people will have access. Upgrading two schools in Billy White and Los Tambos to serve as shelters.
- The rehabilitation of Santa Familia health center
- Newly constructed hurricane shelter in Santa Familia that will also serve as community center
- Flood Resilience through installation of culverts and drainage system serving flood prone areas in 50 households in Billy white and 170 households in Los Tambos.

Project Name: UNICEF Programme of Cooperation: 2023-2024 Rolling Work Plan

Funded By: UNICEF

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 100,000

- Support the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and child rights through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and Report, UN Global Compacts, and Small Island.

National Biodiversity Office



The National Biodiversity Office (NBIO) falls under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM) and was established to provide the necessary management and coordination for the implementation of Belize's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The office also oversees management activities for and within non-extractive protected areas and provides technical advice to the Government of Belize on biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity. Furthermore, the office serves as the government agency responsible for the coordination and implementation of policies, plans, and commitments under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as a Waterfowl Habitat.

MISSION

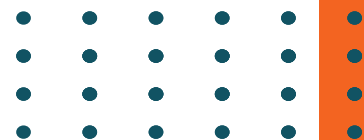
NBIO's Mission is to be the leading institution safeguarding Belize's biodiversity and ecosystems for future generations, through effective partnerships while maximizing sustainable social and economic opportunities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- The Ministry through the NBIO entered into more co-management agreements with co-management partners. Co-management Agreements have now been entered with 14 co-management partners for

21 protected areas across the National Protected Areas System. These agreements entail the necessary scope, coverage, and commitments to comprehensively address gaps related to financial accountability and transparency, reporting and data-availability. These agreements allow for greater collaboration between GOB and their Conservation Partners and endeavour to enhance governance of the National Protected Areas System (NPAS) for the benefit of the Belizean people.

- A Protected Areas Business planning framework has been developed and protected areas managers are given technical support in developing business plans. This mechanism now provides for the engagement of the private sector in the conservation of positive developments within and near protected areas. Maximizing the finance opportunities derived from our natural assets. The vision is for these public private partnerships to begin to close the conservation finance gaps and needs of protected areas management.
- The NBIO has now begun sensitization and training of its Biodiversity Impact Invest Tracking Tool (BIITT) for its key national partners. The national level sensitization and training on the use of the tool will better position the Office and Ministry in tracking the areas of investment, against national



environmental, social, and economic indicators. Giving a clearer picture of the impact of conservation investment at the community level and a more macro - national level.

- The NBIO has begun implementation of the “Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support” valued at US\$ 213,115. The grant will support key activities for the country of Belize such as: a) Rapid review of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for alignment with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF); b) assessment of monitoring systems; c) policy and institutional alignment and review of policies for coherence with the GBF; and d) biodiversity finance activities. The completion of these activities will provide Belize with the necessary financial and technical support to assist in fast-tracking its readiness to implement the post-2020 GBF.
- The NBIO has also delivered several trainings this year to its co-management partners in the usage of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). At the current reporting period, all co-managers have at least a basic level of capacities and knowledge of using the tool, with some being more advanced than others. The usage of this tool at a national level will provide for a more comprehensive and efficient reporting on threats and pressures

affecting our protected areas.

- The NBIO, in partnership with the Belize Police Training academy successfully delivered special constable training to 31 rangers from across the NPAS. The intensive training program was co-designed and delivered by instructors from the Police Training Academy, the National Biodiversity Office, and the Ministry's legal counsel. It was designed to increase the capacity of park rangers nationwide to apply biodiversity laws, or "Green Laws". The training provided the participants with essential knowledge and skills for gathering evidence, maintaining the chain of custody, proper investigation procedures, and case file preparation. These rangers now have the authority to detain and arrest those involved in environmental offenses.
- Under the Belize Biodiversity Initiative Project (BIOFIN) which was signed in January of 2021, Belize committed to preserving its rich biodiversity through a series of targeted actions and innovative financial mechanisms. The project valued at USD 1,069,000.00 over a 5-year period aims to enhance biodiversity management in Belize through several strategic financial mechanisms to generate revenues by attracting financial resources for Biodiversity such as impact investments. It will focus on realigning expenditures by redirecting

existing financial flows towards biodiversity conservation. The BIOFIN Project aims to amend counter-productive policies and ensure equitable distribution of resources. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Protected Areas System Plan are two leading strategies developed for improved biodiversity management in Belize.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: Strengthening the Protected Areas System Through Strategic Interventions

Funded By: PACT

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 289,371.25

- **Results 1:** Improved capacity of PA management agencies (Public Management Entity and Co-management entity) to carry out and comply with roles and responsibilities outlined within the co-management agreement.
- **Results 2:** Improved SMART tool usage capacity, SMART data availability among PA management agencies and partners to strengthen data and information sharing and collaboration.
- **Results 3:** Improved technical capacity to monitor and enforce biodiversity laws and regulations.
- **Results 4:** Improved knowledge and promotion of biodiversity laws, values, policies, and frameworks to increase biodiversity appreciation and compliance.
- **Beneficiaries:** Estimated number of direct beneficiaries: 19 bodies-organizations
- **Estimate number of indirect beneficiaries:** 100,000 (buffer communities).

Project Name: Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support

Funded By: GEF

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 213,115

- The objective of this global project is to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by providing financial and technical support to GEF-eligible Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in their work to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) including national biodiversity targets, monitoring, policy, and finance frameworks with the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD.

Project Name: Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)

Funded By: BIOFIN-UNDP

Implementation Period: 5 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 280,288.30

- In Belize, the Implementation of identified finance solutions aims to:
 - Generate revenue,
 - Deliver better biodiversity results,
 - Realign expenditure, and
 - Avoid future expenditure.
- There are 10 solutions proposed and prioritized in the BFP. These finance solutions aim to deliver the necessary policy and institutional reforms to create the enabling environment for sound biodiversity management in Belize. It is anticipated that through implementation, systems for biodiversity management will be supported to achieve financial sustainability.



Department Of the Environment



The Environmental Protection Act was passed in 1992, the Act provided the legal establishment of the Department of the Environment (DOE). Over the years, the DOE has passed several other supporting legislations which have allowed the Department to carry out its mandate. The DOE has built the organization based on its National Environmental Policy and Strategy and the National Environmental Action Plan, which are planning documents, providing guidance and direction for the department.

The Environmental Protection Act (EPA) has twenty-seven roles and responsibilities of the DOE with the major responsibility being the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of Belize. Its roles are related to evaluating project proposals for environmental clearance, conducting compliance monitoring, enforcement of environmental laws, advising the government on any environmental-related matter, and public awareness.

A few of the LEGISLATIONS which govern the Department of the Environment are:

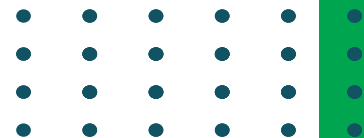
- a. The Environmental Protection Act
- b. The Environmental Protection (Pollution Regulations)
- c. The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
- d. The Returnable Containers Act
- e. Summary Jurisdiction (Littering Offenses)

(Violation Tickets) Regulations

- f. Environmental Protection (Pollution from Plastics) Regulations

The Department of the Environment is responsible for fostering the prudent use and management of our natural resources. The responsibilities of the Department are enormous, but the Department utilizes several strategies that allow it to work and meet its obligations. The DOE strives to strengthen the coordination of environmental activities between government and non-government organizations. It continues to establish and enforce standards for pollution control and reviews and revises, as necessary, existing environmental legislation and regulations while strengthening their enforcement.

The DOE is committed to promoting environmental planning for key areas of development such as the coastal zone, islands, and tourism sites. To facilitate planning and monitoring the department is establishing, upgrading, and maintaining information systems to store data and other information on the environment to facilitate planning and monitoring. A critical role of the DOE is to ensure that the Government's Environmental Impact Assessment procedures are implemented for all environmentally sensitive projects.



MISSION

To ensure that Belize's development is sound through effective environmental management for present and future generations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

Project Evaluation-EIA Unit

- A total of 415 applications for environmental clearance were processed, with the Belize District having the most applications and the Toledo District having the least. Tourism projects were the most common applications, while the least were mining, ships, waste, and service stations.
- A session was conducted with EIA preparers-environmental consultants to improve the EIA process and the quality of the EIA reports. In addition, a training session with the NEAC was held to review policies to improve the process. Updates on the EIA Amendment Regulations and recommendations to be made for the new fiscal year were presented. A NEAC sweep was held in November 2023 to conduct joint inspections for projects that went through the EIA process. This sweep was held for projects in the Turneffe area.

Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Unit

- A total of 202 compliance monitoring inspections were conducted, with the majority conducted in the Belize District and Toledo District with the least. Twenty-three licenses were not issued due to various reasons, including the companies not being in operation such as the shrimp farms. There were several violations recorded with 14 enforcement notices and cessation orders issued, and 2 littering tickets. Twelve inspections were conducted for applications received for the processing of environmental clearance with 39 projects granted environmental clearance.
- 73% of the effluent licenses issued were applied for and issued online. This was the first year that effluent licenses were added to Online Permitting Application Licensing System (OPAL), and as such some companies faced challenges applying online.
- The unit responded to environmental emergencies with oil spill response as the main type of incident. There were 3 groundings with Herca 1, Aggressor 4, and Blue Pearl 1. Only two charges were made BZ\$773,425 and BZ\$72,960 due to the amount of corals that were damaged.
- The air quality programme was expanded to the



Project Execution Unit

- Belize acceded to the Minamata Convention on Mercury in June 2023 to address mercury pollution.
- Belize also ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down HFCs and provide climate-friendly alternatives.
- A technical committee was established to implement a new application and review process for the Belize Wastewater Revolving Fund. The board of the fund approved the first funding agreement for the private sector to upgrade the selected wastewater treatment system.
- Under the GEF ISLANDS Programme, various strategies and frameworks were developed for various pollutants, such as PCBs, end-of-life vehicles, mercury, etc.
- Under GEF ISLANDS a national in-country mission for the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) was held with the National Working Group, valued stakeholders and various partners to design an environmentally sound scheme to improve regional and national capacity for the management of ELVs.
- The unit led an initiative to construct a waste oil storage area for the MIDH.
- The autoclave at Mile 3 George Price Highway has been repaired and is operationalized for the treatment of medical waste.
- Project Fresh-Start was implemented, assisting four (4) communities in the lower Cayo District,

namely Billy White, Santa Familia Village, Duck Run 1 and Duck Run 3 Villages in establishing a solid waste collection program.

Information Management Unit

A situational analysis was conducted on the recycling sector to collect information on recyclable materials, establish a database for recyclers, identify recycling centers in the region, and propose mechanisms to strengthen recycling, including recommendations to improve the Returnable Containers Act. The situational analysis has revealed that the country is importing 4.5% more plastic products than before; however, more biodegradable products are also being imported. Scrap metal is the highest volume of recyclable material that is being exported. Recommendations include the implementation of a return scheme for the collection of recyclable material for large companies, the review of the used clothes sector to avoid “dumping”, and the promotion of financing for small businesses to conduct recycling.

One report was developed for the Environment and Solid Waste Committee for NEMO for Hurricane Lisa. The unit continued to process applications for permits through OPAL and cleared customs entries. For the importation of commodities, restricted products were the most imported, while refrigerants were the least.

Public Awareness and Outreach Unit

- World Environment Day was celebrated with a video competition on what your community is doing to beat plastic pollution, discounts were offered at participating stores to customers who used reusable bags, and a message by the Minister was aired. The DOE also handed over 4 trailers for the collection of garbage in Billy White, Santa Familia,

Duck Run I, and Duck Run II.

- The “Have Civic Pride” anti-littering campaign began with the distribution of garbage drums to municipalities and the painting of these drums by youth in the communities. A total of 30 traffic wardens were also trained in the issuance of littering tickets. Weed -cutters were donated to MIDH to assist in the maintenance of the buffers on the highways and social media and traditional media campaigns were ran with anti-littering messages. For the next fiscal year, the campaign will be branded, and additional activities will be implemented. The unit participated in several key environmental days throughout the year to share information on environmental protection with the public.

