



Resilient Bold Belize

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

GEF/GCF AGENCY: WWF US

LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY: BLUE BOND AND FINANCE PERMANENCE UNIT

1. Executive Summary

The GEF Resilient Bold Belize child project focuses on Belize's Blue Ocean space and is designed to catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) to generate sustainable financing for improved protected area and ecosystem management, creating the scaffolding for more resilient fisheries and nature-based tourism in Belize. The coast-to-ocean project scope spans across Belize's connected marine and coastal ecosystems, including mangroves seagrass and reefs, to deliver on the Blue and Green Island (BGI) Integrated Program objectives through improved management and increased financial sustainability of 34 coastal and marine protected areas.

Stakeholder engagement is pivotal to the success of the RBB project, ensuring that all relevant parties are involved in the project's planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. The RBB project involves comprehensive stakeholder engagement, including national government entities, local communities, NGOs, and private sector donors. High-level and technical government actors, as well as protected area managers, play crucial roles in project design and implementation. Indigenous Peoples, particularly the Garinagu, and local communities are key stakeholders, with measures in place to ensure their full participation and benefit from the project.

The stakeholder engagement plan complies with Belizean legal requirements to engage with stakeholders prior to making changes in MPAs and no-take zones, and complies with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.

The plan describes stakeholder consultations and engagements conducted during the design phase and outlines a plan for engagement during the implementation of the project. The RBB project will work closely and engage with diverse stakeholders from the Government of Belize, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, landowners, and the private sector. For each stakeholder the plan identifies how they will be impacted, their influence over the project, and how they will be engaged throughout the project.

Lastly, in accordance with RBB's ESMF, details are provided for the three Grievance Redress Mechanisms relevant for the project.

Introduction

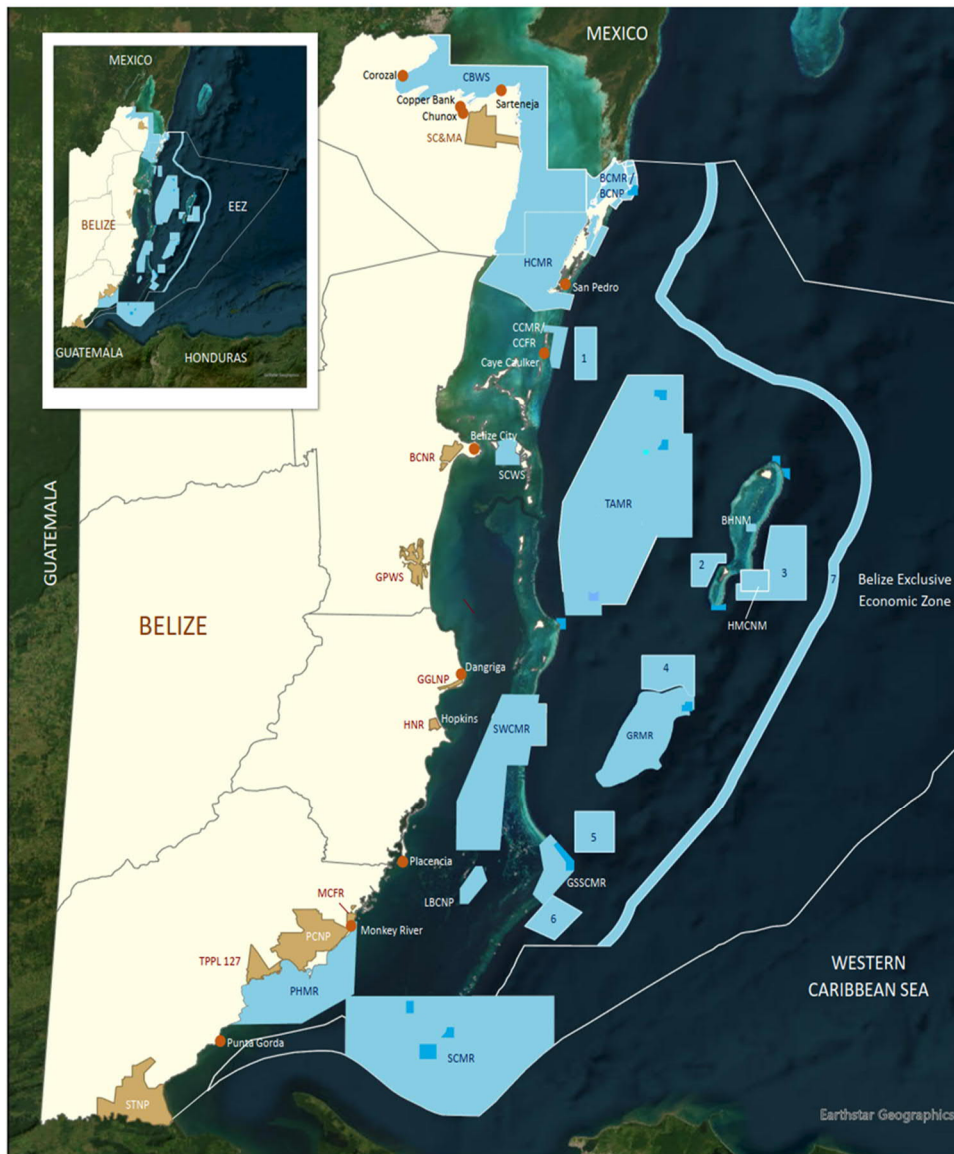
The WWF GEF BGI project, Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) is a country-driven, Government-led initiative that will play a critical role in catalyzing Belize's innovative Project Finance for Permanence (PFP). This significant private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond Project Finance for Permanence (BBFP) Unit within the office of the Prime Minister seeks to deliver systematic and transformative change, integrating nature-based solutions (NbS) into the national agenda and securing key policy changes, bringing together a blend of public and philanthropic funding for implementation of the PFP Conservation Plan. This national project focuses on Belize's coastal and marine protected areas and ecosystems (Figure 1), recognized globally as a biodiversity hotspot, demonstrated by the designation of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site and the coastal Ramsar site. Highly connected reef, mangrove, and seagrass habitats support fishing and tourism industries and protect coastal communities from storms, reducing risks to lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. The target area protects at least 60 IUCN-listed marine species.

Over the last decade, there has been significant ecosystem degradation and risk of biodiversity loss in the coastal and marine environment. Currently, national commercial fish biomass (snappers and groupers) is rated as Poor, indicative of the extent of overfishing, critical habitat loss, emerging coral diseases, invasive species such as lionfish, significantly reduced productivity of fish spawning aggregation sites, and the conversion of crucial mangrove fish nursery areas through dredging and land 'reclamation.' This impacts fisher livelihoods and food security, with more fishers chasing reduced primary products (conch and lobster), leading to more significant pressure for illegal extraction.

This project will complement and strengthen ongoing programs under several government departments, each pivotal in managing and safeguarding Belize's natural resources. Working alongside the Fisheries Department in the Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management (MBEDRM), responsible for overseeing Marine Reserves and fisheries management, the Forest Department within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MSDCC), which leads efforts in mangrove protection and restoration, and the National Biodiversity Office, entrusted with coastal and marine protected area management (excluding Marine Reserves), this project amplifies the collective impact of these agencies. Moreover, it aligns with the government's commitment to sustainable financing through initiatives like Blue Bond financing. Additional investments from entities such as the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future, and the Pew Charitable Trusts further bolster the project's reach and effectiveness. Drawing from the wealth of experience and resources provided by programs like the Green Climate Fund country program, the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), this project leverages a solid foundation to advance its objectives. Building upon these existing frameworks and collaborations, the project aims to enhance marine conservation enforcement, foster sustainable livelihoods, and promote biodiversity conservation to benefit Belize's ecosystems and communities.

