



# MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND CIVIL AVIATION



# ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

FOR  
THE MINISTRY OF  
BLUE ECONOMY  
AND  
CIVIL AVIATION

2023 - 2024

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Hon. Andre Perez

Minister of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation

The Blue Economy and Civil Aviation sectors in Belize play crucial roles in driving economic growth, fostering social development, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The technical report for the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA) offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the significance of the work accomplished over the past year and its impact on the well-being of the nation.

This report not only serves as a roadmap for our collective success but also highlights our unwavering dedication to the strategic objectives laid out in Plan Belize, our national Medium-Term Development Strategy. It outlines the Ministry's accomplishments in nurturing a thriving Blue Economy that promotes responsible utilization of marine resources, as well as, ensuring the adoption and implementation of robust Civil Aviation practices.

These efforts are aligned with national policies, and international commitments, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the Convention on International Civil Aviation, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable advancement in both the blue economy and aviation sectors.

The tangible benefits of these initiatives are strongly felt, whereby our thriving Blue Economy continues to propel economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and generating revenue, while safe and efficient Civil Aviation facilitates connectivity and supports Belize's tourism industry, a vital component of our economy. Most importantly, these efforts prioritize the long-term health of our marine and coastal resources, ensuring their preservation and continued vibrancy for Belize's future.

It's important to acknowledge that the Ministry's achievements are the result of collaborative efforts with an emphasis on our obligation to transparency and accountability in all aspects of our operations, working to ensure that stakeholders are informed, engaged, and involved in the processes and devel-

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opments that affect their communities and environments. As the Minister responsible for the progression of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, I must recognize and congratulate the dedication of our exemplary staff, the contributions of partner organizations, and the unwavering support of the citizenry of Belize. Creating a narrative for sustainable development, where economic prosperity and environmental protection work hand-in-hand, is a commendable feat.

MBECA's multifaceted impact, illustrated in this report further serves as a persuasive tool for advocating continued investment in sustainable blue economy development and a robust civil aviation sector, both of which are integral to Belize's future prosperity.

As we move forward in our journey towards sustainable development and growth in Belize's Blue Economy sectors and Aviation industry, it is crucial that to remain steadfast in our commitment to responsible stewardship of our natural resources and continue to build upon the solid foundation that has been laid out. Let us press on with determination and unity, knowing that our endeavors are paving the way for a thriving and sustainable Belize.



Ministry of Blue Economy  
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# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Kennedy Carrillo  
Chief Executive Officer

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, under the leadership of the Honourable Minister Andre Perez, has achieved significant milestones over the past year. I am thrilled to witness the pivotal role this ministry plays in our ongoing developments and the future of our nation, a responsibility that I carry with immense pride and dedication. It is evident that this ministry holds the key to unlocking economic prosperity, ensuring conservation and environmental sustainability, and establishing a seamless aerial and marine transportation network. The leadership st-

yle adopted by the Ministry underscores the values of collaboration, cooperation, and innovation. We have a committed team working towards the successful implementation of blue-economy development initiatives in line with national policy frameworks. However, we are in need for additional skilled personnel to cater to the demands of emerging fields.

Additionally, we have recognized the financial constraints that we all encounter and are actively exploring creative solutions by tapping into external funding opportunities to complement government funds and foster public-private partnerships. The Ministry is also streamlining our internal processes to enhance operational efficiency. Still, more is needed to ensure the sustainability and success of our initiatives in the long run.

Despite the challenges, the Ministry remains steadfast in pursuing its core objectives for a Sustainable Blue Economy. These objectives encompass enhancing sustainable fisheries management and marine protected areas management, encouraging responsible fishing practices, promoting mariculture and blue businesses, exploring opportunities for sectoral investments, developing a comprehensive marine spatial plan, and strengthening the governance frameworks of the various, blue-based sectors.

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In the aviation sector, our focus lies on reinforcing air traffic safety policies, modernizing air traffic control systems, enhancing institutional capabilities, the devolution of the department, and strategically expanding air routes to new markets to bolster tourism.

As the Ministry continues to steam ahead, we recognize that achieving these goals necessitates greater collaboration with the private sector, academia, and the wider public. Hence, we are committed to actively involving local communities to ensure they reap the benefits of the Blue Economy. We also intend to launch public awareness campaigns to advocate for sustainable, responsible, and climate-smart practices in these sectors.

Collectively, the vision for the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation can be transformed into reality: a vision of thriving blue industries, robust air travel infrastructure, and a nation that leverages its maritime and aerial resources for a prosperous and sustainable future. United in our efforts to construct a future where the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation stands as a beacon of progress and innovation. Through fostering partnerships and embracing sustainable blue practices, we can pave the way for a brighter and bluer tomorrow.

The logo features a stylized map of Nigeria in the background, overlaid with a circular emblem. The emblem contains a globe, a wind turbine, and a ship, symbolizing sustainable development and maritime resources. Below the emblem, the text "Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation" is written in a clean, sans-serif font.

Ministry of Blue Economy  
& Civil Aviation

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AIM</b>	Aeronautical Information Management
<b>ANS</b>	Air Navigation Service
<b>ATC</b>	Air Traffic Services
<b>AAIU</b>	Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation Unit
<b>AOP</b>	Annual Operation Plan
<b>AvSec</b>	Aviation Security
<b>BCMR</b>	Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve
<b>BARS</b>	Belize Archives and Records Service
<b>BAS</b>	Belize Audubon Society
<b>BCAA</b>	Belize Civil Aviation Authority
<b>BCARs</b>	Belize Civil Aviation Regulations
<b>BDCA</b>	Belize Department of Civil Aviation
<b>BFiD</b>	Belize Fisheries Department
<b>BMF</b>	Belize Marine Fund
<b>BNCASFALC</b>	Belize National Civil Aviation Security & Facilitation Committee
<b>BSOP</b>	Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan
<b>BE</b>	Blue Economy
<b>BEDPS</b>	Blue Economy Development Policy and Strategy
<b>BEU</b>	Blue Economy Unit
<b>BBNJ</b>	Borders Beyond National Jurisdiction
<b>CFU</b>	Capture Fisheries Unit
<b>CLME+</b>	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus
<b>COCESNA</b>	Central American Agency for Air Navigation Services (English)
<b>ACSA</b>	Central American Agency for Aviation Safety (English)
<b>CABEI</b>	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
<b>CITO</b>	Central Information Technology Office
<b>CEFAS</b>	Centre for Aquaculture Science and Fisheries
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>CVRP</b>	Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program
<b>CACs</b>	Coastal Advisory Committees
<b>CZMAI</b>	Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
<b>CVM</b>	Coordinated Validation Mission
<b>EDF</b>	Environmental Defense Fund

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<b>EMU</b>	Ecosystem Management Unit
<b>ESCAZU</b>	Escazú, Costa Rica
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GOAP</b>	Global Ocean Accounting Partnership
<b>GRMR</b>	Glover’s Reef Marine Reserve
<b>GOB</b>	Government of Belize
<b>GSA</b>	Government Strategic Allocation
<b>GBRF</b>	Great Barrier Reef Foundation
<b>HRI</b>	Healthy Reefs Initiative
<b>ICZMP</b>	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan
<b>ISRG</b>	Internal Safety Review Group
<b>ICAO</b>	International Civil Aviation Organization
<b>IISD</b>	International Institute for Sustainable Development
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>JCCU</b>	Job Classification and Compensation Unit
<b>JCCU</b>	Job Classification and Compensation Unit
<b>MSP</b>	Marine Spatial Plan
<b>MAR</b>	Meso-American Reef
<b>MBECA</b>	Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation
<b>MPS</b>	Ministry responsible for the Public Service
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>NASC</b>	National Aviation Safety Committee
<b>NASP</b>	National Aviation Safety Plan
<b>NCAQCP</b>	National Civil Aviation Quality Control Programme
<b>NCASP</b>	National Civil Aviation Security Programme
<b>NEAC</b>	National Environmental Appraisal Committee
<b>NBS</b>	Nature Based Solutions
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
<b>NACC</b>	North America Central America and the Caribbean
<b>OCPP</b>	Ocean Country Partnership Programme
<b>PGIA</b>	Philip Goldson International Airport
<b>PPU</b>	Policy and Planning Unit
<b>PSC</b>	Project Steering Committee
<b>PACT</b>	Protected Areas Conservation Trust
<b>RRI</b>	Resilient Reefs Initiative
<b>SMS</b>	Safety Management System