DOE Water Lab

- Five water quality monitoring programmes were established for Rio Hondo, New River, Belize River, North Stann Creek, and South Stann Creek. 238 samples were collected and analyzed in the past fiscal year. In-situ parameters include DO, TDS, pH, Temperature, Conductivity, and Turbidity. In-lab tests include nitrates, phosphate, sulphate, and COD.
- The DOE discovered that the main sources of water pollution in Belize includes municipal wastewater and sewage, Industrial waste, the Aquaculture Industry, Agricultural sources, and soil erosion. Additional pollutants include organic waster such as leaves and plants. Oil and heat also affect our rivers when cars are washed in the rivers or when excessively hot temperatures cause the death of aquatic life.

- The FTIR was installed in the laboratory and training was conducted. Ninety-two samples were tested using the FTIR for plastics. The GCMS was also installed and ready for training. Several reports have been published in which the laboratory personnel participated in thesis projects by students, supporting these students in technical knowledge and use of the lab. Microplastics research continued in Orchid Bay, Sibun River Mouth, and Hopkins Village. Capacity-building activities included training on ISO 17025.







ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: Child Project 3: Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) 10279

Funded By: GEF-UNEP-FAO (executed through BCRC Caribbean)

Implementation Period: 5 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 1,216,208

- Seeks to address the sound management of chemicals and waste through strengthening the capacity of sub-national, national, and regional institutions; strengthening the enabling policy and regulatory framework in these countries; and unlocking resources for implementation measures.
- It comprises 4 components being: Preventing the future build-up of Chemicals in SIDS; Safe Management and Disposal of Existing Chemicals, Products and Materials; Safe Management of Products Entering SIDS-Closing Material and Product Loops for Products; as well as Knowledge Management and Communication.

Project Name: Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) - Caribbean Incubator Facility 10258

Funded By: GEF-IDB (executed through BCRC Caribbean)

Implementation Period: 5 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 530,000

- Is a Caribbean Incubator Facility which aims to support the sustainable management of chemicals and waste in the Caribbean. The specific objectives are: to finance the development and strengthening of policy, legal, regulatory, and financial frameworks, tools, and instruments; and to channel financing to the private and public sectors to advance the sustainable management of Chemicals and Waste.

Project Name: Institutional Strengthening of the DOE for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in Belize

Funded By: UNEP Special Programme Trust Fund

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 235,735

- To assist the DOE in establishing its Chemicals Management Unit, building capacity in laboratory services, and public awareness on Chemicals and Waste.

Project Name: Ozone and Climate Change Programme

Funded By: Multi-lateral Fund

Implementation Period: 15 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 800,000

- Established the National Ozone Unit which is the focal point for all activities related to the Montreal Protocol.

Belize Solid Waste Management Authority



The Belize Solid Waste Management Authority (BSWaMA) falls under the purview of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDCC&DRM). On a daily basis, the BSWaMA is involved with Solid Waste Management Administrations including provision of technical support to local municipal authorities in waste management.

It facilities Operations Management which includes oversight for a network of seven (7) operational transfer stations and the Regional Sanitary Landfill; The BSWaMA using operations service providers is responsible for the safe transfer and final disposal of solid waste from the operational transfer stations. BSWaMA is also executing the Solid Waste Management Project II funded by the Inter American Development Bank.

MISSION

Through the application of the concept of Integrated Sustainable Solid Waste Management and working within the framework of the waste management hierarchy, the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority (BSWaMA) along with its partners will continuously strive to improve on and contribute to the protection of human health-safety and the environment, the conservation of natural resources, and the promotion of the occupational health-safety of workers in the waste sector, both formal and informal.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- The BSWaMA continues to provide for environmentally sound management of solid waste at one of the best managed and operated sanitary landfills in the region. The facility designed and constructed to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) standards. The landfill is operated to high standards and has attracted visitors from Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Through the provision of operations service, the BSWaMA Transferred and safely disposed of waste from seven (7) operational transfer stations. Additional transfer stations serving the City of Belmopan and Dangriga became operational in September of 2023. A total of 48,181 Tons of garbage was transferred to the landfill i.e. 9,241 Tons in San Ignacio, 21,153 Tons from Belize City, 9,038 Tons from San Pedro, 2,138 Tons from Corozal, Burrell Boom was 3,297 Tons, Belmopan 1,932 Tons, Dangriga 412 Tons while Direct Haul to landfills totalled 971 Tons.
- To further ensure that the environment is being protected from potential pollutants, BSWaMA received and treated hazardous waste at the Hazardous Waste Cell, Regional Sanitary Landfill including asbestos, spent reagents and expired pharmaceuticals totalling 142.8 Tons.



- During the period 2022-2023 BSWaMA provided operations and maintenance support to municipalities with controlled dumpsites. A total of 45 Dumpsites maintenance was conducted with 7 bulldozer hours per month, for dumpsite clearing and access upkeep at 4 active municipal dumpsites in Punta Gorda, Placencia, Corozal and Orange Walk.
- A notable accomplishment in the past year for BSWaMA was signing on to the Recycle Organics (RO) Program. Plans have commenced to conduct feasibility studies for the establishment of composting plants and the implementation of a home composting program in two (2) municipalities as a pilot project.
- BSWaMA continued implementation of the Social Inclusion Plan to support the informal recyclers operating at the operational transfer stations. A total of 60+ recyclers and their families conducted 82 site inspections at all operational and non-operational transfer stations to monitor for compliance and to conduct inventory management and staff welfare checks.
- As part of its commitment to public education BSWaMA participated in numerous public awareness, education, outreach and stakeholder engagement activities attending 96 school presentations and conducting 20 based on specific topics.
- Despite the challenges and risks associated with the sector and its operations BSWaMA recorded zero major or minor accidents, events or injuries at its facilities countrywide. All operations staff currently working at the facilities are provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Finally, over the past year BSWaMA was able to formalize the Inter Institutional Coordination Mechanism (IICM) which fosters a collaborative and efficient approach to Belize SWM goals through collaboration and planning with key GoB organizations and private sector entities.





ON-GOING PROJECTS


Project Name: Solid Waste Management
Project II

Funded By: IDB, GOB Counterpart Funds

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 1,625,785.84

Unspent balance which corresponds to procurement processes or contracts for goods, works and consulting services that are either under execution or expected to commence.

- Works Component - Landfill Cell Expansion at the Regional Sanitary Landfill.
 - Beneficiaries are all residents in the urban areas of the country in municipalities with operational transfer stations and communities within 10 miles of an operational transfer station.
- 

Belize Forest Department



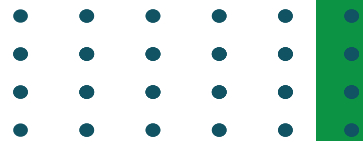
The Forest Department is responsible for implementing the activities of its Wildlife, Forest Resource Planning and Management, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification, Law Enforcement and Compliance and Landscape Restoration Programs.

The Wildlife Program deals with monitoring and enforcement, plants and animals and permitting. While the Sustainable Forest Resource Management (SFRM) Unit focuses on logging and what the Forestry Department has traditionally been known for. The SFRM also conducts research on sample plots and does data collection and implementation of long-term licenses which are a Public Private Service. This is like co-management arrangements. The (MRV) Unit does GIS mapping, monitoring for forest cover and land use changes. It also monitors carbon outputs by broad leaf, mangrove, and the forest. The Department is the focal point for CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) an international agreement between governments and the UNforum (the United Nations Forum on Forests), a high-level intergovernmental policy forum. The forum includes all United Nations member states.

The Forest Department uses a programmatic approach to fulfill its mandate. Currently staffed with 54 Technical staff (52 PE, 2 OV) distributed throughout the country specifically in Orange Walk, San Ignacio, Douglas D'Silva, Savannah, Machaca and Belmopan the

FD is headquartered in Belmopan. Discussions have been ongoing about opening an office in San Pedro to address issues and raise awareness of the importance of mangroves as the island continues to develop rapidly. Additionally, this would contribute to delivering on the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments to enhance the capacity of the country's mangrove and seagrass ecosystems to act as carbon sink by 2023, through increased protection of mangroves and by removing a cumulative total of 381 KtCO_{2e} between 2021 and 2030 through mangrove restoration. The FD continues to build on the 12,827 hectares of mangroves currently under protection, by further protecting at least 6,000 hectares more by 2025 and an additional 6,000 hectares by 2030. It has a total of seventy-one (71) Permanent (PE) and forty (40) Open Vote Staff totalling 111 staff countrywide.

Through the GEF7 Enhancing Jaguar Corridors and Strongholds Through Improved Management and Threat Project there has been greater public awareness and education of primary school aged children on protecting the forest and its importance as a natural resource. The FD celebrates Jaguar Week for instance and started an annual Summer Camp 6 years ago with the objective of educating kids ages 8-12 years old on FD Programs and efforts to effectively manage Belize's Forest Resources. The department has developed a 2024 Public Awareness Calendar and continues to focus on children as agents of change. Tailored School



visits and presentations are also conducted on special days as scheduled or upon request.

Aligned with the commitments of the Bonn Challenge, a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. The FD seeks to restore ecological functionality of degraded and deforested landscapes while enhancing the wellbeing of people that co-exist with these environments. It has established a main nursery in Belmopan while the other ranges have smaller nurseries to distribute trees and plants. The FD endeavors to strengthen the nursery section with support from GEF 6 Project and is also developing a mechanism that would allow partners and the public to record reforestation activities. The plan includes a database to enable measurement and reporting of reforestation efforts nationally.

MISSION

The mission of the FD is to have “A result oriented Department that manages Belize’s forest resources, enabled by informed decision-making and highly motivated and competent staff, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.”

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- The Forest Department celebrated its 100 yrs. (1923 – 2023) of service to the country of Belize in August 2023 with a series of informative activities including the first annual Forest Symposium.

These informative activities highlighted the importance of the Department to the productive and conservation sector of the country. The Forest Department is the oldest department in the government service.

- The Forest Department also finalized the revision of the Wildlife Protection Act and Policy to align the act with current national and international circumstances related to wildlife. The department also established the CITES Act (Convention in Trade of Endangered Species) which is an international regulatory treaty to manage the international trade of over 35,000 wild species of plants and animals.
- As part of our commitment to the Paris Agreement and to reducing the undeniable effects of climate change globally, the Forest Department through its Measurement, Verification and Reporting Unit (MRV Unit) completed Belize’s second Forest Reverence Level Report called a Zero FREL. This report serves as a benchmark for assessing Belize’s performance in reducing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere considering all forest related emissions and removals for the country. Belize is one of only 9 countries that have achieved net zero emissions meaning we absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than we produce consistently over a period of 20 years. This net zero status will shortly translate to sales of carbon results, which will mean

a new income revenue stream for the country of Belize.

- The Forest Department is also currently leading the implementation of 3 Projects which will inject a total of approximately US\$38 million dollars into the economy of Belize. The first is referred to as GEF6 and is entitled “Integrated Management of Production Landscapes in the Belize River Valley”. This 5-year project aims to improve land and water management within the Belize River Valley and has a total investment of US\$25,000,000.
- The second is referred to as the GEF7 project and is entitled “Enhancing Jaguar corridors and strongholds through enhanced management and threat reduction.” The objective of this medium-sized project is to secure jaguar corridors and strengthen the management of jaguar conservation units through reduction of current and emerging threats, development of sustainable wildlife economy and enhanced regional cooperation. The budget for this project is US\$ 11,348.404.00.
- The third project is the execution of Component 5 of the Government led project entitled “Establishing the Enabling Environment for the development of a marine spatial plan through the strengthened governance, improved management and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources” under the Government Strategic Allocation funding (GSA) funded under the auspices of the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future and managed by the Blue Bond and Finance for Permanence Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister. The budget for this project over a three-year period is BZ\$ 1.7 Million.

Other Highlights:

- Signing of MoUs with six (6) Wildlife Rehabilitation Partners
- Conducted the first annual Forest Symposium as part of the Centennial Celebration to highlight successful and long-standing working relationships with NGOs and Stakeholder partners.
- Celebration of the Centennial Gala to commemorate the 100 yrs. existence of the Forest Department with participation from stakeholders and NGO partners.
- Execution of Wildlife Summer Camp in San Ignacio Town for kids between the ages of 6 and 12 to improve environmental and wildlife education. The summer camp was for 1 week and had the participation of 50 kids from the San Ignacio Town area.
- Hosted a media sensitization workshop and a stakeholder sensitization workshop on fire management and the effects of wildfires at the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve.
- Enforcement and Compliance - In 2023 the Forest Department had 33 positive responses, that is 7 court cases and 1 pending. In 2022 there were, 51 positive responses that is 14 court case, 3 pending and 1 dismissed.



ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: GEF6 Integrated Management of Production Landscapes to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits

Funded By: GEF-UNDP

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 5,183,933

Co-financing in US\$: 19,644,574

- To mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land-water management into production landscapes in Belize.
- Beneficiaries are Local Communities in Northern Belize estimated 10,000 persons

Project Name: GEF 7: Enhancing Jaguar Corridors and Strongholds Through Improved Management and Threat Reduction

Funded By: GEF-UNDP

Implementation Period: 3 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 1,264,404

Co-financing in US\$: 10,084,000

- To secure jaguar corridors and strengthen the management of jaguar conservation units through reduction of current and emerging threats, development of sustainable wildlife economy and enhanced regional cooperation.

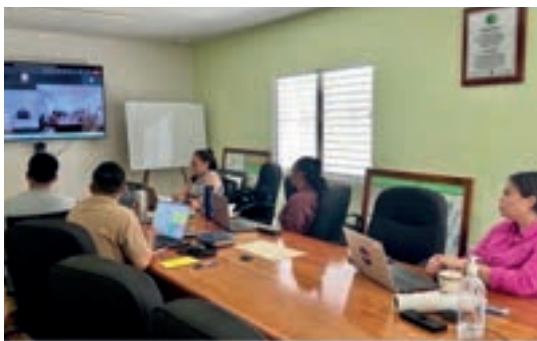
Project Name: GSA: Establishing the Enabling Environment for the Development of a Marine Spatial Plan Through the Strengthened Governance, Improved Management and Enhanced Monitoring of Belize's Coastal and Marine Resources

Funded By: Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future

Implementation Period: 3 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 159,494.50

- Coastal communities along the entire Belize Coast, GoB Agencies and NGOs



Protected Areas Conservation Trust



The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) continues to make important investments in key interventions supporting Belize's national development. This becomes an even greater accomplishment when considering that PACT is a national institution, is quasi-governmental, and has overcome the challenges of a pandemic as well as those of competing interests. The Trust has maintained a consistent path of responsible growth and now expanded its role within the conservation sector to be able to mobilize complementary financial resources for supporting the strategic goals of the Trust, conservation partners, and the Government of Belize.

In June 2023, the Conservation Investment Strategy 2.0 2023-2026 was approved at its 49th Special Board Meeting. The goal of this strategy is to Strengthen Coordination and Regulation of the BNPAS by instituting a collaborative structure that mobilizes resources efficiently to increase management presence and systematize data collection and analysis which informs decision-making.

The proposed actions-activities to be funded under CIS 2 will also contribute towards Belize's updated Nationally Determined Contribution, specifically to 6.2.1 Land use change and forestry, 7.2.1 Coastal zone and marine resources, 7.2.3 Fisheries and aquaculture, 7.2.5 Tourism, and 7.2.6 Forestry and biodiversity. These in-turn, contribute to the SDGs which nests CIS 2.0 well

within national development frameworks. Lastly, the outcomes will also contribute towards increasing the Nation's resiliency, increase the co-management of protected areas as well as maintain the biodiversity values and contribute towards socio-economic benefits, especially to communities surrounding protected areas. The recommendations coming out of the draft Protected Areas Rationalization Report as well as the 2019 Management Effectiveness Assessment formed the basis of the CIS change model as well as the strategies defined for the Conservation Investment Strategy 2.0.

MISSION

To contribute to the effective management of Belize's National Protected Areas System through strategic partnerships and high impact investments.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- Approval of a US\$ 5 mln Enhanced Direct Access Project financed by the Adaptation Fund to support some of the most vulnerable populations in five (5) key areas:
 - Watershed management
 - Access to climate financing
 - Enhanced capacity development in addressing climate change impacts
 - Improved livelihoods
 - Reducing vulnerability to flooding.



- Approval of US\$2,485,067 of Readiness and Preparatory Funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to support building climate resilience of the Human Settlement Sector, build the institutional capacity and structure of the Ministry of Economic Development in its pursuit of GCF accreditation, and develop a Multi-Sectoral National Adaptation Plan for five (5) sectors to build national climate resilience:
 - Tourism
 - Agriculture
 - Forest
 - Health
 - Human Settlements
- A pipeline of projects to support Belize's response to climate change through funding from the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund with a value of about US\$40,000,000 in projects currently under development.
- Investments in conservation programs focused on financial stability of protected areas managers by enhancing protected areas as a tourism product.
- BZ \$250K via the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) focused on finalizing and enhancing their accommodation product. By offering this service, they attract additional visitors to the village of Sarteneja, and utilize local fishermen for tours, local restaurants, and catering services, as well as local accommodation.
- Further investments of BZ \$600,000 into Sarteneja village for the rehabilitation of the community's water system has also been done with the objective of providing potable water to the community members, increase the tourism potential of the village, and of course, increase the revenue generation potential of the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Investments of BZ \$499K in southern Belize with TIDE and Ya'axché has similar objectives in achieving financial stability for the protected area. Their model focuses on using traditional and small businesses within local communities to provide tourism services, and products to visitors TIDE and Ya'axché attracts. Both TIDE and Ya'axché play a crucial role in the local economy by employing 81 personnel from Punta Gorda Town and surrounding villages and PACT significantly contributes to sustaining 51% of their personnel.
- Investments of BZ \$300K have also been placed in Mayflower Bocawina National Park and Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association, which are

managed by community-based organizations, to develop their tourism product. The objective of this investment to enhance the financial stability of the protected area so that continued environmental services can be provided, especially for Belize, as well as creating jobs for site managers. Furthermore, increased visitation to the site increases the potential for the local tourism market in the villages of Steadfast and Silk Grass.

- Investments within the protected areas of Western Belize, particularly focusing within the Chiquibul National Park, Vaca Forest Reserve, Chiquibul Forest Reserve, and the Caracol Archaeological Reserve valued at BZ \$3.01M for the enhanced management of the Chiquibul Forest. This is focused on bolstering landscape management in the Western Maya Mountain region, by ensuring protection of headwaters, recovery of degraded areas, and protection of cultural resources. This is therefore safeguarding vital water sources that communities rely on for drinking, agriculture, and other essential needs. Furthermore, by preserving cultural sites, it contributes to maintaining the cultural identity and heritage of Belizeans.
- In April 2024 (PACT) awarded a total of BZ\$120,000 in academic grants to 15 students pursuing various academic programs across 4 tertiary institutions in Belize. This funding support is being implemented within PACT's Youth Academic Support Grant initiative; a funding allocation made to support Belizean youths in pursuing academic studies within disciplines related to protected areas management. Among the recipients, 9 received Bachelor's level grants totalling BZ\$10,000 each, while 6 received Associate's level grants totalling

BZ\$5,000 each. The selected beneficiaries were provided with financial support for their programs which include Natural Resources Management, Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Business Science. The beneficiaries were students from the University of Belize, Galen University, Sacred Heart Junior College, and Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior College.



ON-GOING PROJECTS



Project Name: Enhancing Access for Climate Finance Opportunities, Through Pre-Accreditation Support to Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) and Ministry of Economic Development-Belize and Technical Support for Belize National Protected Areas System (BNPAS) Entities

Funded By: GCF

Implementation Period: 18 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 600,000.00

- To enhance the capacity of institutions in Belize such as the NDA, BSIF and BNPAS partners to effectively engage the GCF to build the country's resilience.



Project Name: Building Capacity for Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Land Management and Strengthening the Capacity of the Ministry of Economic Development for Pre-Accreditation to the Green Climate Fund

Funded By: GCF

Implementation Period: 24 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 998,062.00

- To improve the plans and procedures within MED to become a Direct Access Entity and develop the institutional structure and capacity for climate resilient human settlements and infrastructure.



Project Name: Enabling Activities for the Execution and Formulation of a Multi-Sectoral National Adaptation Plan for Belize

Funded By: GCF

Implementation Period: 34 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 1,487,030.00

- To systematically and through a participatory approach enhance the adaptive planning and implementation of frameworks that support building climate resilience in Belize.



Project Name: Strengthening Technical and Institutional Capacities of Galen University, BLPA, PACT, BNPAS and the Government of Belize to Access Climate Finance

Funded By: GCF

Implementation Period: 18 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 679,725.00

- To contribute to reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change in Belize, by facilitating the coherent integration of climate change adaptation into the public sector, programs, and projects.

Project Name: Building Resilient Community via Transformative Adaptation

Funded By: AF

Implementation Period: 5 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 5,000,000.00

- To improve Belize's long-term capacity to protect communities from climate threats posed by drought, unpredictable water availability, floods and improper wildfire management.

Project Name: Enhancing the Resilience of Belize's Coastal Communities to Climate Change Impacts

Funded By: AF

Implementation Period: 5 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 4,000,000.00

- To enhanced climate change adaptive capacities of coastal Belize.

Project Name: Securing Water Resources Through Solar Energy and Innovative Adaptive Management

Funded By: AF

Implementation Period: 4 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 50,000.00

- To develop a full project proposal.

Project Name: Strengthening Landscape Management in the Western-Maya Mountains

Funded By: PACT Investment

Beneficiaries: FCD

Implementation Period: 3 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 812,436.40

Project Name: Strengthening the Protected Areas System via Strategic Interventions

Funded By: PACT Investment

Beneficiaries: NBIO

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 173,381.25

Project Name: Strengthening Protected Areas Management Through Enhanced Institutional Governance and Capacity

Funded By: PACT Investment

Beneficiaries: APAMO

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 99,989.11

Project Name: Safeguarding the Livelihoods and Well-being of the Buffer Community of Sarteneja for the Protection of the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Funded By: PACT Investment

Beneficiaries: MRTCDLLG

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 288,491.30

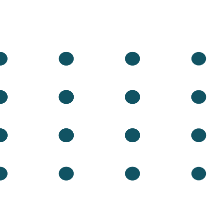
Project Name: Upscaling EcoTourism Belize to support Sustainable Conservation in the Maya Golden Landscape

Funded By: PACT Investment

Beneficiaries: Ya'axche

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 125,000.00



Project Name: Strengthening Governance and Management of the Billy Barquedier National Park
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: STACA
Implementation Period: 1 Year
Total Funds in US\$: 71,454.56

Project Name: Improve Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary's Management Effectiveness Through Financial Sustainability and Governance
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: BAS
Implementation Period: 1 Year
Total Funds in US\$: 97,203.38

Project Name: Strengthen the Management and Development of Mayflower Bocawina National Park
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: MBEDG
Implementation Period: 1 Year
Total Funds in US\$: 74,950.53

Project Name: Strengthening the Institutional Governance and Financial Sustainability of SACD as the MPA Co-Manager of Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: SACD
Implementation Period: 1 Year
Total Funds in US\$: 120,534.43

Project Name: To Increase Management Effectiveness of the PHMR and PCNP, Enhance Protected Area Governance and Introduce New Financial Sustainability Initiatives
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: TIDE
Implementation Period: 1 Year
Total Funds in US\$: 124,947.58



Project Name: Strategic Development of the Managerial Capacity of the Belize Karst Habitat Conservation
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: BKHC
Implementation Period: 1 Year
Total Funds in US\$: 125,000.00

Project Name: Second Phase - Improving the Management of the Marine Reserve Network
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: FiD
Implementation Period: 1 Year
Total Funds in US\$: 124,999.62

Project Name: Improving the Management of the Marine Reserve Network
Funded By: PACT Investment
Beneficiaries: FiD
Implementation Period: 3 Years
Total Funds in US\$: 575,000.00

National Climate Change Office



The National Climate Change Office (NCCO) is tasked with coordinating Belize's multifaceted response to climate change and is responsible for harmonizing national, regional, and international efforts in addressing the phenomenon. The National Climate Change Office also serves as the secretariat and operational arm of the Belize National Climate Change Committee (BNCCC). Central to its mandate, the NCCO operates on three core principles namely to communicate, coordinate and mainstream climate change in Belize.

MISSION

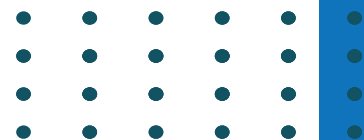
To guide the short, medium, and long-term processes of adaptation and mitigation of climate change in accordance with national prospects for sustainable development in addition to regional and international commitments.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- With funding from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the NCCO developed a National Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System tailored to Belize's unique needs, enhancing Belize's ability to track climate change actions effectively. This system encompasses streamlined institutional arrangements for data collection and sharing, the establishment of indicators to monitor Belize's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and the

development of an accessible online platform. This initiative is paramount in facilitating transparent reporting of climate change actions across Belize, ensuring compliance with our commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. By fortifying our monitoring capabilities, we empower Belize to uphold its pledge to combat climate change and safeguard the well-being of our people and environment.