The development of the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative to date has been a collaborative process led by the Blue Bond Finance Permanent Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister in partnership with WWF, with input from multiple Government ministries and civil society stakeholders, to ensure adequate engagement for committed implementation. The Blue and Green Island (BGI) project will build on the protected area co-management partnerships between the Government, NGOs, and CBOs, and between the co-managers and their local advisory committees that engage direct stakeholders (such as resource users, civil society actors, and the private sector) in marine and coastal protected area management. Building upon these existing frameworks and collaborations, the project aims to enhance marine and coastal conservation enforcement, foster sustainable livelihoods, and promote biodiversity conservation to benefit Belize's ecosystems and communities.

This initiative will integrate the value of nature into tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence and institutional capacity for gender-responsive and inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen national capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The PFP will scale up nature-based solutions (NBS), resulting in improved habitat integrity and ecosystem conditions and will improve associated livelihoods.



Data: LIC National Protected Areas System shapefile 20
 Wildlife Conservation Society mapping of S.I. No. 71 and 75 of 2022

FIGURE 1: MAP OF PROJECT AREA

1.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND COMPONENTS

The project objective is to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize’s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The project has three components.

Component 1: Enabling Environment for Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Conservation

- 1.1: Enabling conditions established for the implementation of the PFP co-developed and agreed by Government and non-government stakeholders. The project will build the capacity of the government and partners to (i) develop PFP governance arrangements including Operations Manual, Conservation and Financial Plans, Institutional Arrangements and Disbursement

Conditions. The planning process will build capacities, cross-sectoral coordination, and policy coherence. These plans will be informed by natural capital accounting valuation, building on a baseline of work conducted by the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development.

- 1.2. Improved domestic resource mobilization towards the financial sustainability of effective management of marine and coastal ecosystems. The project will support the Belize government in developing sustainable finance mechanisms to increase domestic resource mobilization towards the PFP Conservation Plan. Options for deploying a plan for a National Entrance Fee system for Belize will also be explored.
- 1.3 Increased coordination and collaboration for effective management of protected areas. The project will provide technical support for the establishment of an integrated national body to coordinate and oversee climate resilient, gender responsive and socially inclusive protected area management.

Component 2: Scaling Up Nature Based Solutions (NbS) in Marine and Coastal PAs and in Key Ecosystems Outside of the PA system

- 2.1 Existing nature-based solutions applied at scale in coastal and marine protected areas and target ecosystems resulting in improved habitat integrity and ecosystem conditions. Once the governance arrangements, conservation plan, finance plan and funding commitments are formally agreed upon, under this component, the PFP will implement the agreed Conservation Plan, scaling up NbS including protection, effective management, and restoration of coastal and marine PAs and key ecosystems, and improvement of livelihoods of targeted communities, particularly in the tourism and fisheries sectors. The PFP Conservation Plan will include strategies under 5 pillars:
 - I. Marine and Coastal PA Management,
 - II. Ecosystem Restoration and Protection,
 - III. Livelihoods and Wellbeing,
 - IV. Institutional and Policy Reforms, and
 - V. Sustainable Financing.

Component 3: Knowledge Management, Coordination and M&E.

- 3.1 Strengthened communication, coordination and knowledge management at national and global levels in alignment with the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program. The project will provide coordination of stakeholder participation in national and regional platforms through webinars, study exchanges with other SIDS, and workshops, side events, and communication materials. The Belize BGI project will facilitate key staff to attend the BGI IP Annual Workshops or events, and project management unit staff will include time dedicated to coordinating with the Global BGI Project and the Global BGI IP PMU.

2. Regulations and Requirements

Government of Belize Policies and Regulations on Stakeholder Engagement

National Protected Areas System Act¹. The act establishes the legal requirement for engaging with communities and key stakeholders for the declaration of new protected areas or the alteration, re-classification, or revocation of a declaration. In Part V, Section 19, Sub-section b, the act defines the requirement to “ensure consultation with nearby communities and affected parties of the area and follow a process of public participation.”

Belize Fisheries Policy - The Belize Fisheries Policy serves as a guiding framework for the management and sustainable use of fisheries resources in Belize. Its main objectives typically include:

¹Belize: National Protected Areas System Act, 2015. Arrangement of Sections [National Protected Areas System Act, 2015 Arrangement of Sections](#)

- *Conservation*: Ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine and freshwater fisheries resources to maintain healthy ecosystems and biodiversity;
- *Sustainable Development*: Promoting the sustainable development of the fisheries sector, balancing economic growth with environmental conservation and social equity;
- *Governance*: Strengthen fisheries' governance through effective laws, regulations, and management measures, as well as enhance enforcement mechanisms;
- *Stakeholder Engagement*: Encouraging the participation of stakeholders, including fishers, communities, NGOs, and government agencies, in fisheries management and decision-making processes.
- *Research and Monitoring*: Supporting scientific research and monitoring programs to assess the status of fisheries resources, understand ecosystem dynamics, and inform management decisions.
- *Capacity Building*: Building institutional capacity and providing training and education opportunities for fisheries managers, fishers, and other stakeholders to improve their understanding of sustainable fisheries practices.

Overall, the Belize Fisheries Policy aims to ensure the long-term viability of fisheries resources while promoting the socio-economic well-being of communities dependent on these resources.

WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement

The WWF GEF Agency requires all GEF projects comply with [GEF and WWF standards on Stakeholder Engagement](#), specifically the WWF [Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#) and the associated [Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#). Stakeholder engagement is an overarching term that encompasses a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle and is an essential aspect of good project management.

The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement requires the Executing Agency to engage stakeholders throughout the life of the project; communicate significant changes to project stakeholders and consult on potential risks and impacts; establish a grievance redress mechanism and register and respond to grievances throughout project execution, and; disseminate information in a way that is relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful, easily accessible. The Standard on Stakeholder Engagement promotes an inclusive process to support the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that help to identify and manage risks, and which encourage positive outcomes for stakeholders and project activities.

3. Project Stakeholders

This section of the Stakeholder Engagement plan lists the key stakeholder groups who will be informed about and engaged in the project.

- **National Government Entities**

Government - High level: The role of high-level government bodies is to sit on decision making committees and to provide high level input and guidance for project implementation.

Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFPU): This unit was established within the Office of the Prime Minister in January 2022. The BBFPU is charged with ensuring that the Government of Belize meets its commitments outlined in the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA) and the design of the Project Finance Permanence (PFP) known as Resilient Bold Belize (RBB), to further assist Belize in meeting and sustaining its Nationally Determined Contributions and conservation goals. The BBFP coordinates across all relevant government ministries and agencies and is the point of contact for the Government of Belize on all enquiries related to the Blue Bond and PFP programs, and the improved management for Belize's ocean space.

Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management (MBEDRM): The Ministry of Blue Economy aims to increase Belize's gross domestic product through a thriving Blue Economy development pathway

that is harmonized, innovative and socially just, supported by a robust, science-based management regime of our aquatic resources and spaces to improve the livelihood of all Belizeans.

Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change (MSDCC): The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change is the ministry in charge of the 2030 agenda in the country.

Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations: The Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations is a government entity that provides leadership, strategic direction, good governance and oversight on all matters relating to the development of tourism for and on behalf of the Government of Belize.

Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining: is responsible for assessing and managing the country's natural resources. Its portfolio includes the following agencies: Lands and Surveys Department, Land Registry Department, National Hydrological Service (Hydrology Unit), Mineral Sector (Mining Unit).