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<b>SCMR</b>	Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve
<b>STF</b>	Sargassum Task Force
<b>SeMS</b>	Security Database and Management System
<b>SWCMR</b>	South Water Caye Marine Reserve
<b>SARPs</b>	Standards and Recommended Practices
<b>SSP</b>	State Safety Programme
<b>SDU</b>	Sustainable Development Unit
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>USAP-</b>	
<b>CMA</b>	Universal Safety Audit Programme, Continuous Monitoring Approach
<b>UB</b>	University of Belize
<b>WQM</b>	Water Quality Monitoring
<b>WCS</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>WIFF</b>	Women in Fisheries Forum



Ministry of Blue Economy  
& Civil Aviation

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA) has made significant strides in fostering sustainable development, conservation, and economic growth within Belize's blue economy and civil aviation sector. As outlined in #planBelize, the Ministry has continuously enhanced the management and monitoring of marine reserves, improving communication and compliance, and boosting management effectiveness. Through the implementation of the Blue Economy Development Policy, Strategy, and Implementation Plan (BEDPSIP, 2022-2027) and the National Fisheries Policy, Strategy, and Action Plan (2020-2024), MBECA has driven forward its mission for the sustainable development of Belize's blue space. Notably, the Ministry had successfully acquired Belize's first-ever primary surveillance radar, marking a significant milestone in air travel safety and security.

The achievements of 2023-2024 are the result of ongoing efforts, robust partnerships, and collaboration between MBECA and its various units, departments, and agencies. These include the Blue Economy Unit, the Belize Fisheries Department, the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, the Department of Civil Aviation, and numerous stakeholders. The MBECA extends its gratitude to all partners and stakeholders for their unwavering support, collaborative efforts, and commitment to ensuring the sustainable growth of Belize's blue space and the safety and security of air travel.

This annual technical report provides a comprehensive overview of the mission statements, priorities, major achievements, and planned next steps of the MBECA and its departments and agencies for the fiscal year 2023-2024. These achievements underscore MBECA's dedication to fostering productive relationships and championing the realization of BEDPSIP.

Furthermore, this report acknowledges the lessons learned and outlines the next steps in achieving the objectives set forth in the #planBelize Medium-Term Development Strategy.

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# INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA) was established in November 2020 under the current government administration. In its short time of establishment, the Ministry has made formidable strides, especially under its BE mandate. The concept of “Blue Economy” (BE) was coined during the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Rio+20). Though many definitions exist for Blue Economy, the Blue Economy as a concept is generally referred to as the “sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems.” The BE embraces a new, innovative, and cross cutting-edge approach to sustainable development that integrates and depends on healthy marine ecosystems and robust coastal zone economies. The BE is especially important for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Belize, who depend on their marine and coastal resources for livelihood, foreign exchange, and food security. Since its inception, the BE concept has been recognized as critically important for the development of Belize with a keen focus on the main pillars namely people, environment and the economy. Additionally, through its Civil Aviation arm, the Ministry ensures that Belize is provided with vital needs such as connectivity, tourism, socio-economic development, and disaster relief efforts.

The BE branch of the Ministry ensures that Belizean waters, coastline, and all its stakeholders are prioritised for the betterment of the country through the Blue Economy Unit (BEU) within the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA). The departments under the Blue Economy arm of the MBECA include the Blue Economy Unit, the Fisheries Department, and the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), all of which are integral to the sustainable development of Belize’s coastal and marine resources.

The main departments under the MBECA Civil Aviation arm include the Department of Civil Aviation and the Belize Airports Authority. The Belize Department of Civil Aviation (BDCA) moved under the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation in November 2020. The Department of Civil Aviation safeguards Belize’s air spaces and upholds the orderly economic development of civil aviation locally, regionally, and internationally. The aviation sector has also been recognized for its important role in the transportation and tourism industry, which undoubtedly made it a priority to this government administration.

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The following document will report on all activities accomplished by departments and agencies shown below in figure 1 under the responsibilities of MBECA for fiscal year (FY) April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.



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# MISSION STATEMENT AND PRIORITIES

## BLUE ECONOMY'S MISSION

**Mission:**

To increase GDP through a thriving Blue Economy Development pathway that is wholistic, harmonized, innovative and socially just, supported by a robust, science-based management regime of our aquatic resources and space to improve the livelihood of all Belizeans.

In 2022 the Blue Economy Unit developed Belize's first blue economy policy the Blue Economy Development Policy, Strategy, and Implementation Plan (2022-2027) outlines the Blue Economy's vision and mission. This Policy consists of four (4) Priority Areas. These are:

- (i) Policy Priority Area 1: Governance Framework for Blue Economy Development
- (ii) Policy Priority Area 2: Incentives for Blue Economy Development
- (iii) Policy Priority Area 3: Capacity Building, Education, and Research
- (iv) Policy Priority Area 4: Resource Mobilization

## BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S MISSION

**Mission:**

To provide the country and the people of Belize with the best possible management of aquatic and fisheries resources to optimize present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management.

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In 2020 the BFD developed its first Fisheries Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (2020–2024). The National Fisheries Policy consists of five (5) Policy Priority Areas. These are:

- i. Priority Area 1: Conservation and Management of Fish and Ecosystems
- ii. Priority Area 2: Research and Development of the Fisheries Sector
- iii. Priority Area 3: Enforcement and Compliance
- iv. Priority Area 4: Capacity Building and Knowledge Management
- v. Priority Area 5: Fisheries Governance

## COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY & INSTITUTE'S MISSION

**Mission:**

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.

This mission seeks to undertake two general activities by the two branches of the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI).

Under its first branch (i.e., policy arm), this mission will ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of coastal development policies.

This will be executed by the following functions:

- i. Assisting in the development of programmes and projects.
- ii. Fostering regional and international collaboration.
- iii. Commissioning research and monitoring.
- iv. In consultation with stakeholders, assisting in the preparation of development guidelines and review the Coastal Zone Management Plan prepared in accordance with the Act.
- v. Maintaining the national coral reef and coastal water quality monitoring programmes.

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Under its second branch (i.e., research arm), the Coastal Zone Management Institute, this mission will ensure the conducting of research and data collection on Belize's coastal and marine environment. There are four programs that are currently being executed by the institute to ensure that this is achieved.

- (i) Coral Reef Monitoring
- (ii) Coastal Water Quality Monitoring
- (iii) Coastal Planning
- (iv) Data Collection, Analysis, and Management

## DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION'S MISSION

Mission:

To promote efficient and expeditious movement of domestic and international air transportation in Belize through the provision of proper regulatory procedures, in accordance with the air navigation regulations in force and the Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization

Ministry of Blue Economy  
& Civil Aviation

This mission seeks to ensure a safe and secure airspace, while also promoting the orderly and economic development of civil aviation in Belize by the following Guiding Principles:

- i. Ensuring a fair, transparent, and robust regulatory framework.
- ii. Investing in the human capital of the aviation sector.
- iii. Embracing the rights of users and consumers of aviation goods and services.
- iv. Fostering a system of ethics and Integrity in every aspect of the department's undertakings.
- v. Embracing innovation and technology in all aspects of aviation.
- vi. Making sound and wholesome contributions to Belize's development.

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MBECA

## Achievements of the Blue Economy Unit

This section provides an overview of the achievements of the Blue Economy Unit in its implementation of the Belize Blue Economy Development Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan (BEDPSIP) 2022-2027. As such the directional approach for the BEU follows the BEDPSIP's four policy priority areas listed above.

1. MBECA, through the support of the Inter-American Development Bank under the ongoing technical cooperation BL-T1145 – Component I: ‘Strengthening the Policy and Strategy Framework for the Development of the Belize Blue Economy,’ produced a legislative brief to guide the development and implementation of a comprehensive singular Blue Economy Act for Belize, which was validated through a series of in-person and virtual consultations held in May and June of 2023.

2. MBECA participated in the Women in Fisheries Forum in June 2023 with a presentation on the Belize Gender Strategy, Action Plan and M&E Framework 2022-2027. It was emphasized that this is a first of its kind strategy developed, which primarily looks at providing a framework to guide, strengthen, and assess the promotion of gender equality and enhance gender equity in the fisheries and coastal zone sector.