Stakeholder empowerment was achieved through comprehensive training on the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model (GACMO) Tool, which is a vital resource for projecting and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. This capacity-building session helped to equip sectoral focal points in tools necessary to inform crucial decisions and shape effective policies. The session included a diverse cohort of 14 participants, including 9 female and 5 male counterparts, all while fostering inclusivity and leveraging diverse perspectives to drive sustainable development. Training on NDC tracking was also carried out for the preparation of Belize's Biennial Transparency Report, the first to be developed and submitted before December 2024. The training had a total of 14 participants who are key in data collection processes necessary for climate change reporting. Of the 14 participants, 8 were females and 7 were males.



For all of these activities, the agencies targeted were primarily government entities who are directly involved in Belize's climate change institutional arrangements, for example, those involved in the development of national inventory reports. These stakeholders play a vital role in supporting the NCCO when it comes to data collection and reporting. Some private sector entities were also in attendance as they are often data providers for different reports or are also involved in climate change-related initiatives, such as SIRD, BSI, BLPA, The Nature Conservancy and a few others.

- In an effort to empower youth for climate action, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (MSDC-CDRM), through the NCCO, held its second national climate change youth conference themed: Climate Action: One Goal, A Shared Responsibility. Over 70 youths from across the country joined together to empower and promote youth participation in climate related issues, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards climate action, along with technical representatives from various government and non-government agencies. In total 91 persons were registered for the forum, including 58 female and 33 males. The youth led initiative also delivered a draft declaration which incorporated a 10-point plan. The plan included

elements relating to education and awareness, advocacy for policy change, carbon footprint reduction, promoting renewable energy, support for climate friendly initiatives, promoting sustainable consumption, climate research and innovation, and building climate resilience, among others.

- With funding from the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme, the NCCO worked to upgrade existing Rural Water Systems (RWS) in the Santa Familia and Billy White Villages to improve efficiency, reliability, and sustainability. This included repairing and maintaining water supply systems, installing water storage facilities, upgrading pumping and distribution systems, and integrating renewable energy sources for water pumping. In Billy White Village, the RWS upgrade and expansion, valued at 230,042.71 US\$, has significantly bolstered water infrastructure. This included the supply, installation, testing, and flushing of various essential components, such as pipes, water meters, and a chlorinator pump, ensuring improved water delivery and quality.

Similarly, in Santa Familia Village, the RWS upgrade and expansion, valued at 205,405.60 US\$, focused on enhancing the system's ability to provide water to customers. Accomplishments included the replacement of 540 water meters, the installation of

3,200 feet of water transmission and distribution lines, and the installation of a bulk meter, all contributing to a more resilient and efficient water supply for the community.

The direct beneficiaries of these actions included the community members of Santa Familia and Billy White, their Water Boards and Village Councils, 500+ Households in Santa Familia, 200+ households in Billy White, including women, children, and disabled persons within the communities.

- The NCCO demonstrated its commitment to youth empowerment and public awareness through various initiatives that were implemented. The second National Climate Change Youth Forum assembled over 70 Belizean youths with the aim of promoting and empowering youth participation in climate-related issues. The NCCO held capacity building sessions with private landowners, local communities, and other relevant stakeholders on Blue Carbon. Moreover, a capacity building workshop was held, aimed at increasing participants' capacity to engage effectively in global climate change negotiations both within and out of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes and to implement follow-up action at the national level.
- The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management's development of the Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiatives Bill, 2023, signifies a monumental step towards comprehensive climate governance. This bill aims to establish crucial institutional frameworks such as the Climate Change Department and the National Climate Change Council. The bill also establishes a Carbon Trading

Market which solidifies Belize's position as a leader in climate action and sets clear guidelines for transparent monitoring and strategic coordination in addressing climate change at national and international levels.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: ICAT-Belize Phase 2 Project

Funded By: UNOPS

Implementation Period: 19 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 170,000

- Strengthening national and institutional capacities to support the implementation of the developed National Climate Change MRV System under ICAT Phase I
- Enhancing sector, sub-national, and non-state actor-level support, and integration into the national MRV system

Project Name: ICAT Enhancing national capacities to track climate finance

Funded By: UNOPS

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 169,875

To enhance the national capacities in Belize to track and report on climate finance which will allow the country to meet the national and international climate finance related reporting requirements

Project Name: UNDP Climate Promise – APA

Funded By: UNDP Climate Promise Initiative

Implementation Period: 4 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 159,494.50

- Belize to contribute to the national Work programme approved for Belize under the Climate Promise: From Pledge to Impact funds allocated to Belize in support of undertaking an inclusive and transparent process to implement, track and further strengthen the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

- Beneficiaries includes Public and private sector especially those contributing to meeting the NDC targets. Approximately 100 youth and indigenous youth throughout the country of Belize

Project Name: Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme in the Caribbean: Enhancing Climate Resilience in CARIFORUM Countries.

Funded By: European Union-CARIFORUM **Implementation Period:** 3 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 185,800.50

- Support the climate compatible development of the CARIFORUM countries to combat the negative impacts of climate change, while simultaneously exploring opportunities presented. In Belize specifically, the objective of the action is “to contribute to the efforts that will enhance Belize’s national water security system as well as build resilience through the implementation of various water supply, storage and management measures in the country of Belize.”
- Pending activities include a Pilot project for Renewable water system using hydro panel technology at the MSDCCDRM compound.
- However, The PMU submitted a request for derogation to 5Cs in September 2023, in November 2023 5Cs informed that they had not heard back and so submitted the request formally to EU. To date no feedback has been received on the request and 5Cs cautioned that the PMU devise a plan to spend funds. Project was to end in December 2023 and has been extended to June 2024.

Project Name: Preparation of Belize’s First Biennial Transparency Report and combined Second Biennial Transparency Report and Fifth National Communication to the UNFCCC

Funded By: GEF

Implementation Period: 4 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 1,233,000

- Enabling Activities for the preparation of the Initial Biennial Transparency Report and combined Second Biennial Transparency Report and Fifth National Communication to the UNFCCC.

- Beneficiaries include public and private sector primarily those in the energy, forest, water, waste, transport, agriculture, industry, coastal, tourism and health sectors

Project Name: Component 2 of Sustainable and Inclusive Belize (outputs 2.2 & 2.5)

Funded By: IDB

Implementation Period: 4 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 400,000

- To improve incomes and promote sustainable livelihoods in the agriculture and tourism sectors. The specific objectives are to improve Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) competitiveness, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability and improve communication.
- Beneficiaries include tourism MSMEs and farmers, who will adopt new environmental and climate smart-green technologies.
- Beneficiaries also include local agricultural and tourism communities and schools throughout the country.

Project Name: Enabling Activities for the Formulation and Implementation of a Multisectoral National Adaptation Plan for Belize (MNAPs) Project.

Funded By: GCF

Implementation Period: 34 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 1,345,500

- This project will guide the future development of the country’s major sectors under changing climatic conditions, inclusive of the following priority sectors: i) Land Use, Human Settlement & Infrastructure, ii) Tourism, iii) Human Health, iv) Agriculture, and v) Forestry. The formulation and implementation of the NAP will enable Belize to formulate concrete interlinked solutions, adaptation actions in the priority sectors and will support strengthening existing mechanisms and adaptation responses at a multisectoral level.
- Beneficiaries: Belizean population (400,000+), Ministries of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise; Health &

Wellness; Tourism & Diaspora Relations; Infrastructure, Development and Housing; Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management; and Natural Resources, Petroleum, & Mining, with their associated Planning Units. Direct beneficiaries also include NGOs and CSOs associated with working on the priority sectors. NCCO, PACT, Ministry of Economic Development, women, youth and children, vulnerable groups.

Project Name: Belize Country Office – UNICEF Programme of Cooperation 2022-2026

Funded By: UNICEF

Implementation Period: 21 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 60,000

- An MOU was signed with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management to implement a rolling work plan from March 2024 to December 2025, to focus on climate change, disaster risk management and environmental issues as it pertains to children and youth, as well as other vulnerable groups. Specific to the NCCO the RWP aims to:
 - Support in the development of a Child Sensitive National Multi-Sector Adaptation Plan (NAP); Support Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives, including support to early warning systems and anticipatory action at national and subnational level (especially high risk and vulnerable communities); and Engagement of Adolescents and Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change initiatives.

Project Name: Supporting the implementation of NDCs in the Caribbean - transforming the transport and energy sectors towards a low carbon and climate-resilient future (NDC-TEC)

Funded By: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Implementation Period: 48 Months

Total Funds in US\$: Funding is controlled exclusively by the donor.

- Through the project, Belize will be enabled to enhance the ambition of their NDC and implement transformative actions within the energy and transport nexus. The project supports the cyclical approach of the NDCs from 2020 to 2025, culminating in the support to the NDC revision process. The UNFCCC Focal Points will be enabled to steer inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial cooperation processes for the NDC revision and subsequent NDC revision cycles. Key stakeholders will be strengthened in their ability to translate the 2020 NDCs into sector targets and to incorporate these targets into national development plans, sectoral plans and policies. To operationalize NDCs submitted in 2020, the elaboration of implementation plans and financing strategies will be supported and this in turn will assist to inform the development of new goals for 2025 and support an increase in ambition.



National Meteorological Service



The National Meteorological Service is responsible for providing aviation weather information and forecasts, and specialized weather forecasts for the agriculture, forestry, marine, military, and tourism sectors. It also provides public weather forecasts for the media, which then distributes this information via newspapers, radio and television. Forecasts are also regularly distributed and updated on the department's website.

MISSION

The National Meteorological Service of Belize is the leading governmental authority on weather and climate. It provides meteorological and climate-based products and services to the Belizean public through systematic and accurate data monitoring and collection, reliable data analyses and forecasts, and timely dissemination of user-friendly reports and forecasts on all weather and climate related events and hazards. This is undertaken in order to contribute to the safety and well-being of the people of Belize and the sustainable development of the nation.

To fulfill this mission, the department maintains a network of weather observing stations, a Doppler Weather Radar and an upper air observing station. The Weather Forecasting and Analysis Section of the department comprises a staff of well-trained Meteorologists and Forecasters equipped with telecommunication equipment, data analysis and display workstations, satellite receiving equipment and numerical weather prediction models.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- The human resource capacity of the department was enhanced when one officer completed training in weather forecasting at the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados and is now a part of the team of weather forecasters at the department. Two new candidates were sent to do the same course in January 2024 and will be completing that training in July 2025. One officer completed training in Weather Instrument Installation and Maintenance at CIMH and is now a part of the team of Instrument Technicians at the department.
- A comprehensive review of the department is underway with the assistance of the Job Classification and Compensation Unit (JCCU) within the Ministry of the Public Service with the aim of restructuring the department, creating new posts, eliminating redundant posts, and reviewing the respective pay scales of different positions.
- Miscellaneous short-term training for Staff was accomplished through workshops, webinars, short courses as well as performing a refresher course at the department for out-district weather observers. Three (3) new entry level staff members were hired with excellent academic qualifications and very good potential to advance within the department.