Government – Technical level: The role of technical level government entities is to provide technical input into the implementation.

Fisheries Department (FiD): The FiD's mission is to provide the country and people of Belize with the best possible management of its aquatic and fisheries resources to optimize the present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management.

National Biodiversity Office (NBIO): The NBIO is dedicated to coordinating the administration and management of protected areas declared under the National Protected Areas System Act, the conservation of biodiversity resources, and serves as the government agency responsible for coordinating and implementing government's policies, plans and commitments relating to biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Furthermore, the NBIO aims to introduce administrative oversight over the NPAS, realign existing expenditures/resources to deliver better results, and boost biodiversity and management efficiency in protected areas.

Forest Department (FD): The FD fosters Belize's economic and human development by effectively enforcing relevant policies and regulations for the sustainable management of its natural resources through strategic alliances and efficient coordination with relevant stakeholders.

Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI): The CZMAI is leading the sustainable use and planned development of Belize's coastal resources through increased knowledge and building of alliances for the benefit of all Belizeans and the global community. Their most recent work includes leading the development of Belize marine spatial plan (known as the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan).

Protected Area Managers: Belize's protected areas are either managed by government departments or in collaboration with another organization (CBO or NGO) through a co-management agreement. Both are actively engaged in managing protected areas that form a part of the project, and provide technical input, are engaged during consultation processes and will also be implementing partners.

- **Protected Area Managers – NGO:**

Belize Audubon Society (BAS): is an NGO which manages seven protected areas including the Half Moon Caye Natural Monument, Blue Hole Natural Monument.

Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development: operates in Northern Belize and co-manages the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Bacalar Chico National Park.

Toledo Institute for Development and Environment: operates in southern Belize and co-manages the Paynes Creek National Park, Port Honduras Marine Reserve, Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve as well as TIDE Protected Area Private Lands.

Southern Environmental Association: operates in southern Belize and co-manages the Laughing Bird Caye National Park and the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve.

Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association: is the co-manager for the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve.

Hol Chan Trust: manages the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, which incorporates the southernmost marine and coastal areas of Ambergris Caye including the barrier reef, seagrass beds and the mangrove islands of Boca Chica and Cangrejo Shoals. A zoning scheme was developed in order to ensure sustainable use and guarantee its conservation. Hol Chan is divided into four zones which include no-take areas and zones that regulate and promote sustainable fishing practices.

- **International NGOs and other Local Environmental NGOs**

Other key local and international environmental non-government organizations operating in Belize also provide key inputs as part of various processes such as the design of the conservation plan for Resilient Bold Belize, and may take on roles as implementing partners. These NGOs include:

Oceana: OCEANA is an international organization which has been working in ocean conservation. In Belize, they have led campaigns to ban gill nets, single use plastics, bottom trawling and offshore oil exploration. Much of its work is to advocate for science-based fishery management and restoring the world's oceans.

Healthy Reef for Healthy People Initiative: is an international, multi-institutional effort that tracks the health of the Meso-American Reef, the human choices that shape it and our progress in ensuring its long-term integrity. Its founding members are the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Meso-American Barrier

Reef System Project (MBRS), the World Bank, the Summit Foundation and Perigee Environmental. Their work focuses not only on ecological issues, but relevant socio-economic, cultural, and policy factors influencing reef health which impact local communities.

MARFUND: is a regional private fund which provides regional funding and coordination among representatives from conservation funds in each country of the Mesoamerican reef region (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico) for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the Mesoamerican Reef.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): , is a global environmental nonprofit focused on conservation of lands and water, and protecting the natural landscapes that harbor the diversity of plant and animal life on Earth. TNC works in the coral reef and the forest, and. has experience working in the "Selva Maya" region.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): WCS is an NGO that has been working in Belize since 1981. They continue to provide technical and scientific support in the area of marine conservation including collaborating with government and other partners working in the Glovers Reef Marine Reserve Area. WCS continues to provide support in areas such as the managed access program, spawning aggregation monitoring, fisheries catch data collection, long term atoll monitoring, monitoring of replenishment zones, data collection using the spatial monitoring and reporting tool, etc.

Fragments of Hope (FOH): Fragments of Hope is a not-for-profit community-based organization registered in 2013 in Placencia Village, Belize. Focusing primarily on the challenge of coral reef restoration and advocacy for the sustainable management of associated habitats, FoH is a partner with the Belize Fisheries Department, Healthy Reefs Initiative, the Smithsonian Institute and a member of the newly formed regional Coral Restoration Coalition.

MAR Alliance: MAR Alliance has been operating in Belize for the past twenty-four years and uses a multi-pronged approach to big fish conservation as it integrates fisheries-dependent and independent research,

tourism, outreach and education, capacity building, and policy support. Its research includes areas of large fish, turtles, fisheries, and the tourism sector in Belize.

NGO – Other: Other NGOs will potentially be engaged and provide technical input during the implementation process and may take on roles as implementing partners (APAMO, Belize Network of NGOs, Belize Marine Protected Areas Network, Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, Wildtracks, amongst others).

- **Community Based Organizations**

Community Groups: These were engaged and provided input during the consultation process and will be integrated into project implementation, as they are targeted as beneficiaries

Private landowners: Will be engaged in mangrove restoration activities contributing to the community level reforestation efforts.

Village Councils: Coastal communities (Sarteneja, Copper Bank, Chunox, Gales Point, Hopkins, Seine Bight, Punta Negra, Barranco, Monkey River), Town Council, some coastal towns as appropriate.

- **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

The National Garifuna Council, and Northern Maya Association of Belize are key associations of IPs in Belize who are key stakeholders to consult and include during the FPIC process.

The Garinagu People and Maya Peoples are the Indigenous Peoples in the project area. Nevertheless, the Maya have not been identified as key stakeholders of the project as they focus primarily on agriculture, freshwater fishing (as opposed to marine fishing) and their communities are not on the coastline. In contrast, the Garinagu Peoples are involved the most in marine natural resources and are largely located in the southern coastal communities of Dangriga, Hopkins, Seine Bight and Barranco. Populations of Yucatecan Mayas are concentrated in northern Belize but utilize marine resources to a lesser extent. Many are mainly engaged in agricultural activities.

Local communities: Fisherfolk, families of fisherfolk, people working in tourism, and households who depend on ocean resources for food security are key stakeholders in local communities who are likely to be impacted by the project.

- **Private Sector**

Private sector donors have provided funding into the Project Finance for Permanence in Belize and will be kept informed of the project implementation progress. This sector will be engaged and provide input during project implementation and includes actors such as Coastal/Marine Properties and Investments (e.g. Real Estate, Insurance companies, DFC loan company, Turneffe Flats),

- **Other**

Special Interest Groups: Will be engaged and provide input during implementation and may take on roles as sub-executing partners.

Belize Mangrove Alliance (BMA): A national chapter of the Global Mangrove Alliance, the BMA is a collaboration that seeks to bring together NGOs, governments, scientists, industry, local communities, and funders towards a common goal of increasing the global area of mangrove habitat through conservation, restoration and equitable management.

Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI): The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is the largest private sector membership-based organization in Belize with membership from several economic sectors of Belize.

Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA): is Belize's largest private sector tourism organization in Belize. BTIA's main strategic objective is to advocate on behalf of its members for the benefit of the tourism industry by influencing the outcomes of public policy and resource allocation decisions by the government, specifically for tourism.