BE Legislation Consultation



Sixth Women in Fisheries Forum



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3. In July 2023, the Ministry of Blue Economy and the Ministry of Tourism, both co-chairs of the Sargassum Task Force (STF), convened to revise and restructure the STF. Additionally, they aimed to reinvigorate the STF by scheduling its inaugural meeting for February 29, 2024. During this meeting, other STF members were in attendance. Notably, the gathering served as an introductory session for the new representatives from both ministries.

4. In August 2023, the Blue Economy Unit under the MBECA participated in a three-day workshop on Ocean Accounting and Marine Spatial Planning. The workshop hosted by the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP), Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), and the Sustainable Development Reform Hub at the University of New Wales, focused on ocean accounting within our blue space for supporting a sustainable and prosperous blue economy in Belize. The workshop aimed to bring together experts and stakeholders to discuss and explore the application of Ocean Accounting in the context of Marine Spatial Planning and the development of the Blue Economy in Belize, to ensure a holistic approach to marine resource management.



Ocean Accounting Training

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5. MBECA, with support from the United Kingdom's Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP), and in coordination with the Belize Fisheries Department, hosted the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Belize for a five-day workshop on August 31, 2023, focused on the Green Listing of marine protected areas. As part of its broader marine conservation initiatives under the Belize Blue Bond Agreement, the Government of Belize (GOB) has committed to applying for the Green List Programme for at least three of its marine protected areas by 2027. The ongoing partnership with OCP and IUCN will support the achievement of this ambition.

6. In August/September 2023 Director Cruz, and CEO Kennedy Carrillo along with many senior officials from key ministries secured potential investments through participation in the Belize Investment Summit. High-level discussions focused on leveraging the blue economy for Belize's green and orange economies and aviation capacity development opportunities.

7. In September 2023, Director of Blue Economy and CEO Chantalle Samuels participated in the inception workshop and steering committee meeting for the "Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (BE: CLME+)" Project to ensure that the work plan, budget and anticipated outputs are aligned with Belize's specific needs and maximize benefits for the country's blue economy.

8. The Senior Blue Economy Officer, Mrs. Andria Grinage attended the "Peer Learning Summit: Vertical Integration in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process" held in Nairobi, Kenya on October 11 to 13th, 2023. Experts and government representatives from 10 countries gathered in Nairobi to share lessons and experiences on multilevel governance and vertical integration in the NAP process.



IUCN Green Listing Workshop



Belize Investment Summit

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The workshop was co-hosted by the NAP Global Network and the Government of Kenya, with funding from Global Affairs Canada. The event aimed to strengthen the NAP processes in these countries by sharing knowledge on gender-responsive approaches.

9. The BEU led the design and preparation of two (2) project proposals and secured the external funding for the execution of these projects to promote the sustainable growth of the blue economy:

a. On November 28, 2023, the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation through the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute signed grant agreement No. BMF-021-2023 with the Mesoamerican Reef Fund Inc. to finance US \$ 45,000 for the 12 month project: Advancing Implementation of the Branding, Marketing and Communications Strategies for Belize's Barrier Reef Reserve System – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The project aims to contribute to the effective communication and marketing of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, with its overarching goal to raise awareness in the general Belizean population and highlight its uniqueness and value through social and traditional media as well as to engage international tourists in promoting Belize's World Heritage Site.

b. On November 29, 2023, the Government of Belize signed loan Contract No. 5769/OC-BL with the Inter-American Development Bank for a 5-year US \$ 7 million project – BL-L1042: Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program. The project seeks to obtain reliable scientific data to facilitate the proper management and use of oceanic resources to ensure the fisheries sector's sustained contribution to Belize's economy. As well as to diversify the county's economy through strengthening the Government capacities for the sustainable use and resilient management of the fisheries sector and expanding to non-traditional fisheries commodities to make the sector more resilient to potential future shocks such as climate change, shifting markets and trade barriers, while providing economic opportunities to vulnerable fishing communities.

10. In November/December 2023 Director Cruz and CEO Kennedy Carrillo along with other senior officials from the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management advocated for Belize's blue economy at the UN COP 28. This event saw our participation in high-level panel sessions on National Adaption Planning, Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance, and side discussions that ensured Belize's voice was heard in deliberations on ocean sustainability.



BL-1042 Loan Contract Signing



Belize Delegates at COP 28

11. In November, the Senior Blue Economy Officer, attended a comprehensive 2-day SeaSketch training workshop organized by the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI). The workshop aimed to equip stakeholders with valuable skills and knowledge to support the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan (BSOP) planning process. The training took place at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza and is a crucial step in strengthening ongoing stakeholder engagement and data collection efforts.

12. A December 2023 technical study on the architectural feasibility of the design and construction of a new Blue Economy building for the MBECA identified four viable design options with opportunities for expansion signifying progress towards a dedicated space to accommodate the Ministry's growth.

13. The Ministry of Blue Economy received \$150,000 USD in funding support for the project, "Strengthening the Coastal Zone and Fisheries Sector through innovative solutions" from the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network Secretariat, hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management is the lead executing entity of this project in collaboration with government ministries and subnational entities. The project focuses on addressing policy and technical gaps, building capacity, and raising awareness of Belize's NAP efforts. The project spans 12 months and commenced on January 1st, 2024.



BSOP Sea Sketch Training

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14. MBECA, through the support of the Inter-American Development Bank under the ongoing technical cooperation BL-T1145 Component 2: "Capacity building to advance the Blue Economy development in Belize" initiated an institutional assessment in January 2024, which will result in the production of an Institutional Strengthening Assessment and Action Plan report for MBECA to utilize to improve its coordination and project execution capacities, implementation of its Blue Economy objectives, and ability to support blue growth in Belize.

15. On January 23, 2024, the Ministry of Blue Economy, along with the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, convened the first project steering committee meeting for the implementation of the project, "Advancing implementation of the branding, marketing, and communications strategies for Belize's Barrier Reef Reserve System—a UNESCO World Heritage Site." The Project Steering Committee is established to provide strategic advice, support, guidance, and governance throughout the implementation phase of the project. The Committee will ensure that activities are carried out in alignment with project objectives and will monitor progress towards the successful achievement of the project's outlined goals, among other key responsibilities.

16. In February 2024, the Cabinet endorsed Belize's ratification of 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, demonstrating the country's commitment to sustainable marine biodiversity conservation beyond national waters.

Ministry of Blue Economy  
& Civil Aviation



First PSC Meeting for MAR Fund Project

17. The Blue Economy Team actively promoted the potential of seaweed mariculture at a Seaweed Symposium in March 2024. In panel discussions, Director Cruz highlighted the industry's significance and need for an enabling environment to bolster the nascent industry and other mariculture initiatives. The Symposium allowed both national and international Seaweed Industry Stakeholders to meet, network, share best practices, and gain greater insight into industry realities on the global market.



Seaweed Symposium in Collaboration with TNC and BFD

18. Cabinet's recognition of the National Fisheries Subsidies Agreement Needs Assessment in March 2024 paves the way for future projects and programs that will contribute to a thriving Belizean Blue Economy.

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19. The BEU is in the final stages of development of a program concept that has been tailored to the unique needs of the Belize Fund. This program will be housed under the BE Community Innovations and Resiliency Hub. It will focus on building the governance structures and financial capacity of the organizations which apply for funding under the Fund.

20. Mrs. Andria Grinage, the Senior Blue Economy Officer, participated in a training on Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for Adaptation in Belize. The training took place from March 18th to 20th, 2024, and involved NGOs, government ministries, and departments. The purpose of the training was to enhance understanding of climate change adaptation processes and the utilization of nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation.

## Achievements of the Belize Fisheries Department

This section provides an overview of the main achievements of the Belize Fisheries Department by program area for the period April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024. The Department is guided by the Fisheries Policy, Strategy and Action Plan, 2020 – 2024. This section will highlight the key achievements made by the department under the National Fisheries Policy which acknowledges 5 Policy Priority Areas listed above.

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## **Policy and Planning Unit (PPU)**

1. The PPU was actively involved in the development and preparation of two main project proposals for funding including: the World Bank Blue Economy Project in Belize to improve the country's capacity to develop its blue economy sustainably. The project will support policy development, capacity building and investment planning for sustainable fisheries and alternative livelihood development for fishing communities.
2. The PPU also assisted in the preparation of the project proposal for an IDB Loan Investment of US\$7,000,000, which is entitled "Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program (BL-L1042)". The main objective of this project is to improve the income generation capacity of artisanal fisherfolks and to maintain export levels of fisheries products while contributing to the sustainable use of commercial oceanic resources within Belize's Blue Economy framework.
3. The PPU actively supported the advancement of seaweed mariculture activities in southern Belize and provided technical support to seaweed farmers associated with the Placencia Seaweed Farmers and the Belize Women Seaweed Farmers Association.