- The Services provided by the department were enhanced through the partial implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) aimed at improving the timeliness and effectiveness of weather alerts. CAP alerts are now disseminated from the National Meteorological Service but there needs to be further work with the local telephone, radio and television stations to have these messages disseminated via these media.
- The starting of the implementation of the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PISCA) project as part of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRE-SAP) which will enhance the delivery of critical climate information to farmers aiding them in the decision-making process and thereby avoiding losses from extreme weather and climate events.
- The approval of a project proposal for the Implementation of Multi-Hazard Impact Based Forecasting in the Belize River Watershed. Project was approved by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) through the Caribbean Action for Resilience Enhancement (CARE) Programme with funding of US\$ 1,225,896. Project to be implemented in fiscal year 2024-2025.
- Belize through the NMS is one of the first countries globally to be approved funding through the Systematic Observing Financing Facility (SOFF). Total funding of US\$ 860,694 was approved by the SOFF Secretariat and will assist to improve the weather observation network in the country as well as support the strengthening of the NMS's human resources and institutional capacities.
- The Department's Infrastructure was enhanced with the acquisition of two off-road vehicles through the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agricultural Project (CRESAP). Vehicles will be used for technicians to travel across the country to service and maintain the vast numbers of weather stations and to meet with farmers on a regular basis to provide them with latest weather and climate information.
- The installation of 20 weather stations through the Energy Resilience for Climate Adaptation Project (ERCAP). This includes the installation of a new weather station at Caye Caulker. This is the first weather station ever installed in this municipality.
- Upgrade of the office's computer network with equipment procured through the Resilient Rural Belize (RRB) Programme.
- The National Meteorological Service continued to produce and disseminate several weather and climate forecasts products geared towards the

the general public as well as targeted forecasts and products for key sectors such as Agriculture, Tourism, Marine and Aviation.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: Energy Resilience for Climate Adaptation Project (ERCAP)

Funded By: GEF through the World Bank

Implementation Period: 6 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 707,000

- To increase the number and coverage of weather stations including to offshore locations as well as in the Macal River Basin.
- Enhance the ability to issue early warning of potentially catastrophic weather events.
- Beneficiaries include the entire Belizean Population, Energy Companies as well as the Disaster Management Agencies

Project Name: Resilient Rural Belize (RRB) Project

Funded By: GOB, GCF, IFAD

Implementation Period: 6 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 256,300

- Develop a Climate Information System that will provide farmers with timely and accurate climate information, allowing them to plan their activities accordingly and minimize climate related losses.
- Beneficiaries include the Belizean Public, Small Farmers and members of the Agricultural Sector.

Project Name: Climate Resilient Small Holders Agriculture Project (CRESAP)

Funded By: World Bank

Implementation Period: 5 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 300,000

- Consist of a wide range of activities that will assist the NMS to better deliver crucial services that will aid small farmers in their decision-making process and improve productivity while avoiding losses due to inclement weather and climate conditions.
- Beneficiaries include the Belizean Public, Small Farmers and members of the Agricultural Sector

Project Name: Technical Assistance – Implementation of Multi-Hazard Impact-Based Forecasting and Early Warning System for the Belize River Watershed

Funded By: CDB, GOB

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 1,225,896

- To implement multi-hazard impact-based forecasting as a pilot project in Belize City and areas along the Belize River Watershed in order to provide more relevant and timely weather forecasts and alerts to the public including via the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP).
- Beneficiaries are residents and visitors to the project area as well as disaster management agencies.

Project Name: Systematic Observing Financing Facility (SOFF)

Funded By: Several Donor countries through the IDB

Implementation Period: 3 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 860,694

- Accessing financial support for the upkeep of Belize weather station network as well as building human resource capacity to sustain the weather observing capability of the country.

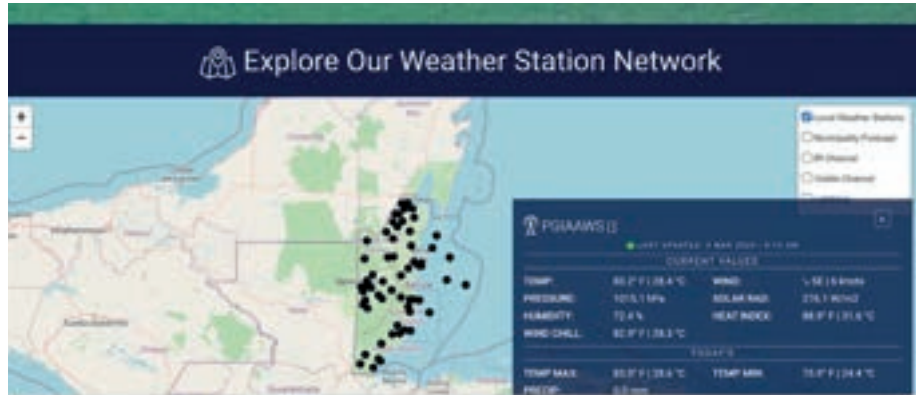
Project Name: The Enabling of Belize's Statistical System

Funded By: KOICA, UNDP

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 200,000

- To expand and upgrade capabilities of Belize's national data- statistical network facilitating evidence-based development planning and the effective monitoring of national programmes delivered through the country's sustainable development frameworks



National Emergency Management Organization



The National Emergency Management Organization is the government department responsible for the training and coordination across the public and private sector to prepare for, mitigate from, respond to and recover from disasters. NEMO is a participating state of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and embraces Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM).

NEMO continued to fulfil on its mandate to preserve life and property in the event of an emergency, threatened or real, and to mitigate the impact on the country and its people.

MISSION

NEMO in cooperation with the respective Emergency Management Committees, and all Public and Private Agencies, is established to preserve life and property throughout the country of Belize in the event of an emergency, threatened or real, and to mitigate the impact on the country and its people.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

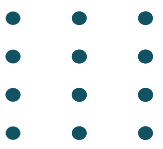
- Reviewing of forty-six (46) national and sectoral plans including the National Hurricane Response Plan, National Logistics Plan and the National Flood Response Plan that were never written or required updating, and have improved NEMO's situational awareness during emergency activations. This fiscal year saw the formulation of the first draft of the National Comprehensive Disaster Management
- Policy, which will align the national disaster structures with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management (CDEMA) Framework. These initiatives will allow for improved planning, improved coordination and improved decision-making during emergency activations at the national and district levels.
- Formulation of the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, which is intended to guide the work of all government ministries, partners and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction in Belize.
- Establishment and strengthening of strategic alliances with key partners such as the Belize Red Cross, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), World Food Program (WFP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), US Embassy, Embassy of the Republic of China Taiwan, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and Japan - International Cooperation Agency (JICA). These partnerships support improved preparedness, response, and recovery efforts across the country.
- Sixty-two training sessions were held for 951 public officers across the country. These sessions focused on shelter management, damage



assessment, search and rescue and emergency operations centre management. This training will improve the provision of emergency services to communities across the country during emergency activations.

- Implementation of the CDEMA Logistics System in all warehouses across the country. This upgrading of the warehouse inventory system will allow for improved tracking of relief and humanitarian supplies moving in and out of the warehouses. It will also allow for real-time tracking of supplies across the country.
- Provision of relief supplies to 39 families affected by flooding and 79 families directly affected by fire. During the fiscal year 2023–2024, NEMO provided humanitarian packages worth a total of \$243,836.50—to an estimated 434 persons.
- Strengthening of national and district emergency committees, through the review, strengthening and development of committee standard operating procedures and plans. Fourteen national committee meetings were held, and forty-five district committee meetings and two writing workshops were held. These are intended to improve operational committee efforts during activations and to provide better service to affected populations.
- Conducted two joint exercises with the US Military's Joint Task Force Bravo (JTF-B). This unit is based in Honduras and is the US Military's Humanitarian Assistance Force in the region. Both exercises (dam failure in June 2023 and hurricane in March 2024) exposed and familiarized both US Military and Belizean authorities on each other's capabilities, methods of operations and organization. They also served to establish links with the USAID regional office in Honduras. This knowledge enhances NEMO's operational abilities and expands its ability to provide timely humanitarian assistance to communities which may become isolated due to disasters as well as to augment national capabilities.







ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: Support to Recovery Planning

Funded By: UNDP

Implementation Period: 2 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 300,000

- Set up or strengthen the institutional and legislative mechanisms for the implementation of recovery programme
- Provide government with technical assistance for specific aspects of recovery programming including housing, livelihoods, education, health services, community infrastructure and restored local ecosystem services, in collaboration with other UN agencies
- Support government to set up monitoring mechanisms for recovery and facilitate a consultative-participatory forum through which the affected populations, especially people in vulnerable situations, engage in decision-making and monitor the impact of recovery programme

Project Name: Enhancing Disaster Resilience of Rural Communities through Targeted Community-centred Interventions

Funded By: CDB

Implementation Period: 1.5 Years

Total Funds in US\$: 600,000

- Enhance disaster resilience of twelve rural communities impacted by three distinct hazards – tsunami, flooding caused by dam break and isolation as a result of flooding.

Project Name: Comprehensive Disaster Management Audit

Funded By: CDEMA

Implementation Period: 4 Months

Total Funds in US\$: 28,000

- To support the National Emergency Management Organization with the full application of the CDM Audit tool and the preparation of the Audit Report.

Project Name: Country Work Programme Development

Funded By: CDEMA

Implementation Period: 9 Months

Total Funds in US\$: This project has not yet been approved. CDB indicates pending approval, project inception is June 2024.

- To support the National Emergency Management Agency with development of its Country Work Programme for period 2025 - 2030

Project Name: Capacities strengthened to design and deliver innovative and relevant education services for continuous learning, including in emergencies

Funded By: UNICEF

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 19,000

- Support Development of a National Plan for Disaster Risk Management, including Operationalization of the Regional Protocol on the Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents in Disaster and Emergency Situations at the National and Sub National Level
- Support to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives, including support to early warning systems and anticipatory action at national and subnational level (especially high risk and vulnerable communities)

National Fire Service



The National Fire Service (NFS) has been fighting fires since its inception in 1846 when it was called the Fire Brigade. Since then the Service has grown to having a presence in every district including the islands of San Pedro and Caye Caulker. Of recent NFS services have been expanded to include Emergency Medical Ambulatory services, and Rescue operations.

This past year the NFS responded to more than one hundred structural fires in the country, many of them resulted in complete destruction while others were saved and only partially damaged. Data from the Belize Crime Observatory, (BCO) confirmed that within the fiscal year 2023/2024 there were 7 deaths by fire nationally compared to 2 deaths by fire within the previous fiscal year 2022/2023.

In the Cayo District the ambulance service has been used more than three hundred times as the NFS has begun to respond to emergencies other than RTAs such as medical emergencies (heart attack, strokes, broken bones, and deep cuts) that occur at home and in the community. This new service has been critical in filling an essential service gap to the entire Cayo District. It is anticipated that the EMS will be used extensively and can be rolled out nationally in the future.

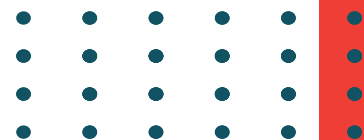
MISSION

The Belize national fire service shall create a safer Belize from fires and explosive hazards for its people through public education and highly trained personnel

working in cooperation with other relevant agencies and organizations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 - 2024

- In 2023, the NFS has continued to grow and expand to offer these new services to the people of Belize. In the background, the administration of the Service has been working diligently to uplift the lives of our firefighters who for years were not receiving promotions. After more than ten years 30 officers have been promoted to their respective ranks. This has greatly impacted staff morale and with more promotions on the way, we expect that 2024 will be a great restructuring of the entire Fire Service.
- 2023 saw the NFS gain the support of Cabinet for the intake of eighty new recruits. These additional firefighters will be spread across the country filling many of the gaps and increasing the numbers at many of the stations with the higher number of calls. With the first group of recruits completing their training, our first promotional ceremony will be held in late April. These additional firefighters will ease much of the strain on the current firefighters who work long overtime hours to ensure coverage. More firefighters will ensure that those on each shift will be rested and ready to deliver lifesaving services to the community.
- The year 2023 also saw the endorsement by Cabinet for the integration of the Emergency



Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Rescue Services (ERS) into the mandate of the NFS. This Will allow the NFS to move forward with the expansion of our EMS services reaching much more Belizeans throughout the country. It is expected that the number of EMS calls will far surpass the number of fire calls as this service is in such high demand.

- Since this approval, the NFS through the coordination by the Belize Heroes group has been able to get six (6) officers trained as EMTs in Virginia with one officer being trained as a Paramedic. He is expected to complete his training at the end of 2024. Belize Heroes is currently managing their expansion project of the EMS program in the Northern Districts of Corozal and Orange Walk. Once Completed, only Belize City and the Southern Districts will be left to train in EMS.
- With the endorsement by Cabinet, The Fire Chief has met with the Job Classification Unit of the Public Service to discuss how we will incorporate the new services into the terms of reference for the firefighters. Many of these changes will also require incorporation into the Fire Service Act. The NFS hopes that process will commence this year. As a result of these changes the NFS organogram will also change with the addition of new posts and the introduction of our new Dispatch Center and dispatchers. This restructuring will create a model

that will regulate the span of control at every level, sharing the workload and creating an environment of growth, support and ease of communication.