Belize Hotel Association (BHA): is a non-profit, non-government organization and Belize's oldest private sector tourism organization. Its membership is comprised primarily of accommodation providers including hotels, resorts, lodges, condominiums, educational facilities, and homestays with allied members including tour operators and ancillary businesses that service the hospitality industry.,

Belize Federation of Fishers: a local NGO representing interests of commercial fishers in Belize.

Belize Flats Fishery Association (BFFA): is a non-profit organization of professional flats fishing guides and stakeholders dedicated to work for a sustainable fishery through wise management practices and healthy habitats.

Academia: This includes the University of Belize and Galen University, among others.

4. Previous stakeholder engagement activities

This section describes the stakeholder engagement activities that have taken place thus far in preparation for this project. A summary of stakeholder engagement already undertaken can be found in Appendix 2.

4.1. RELEVANT PAST STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- WWF Mesoamerica has been working in the project area prior to the conceptualization and design of this GEF project. Some key activities include: From 2007 to 2009, WWF undertook consultations focusing on identification of opportunities for communities related to tourism, fisheries, and benefits of coastal protection. These activities were funded by the Climate development knowledge Network (CDKN). As part of this process, a participatory planning exercise was undertaken in Placencia in 2020 to collectively define a conservation and sustainable development vision for the peninsula. This was when the aim of protecting Placencia Lagoon was first identified by local stakeholders.
- From 2012 to 2015, WWF, in partnership with SEA and Friends of Placencia Lagoon, conducted six consultations with the communities along the Placencia Lagoon (Placencia, Seine Bight, Maya Beach and Independence). The objectives of these consultations were to conduct a rapid assessment and draft a management plan for the Placencia Lagoon.
- From 2007 to 2022, WWF worked with the Belize Shrimp Growers Association to address the negative impact of their operations on Placencia Lagoon, implementing better management practices that reduced pollution and protected mangroves while supporting their business profitability.
- From 2018 to 2023, WWF in partnership with SEA and University of Belize, led the Smart Coasts Project funded by BMUV IKI, which focused on conducting a series of climate change related consultations to look at ecosystem-based adaptations to reduce community vulnerability. During this period, there were at least 5 different consultations with the communities of Dangriga, Riversdale, Placencia, Seine Bight, and Independence. These consultations led to the identification and validation of different adaptation options by the communities, as well as the building of capacity including mangrove restoration training for the community to participate in mangrove restoration

activities. These sessions also resulted in the submission of the concept note for the designation of Placencia Lagoon to BAF. The development of climate scenarios and identification of adaptation options done via the Smart Coasts project determined that mangrove protection and restoration was critical for reducing climate vulnerability in the area

4.2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT DURING PROJECT DESIGN

During project design, WWF engaged with stakeholders in the following manner:

- In November 2021, the Prime Minister of Belize signed an MOU with WWF and TNC, officially signaling the launch of the development of a PFP. This led to the commencement of the design phase, which would develop a shared vision for the PFP, a conservation plan, financial model, agreement on the institutional arrangements and governance, as well as define the closing conditions.
- In June 2022, WWF, in partnership with the Blue Bond Finance Permanence Unit (BBFPU, situated within the Office of the Prime Minister) formed a multistakeholder Conservation Planning Working Group (CPWG). The CPWG membership includes representatives from over twenty organizations, including government, quasi-government, local and international NGOs, Protected area co-managers, private sector representatives for the fisheries and tourism sectors, and scientific advisors. Its key functions are to:
 - identify key stakeholder groups for engagement and outreach;
 - develop the vision, goals and objectives for Belize's PFP Conservation Plan;
 - provide guidance on the prioritization of the geographic areas and the definition of the PFP's thematic scope;
 - Assist with the identification of supporting science and data for the development of the PFP Conservation Plan;
 - Identify priority policy and programmatic areas for development and support under the PFP.
- Since its inception, the CPWG has met regularly (monthly to bi-monthly) to collaborate on the development of the conservation plan. Drawing from its membership, it has also formed working groups for the five thematic pillars which form the conservation plan. The thematic working groups often meet quarterly to develop the thematic pillars.
- WWF has commissioned several studies to support the development of thematic pillars. In January 2023, a blended finance assessment was done and, as a result, fishers from several target communities co-designed an artisanal fisher loan product which is being piloted as a possible intervention under the livelihood thematic pillar of the PFP. This engagement included fishers from the communities of Sarteneja, Copper Bank, Chunox, Dangriga, Hopkins, Riversdale and Seine Bight who fish in the Area 8 of the Managed Access Program. This pilot was based on the communities stated need for improved access to the financial sector to support fisheries activities.
- WWF has engaged with Fishers and Fisher Associations as well as various NGOs and Government agencies (e.g. Wildlife Conservation Society, Belize Audubon Society, Fisheries Department, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute) working in the target communities to create awareness on project initiatives, proposals being developed, as well as synergies and opportunities for collaboration to maximize community benefits and avoid duplication of efforts.
- During the field research, the WWF team and researchers engaged with community members and institutional stakeholders, providing brief descriptions of project objectives and planned activities prior to engaging in consultations (see below)

Field research was conducted from February 26 to March 21, 2024, by a team of four researchers, 3 from Belize and 1 from Mexico. With the support of partner organizations, each target community (8) was visited and, for each one, a focus group was conducted on the first day of the visit in the community and surveys with community members on the second.

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY COMMUNITY IN EACH FIELD RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

Community Name	# of Participants - Focus Group	# of Participants - Survey
Chunox	8	9
Sarteneja	4	8
Copper Bank	0	0
Gales Point	0	6
Riversdale	3	6
Seine Bight	6	7
Monkey River Town	8	7
Barranco	5	3
Punta Gorda	12	0

These 8 GEF/PFP target communities were prioritized at the stage of project preparation through an active selection process undertaken at a national multi-stakeholder workshop. At that time, a set of criteria were defined—including level of dependence on fishing, access to employment opportunities in the community, accessibility and socio-economic/climate change vulnerability—and communities were scored and ranked against those. Consequently, although not representative in a statistical sense, these communities were found to present significantly relevant characteristics and thus defined the scope of the field research and consultations at this stage.

A complete review of the stakeholder engagement conducted during the project development can be found in Annex 2. In addition, profiles for each of the communities visited are available in Annex 2 of this project's ESMF.

5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to ensure appropriate and consistent involvement of project stakeholders in every stage of the project implementation, supporting effective communication and working relationships. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will ensure that the views and inputs of stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout project implementation. The SEP is detailed in Table 2.