## **Capture Fisheries Unit**

1. In 2023, spiny lobster exports totaled 555,820 lbs of lobster tails and 202,120 lbs. of whole lobsters generating export earnings of US\$11.7 million.
2. This year Belize exported 904,900 pounds of market-cleaned conch, which generated foreign exchange earnings valued at USD \$6,559,090.
3. The 2022/23 shark fishery yielded 71,350.89 lbs of product, with exports of salted shark fillet meat to Guatemala reaching 21,386 lbs., which generated an estimated export earnings of USD\$106,930, which represented a 10-fold increase compared to the export value of USD\$10,000 in 2022.
4. A Shark sensitization workshop was held in 2023 to enhance awareness and compliance with regulations regarding CITES-listed shark species.
5. The Capture Fisheries Unit actively participated in the shark working group and workshops on shark regression factors and anal fin identification, led by Devanshi Kassana, a PhD student from the MOTE laboratory under the leadership of Dr. Damien Chapman.



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6. For the 2022/23 season, a stone crab catch quota of 15,000 lbs was set by the Fisheries Department. Stone crab production in 2023 was 10,341 lbs of stone crab claw purchased by Rainforest at a purchase price of \$16 per pound from the stone crab licensed fishers. A total of 9,860 lbs of stone crab was exported in 2023 with an export value of US\$ 177,480.

7. An assessment of the sea cucumber population was conducted in March 2023 by the Belize Fisheries Department and the University of Belize in fishing areas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, where sea cucumbers are more abundant. The field data collected included species, morphometric measurements, habitat types and depths.

### **Ecosystem Management Unit**

1. Caye Caulker Marine Reserve had the highest number of visitors (7733) which generated a total of \$77,330.00 mainly due to its accessibility as one of the main tourist destinations in the country. South Water Caye Marine Reserve was the second most visited marine reserve (3491) generating a total of \$35,310.00. Glover's Reef Marine Reserve and Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve have relatively lower visitation numbers with 1252 and 1313 visitations, respectively generating revenue of \$25,555.00 for GRMR and \$27, 940.00 for SCMR. Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve (BCMR) recorded 2157 visitors resulting in revenue of \$8420.00.

2. The monitoring of catch landings in the BCMR for the 2023 beach trap season showed that the finfish harvested amounted to 16,775 lbs. of fin fish. The most abundant species harvested was the Gray Snapper with a total of 6,375 lbs. followed by the Great Barracuda with a total of 5,525 lbs, and Yellowfin mojarra was 2,750 pounds. The other species harvested were Horse-eye Jack, Grunts, and Mutton Snapper with a total of 1,020, 1,075, and 30 pounds, respectively. While the beach trap season extends from April to November, the highest production of finfish was observed during June and July.

3. In terms of turtle nesting, Carrie Bow Caye has proven to be a hotspot for turtle nesting, with over 86% of the nests recorded at South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR). Despite this significant nesting activity, staff face considerable challenges in effectively monitoring and protecting these nests.

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## Managed Access Unit

1. The Managed Access Unit participated in multiple community outreach programs in 2023 including the Hol Chan Reef Fair (27 May 2023), the Information and Healthcare Fair in Belize City (21 June 2023), 2nd Annual Fisher Fair (24 June 2023), Fisheries Regulations Sensitization Workshop with Publics Supermarket (12 July 2023), Community Baboon Sanctuary - Fallet A. Young Environment Summer Camp 2023 (16 August 2023), Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute Information Fair 2023, Corozal Town (27 October 2023), Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary's 25th Anniversary celebration in Sarteneja Village (28 October 2023), on 7th December 2023 the Fisheries Department, in collaboration with Mr. Jamal Galves of Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (CMARI), conducted a presentation in Gales Point to educate residents about fisheries regulations and encourage compliance with these laws.
2. In November 2023 the Fisheries Department participated in King's College's Belize Career Week to share information about its work in managing and safeguarding Belize's fisheries resources.
3. The Fisheries Department participated in the 6th Annual Women in Fisheries Forum (WIFF 6) carried out on the 15 and 16 June 2023 in Sarteneja Village, Corozal District. For two days, women from across the country gathered to discuss gender and livelihoods in the fisheries industry.
4. The annual blessing of the boats was carried out on the 28 June 2023. It is held to mark the opening of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster fishing season, this event sought divine protection for fishers and a bountiful fishing season. It was a part of the Fisherfolk Month celebrations, highlighting the importance of safety and prosperity in fishing activities.
5. The EMU also participated in the Fisher of the Year award ceremony 2023 which was held on the 29 June 2023 in Belize City at the University of West Indies Open Campus in Belize City
6. Before the opening of the conch season in October 2023, the Belize Fisheries Department (BFD), in partnership with the Belize Audubon Society (BAS), conducted a boat-to-boat activity in fishing Area 7, funded by the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) to promote sustainable fishing practices in the Lighthouse Reef Atoll. This initiative engaged 162 fishermen on 21 sailboats. Fishers received updates on fisheries regulations, participated in discussions regarding sustainable fishing, and were informed about revised boundaries for marine protected areas.

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7. In October 2023, the Belize Fisheries Department in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society Belize (WCS Belize) carried out boat to boat activity in fishing Area 8. This activity was funded by PACT and sought to reach out to fishers and promote sustainable fishing practices at Glover's Reef Atoll. Information was distributed to 46 fishers and 7 sailboats in fishing Area 8, coinciding with the start of the conch season.

8. A major 3-year project valued at \$3.04 million is being executed by the Managed Access Unit with funding from the Blue Bond Government Strategic Allocation (GSA) (see Table 1). The project is entitled: "Establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources." Component I of the project is entitled "Strengthened Belize fisheries governance and management effectiveness in Belize's blue space" and the goal is "Strengthened fisheries governance and management regime to support Belize's national development goals and Blue Bond commitments". The objective is to enable the sustainable use of Belize's blue space through strengthened governance and management regimes that foster sustainable and economic expansion. The activities carried out for year 2 of the project (Year 2 is from April 2023 – March 2024) included the allocation of fuel to carry out strategic monitoring and compliance patrols in Marine Protected Areas and High Biodiversity Areas. As of October 2023, there was fuel allocated for an increase in enforcement patrols in Fishing Areas 2, 3, and 8.

### **Conservation Compliance Unit**

1. 277 fishing vessels and 2 recreational fishing vessels and 76 fishing camps were inspected. This shows that the focus of enforcement is on commercial fishing vessels and fishing camps.

The five main fisheries offenses committed (in order of highest frequency) by fishers and other persons included fishing for undersized conch, fishing without a valid fishing license, fishing for undersize lobster, fishing for queen conch during the closed fishing season, and fishing within a marine reserve, respectively.

2. Queen conch and spiny lobster remain the fishery products with the highest quantity confiscated from fishers. This was followed by spiny lobster, which had a total of 721 (either whole or tails) weighing approximately 194 lbs. Landing fillets without a patch and landing prohibited fin fish also have 302 and 101 pieces, respectively.

3. A total of 74 arrests were made and lodged in court. This resulted in a hundred and seventeen persons (117) arrested who were involved in these offenses. Of these arrests one hundred and twenty-three (123) offenses were levied against these persons and resulted in the Court imposing a total of \$231,899.00 in fines and \$1,086,390 in penalties giving a total of \$1,318,289.00. Of the persons arrested, one hundred and nine (109) individuals were Belizean nationals, five (5) were Guatemalan nationals and three (3) were Honduran nationals.

### Finance

Revenue collection of \$313,843 in 2023 (Figure 2). This accounts for a combination of Sea Food Permit, First-time Fisherfolk, Renewal of Fisherfolk and Vessels licenses, Fish Export License, Export of Specimens, Fish Importers, Fisher and Vessel replacement cards, Black Coral, Gill Net and Research Permit issued and some revenues from marine reserves paid directly to the office.

## Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation

Month	Revenue Collected
<b>January</b>	\$67,998.00
<b>February</b>	\$56,595.00
<b>March</b>	\$22,922.00
<b>April</b>	\$12,910.00
<b>May</b>	\$18,855.00
<b>June</b>	\$28,375.00
<b>July</b>	\$16,615.00
<b>August</b>	\$17,648.00
<b>September</b>	\$11,425.00
<b>October</b>	\$23,200.00
<b>November</b>	\$27,125.00
<b>December</b>	\$10,175.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$313,843.00</b>

Figure 1: Revenue Collection for 2023

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# Achievements of the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

This section provides an overview of the progress in the implementation of technical activities outlined in CZMAI's Annual Operational Plan, specifically for the period, April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024. The Annual Operational Plan is developed under the framework of CZMAI's Strategic Plan, 2020-2025. As such, the report outlines the accomplishments under various strategic objectives and specific objectives with contributions highlighted by the relevant Programs/Units and projects.

## **1. Strategic Objective:** Coastal Zone Knowledge Acquisition and Dissemination

**Goal:** To Build National Regional and Global Awareness and Inform Public Policy On Health and Resilience of The Coastal Zone

**1.1 Specific Objective:** To fill identified knowledge gaps as it relates to coastal zone management

### Coastal Research and Monitoring

- CZMAI completed field activities for coastal and marine litter drone monitoring and mapping surveys under a contract with the Centre for Aquaculture Science and Fisheries (CEFAS) under the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP). All drone imagery along with accompanying metadata has been submitted to CEFAS through Microsoft Azure.

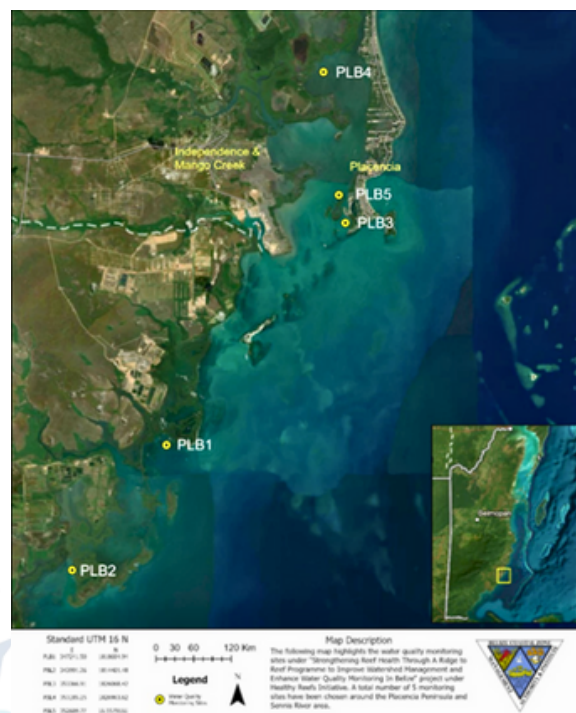


Drone Surveys

**Specific Objective 2:** Advance research and monitoring in critical areas of the coastal zone

### Water Quality Monitoring

- The Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) Unit initiated water quality sampling under a new contract with the Healthy Reefs Initiative (HRI) and the Meso-American Reef Fund (MAR Fund). MAR Fund is providing financing for shrimp farms to adopt zero effluent technology (intensive circulation system for shrimp farming) and has contracted CZMAI to assist with monitoring and reporting as it relates to nutrient pollution.



Water Quality Monitoring Sites



Community Consultations for Sports Fishing Legal Framework

### Sport Fishing Management

- CZMAI established a Sport Fishing Technical Working Group to provide input and support to improve the legal framework for Sport Fishing in Belize. A total of three meetings were convened and important feedback on recommendations to key areas to improve sport fishing management in Belize were compiled.
- Two rounds of community consultations in Belize City, San Pedro, Dangriga, Corozal, Punta Gorda and Placencia were conducted to get stakeholder feedback on recommendations for improving the legal framework for Sport Fishing in Belize.

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## **2. Strategic Objective:** Coastal Zone Sustainable Development Programme Implementation

**Goal:** To Enhance the Contribution of Belize's Coastal Zone to the Sustainable Development of Coastal Communities

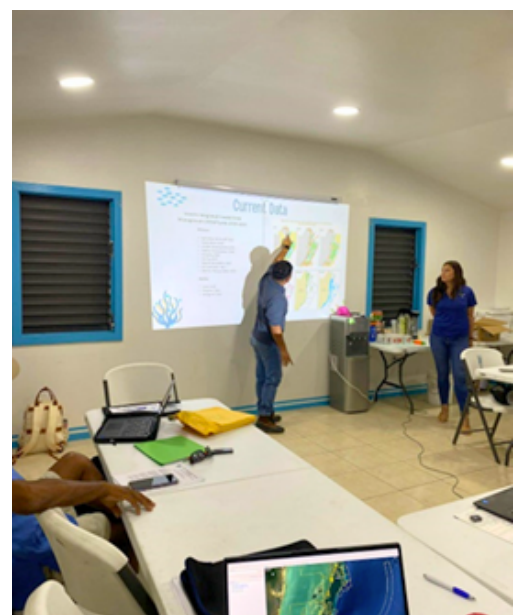
### **2.2 Specific Objective:** To Support Integrated Development Planning and Management of the Coastal Zone

#### **Supporting The Achievement of Belize's Conservation Commitments (Blue Bonds)**

- The delivery of Belize's Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and Revised Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) are two of the major deliverables for Belize under the Blue Bond Agreements. Together, these plans will provide a coherent and stakeholder-driven framework that will support the delivery of a sustainable blue economy for Belize
- Additionally, this exercise of rationalizing the use of Belize's ocean space presents an opportunity for the realization of Belize's global commitment to protect up to 30% of its total ocean space.
- This plan, in combination with the strengthened legislative framework to be provided through the revision of the Coastal Zone Management Act and subsequent Revised ICZMP, will provide the foundations necessary to ensure that the development of Belize's Blue Economy is informed and beneficial for all Belizeans.

#### **Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan**

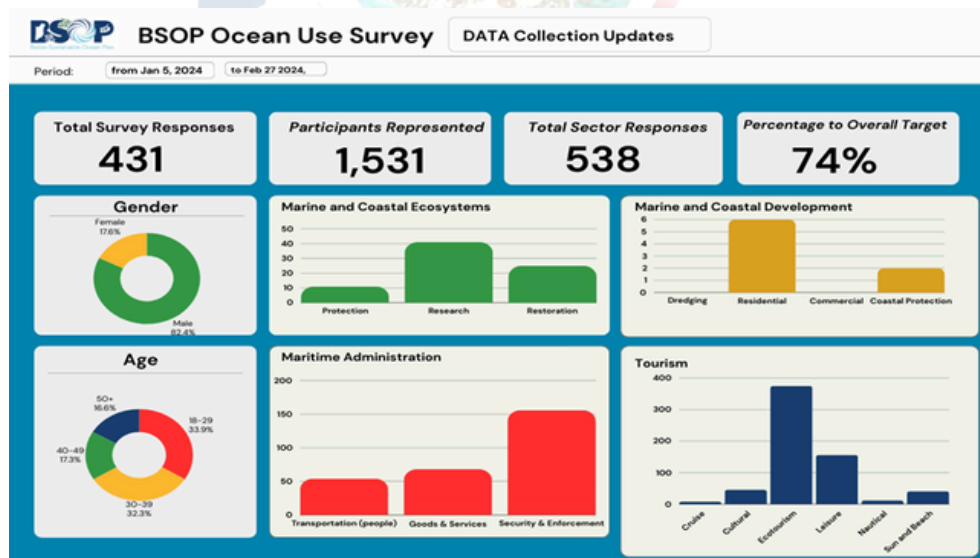
- During this reporting period, CZMAI completed 8 out of 9 inaugural meetings of the Coastal Advisory Committees (CACs). The main objective of the meetings were to re-establish the CACs and to sensitize them on the process for the updating of the ICZM Plan which will be initiated in the new financial year, 2024/2025.



Coastal Advisory Committee Meeting

## Marine Spatial Plan/Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan (BSOP)

- With the mobilization of resources through the GSA, the CZMAI was able to accomplish the following key activities toward the development of the BSOP:
  - Established and equipped a dedicated MSP Unit with five additional staff members.
  - Established and operationalized a Governance Framework consisting of public and private sector representation to guide the MSP process. More specifically the framework establishes a BSOP Core Team, BSOP Steering committee, and formalized mechanisms for public input through stakeholder engagement and sector-specific Technical Working Groups (TWG).
  - Hosted community sensitization meetings in nine coastal communities. Developed capacity to utilize the SeaSketch decision support tool and implemented associated Ocean Use Surveys in twenty-seven (27) coastal communities identified for the BSOP Process.
  - Provided funded internship opportunities to students from tertiary-level institutions through their assistance with the execution of Ocean Use surveys.