- With the endorsement of the Cabinet to charge the fees and establish a Fire Fund, the NFS is now actively beginning this process with help from the Ministry of Finance. Meetings have already been held with the Belize Tourism Board and others have been scheduled with the Hotel Association and the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and others.
- In 2023, the Fire chief and ranking officers visited the Costa Rican training facility and resulting in new training opportunities for our firefighters. This visit allowed us to commence dialogue about the NFS joining the Central American Association of Fire Departments or CCBICA. This agreement was formally approved last year and we have already been receiving invitations for our firefighters to participate in regional trainings. We are certain that our efforts in joining this Association will bring great new opportunities for the NFS and our firefighters.
- The NFS has been working with the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) to establish a National Emergency Radio Network that would link all emergency agencies (BDF, Police, Coast Guard, Fire) through one radio network. Radio

transmitters and repeaters are being installed on all fire stations and NEMO offices across the country to ensure quality of the radio signal and redundancies in case of emergencies. We hope that this network will be completed by the end of 2024.

- The NFS draft policy document will be sent to the CEO for vetting and endorsement. We hope this will be sent to the Ministry of the Public Service to aid in our compliance issues. This document speaks to various policies of the fire service including dress code and procedures when dealing with the public and on the fire scene.
- 2023 saw the successful first cohort of trained firefighters in Emergency Rescue. We have scheduled the second part to begin in May of 2024 with our partners from Empact International. This program has been able to garner more than \$50,000 in training and equipment. We expect more assistance to follow from these training programs as we reach all our firefighters across the country.
- With new partners come new opportunities. In 2023, the NFS was able to send officers to various places in the world including Costa Rica, Virginia, South Korea and Taiwan to train in:
 - Fire safety Big Data Project
 - Disaster Risk Management
 - Emergency Management Service
- In February 2024, the U.S Embassy through SouthCom and the U.S. Security Office handed over the keys to a new fire station in Dangriga Town. This new station came at a cost of almost \$1.2 million and will greatly increase our presence in the Township. We have since been equipping the station and will begin working on fixing the old fire

station so we can have two strategic points of coverage.

- Our partnership with Belize Heroes, the Belize City Council and the Southern Emergency Services (SES) allowed us to get much needed new equipment. Two new ambulances and three fire trucks were received in 2023 and have been put to work. These vehicles are essential to our work and have provided the opportunity to share resources with some of the other district stations.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project Name: Pre-hospitalization Project

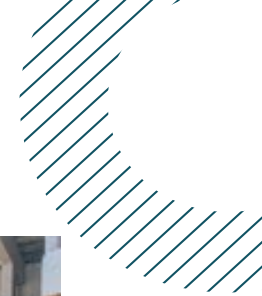
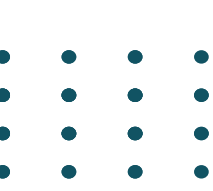
Funded By: U.S Embassy's CARSI Grant

Implementation Period: 1 Year

Total Funds in US\$: 250,000

- Training in EMS for the Northern Districts





Lessons Learnt



Sustainable Development Unit

- The SDU will further define its mandate to better contribute to sustainable development.



National Biodiversity Office

- Passage of the NPAS Legislation to mandate the role of the NBIO.
- Timely engagement of stakeholders to promote buy-in and success in the implementation of programmatic priorities.
- Establishment of clear, timely internal and external communication is key for the successful implementation of the unit's activities.



Solid Waste Management

- Commence and prioritize sustained public awareness and outreach on the work of SWaMA.
- Explore and pilot expansion of its work to promote waste separation and recycling efforts in the Tourism and other priority sectors.
- Review and renegotiate existing arrangements and contract(s) for the waste transfer from the transfer stations to the land fill.



Protected Areas Conservation Trust

- The PACT support has been critical to the work of protected areas management in Belize and the formalization and establishment of the NBIO Office.
- PACT continues to face challenges with staff retention. The high levels of staff turnover could pose a risk to its reputation as an implementing entity and executor of several funds .



National Climate Change Office

- The NCCO will intensify its active collaboration with other climate change implementing agencies to advance climate change resilience in Belize.



Department of the Environment

- DOE will once again attempt creating a functional Information Management System (IMS) that would benefit both the DOE and FD. It endeavors to include EIA online application module, enforcement and bill pay modules.
- The first attempt at building the IMS was funded by the World Bank and because of various challenges a portion of the funding was returned to the donor.



Forestry Department

- The FD has recognized its limitations in carrying out enforcement especially as it relates to illegal logging.
- It is lobbying for more resources including personnel, fuel, vehicles etc. to strengthen overall enforcement.



National Meteorological Service

- It is crucial for the NMS to develop a succession plan as senior members of the staff near retirement age.
- The NMS must consider impact-based forecasting mechanisms to offer specialized products and forecasts – targeting specific weather events.
- NMS needs support for its staff to pursue specialized training including the 18-month certification programme at the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology.



National Emergency Management Organization

- NEMO could benefit from the adoption of technology to better deliver on its mandate.
- Through partnerships with the donor community NEMO can explore support for the upgrading of hurricane shelters country-wide.



National Fire Services

- It is crucial that procurement is streamlined so that the NFS can receive necessary materials and equipment to carry out its functions.
- Allocate budget for the NFS to carry out outreach and education promoting fire prevention and awareness.
- Design an execute a sustained fire safety campaign.

Future Priorities

INCREASING PARTNERSHIP

The Plan Belize Medium Term Development Strategy posits that the national goals and targets set out in the plan cannot be attained without collaboration and a holistic approach to development. As would be expected, the PBMTDS has naturally guided the development of the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. The Ministry's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 aligns with the 6 target areas of the PBMTDS and was developed through a consultative process with key stakeholders both internal and external to the Ministry.

To deliver on these 6 development objectives the Ministry will:

- Continue establishing formal partnerships with conservation partners through co-management agreements, stakeholder engagements and public awareness
- Maintain and foster an outstanding working relationship with the donor community by delivering on projects that improve the lives of Belizeans in the areas of sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk management
- Build stronger collaboration with SIB to strengthen the Ministry's data systems and measurement and evaluation capacity to track the achievement of the SDGs, PBMTDS targets and achievement of the implementation actions and strategic goals set out in the Ministry's Strategic Plan 2023-2026
- Assess and strengthen EIA processes to ensure more robust processes and mechanisms

STRENGTHENING OF LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The Ministry continues to strive toward strengthened legislation, policies and strategies to achieve greater impact and effectiveness. The 2024-25 Fiscal year will see the MSDCCDRM bolstering legislation, policies and strategies to be more targeted and pertinent to contribute towards enabling the Government to deliver on the PBMTDS and its very own Strategic Plan 2023-2026. As such, the following are some notable items the Ministry seeks to accomplish:

- Endorsement of NPAS Legislation and the amended PACT Act to better align with and address existing management gaps and establish clear mandate.
- Passage of the Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiative Bill 2024 into Law
- Continue aggressive implementation of the MSDCCDRM Strategic Plan 2023-2026. We are committed to 6 development objectives:
 - Enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - Expand green-sustainable value chains
 - Strengthen biodiversity protection and conservation
 - Enhance Disaster Risk Management
 - Enhance Emergency Preparedness
 - Strengthen Policy Coordination

SCALING-UP RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the MSDCCDRM intends to scale up resource mobilization efforts to ensure it has the financing to meet its targets within its 2023-2026 Strategy and enable the Government to deliver on PBMTDS. Some notable efforts to scale-up resource mobilization for the coming fiscal year include:

- Implementation of the fee schedule and development of a ticketing system across the NPAS
- Building technical capacity of conservation investment partners to complete concept design and development for potential GCF, AF and GEF8 Projects.
- Launch of PACT's Conservation Investment Strategy (CIS) 2023-2026 with a planned target of BZ\$17 million
- The Ministry through its Policy Planning Projects Unit will actively engage in improving external and internal coordination of policies, plans, projects and strategies that enhance actions across the MSDCCDRM

CAPACITY BUILDING

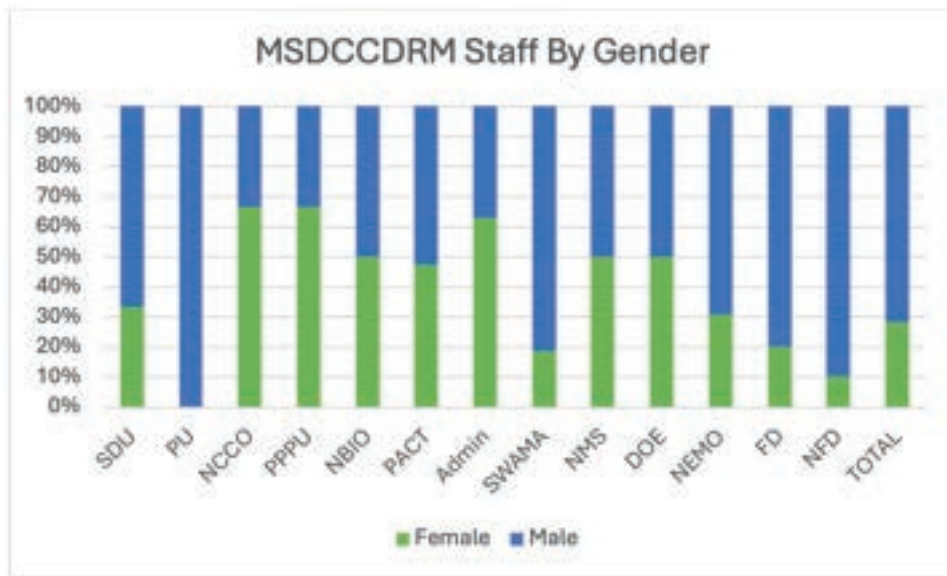
This coming fiscal year will see continued capacity-building initiatives aimed at equipping staff with the necessary technical resources, training and tools to perform effectively and meet its objectives. The following are a few initiatives the Ministry will undertake in the 2023-24 fiscal year to build capacity.

- Continuous Administrative Training Initiative for administrative officers, financial officers, personnel in clerical fields.
- Inauguration of DOE Office, Forest Department Office and NEMO Office in San Pedro.
- Advance Secretarial Training through the Public Service Ministry and Galen University.

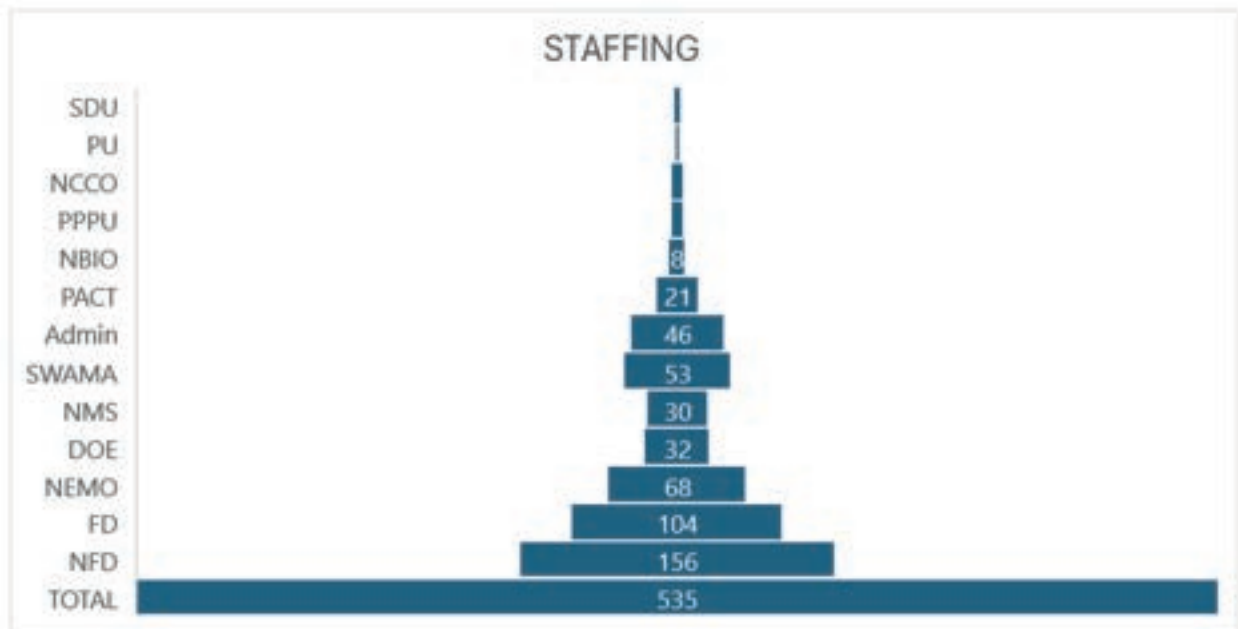




Staffing



Department/Unit	Female	Male	Total
SDU	1	2	3
PU	0	2	2
NCCO	4	2	6
PPPU	4	2	6
NBIO	4	4	8
PACT	10	11	21
Admin	29	17	46
SWAMA	10	43	53
NMS	15	15	30
DOE	16	16	32
NEMO	21	47	68
FD	21	83	104
NFD	16	140	156
TOTAL BY M/F	151	384	
GRAND TOTAL STAFF			535