TABLE 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Stakeholder Type	Name	Frequency	Engagement During Project Implementation
Government of Belize	High level government actors	Annually	<p>Discussion on the work plan, understanding of main concerns/additional aspects to be considered by the implementation team.</p> <p>Engagement will be done through in person and virtual meetings, workshops, email, and phone calls.</p> <p>Key government ministries will be engaged with regular meetings and workshops. WWF will support the Belizean government in developing sustainable finance mechanisms, enhancing capacities for domestic resource mobilization, and ensuring long-term conservation and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>PMU will facilitate knowledge sharing, learning, and coordination between Belizean government actors and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) projects.</p>
	Technical government actors	Quarterly	
	Government protected area managers	Quarterly or more often as necessary	
	Local authorities (Village councils and town councils)		
Communities and Indigenous People	The National Garifuna Council, and Northern Maya Association of Belize are key associations of IPs in Belize who are key stakeholders to consult and include during the FPIC process.	Quarterly during first year, biannual thereafter. As the project progresses in implementation, frequency might increase as needed.	<p>Make contact with new partners that have not had prior engagement and continue engaging with those that have. The PMU and partner institutions present/discuss the project work plan and listen to and document concerns. This could take place through in-person meetings or online meetings.</p> <p>Collaborate with the National Garifuna Council to help inform the FPIC process and engage Garinagu people within target communities. If possible, contract the National Garifuna Council as a subject matter expert or sub-contractor to design or audit the FPIC process.</p> <p>Collaborate with the Northern Maya Association to help inform the FPIC process and engage Yucatecan maya people within target communities.</p> <p>To revise and update MPA management plans, participatory workshops with communities, local governments and other key stakeholders will be held to a) gather feedback to update management plans; b) discuss impacts and opportunities posited by the effective management and enforcement of MPA management plans on the livelihoods of PAPs; c) identify and connect IPLCs who might be negatively affected by project</p>
	The Garinagu Peoples and Maya Peoples are the Indigenous Peoples in the project area. As stated, the Garinagu Peoples are most involved in marine natural resources.	See guidance on FPIC	
	Fisherfolk, families of fisherfolk, people working in tourism, and households who depend on ocean resources for food security are key stakeholders in local communities who are likely to be impacted by the project.	During management plan revision, at least three meetings with all relevant stakeholders.	

			activities to livelihood alternatives ; and d) deliver stakeholder agreed-upon updated management plans for the MPAs.
Community Based Organizations	Community Groups Private landowners Village Councils: Coastal communities (Sarteneja, Copper Bank, Chunox, Gales Point, Hopkins, Seine Bight, Punta Negra, Barranco, Monkey River), Town Council – coastal towns (Corozal, Dangriga, Punta Gorda, San Pedro),	Quarterly	Will be engaged and provide technical input during consultation process and may take on a role as implementing partners. Private landowners will be engaged in mangrove restoration activities contributing to the community level reforestation efforts.
NGOs	NGO protected area co-managers Environmental NGOs Other NGOs	Annually or more frequently during key planning moments	NGOs will be engaged through email, phone calls, and meetings to provide technical input at different points during implementation and may take on a role as implementing partners.
Private Sector	Coastal/Marine Property Developers and Investors	Annual and more often during key planning moments of the project	Make contact with new partners that have not had prior engagement and continue engaging with those that have. The PMU and partner institutions will present the project concept and work plan, and listen to and document concerns.

5.1. ENGAGING WITH WOMEN, IPS, AND VULNERABLE GROUPS.

WWF will take the following steps, to ensure effective engagement with the diversity of project affected people:

Engaging with women

It is expected that community engagement will be primarily conducted by the PMU and project partners. Capacity development training on gender-sensitive methods for engagement will be conducted by WWF before or at the beginning of project implementation, to enable gender equitable engagement. This will ensure the use of methods that will allow for the views of women and vulnerable groups to be incorporated in the project design, planning and implementation of activities at community level. Some specific plans to engage with women include:

- Meet with and engage in participatory planning with women’s associations or cooperatives.
- If women are observed not to participate actively or express themselves in group meetings, consider separating focus groups or planning sessions to ensure women are free and comfortable to share.

Engaging with elderly people

To ensure the engagement of elderly people, efforts to make meetings and workshops accessible and inclusive to diverse ages will be made. Processes for the participation of older persons should include traditional means of communication (e.g. oral communication) as they are more likely to carry out activities and participate in related discussions when they can engage easily when communication is oral. The use

of technological tools in participation may prevent these individuals from participating and sharing their knowledge. Generally, participation facilities for older people must be accessible through powerful visuals (images, TV) or audio (debates, radio).

Engaging with youth

Youth are a key group for this project, as they are often engaged in fishing activities from a young age and represent a key demographic shifting away from natural-resource dependent livelihoods. Nonetheless, they are vulnerable as they are often in families who depend on natural resource-based livelihoods. As such, opportunities to improve their ownership of concepts and encourage their participation in collaborative processes need to be examined and optimized. A good way of engaging with youth is through ambassador programs, educational initiatives, and livelihood programs. In addition, children and youth can be involved in participation process through youth organizations and local networks, local sports clubs and student groups.

Engaging people living with disabilities

In engaging people with disabilities, it is essential to ensure that facilities are accessible, comfortable and stimulate their ability to listen and concentrate. Participation facilities must be well designed and accessible. Improving accessibility can include the use of plain language, or interpretation services and graphics that simply explain complex concepts. Providing opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in small meetings instead of large community gatherings can also improve their participation. It is also important to cooperate with networks that support people living with disabilities in order to collect their input into the process and to access their networks in order to promote public events and disseminate information.

Engaging with IPs

According to WWF Network's policy on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation, WWF must ensure that indigenous rights are respected, that indigenous peoples do not suffer adverse impacts from projects, and that they receive culturally appropriate benefits from conservation. Engaging with IPs in the project should consider:

- Whenever IPs are engaged during project implementation, prior consultations and FPIC will be sought.
- Projects respect indigenous peoples' rights, including their rights to FPIC processes and to tenure over traditional territories.
- Potential adverse impacts are avoided or adequately addressed through a participatory and consultative approach.
- Work closely with IP association and IP leaders to guide the FPIC process.

6. Resources and Responsibilities

The WWF GEF Project Agency, WWF US, is responsible for oversight. The lead Executing Agency, BBFP, is responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and overall compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement as it relates to Components 1 and 3 in the GEF Project. As such, BBFP will be responsible for overseeing stakeholder engagement with communities and local partners and will recruit a Safeguards and Gender Officer who will be responsible for implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (as well as ESMF and Gender Action Plan) and will report to PMU Project Manager. Budget has been allocated for travel, monitoring, and implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, and Environment and Social Management Framework.

Responsibility for overall compliance with the SEP as it relates to Component 2 will fall under the scope of the entity who will execute that component. Though as of this writing said executing entity is still

undetermined, provisions will be made to ensure that there is a designated staff member whose responsibilities will include stakeholder engagement, safeguards and/or gender. In the event that BBFP's executing role is extended to incorporate Component 2, the Safeguards and Gender Officer identified here would be responsible for ensuring full implementation of the SEP, in collaboration with any other supplemental staff hired for PFP implementation.

7. Grievance Redress Mechanisms

Under the RBB GEF-8 project, three GRMs will be available to those impacted by it. To be practical, time-efficient, and cost-effective, complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level unless the nature of the complaint precludes it.

The PMU will be responsible for informing project-affected parties about all of those grievance mechanisms. Contact information of the staff member responsible for the project-level grievance mechanism in the PMU will be made publicly available.

1) Project-Level Grievance Mechanism

Because the project will have a direct and tangible effect on local communities and individuals residing within or in the vicinity of project sites, there is a need for an efficient and effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that collects and responds to stakeholders' inquiries, suggestions, concerns, and complaints. This section will describe the details of the applicable GRM, including details on the process to submit a grievance, how long the PMU will have to respond, and who on the PMU will be responsible for its implementation and reporting.

The GRM will operate based on the following principles:

- **Fairness:** Grievances are assessed impartially and handled transparently.
- **Objectiveness and independence:** The GRM operates independently of all interested parties to guarantee fair, objective, and impartial treatment of each case.
- **Simplicity and accessibility:** Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that project beneficiaries can easily understand them and in a language that is accessible to everyone within a given community, especially those who are most vulnerable.
- **Responsiveness and efficiency:** The GRM is designed to respond to all complainants' needs. Accordingly, officials handling grievances must be trained to take effective action and respond quickly to grievances and suggestions.
- **Speed and proportionality:** All grievances, simple or complex, are addressed and resolved quickly. The action taken on the grievance or suggestion is swift, decisive, and constructive.
- **Participation and inclusiveness:** A wide range of affected people—communities and vulnerable groups—are encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of the project implementers. Special attention is given to ensuring poor people and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, can access the GRM.
- **Accountability and closing the feedback loop:** All grievances are recorded and monitored, and no grievance remains unresolved. Complainants are always notified and given explanations regarding the results of their complaints. An appeal option shall always be available.