BSOP Ocean use Survey Dashboard



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## Goff's Caye Management

- In April 2023, Goff's Caye was re-opened to the general public and visitors after almost a year of closure to accommodate infrastructure upgrades under the Climate Vulnerability Reduction Program (CVRP).
- As a result of the CVRP investments, CZMAI now boasts 24/7 operations on the island. However, visitation levels for 2023/2024 have not met the pre-COVID levels for foreigners but local visitation levels have increased in comparison to previous years.



Goff's Caye Advertisement

**Specific Objective 4:** To enhance livelihoods, resilience, and adaptive capacity of coastal communities

### Resilient Reefs Initiative

- In April 2023, the Strategy for Reef Resilience in Belize was launched.
- The Strategy was developed through the Resilient Reefs Initiative (RRI) in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations, local communities, and a global coalition of conservation experts including the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



Reef Resilience Strategy for Belize

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- In quarter 2, the implementation of the Strategy commenced via three sub-projects valued at USD 555,798 to implement flagship actions to strengthen coral reef resilience, develop a coastal and marine land tenure inventory, and support the identification of viable supplemental livelihood opportunities for fishers. This round of projects are being implemented by partners including the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute and the Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association, World Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society.
  - In quarter 4, an additional project to improve ridge-to-reef management and watershed management was approved by GBRF for AUD 500,000 and will involve key Government agencies such as the Department of the Environment, Forest Department, National Hydrological Service and the Fisheries Department.

### **3. Strategic Objective:** Stakeholder Engagement

**Goal:** To Strengthen and Maintain Stakeholder Relationships

#### **3.2 Specific Objective:** Increase Visibility of CZMAI

##### **Education and Outreach**

- CZMAI participated in several Expos and Informational Fairs as follows:
  - UB GIS Expo
  - Blue Economy Forum/Expo
  - UB Science Day
  - Hol Chan Marine Reserve Reef Fest
  - Reef Week Expo
- CZMAI celebrated its Annual Coastal Awareness Week (2023) from October 23-28, 2023, with the highlight of the celebration being the silver jubilee, 25th anniversary.



Coastal Awareness Week Calendar

### 3.3 Specific Objective 2: Strengthen CZMAI's relationship with institutional partners

- CZMAI actively participated in NEAC meetings and site visits and provided written positions and recommendations concerning key coastal development projects in Belize.

### 3.4 Specific Objective: To Improve the perception of CZMAI and its work on communities

- CZMAI partnered with several organizations to implement its 2023 fly fishing summer camp. Of note is the new partnership formed through a pilot with the Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) which provided financial support. The summer camp was implemented in five (5) locations, San Pedro, Punta Gorda, Sarteneja, Hopkins and Placencia. CZMAI accommodated 12 participants in each location and provided the needed equipment and educational materials for the duration of the summer camp. Participants learnt the basics of flat fishing using both a fly rod and spin rod, this includes rod assembly, tying leaders, casting, and wading the flats. Additionally, participants' theoretical knowledge of the importance of marine habitats, marine protected areas and resource managers was also increased. These summer camps will also be used as the foundation to create a mentorship relation between expert guides and participants; thereby creating an avenue through which participants can further develop their skills year-round to become a fish guide or an avid recreational fisher.



Fly Fishing Summer Camp Participants

## Achievements of the Belize Department of Civil Aviation

This section outlines the main achievements of the Belize Department of Civil Aviation based on the strategic actions outlined in the Belize Aviation Safety Policy 2021.

### 2.1 Implementation of the Belize Aviation Safety Policy

The primary objective of this programme is the mitigation of Aviation safety risks, through enhanced safety management capabilities and a robust aviation safety, regulatory and investigative regime, while balancing the needs of all stakeholders, and effectively contributing to the safety of domestic and international aviation. This Policy embraces all other strategic priorities.

#### Strategic Actions:

2.1.1. Amend the Civil Aviation Act to incorporate required provisions for the Belize Aviation Safety Policy, inclusive of the establishment of a Safety Management System (SMS).

- This objective is currently on hold pending the outcome of the Government's decision to devolve the Department into a statutory body- a Belize Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA). If this body is established, a new Act, the Belize Civil Aviation Authority Act, will replace the existing Act. A final decision to establish the BCAA remains pending.

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2.1.2. Assessment and revision of operating regulations, inspectors' guidance materials (handbooks, manuals, checklists, etc.) and implementation policies on SMS to determine their continued relevance to services provided and opportunities for improvement in compliance with the Belize Aviation Safety Policy.

- There has been much progress made in accomplishing this objective, as follows:

- a) Manuals: The Manuals are being accomplished individually with the assistance of the Central America Agency for Aviation Safety (ACSA) team.
- b) Operations Inspectors' Handbooks: The revision of Operations Inspectors' Handbooks is dependent upon the completion of related Regulations. Some Regulations have been approved and the process of revision is ongoing.
- c) Licensing Procedures: Upon completion of the Operations Inspectors' Handbooks, the current Licensing Procedures will be assessed.
- d) Aviation Security (AvSec) Quality Control Programme: The AvSec Quality Control Inspectors' Handbook is completed.
- e) Amendments to Appendices: These have been completed and inserted in the Department's Quality Control Programme Document.

2.1.3. (a) Establish the BDCA State Safety Programme Unit with all required staffing and resources. (b) Develop Belize Civil Aviation Regulation (BCAR) 19, and incorporate Safety Management.

- (a) The State Safety Programme ("the SSP") Unit, which was initially established informally, is functional, and is manned by one officer, to date. Its organizational structure has since been determined by the Job Classification and Compensation Unit ("the JCCU") of the Ministry responsible for the Public Service ("the MPS"); and approved within the wider structural framework of the Department. TORs and JDs have been developed, pending review by ACSA to ensure conformity with ICAO standards, and final submission to the Ministry of the Public Service JCCU, for approval.
- (b) The timeline for production of the first draft of BCAR #19, to incorporate Safety Management requirements is to be determined.

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2.1.4. Establish the Aircraft Accident Investigations Unit (AAIU) with all required staffing and resources, consistent with the Belize Aviation Safety Policy 2021.

- ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices mandate the independence of the Aircraft Accidents and Incidents Investigation Unit (AAIU). The process to establish the independence of this unit is linked with that of the process to establish the BCAA.
- The unit currently reposes under the Department, under an established framework. The critical nature of its work entails a minimum of two officers. It is currently manned by one officer. Steps are underway to recruit a person to fill the post of Investigator-in-Charge, on a substantive basis.
- The SSP and Plan both provide for coordination of the AAIU and the SSP Unit as regards accidents/incidents, and occurrence reports. This has been established through a framework of responsibilities between the two units (notwithstanding the need for strengthening of both units).

2.1.5. Implement an Industry Engagement Campaign to sensitize and engage service providers and the general aviation and travelling public on the objectives, scope, and benefits of the SSP.

- This objective calls for the Department to develop a campaign engagement plan, including a communication plan, which will act as a roadmap supporting the Department to develop and promote a culture of safety within the aviation industry. This objective remains pending - a consequence of human resource constraints; specifically, a communications expert.
- The first draft of a National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) has been completed. A NASP workshop was delivered in Mexico City by ICAO North American, Central American, and Caribbean (NACC) Regional Office. Recommendations for improvement of the draft Plan were provided. Another revision of the NASP (draft 2) was scheduled for consideration in 2023. This will be followed by consultations with industry stakeholders.

## **2.2. Aviation Security - Enhancement of the National Aviation Security Framework**

The primary objective of this programme is the establishment and proper management of the National Aviation Security Oversight System.

Strategic Actions:

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## **Strategic Actions:**

2.2.1. Amend the Civil Aviation Security Act as necessary to ensure an appropriate legal enabling framework for the establishment and implementation of an effective Aviation Security Oversight System.

- BCAR #17 (S.I. 127 of 2022) was signed into law on 26th September 2022 and is available on the Department's website. This is a completed process towards the amendment of the Civil Aviation Security Act No. 239:01.