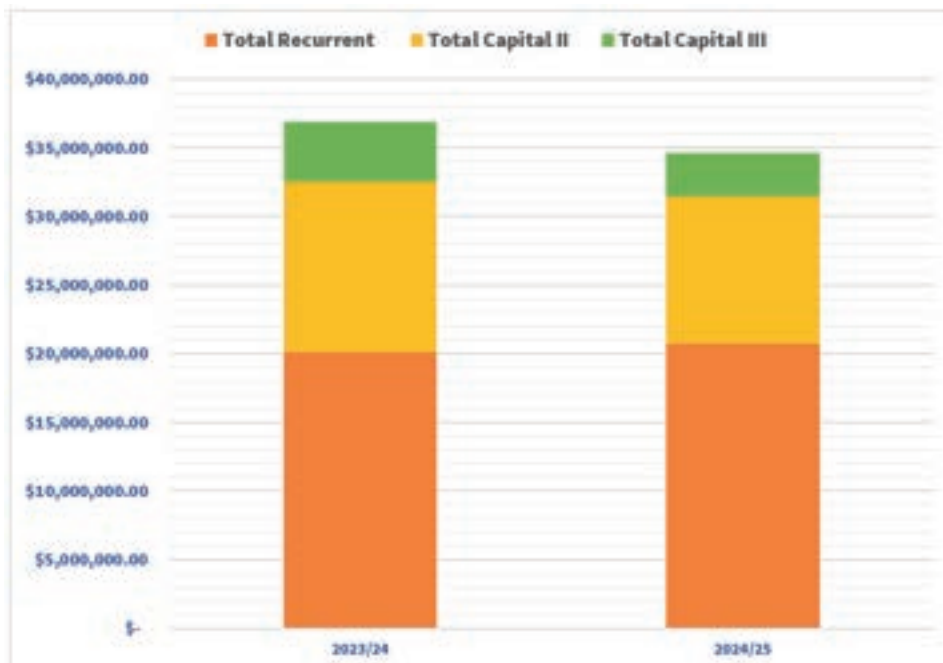


The MSDCCDRM has a total staff of five hundred and thirty-five (535) employees. Of the 535 employees 151 are females and 384 are males. The Belize National Fire Service accounts for the largest staff within the MSDCCDRM, whereas the smallest unit is the Sustainable Development Unit.

Financial Considerations

The total approved budget for the MSDCCDRM for the fiscal year 2023-2024 was BZ\$ 36,878,963 of which BZ\$ 20,102,126 was recurrent expenditure, BZ\$ 12,437,000 was Capital II Expenditure and BZ\$ 4,339,837 was Capital III Expenditure. The requested estimated budgetary allocation for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is BZ\$ 34,656,329 of which BZ\$ 20,715,367 is recurrent, BZ\$ 10,748,125 is Capital II and BZ\$ 3,192,837 is Capital III Expenditure.

Both the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 budgetary allocations are divided among the seven programmatic sections: Strategic Management and Administration, Forestry Resource Management, Environmental Management, Solid Waste Management, Office of Emergency Management, National Meteorological Services and National Fire Services. See figure on the right for percentage allocations.



Programme	2023/24 Approved	2024/25 Estimate
Strategic Management and Administration (Forestry)	\$ 4,900,308.00	\$ 4,886,267.00
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 3,599,308.00	\$ 3,535,267.00
Capital II Expenditure	\$ 851,000.00	\$ 1,048,000.00
Capital III Expenditure	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 303,000.00
Forestry Resource Management	\$ 4,193,879.00	\$ 4,751,003.00
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 3,718,879.00	\$ 4,143,766.00
Capital II Expenditure	\$ 475,000.00	\$ 607,237.00
Capital III Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -
Environmental Management	\$ 1,445,530.00	\$ 1,670,281.00
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 1,011,693.00	\$ 1,209,244.00
Capital II Expenditure	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 71,200.00
Capital III Expenditure	\$ 389,837.00	\$ 389,837.00
Solid Waste Management	\$ 12,165,072.00	\$ 10,618,604.00
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 585,072.00	\$ 491,679.00
Capital II Expenditure	\$ 8,080,000.00	\$ 7,626,925.00
Capital III Expenditure	\$ 3,500,000.00	\$ 2,500,000.00
Office of Emergency Management	\$ 4,508,204.00	\$ 3,544,766.00
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 2,483,204.00	\$ 2,544,766.00
Capital II Expenditure	\$ 2,025,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
Capital III Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -
National Meteorological Services	\$ 1,679,849.00	\$ 1,668,676.00
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 1,529,849.00	\$ 1,569,992.00
Capital II Expenditure	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 98,684.00
Capital III Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -
National Fire Services	\$ 7,986,121.00	\$ 7,516,732.00
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 7,174,121.00	\$ 7,220,653.00
Capital II Expenditure	\$ 812,000.00	\$ 296,079.00
Capital III Expenditure	\$ -	\$ -
Total Budget Ceiling	\$ 36,878,963.00	\$ 34,656,329.00
Total Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 20,102,126.00	\$ 20,715,367.00
Total Capital II Expenditure	\$ 12,437,000.00	\$ 10,748,125.00
Total Capital III Expenditure	\$ 4,339,837.00	\$ 3,192,837.00

Conclusion

This past fiscal year, the Ministry has demonstrated its resilience to “Build Back Better” and enable the Government to deliver on the goals and targets of the PBMTDS. The MSDCCDRM is proud that although the 2023-24 year was filled with challenges and Belize is not insulated from natural disasters, the ravishing effects of climate change and various exogenous shocks, it remains resolute to deliver on its mandate. While we celebrate the triumphs, we recognize the importance of self-assessment and reflection to ensure continuous improvement to deliver to the people and country of Belize. Last year, one of the key recommendations was for equitable distribution of resources among the departments of the Ministry.

The Ministry values the improvement derived from self-assessment and has once again formulated key recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year based on these considerations.

It is evident that some departments are better able to access project and grant funding. The Ministry therefore endeavours to build capacity in grant proposal writing, project development and concept ideation. Simultaneously, the MSDCCDRM is instilling and promoting a paradigm shift to a “One Ministry Approach” to increase coordination and cross-departmental collaboration, strengthen internal and external communication and improve relationship management with key partners.



Message from the Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kenrick Williams



Fiscal year 2023-2024 has been a fruitful year in-part resulting from our firm commitment to partnership and collaboration to achieve the strategic goals of the MSDCCDRM. Our Ministry has faced numerous challenges both natural and anthropogenic from the urgent need to addressing climate change and its impacts on Belize, to mitigating the effects of natural disasters and monitoring threats exacerbated by humans. However, the invaluable alliances formed, and our collective effort has allowed us to make significant strides in delivering on our mandate.

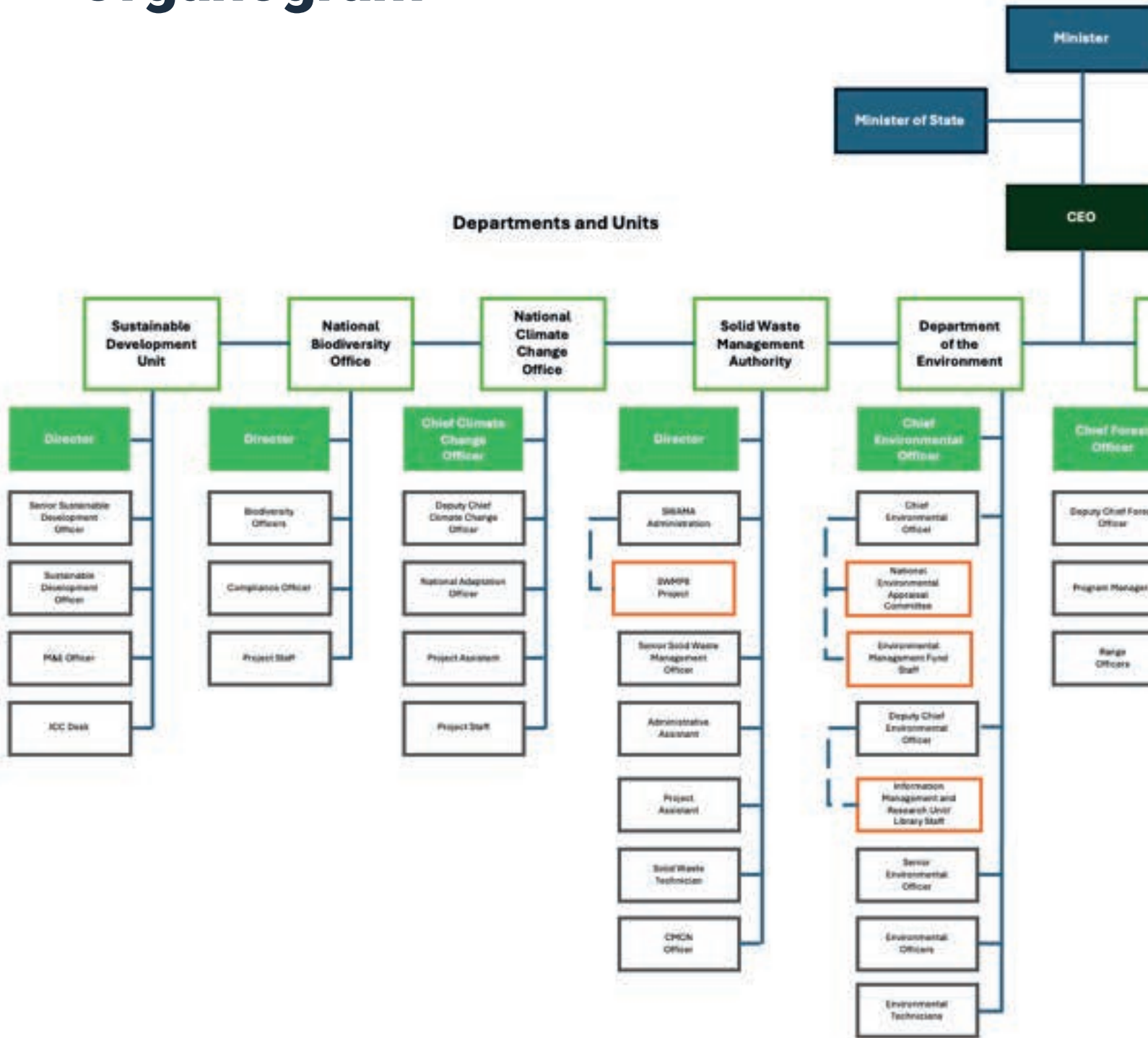
The Ministry's continued representation on both the national and international stage has allowed us to make a mark and amplified our voice in both the Caribbean and Central America. Our efforts have contributed to awareness building and fostering a sense of urgency as we advocate for ambitious climate action, accountability and climate justice.

As we celebrate the year's successes, we are cognizant that the work must continue with sustained momentum. Climate change remains an existential threat and the impacts of disasters continue to disrupt lives globally. It is therefore our obligation to reiterate our commitment to sustainable development, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction and management. The MSDCCDRM pledges to continue the quest for solutions, strengthening partnerships and mobilizing resources to reach our ambition of creating a global movement toward a more sustainable and resilient future for all. As the new fiscal year approaches, I extend sincere appreciation to each partner, organization and individual who has contributed to our collective successes.