Complaints may include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- Allegations of fraud, malpractices, or corruption by staff or other stakeholders as part of any project or activity financed or implemented by the project, including allegations of gender-based violence or sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment;
- Environmental and/or social damages/harms caused by projects financed or implemented (including those in progress) by the project;
- Complaints and grievances by permanent or temporary workers engaged in project activities.
- Complaints could relate to pollution prevention and resource efficiency; negative impacts on public health, environment, or culture; destruction of natural habitats; disproportionate impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups; discrimination or physical or sexual harassment; violation of applicable laws and regulations; destruction of physical and cultural heritage; or any other issues which adversely impact communities or individuals in project areas.

The GRM seeks to complement, rather than substitute, the judicial system and other dispute resolution mechanisms. All complainants may therefore file their grievance in local courts or approach mediators or arbitrators, in accordance with the legislation of Belize. The grievance redress mechanism will be implemented in a culturally sensitive way and facilitate access to vulnerable populations.

The project-level GRM shall be designed considering the following guidelines:

1. **Disseminating information about the GRM:** All materials describing the GRM, once approved by the PMU CTF and cleared by TNC and WWF-US, will be made publicly available by posting them on the WWF and BBFP websites and disseminated as part of the Project stakeholder engagement activities. The GRM will be communicated with all communities and stakeholders by the Safeguards and Gender Officer, who will also develop GRM materials (brochures, flyers, etc.). Materials will include basic information on GRM and contact information on all grievance uptake locations as follows: 1. Name of locations/channels to receive grievance. 2. Address of locations. 3. Responsible person. 4. Telephone(s). 5. Email. 6. Days and hours for receiving verbal grievances. The materials will also include a summary of the process for registering, reviewing, and responding to grievances, including the estimated response time. The information about the GRM will also be presented as a chart to make it easy for people to view. The materials will be produced in English and Spanish.
2. **Submitting complaints:** Project-affected people, workers, or interested stakeholders can submit grievances, complaints, questions, or suggestions to this mechanism through various communication channels, including phone, regular mail, email, text messaging/SMS, or in person. The appropriate addresses and phone numbers will be identified within the first six months of project implementation.
3. **Processing complaints:** All grievances submitted shall be registered and considered. A tracking registration number should be provided to all complainants. To facilitate the investigation, complaints will be categorized into four types: (a) comments, suggestions, or queries; (b) complaints relating to nonperformance of project obligations and safeguards-related complaints; (c) complaints referring to violations of law and/or corruption while implementing project activities; (d) complaints against authorities, officials or community members involved in the project management; and (e) any complaints/issues not falling in the above categories.
4. **Acknowledging the receipt of complaints:** Once a grievance is submitted, the designated official or the Safeguards and Gender Officer shall acknowledge its receipt, brief the complainant on the grievance resolution process, provide the contact details of the person in charge of handling the grievance (which should be said Safeguards and Gender Officer, and provide a registration number that would enable the complainant to track the status of the complaint.
5. **Investigating complaints:** The Safeguards and Gender Officer will gather all relevant information, conduct field visits as necessary, and communicate with all relevant stakeholders as part of the

complaint investigation process. The PMU should ensure that the investigators are neutral and do not have any stake in the outcome of the investigation.

6. **Responding to complainants:** A written response to all grievances will be provided to the complainant within 15 working days. If further investigation is required, the complainant will be informed accordingly, and a final response will be provided after an additional period of 15 working days. Grievances that cannot be resolved by grievance receiving authorities/offices at their level should be referred to a higher level for verification and further investigation.
7. **Appeal:** If the parties are unsatisfied with the response provided through the project-level GRM, they can submit an appeal to BBFP within ten days of the decision. If they are also unsatisfied with the appeal committee's decision, they can submit their grievances directly to WWF US, the GEF Agency, or the Court of Law for further adjudication.
8. **Monitoring and evaluation:** The Safeguards and Gender Officer will compile a quarterly report with full information on the grievances they received. The report shall describe the grievances and their status in the investigation. Summarized GRM reports shall constitute part of the regular project progress reporting and shall be submitted to the PMU and WWF GEF Agency. The GRM seeks to complement, rather than substitute, the judicial system and other dispute-resolution mechanisms. All complainants may, therefore, file their grievances in local courts or approach mediators or arbitrators through Belize legislation.

2) WWF GEF Agency Grievance Mechanism

In addition to the project-specific GRM, project-affected communities and other interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the WWF GEF Agency. Contact information of the WWF GEF Agency will be made publicly available.

A grievance can be filed with the Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the WWF GEF Agency, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at:

Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org.

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer Safeguards Complaints,
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Complaints may be submitted in the Affected Party's native language and should include the following information:

- Complainant's name and contact information;
- If not filed directly by the complainant, proof that those representing the affected people have authority to do so;
- The specific project or program of concern;
- The harm that is or may be resulting from the project;
- The relevant Environmental and Social Safeguards policy or provision (if known);
- Any other relevant information or documents;
- Any actions taken so far to resolve the problem, including contacting WWF;
- Proposed solutions; and
- Whether confidentiality is requested (stating reasons).

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online or over the phone through an independent third-party platform at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/59041/index.html>.

3) GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner

In addition to the country-level, and WWF GEF Agency GRMs, a person concerned about a GEF-financed project or operation may submit a complaint to the GEF Resolution Commissioner, who plays a facilitation role and reports directly to the GEF CEO. The Commissioner can be reached at:

E-mail: plallas@thegef.org

Mailing Address:

Mr. Peter Lallas
Global Environment Facility
The World Bank Group, MSN N8-800
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433-002

Complaints submitted to the Commissioner should be in writing and can be in any language. The complaints should provide at least a general description of the nature of the concerns, the type of harm that may result, and (where relevant) the GEF-funded projects or program at issue

Capacity Building for GRM

Special training will be provided to the ESS Specialists within the first 6 months of project implementation or before the GRM is finalized, whichever is sooner. This will help to ensure they have the capacity to address SEAH-related grievances in a culturally sensitive and victim-centered

8. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored and reported on throughout implementation.

The following comprises the monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken with respect to stakeholder engagement by the PMU:

- The SEP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary at an annual Reflection Workshop. The review will ensure that the list of project stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate.
- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by the PMU every 6 months in a Project Progress Report (as part of regular reporting). The project Results Framework and Annual Work Plan and Budget will track beneficiaries of the project and activities related to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Stakeholder Engagement activities and progress will be monitored through the following indicators:
 - GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment
 - Indicator SEP 1: Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis
 - Indicator SEP 2: Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)
 - Indicator SEP 3: Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

Stakeholder Engagement will be evaluated by independent consultants recruited for the project midterm and the terminal evaluations.

The WWF GEF Agency will undertake annual supervision missions to ensure compliance, and report on progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually to the GEF through Project Implementation Reports.