2.2.2. Develop and adopt an Aviation Security Management Policy.

- The development and adoption of an Aviation Security Management Policy is a work in progress. Industry partners and operators continue to be sensitized as part of the process of developing the policy. The benefit of this policy is a robust aviation security management system that will enhance Belize's safety and security, risk mitigation, standardization, emergency preparedness, public confidence and reputation, efficient resource allocation, continuous improvement, and legal protection.

2.2.3. Develop, adopt, and implement all required regulations (especially BCAR 17) to ensure implementation and compliance with the Aviation Security Oversight System.

- This objective was accomplished in tandem with 2.2.1, and 2.2.4. (BCAR #17)

2.2.4. Update and implement the National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP).

- See 2.2.3. (BCAR #17)

2.2.5. Develop technical guidelines for Aircraft Operator Aviation Security Programme.

- This objective is a work in progress.

2.2.6. Develop and implement a National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme (NQCP).

- The development and implementation of a BNCASQCP was accomplished in 2023.

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### 2.2.7. Develop and maintain an Aviation Security Database and Information System.

- The development of the AvSec Database and Information System (SeMS) is an ongoing programme that must be implemented in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders (CITO, the Police Cyber Security Unit, and the E-governance Department). The purpose of the SeMS is to enable AvSec to identify and manage its security risks and be assured right up to the Belize National Civil Aviation Security and Facilitation Committee (BNCASFALC) level. The security measures taken to manage those risks are effective. The SeMS also serves as a tool for systematically integrating security risk management into an entity's day to day operations, in close alignment with other risk management systems.

### 2.3. Aviation Governance

- The primary objective of this programme is the development of operational tools and structures for enhancing the overall governance of the sector; the goal of which is an established, comprehensive framework ensuring an inclusive and balanced approach to aviation governance.

#### Strategic Actions:

#### 2.3.1. Establish and operationalize the National Aviation Safety Committee (NASC)

- The NASC committee membership has been determined, and the structure is found in Belize's State Safety Policy. Development of Terms of Reference (TOR) and procedures remain pending.

#### 2.3.2. Establish and operationalize the National Civil Aviation Security Committee (NCASC).

- The establishment and operation of the NCASC have been fully realized. The Committee was renamed the Belize National Civil Aviation Security and Facilitation Committee on 16th November 2022, based on the 39th ICAO Assembly resolution. This Committee is chaired by the Director of Civil Aviation.

#### 2.3.3. Establish and make operational the Internal Safety Review Group (ISRG), Technical Safety Group.



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- The Internal Safety Review Group has been established. Members include the subject- matter- experts from within the Departmental Units; specifically, Airworthiness, Flight Operations, Licensing, Accident Investigation, and State Safety Programme.
  - Formalization of TORs for Committee Members, and Operations Procedures remain pending.

2.3.4. Develop and implement policies and procedures between the BDCA and the AAIU.

- The SSP Policy and Strategic Plan both provide for coordination of the AAIU and the State Safety Unit as regards accidents/incidents and occurrence reports. This has been established through a framework of responsibilities between the two units.

2.3.5. Update Air Traffic Control (ATC) procedures and improve operational technical guidelines and handbooks.

- Manuals for Air Traffic Control procedures have since been in existence for the Tower and Radar units but were in need of updating. This has been accomplished. A further requirement is for the manuals to be merged and developed into a single procedures manual for the Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP).
- The development of the manual, which was near completion, remains pending because of unexpected loss of critical personnel within the Air Navigation Services (ANS) Unit of the Department, in 2023.

2.3.6. Develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy to access resources directly and indirectly through partnerships and alliances to implement the BDCA 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

- The development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Department remains pending, as expertise in this area of work is needed within the Department.

2.3.7. Develop and institute a Records Management System, for annual planning, and annual reporting; to enhance the formal official communication process and the overall accountability and transparency in the BDCA.

- The BDCA has partnered with the Belize Archives and Records Service (BARS) on this objective; and work commenced on the 14th of June 2022.

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- This programme is a work in progress towards the institution of a modern records management system within the Department. However, additional clerical support staff is required for the timely execution of this programme.

2.3.8. Establish and make operational the Internal Safety Review Group (ISRG), Technical Safety Group.

- The Handbook has been developed and was presented to unit managers and staff of the Department. The following actions remain:
  - Submission to the Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation for approval and adoption in the Department;
  - Legal advice as regards its adoption as conditions of service for contract employees.

2.3.9. Develop and implement policies and procedures between the BDCA and the AAIU.

- The formulation, development, and institution of an e-governance platform for the Department remains pending.

2.3.10. Update Air Traffic Control (ATC) procedures and improve operational technical guidelines and handbooks.

## **2.4. Economic Development of the Aviation Sector**

- The primary objective of this programme is the forging of a strategic path for the development and positioning of the aviation sector in the Belize economy. This should result in a strengthened, enabling framework for the economic development of civil aviation in Belize, with the Department performing an enabling role.

### **Strategic Actions:**

2.4.1. Certification of the PGIA to international standards (to attract more airlines to Belize and provide direct connectivity with more continents, opening doors to a whole new level of business opportunities).

·Intensive collaborative efforts with the goal of certification of the Philip Goldson International Airport (PGIA), continue on a day-to-day, basis. Much advancement has been made towards this end.

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2.4.2. Establish an Aviation Economic Development Unit within the BDCA, with required personnel and resources, but under direct implementation responsibility of the Ministry.

- The Department will propose that “Economic Development Unit” be redesignated “Sustainable Development Unit” (SDU); in effect, an oversight unit for the implementation of the 20-year Master Plan – the objective of Strategic Action #2.4.3.

2.4.3. Prepare a 20-Year Master Plan for the Development of the Aviation Sector in Belize.

- Dedicated, professional/technical expertise is needed for the preparation and development of a 20-year Master Plan for the development of the Belize aviation sector. This objective will be taken into account in tandem with the possible transition of the Department to a BCAA.

2.4.4. Develop an Aviation Development Incentive Package to accompany the 20-year Master Plan and to ensure Belize’s competitiveness in the regional aviation industry.

- This programme will be undertaken in tandem with 2.4.2 and 2.4.3.

2.4.5. Institute Sector Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback Meetings at least twice per year.

- Although a formal framework has not yet been developed for sector stakeholder engagement, such engagement has been ongoing as an element of the Department’s standard operating procedures. Industry stakeholders are invited to participate in mutually beneficial developmental activities, including training, on a sustained basis. The development of a formal framework will be pursued

2.4.6. Produce and disseminate comprehensive Aviation Sector Performance Reports at least annually.

- The production and dissemination of annual comprehensive aviation sector performance reports is yet to be implemented; deterred by lack of a data-collection system and human resource deficiency within the Department.

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## 2.5. Capacity Development and Management of the Civil Aviation Sector

The primary objective of this programme is institutionalised and systematic implementation of capacity-building; resulting in the Department's responsive and adaptive capacity to deliver on its oversight, management, and sector development responsibilities completely and effectively.

### Strategic Actions:

#### 2.5.1. Develop and implement a Civil Aviation Safety Training Programme.

- The development of a national training programme for Safety in Civil Aviation remains pending; notwithstanding, the following are ongoing, related activities:
  - Existing training programmes for each unit within the BDCA are being updated.
  - With the assistance of ACSA, a comprehensive training document is being developed, with the aim of revising the Inspector Training Profiles and bringing them up to date.
  - Intensive training for inspectors is ongoing, and manuals are being revised.

#### 2.5.2. Develop and implement a National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme.

- This objective has been achieved. A National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme has been developed and is being implemented. It provides for all personnel to receive the corresponding instruction to maintain the effectiveness of Belize's National Civil Aviation Security Programme.
- A Risk Management workshop was also conducted for members of the National Civil Aviation Safety Committee from 24-26 October 2022. The Risk Assessment was tabled and approved by the Committee on the 16th November, 2022

#### 2.5.3. Update and implement the Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) Training Programme.

- This objective has been achieved. The ANS training programme, which includes that of AIM, has been completed. As well, additional work was undertaken to adhere to all Protocol Questions that were contained in the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) process conducted in Belize in 2023. (Update on status required).

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#### 2.5.4. Training in organizational and personnel management for managers and supervisors of the BDCA.

- Training and development activities will be ongoing for senior management of the Department. The management team engaged in a Retreat, held on 7th March, 2024; the purpose of which was to enhance the team approach and work relations in the Department. It was facilitated externally by an experienced professional, who centred her approach on Emotional Intelligence, well known as EI.