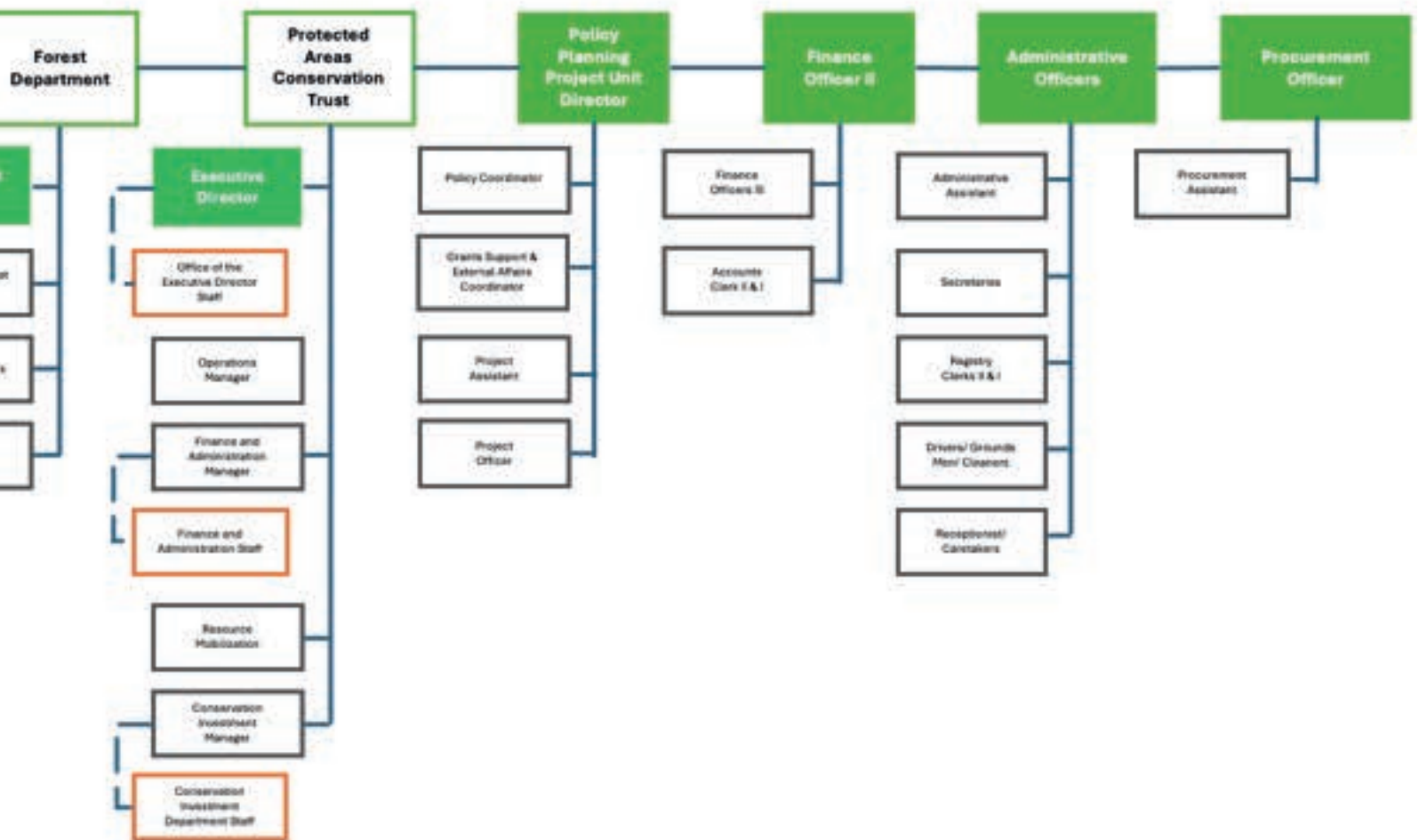
Appendices

MSDCC Organogram














Senior Technical
Adviser to the CEO







Finance and Administration



Assessment of Achievement Level for each SDG in Belize

SDG Goal	SDG Traffic Light	Status	Description of Achievement per VNR Report 2024
<p>SDG 1 No Poverty</p> 		MODERATE PROGRESS	<p>Multidimensional Poverty:</p> <p>Incidence of Poverty 2021: 36.5%; 2023: 26.4%</p> <p>Intensity of Poverty: 2021: 39.2%; 2023: 38.4%</p>
<p>SDG 2 Zero Hunger</p> 		MODERATE PROGRESS	<p>Severe food insecurity: 2018: 6.1%; 2021: 5.9%</p> <p>Moderate or severe food insecurity: 2018: 35.7%; 2021: 45.5%</p>
<p>SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being</p> 		ON-TRACK	<p>Maternal mortality ratio per 100,00 live births: 2017: 69 deaths; 2023: 31 deaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023: Global Certification from the World Health Organization for elimination of Malaria 2023: Elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV and Syphilis 2023: Primary health care has expanded nationwide through the National Health Insurance (NHI) system.
<p>SDG 4 Quality Education</p> 		MODERATE PROGRESS	<p>Proportion of primary school students completing education within the prescribed time: 2017: 93.4%; 2022: 96.1%</p> <p>Participation rate in organized learning one year before official primary entry age: 2017: 85.6%; 2021: 48.9%</p>
<p>SDG 5 Gender Equality</p> 		ON-TRACK	<p>Legal frameworks for non-discrimination based on sex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised National Gender Policy 2024 – 2030 Domestic Violence Act 2007 Criminal Code Chapter 101, Revised Edition 2020 Protection against Sexual Harassment Act, Revised Edition 2020 Belize Married Women's Property Act, Revised Edition 2020
<p>SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation</p> 		ON-TRACK	<p>Degree of integrated water resources management implementation: 2018: 20%; 2023: 32%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022: 92.1% of households had access to drinking water NIRWA Act 2020 Belize Environmental Protection Act, Revised Edition 2020

<p>SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy</p> 		<p>ON-TRACK</p>	<p>Renewable energy share in the total final energy supply: 2017: 30.4%; 2022: 36%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022: 94.7% of households had access to electricity from BEL and other sources Belize National Sustainable Energy Policy 2012-2033
<p>SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> 		<p>MODERATE PROGRESS</p>	<p>Unemployment Rate: 2020: 13.8%; 2023: 3.9%</p> <p>Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries by 100,000 workers and migrant status:</p> <p>Migrants: 2017: 1,382 workers; 2020: 835 workers</p> <p>Non-Migrants: 2017: 367 workers; 2020: 214 workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum wage has increased to \$2.50 USD per hour from \$1.75 Development of MSME strategy and action programs to provide entrepreneurial and financial support, started in 2022.
<p>SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure</p> 		<p>MODERATE PROGRESS</p>	<p>Passenger and freight volumes by mode of transport:</p> <p>Air (individuals): 2018: 1,644,344; 2023: 1,021,857</p> <p>Air (Freight): 2018: 1,910,093.25 lbs.; 2023: 1,098,616.38 lbs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of the national e-governance agenda National Digital Agenda 2022-2025 Digital Department Act
<p>SDG 10 Reduced Inequality</p> 		<p>CHALLENGED</p>	<p>Remittances as a proportion of amount remitted: 2017: 2.3%; 2022: 1.2%</p> <p>Financial soundness: Non-performing loans (Net of Specific Provisions) to Total Gross Loans: 2017: 2.4%; 2022: 3.5%</p> <p>Capital adequacy ratio: 2017: 24.2%; 2022: 15.1%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased enrollment rates for all including access for children with disabilities and those in remote areas.
<p>SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities</p> 		<p>MODERATE PROGRESS</p>	<p>Proportion of women victims of physical or sexual harassment in the previous 12 months: 2020: 139; 2023: 144</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 Affordable homes build for poor women-headed households and the elderly.

<p>SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production</p> 		<p>CHALLENGED</p>	<p>Installed capacity of power plants generating electricity from renewable energy sources per total population (watts per capita): 2018: 187.2; 2022: 182.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Environmental Policy and Strategy (NEPS) 2014-2024 National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) 2022-2026
<p>SDG 13 Climate Action</p> 		<p>ON-TRACK</p>	<p>Number of deaths/missing persons/persons affected by disasters: 2020: 117 families; 2023: 172,000 persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) (2021) Updated National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan (2021-2025)
<p>SDG 14 Life Below Water</p> 		<p>ON-TRACK</p>	<p>Ocean under legal protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total designated marine and protected areas: 20.30% Total designated high protection marine and internal areas: 11.65% All other marine and protected areas: 8.64% Belize Blue Economy Development Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan 2022-2027
<p>SDG 15 Life on Land</p> 		<p>MODERATE PROGRESS</p>	<p>Forest area located within legally established protected areas 2017-2020: 54.46%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Landscape Restoration Strategy for Belize 2022-2030
<p>SDG 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions</p> 		<p>MODERATE PROGRESS</p>	<p>Reported cases of intentional homicide per 1,000,000 population:</p> <p>Male: 2019: 61.3; 2023: 38.7</p> <p>Female: 2019: 8.7; 2023: 4.9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Governance Act 2022 Freedom of Information Act Revised 2020 Public Sector Data Sharing Act 2021
<p>SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals</p> 		<p>ON-TRACK</p>	<p>Foreign direct investment/Gross domestic product: 2017: 1.1%; 2022: 4.5%</p> <p>Public sector debt to GDP ratio: 2017: 78.1%; 2022: 71.4%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Conference 2024 National coordination of external donors to Belize for aid effectiveness started in 2023.

Key for SDG Traffic Light

SDG TRAFFIC LIGHT	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA
	ON-TRACK	The goal is likely to be achieved by the target year if current progress continues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive trends in all or most indicators. • Policies and actions are implemented. • Most required funding and resources are in place.
	MODERATE PROGRESS	The goal is making progress, but additional efforts are needed to ensure achievement by the target year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some positive trends in some indicators, but not all. • Policies and actions are in place but may need scaling up. • Funding and resources are partially adequate.
	CHALLENGED	Progress is slow and the goal is unlikely to be achieved by the target year without significant intervention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed trends in indicators, with some showing improvement and others stagnating or declining. • Policies and actions are insufficient or poorly implemented. • Inadequate funding and resources.

Source: Voluntary National Reporting (VNR) Report 2024.

Note: The “Assessment of Achievement Level for Each SDG in Belize” as reported on the 2024 VNR provides a visual summary of the progress made up to the reporting period ending May, 2024. However, this score card is evolving as new data is made available by data sources. New initiatives and data such as new programs for resilient agriculture and basic food commodities starting in 2023, funding secured in the sum of (USD 70 M) for construction of a 60 MW Solar Energy Plan in Belize, introduction of electric buses in Belize City, and the national coordination of external donors to Belize for aid effectiveness, will be reported as part of a proposed SDG Report 2025 and are expected to positively impact progress in several of the SDGs.

List of Publications

TITLE REPORTS	AUTHOR
1. PACT 2022-2023 Annual Report	PACT
2. PACT Audit & Financial Statement 2022-2023	PACT
3. REDD+ Story Belize 24.07.23	FD
4. Enhancing National Activity Data Measuring Reporting and Verification in Belize Through	FD
5. Belize Collect Earth Online Land use/Landcover Change Assessment Protocol 2023	FD
6. Belize Zero – Forest Reference Level Report 2024	FD
7. Department of the Environment 2023/2024 Annual Report	DOE
8. Situational Analysis of the Recycling Sector December 5, 2023	DOE
9. What To Do with Waste at the Office	DOE
10. A Practical Guide to Reducing and Separating Waste at GIZ Offices in the SICA Region, the Caribbean and Mexico	DOE
STRATEGIES	
1. Conservation Investment Strategy 2.0 2023-2026	PACT
PRESS RELEASES	
1. PACT and the BTB unite forces to boost Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas in Belize	PACT
2. BNCF Awards over \$77K in Grants to Terrestrial Protected Areas Managers	PACT
3. PACT Receives Adaptation Fund Approval for BZD\$10M Enhanced Direct Access Project	PACT
4. PACT Launches GCF Project of BZD\$2.97M for the Formulation and Implementation of a Multisectoral National Adaptation Plan for Belize	PACT
5. PACT Provides \$604,000 in funding support to the “Safeguarding the Livelihood and Well-Being of the Buffer Community of Sarteneja for the Protection of the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary” Project	PACT
6. PACT Launches \$16.5 Million Conservation Investment Strategy for Belize’s Protected Areas System	PACT
7. PACT and the BTB unite forces to boost Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas in Belize	PACT
8. BNCF Awards over \$77K in Grants to Terrestrial Protected Areas Managers	PACT



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