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Name	Interest/Involvement in the Project	Project Effect on Stakeholder / Stakeholder Influence on the Project
Government of Belize	High level government actors	The role of high-level government bodies is to sit on decision making committees and to provide high level input and guidance for project design and implementation.	<p>Positive effect The project will help the country achieve its commitments to the 2030 agenda and strengthen its resilience to climate change.</p> <p>High influence on the project High level government actors are central to the project in the design and implementation</p>
	Technical government actors	Provide technical input into the design of the project and implementation.	<p>Positive effect The technical government actors are essential for the fulfillment of the objectives of Resilient Bold Belize including, but not limited to compliance with regulations, monitoring of MPAs and improving the relationship with communities</p> <p>Medium influence on the project</p>
	Government protected area managers	Are engaged during consultation process and will also be implementing partners	<p>Positive effect The project will provide funds and means to better governance of the PA.</p> <p>Medium influence on the project As implementing partners and authorities in charge of the MPA, they will have a medium influence on the project since they will implement the nature-based solutions and enforce better conservations plans.</p>
Communities and Indigenous People	The National Garifuna Council, and Northern Maya Association of Belize are key associations of IPs in Belize who are key stakeholders to consult and include during the FPIC process.	Provide guidance on IPs and FPIC	<p>Neutral impact The project will not impact the key associations of IPs in Belize.</p> <p>Medium-low influence on the project The IPs associations will have an important role during the FPIC and as a source of information to ensure the respect of IPs and their consent in the project.</p>
	The Garinagu Peoples and Maya Peoples are the Indigenous Peoples in the project area. The Garinagu Peoples are most involved in marine natural resources.	Project Affected People	<p>Potentially Negative impact The project could negatively affect the Garinagu peoples since some families pursue ocean-related livelihoods or depend on the ocean for food security. FPIC is an essential step to the success and sustainability of the project.</p> <p>Medium-high impact on the project As users of the sea ecosystems and its resources, the IPs will have an impact on the project since their commitment to the protection of the sea, and compliance with rules from users, is indispensable for the project success.</p>
	Fisherfolk, families of fisherfolk, people working in tourism, and	Project Affected People	Potentially Negative impact

	households who depend on ocean resources for food security are key stakeholders in local communities who are likely to be impacted by the project.		The project could affect negative the fisherfolk since they are dependent on fishing for livelihoods and sometimes food security. Not only the fisherfolk are impacted but their families as well. High impact on the project As users of the sea ecosystems and its resources, fisherfolk will have an impact on the project since their commitment to the protection of the sea, and compliance with rules from users, is indispensable for the project success.
Community Based Organizations	Community Groups Private landowners Village Councils/Town Councils	Are engaged during consultation process and private landowners will be engaged for mangrove restoration or conservation.	Neutral or Positive Impact The project could affect them positively because if the outcomes of the project are met, there will be increased resilience for landowners and community members. Medium influence on the project. Community based organizations have direct communication with the communities, have built bridges of trust and have strengths in communicating the positive effects of the project. Those features allow for better consensus and acceptance with communities and resource users.
NGOs	NGO protected area co-managers	Actively engaged in managing protected areas that form a part of the project.	Positive effect The project will strengthen the capacities and regulations of the MPAs, and it could also positively affect their financing. High influence on the project As comanagers of a crucial piece of the project, their impact is vital.
	Environmental NGOs	Will be engaged and provide technical input during consultation process and may take on role as implementing partners	Positive effect, low influence on the project (non-implementers). Might be high influence on the project if some NGOs become partners in implementation.
	Other NGOs	Will be engaged and provide technical input during consultation process and may take on role as implementing partners	Positive effect, low influence on the project (non-implementers). Might be high influence on the project if some NGOs become partners in implementation.
Private Sector	Coastal/Marine Property Developers and Investors	Will be engaged and provide input during the consultation process and may be integrated into projected design	Medium effect For those who comply with the regulations, the project will not have drastic effects, for those who do not comply, the effect may be negative but not directly linked to the project. Low influence on the project Their influence on the project is minor, although their actions can either positively or negatively affect the protection of coastal areas.

Appendix 2: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations

High level summary of Conservation Planning Working Group Meetings

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
Ongoing March 2022- Current 2024	This is the Conservation Planning Working Group, which meets bi-monthly or more often to help formulate the PFP Conservation Plan, the working group consists of partners from NGOs, PA Management bodies, Government, Private Sector PA managers, and other partners.	Virtual and some in person	Meetings to work on the PFP Conservation plan and determine goals for overall PFP. The meetings are led by the PFP lead (WWF-CA) and the BBFP.	Determine goals for overall PFP and discuss strategies to achieve PFP Objectives. Stakeholders raised aspects to consider in developing the Conservation Plan such as rights restrictions, consulting all involved stakeholders, including species conservation -not just area-based, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shantel Espadas Blue Bond Project Finance of Permanence Unit • Alicia Eck-Nunez Fisheries Department • Minerva Gonzalez Forest Department • Noe Rivas National Biodiversity Office • Samir Rosado Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute • Leo Sosa Department of the Environment • Ralna Lewis Wildlife Conservation Society • Jamani Balderamos The Nature Conservancy • Melanie McField Healthy Reefs • Nicole Craig Healthy Reefs • Nigel Martinez Belize Federation of Fishers • Joe Villafranco Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association • Valdemar Andrade Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association • Other PFP partners

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
Feb. 23, 2024	Focus Group with 5 activities, 1) presentation of BAF & GEF projects 2) risk identification 3) use of time 4) activities by gender 5) gender perceptions and gender violence, Organized by Humana with people involved in fishing and tourism activities.	Helpage Building, Hopkins Village	Presentations on both BAF and RBB projects. Identification of risks, identification of use of time between genders, gender perceptions and gender violence, livelihood intervention support desired by the community.	<p>Participants were mainly utilizing the following areas: SWCMR and Glover Reef. No activities relating to the Placencia Lagoon.</p> <p>Main concerns around lack of enforcement in all areas citing: tourism (no monitoring of eat and catch tours), illegal fisheries (including use of gill nets), fishing in no-take zones especially by Guatemalans and Hondurans, no monitoring of catch sizes, etc.</p> <p>Would like to see a reduction in the number of fishing licenses issued for the fishing zones which they are currently using under the managed access program. Believe that the northern fishers along with the Guatemalans and Hondurans contribute to most illegal and unsustainable fishing practices.</p> <p>Would like support in terms of small business grants and training opportunities.</p> <p>Would like to be able to apply for boat and fishing licenses within their community instead of going to Belize City.</p>	<p>Participants ranged in ages from 20s – 60s, were mainly Garifuna (8 persons). Included fishers, women entrepreneurs, retired persons, and persons working in the tourism sector.</p> <p>11 persons signed register (7 women, 4 men). More men participated in the discussions but chose not to indicate their participation through signing the registration sheet.</p> <p>Of the 11 participants, 8 identified as Garifuna, 2 as other.</p>

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
February 26th, 2024	Focus group Riversdale Focus Group with 2 activities, 1) presentation of BAF & GEF projects 2) risk identification, Organized by Humana with people involved in fishing	Lost Reef Resort, Riversdale	Presentations on both BAF and RBB projects. Identification of risks, identification of use of time between genders, gender perceptions and gender violence, livelihood intervention support desired by the community, DFC Artisanal fisher loan program.	Participants were mainly utilizing the following areas: SWCMR and Glover Reef. Not many activities relating to the Placencia Lagoon, however its designation as a PA is supported. Main concerns are around lack of enforcement. Would like support in terms of small business grants, and training opportunities. Would like to have access to fishing grants instead of loans.	This session was poorly attended with only 4 persons present. Of the 4 persons, 2 left before the end of the meeting. Many of the residents who previously committed to participating went fishing. Participants included: 1 woman, 3 men

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
Feb. 28, 2024	Focus Group with 5 activities, 1) presentation of BAF & GEF projects 2) risk identification 3) use of time 4) activities by gender 5) gender perceptions and gender violence, Organized by Humana with people involved in fishing and tourism activities	Ritchies Restaurant, Seine Bight Village	Presentations on both BAF and RBB projects. Identification of risks, identification of use of time between genders, gender perceptions and gender violence, livelihood intervention support desired by the community.	<p>Participants were mainly utilizing the following areas: SWCMR and Glover Reef. Not many activities relating to the Placencia Lagoon, however its designation as a PA is supported. Main concerns around lack of enforcement in all areas citing: tourism (no monitoring of eat and catch tours), illegal fisheries (including use of gill nets), fishing in no take zones, no monitoring of catch sizes, etc.</p> <p>Would like to see a reduction in the number of fishing licenses issued for the fishing zones which they are currently using under the managed access program. Believe that the northern fishers along with the Guatemalans and Hondurans contribute to most illegal and unsustainable fishing practices. Also indicated that special licenses are sold between fishers and not properly issued by the fishing department.</p> <p>Would like support in terms of small business grants, training opportunities and additional support to develop the tourism product offering within the community.</p>	<p>This session was attended by Seine Bight residents only, mainly Garifuna. Cited frustration with constant meetings and resulting inaction for low participation from community. Cited that there should have been more input from the local business community.</p> <p>Participants ages ranged from 34 to 76 yrs.</p> <p>5 participants: 2 women, 3 men. 4 persons identified as Garifuna, 1 as Creole.</p>

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
Mar. 4-5	Focus group meeting for Presentations on both BAF and RBB and discuss any thoughts/concerns stakeholders have	Placencia	Presentations on both BAF and RBB projects. Identification of risks, discuss the Placencia lagoon area specifically.	<p>Tourism participants operated in all the BAF focus areas, and fully support the designation of the Placencia Lagoon as a PA.</p> <p>Main concerns around lack of enforcement in all areas citing: tourism (expats carrying out tours without a licensed guide), illegal fisheries (including use of gill nets in the lagoon), fishing in no-take zones, no monitoring of catch sizes, illegal dredging and mangrove clearing, etc.</p> <p>In terms of the potential manager of the Placencia Lagoon, participants felt that SEA is currently overtaxed and would not have the capacity to include the Placencia lagoon. Thought that CRC may be a better fit as they are currently doing studies within the lagoon area.</p> <p>Support the designation of the Placencia Lagoon as a protected area with mixed use to ensure that the community's current uses are adequately reflected (mainly recreation, fishing (esp. fly fishing) and transportation). They indicated that a lot of the boat traffic contribute to manatee injuries but is the main mode of transportation for locals.</p>	7 participants (4 females, 3 males) ranging in age 22 to 59 years of age. Participants identified as follows: 3 maya women, 3 creole men, 1 woman identified as other.

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
March 11, 2024	Focus Group with 5 activities, 1) presentation & GEF project 2) risk identification 3) use of time 4) activities by gender 5) gender perceptions and gender violence, Organized by SEA with people involved in fishing and tourism activities	Local restaurant in Monkey River	Presentations on RBB projects. Identification of risks, identification of use of time between genders, gender perceptions and gender violence, livelihood intervention support desired by the community.	<p>Locals were concerned about lack of enforcement.</p> <p>Participants indicated that they would like the area to become a protected area, and for fees to be collected. They said that while the Monkey River tour is the most popular tour originating from Placencia, no fees are paid towards the community, and the village council does not have the resources for basic upkeep.</p> <p>Concerns about extraction of materials and diversion of water upstream which continues to have dire effects on the community contributing to environmental degradation.</p>	<p>The session was attended by Monkey River residents, they cited frustration with erosion caused by agriculture around the community, lack of opportunities for tourism.</p> <p>The meeting had participation of 8 people (6 male, 2 female), involved in fishing and tourism activities. All the participants identified themselves as Creole.</p>

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
March 12, 2024	Focus Group with 5 activities, 1) presentation of GEF project 2) risk identification 3) use of time 4) activities by gender 5) gender perceptions and gender violence, Organized by EarthEmpower with people involved in fishing activities.	Barranco Village	Presentations on RBB projects. Identification of risks, identification of use of time between genders, gender perceptions and gender violence, livelihood intervention support desired by the community,	<p>Participants indicated that most of the men in the village leave to find employment, leaving behind women, children and elders.</p> <p>Fishing is largely subsistence.</p> <p>The community is facing serious erosion issues.</p> <p>Limited economic prospects. They used to get some community tourism tours, however the community tour guide recently passed away. There is no one remaining to continue such activities.</p>	<p>5 participants: 2 women, 3 men ranging in ages from 33 to 60 years old.</p> <p>3 participants identified as Garifuna, 1 as creole and the last as other.</p>

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
March 13, 2024	Household Surveys	Gales Point		The team was unable to secure a focus group meeting with community members, as the consultation date conflicted with another community meeting already being held. Only household surveys were completed in this community.	

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
March 15, 2024	<p>Focus Group with 5 activities, 1) presentation of GEF project 2) risk identification 3) use of time 4) activities by gender 5) gender perceptions and gender violence, Organized by SACD with people involved in fishing and tourism activities</p> <p>Informal focus group meeting with some fishermen</p>	<p>SACD Conference Room, Sarteneja Village</p> <p>Fisherman house (Mr. Cesar), Sarteneja Village</p>	<p>Presentations on RBB projects. Identification of risks, identification of use of time between genders, gender perceptions and gender violence, livelihood intervention support desired by the community.</p>	<p>Community participation in this activity was limited, as many fishers were out of the village, and the focus group competed with other activities that were occurring at the same time which resulted in low turnout and participation.</p> <p>The participants are worried that more restrictions for MPAs could affect the income of their households.</p> <p>The new road improvements have the potential to improve the community economy.</p> <p>Are interested in tourism, however, believe that Sarteneja needs more development to become a tourist destination (e.g. improved standards for hotels and restaurants).</p> <p>They expressed that they are tired of participating in this kind of activity because nothing gets done (they trust SACD)</p> <p>They would like to have workshops to support women entrepreneurship in something they can do in their homes or nearby.</p> <p>They think agriculture could be an option or restaurants.</p>	<p>Participants included: 3 females</p> <p>Participants included: 2 men and 1 woman</p>

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
March 18, 2024	Focus Group with 4 activities, 1) presentation of GEF project 2) risk identification 3) activities by gender 4) gender perceptions and gender violence, Organized by SACD with people involved in fishing and tourism activities	Chunox fisherman Association Office, Chunox Village	Presentations on RBB projects. Identification of risks, identification of use of time between genders, gender perceptions and gender violence, livelihood intervention support desired by the community.	<p>The meeting was held and organized by the Fisherman Association and, since many fishermen were out of town, their wives came to the meeting.</p> <p>The association has internal problems and those were reflected during the focus group.</p> <p>Women are looking for more participation in the fisherman association and more economic participation, they would be interested in business workshops.</p> <p>There is a lack of trust in the government and some NGOs (WWF was not mentioned).</p> <p>There is an interest on diversification of activities because most families depend on tourism.</p>	Participants included: 3 males and 5 females

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
March 20, 2024		Copper Bank		<p>There was no participation of community members in the focus group meeting.</p> <p>The team was also unable to obtain household surveys from community members as they were distrustful of purpose and did not want to participate.</p> <p>There is the fear that this information will be used to restrict fishers from more areas, increasing the competition within limited spaces to fish for conch and lobster.</p>	