#### 2.5.5. Targeted Training in Aviation Law.

- The objective is being achieved. The legal officer was awarded a scholarship by Argentina for training in Aviation Law (Online). Update required.

#### 2.5.6. Conduct a Training Needs Assessment and develop an Aviation Training and Capacity-building Roadmap to be responsive to the current needs and 20-year vision of the BDCA and the sector.

- This programme will be undertaken in tandem with the development of a Master Plan for the Sector, under 2.4.3.

#### 2.5.7. Immediately initiate and institute structural reforms for capacity building consistent with the staff complement and reporting lines illustrated in Annex 4 of this BDCA 2021–2026 Strategic Plan.

- Work to institute structural reform for capacity building in the Department commenced in early 2023 (even pending the decision of the Government in respect of the BCAA). The Department has been collaborating with the JCCU of the MPS in bringing about a Functional Separation of the Service Provider (ANS) and Regulator (Operations) functions of the Department. Such functional separation will serve to mitigate a conflict of interest (real or perceived) that exists, stemming from the existing structure of the Department. This undertaking is mandated by ICAO.
- The Department and JCCU are currently engaged in the final part of the process, resulting in a superstructure reflecting human resources requirements for the efficient and effective functioning of the Department. This collaboration and its results are elaborated upon at section 2.8. of this report.

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## 2.6. ICAO Audits 2023

- Belize, as a Contracting State to the Chicago Convention, and an ICAO Member State, is subject to audits by ICAO. These audits determine the status of Belize in the region, based on the country's implementation of ICAO SARPs.
- In tandem with the execution of its usual development activities, the Department was intensely engaged in preparation for two ICAO audits that were conducted in 2023 and 2024, namely:
  - January 23rd, to 12th February 2023 – AvSec Universal Security Audit Programme, Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA).
  - November 22nd, to 4th December 2023 – ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (CVM).

## 2.7 The Cabinet's In-Principle Decision- Devolution of the Department to a Statutory Body- A Belize Civil Aviation Authority

- The Government approved, in principle, the devolution of the Department to the Belize Civil Aviation Authority in response to a request from the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, establishing a project oversight committee to engage stakeholders and review proposals, with final decisions resting with the Cabinet following the Committee's review of the Consultant's Feasibility Study.

## 2.8 Institutional Strengthening

- A persistent feature of the Department has been its striving to strengthen its human resource capacity to deliver on its national and global obligations. Adequacy of institutional capacity, along with the strategic partnership the Department has engendered with industry stakeholders, will boost all efforts towards greater gains for the industry and country.
- During the reporting year, much focus and energy were centred on strengthening the Department's human resource capacity, through structural changes. The Department forged collaborative engagements with the JCCU of the MPS, resulting in encouraging capacity gains during the year. It is anticipated that this will culminate in the achievement of several of the Department's other institutional strengthening goals and objectives in 2024.

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- These include a change in the institution’s organizational structure to meet ICAO standards, as well as the objectives of Strategic Action 5.1.1.4. of the Plan, which requires that training programmes for personnel within the Department be defined, and the identification of staff/positions that will require training. Of significance, are efforts to be made to bridge the existing gap in professional personnel. Notably, the loss of key personnel to the Department led to the pause in the execution of several programmes, these being:
    - Development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy to access resources directly and indirectly through partnerships and alliances to implement the BDCA 2021-2026 Strategic Plan;
    - Development and institution an e-governance platform.
    - Development of a 20-Year Master Plan for the Development of the Aviation Sector in Belize;
    - Development of an Aviation Development Incentive Package to accompany the 20-year Master Plan and to ensure Belize’s competitiveness in the regional aviation industry.
    - Production and dissemination of comprehensive annual Aviation Sector Performance Reports.

## **2.9 Development Contributors**

- The gains to the Belize aviation sector and the country, from the work of the Department throughout the reporting period, is attributed to the dedicated work of its staff, including expertise and technical support from personnel (consultants) who have been engaged by the Department, on a full-time basis. Such technical expertise is provided in the areas of Aviation Security, Air Navigation Services (in 2023), and Flight Standards.
- The department was also buttressed by additional technical support from ACSA, a division of the Central American Agency for Air Navigation Services (COCESNA).

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# LESSONS LEARNT

Lessons learned for MBECA include:

1. Adequate allocation of human, financial and material resources is critical for the execution of institutional roles and functions towards the development of sustainable blue economy for Belize.
2. Collaborative partnerships play an important role in achieving targeted goals.
3. Investing in continuous training and development opportunities, enhances staff skills and capabilities, improving on the job performance and overall efficiency.
4. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of projects help assess progress, highlight actions to prevent delays and improve efficiency in project implementation.
5. Promoting creativity and innovation at the workplace helps staff to strategically overcome challenges, while fostering a sense of empowerment.
6. Dependency on traditional markets affects the economic performance of the fisheries sector by having a decline in export revenues due to the fluctuating market prices in traditional markets, primarily the US.



Ministry of Blue Economy  
& Civil Aviation



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# FUTURE PRIORITIES AND PLANS

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Disaster Risk Management remains dedicated to advancing its ongoing programs and initiatives, many of which require sustained financing and continuous implementation.

## Blue Economy Unit

The Blue Economy Unit remains central in coordinating Belize's Blue Economy Development, overseeing the implementation of the Belize Blue Economy Development Policy, Strategy, and Implementation Plan (BEDPS 2022-2027) as outlined within #planBelize, and it will specifically continue in advancing and strengthening the Draft Blue Economy Bill which is to provide the legal framework for Blue Economy in Belize. Efforts will be directed towards formalizing the National Blue Economy Commission (BE-COM) to ensure policy coherence among sectors and institutions active within Belize's blue space and restructuring of the Blue Economy Cluster (BEC) to serve as a technical advisory group, including a focus on Blue Economy Investments. Key initiatives will include refining and establishing a Blue Economy Community Innovation and Resilience Hub which will act as a mechanism to provide training and capacity building initiatives to support communities and stakeholders in transitioning to alternative or supplementary livelihoods, as outlined in Horizon 2030.

The unit will also continue advancing national adaptation planning initiatives for the Coastal Zone and Fisheries Sector through conducting Vulnerability and Livelihood Assessments in two coastal communities, alongside finalizing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2024-2032) for the sector. Additionally, the unit will also work on promoting gender equality via the implementation of the Gender Strategy, Action Plan and M&E Framework for the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize 2022-2027. This framework is the first of its kind for Belize and its primary goal is to provide a systematic framework to guide, strengthen, and assess the promotion of gender equality and enhance gender equity in the sector.

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Ongoing projects will continue including the 'Capacity Building to Advance Blue Economy Development in Belize' (BL-T1145-P001) project, which aims to strengthen Belize's blue economy capacity. The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) in collaboration with the UK Government and stakeholders in Belize will also continue providing support for the effective management of Belize's marine environment; while the World Bank's \$150 million, 15-year multi-phased 'Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Program' will continue and seek to identify essential investments for sustainable development in key blue economy sectors, including infrastructure for sustainable fisheries and investments in alternative livelihoods.

Collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism on sargassum management and pioneering ocean accounting initiatives with the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership to enhance ocean literacy and ocean data for blue economy decision making will be high priorities. The unit will continue to forge partnerships with external stakeholders to secure additional resources and funding to advance Belize's Blue Economy pathway and objectives as outlined within #planBelize.

## Belize Fisheries Department

The Belize Fisheries Department is dedicated to fulfilling its commitments under the Blue Bond Agreement, aiming to protect 25% of Belize's waters by November 2024 and 30% by 2026, aligned with SDG No. 14. Key projects include the \$3.04 million initiative aimed at "Establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management, and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources," which also focuses on diversifying the fisheries sector to exploit new and underutilized fishery products. Additionally, priorities include the Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program (BL-L1042), supported by a \$7 million loan from the Interamerican Development Bank, and the World Bank's "Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Program" involving coastal cities and territorial sea areas.

The BL-L1042 project will fund stock assessments and management strategies for spiny lobster, queen conch, and fin fish in Fishing Area 9, supporting sustainable fishery resource use and enhancing income generation for artisanal fisherfolk. This data will inform the development and implementation of management strategies aimed at conserving Belize's fishery resources sustainably.

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The primary objective is to improve income generation for artisanal fisherfolk, maintain export levels of fisheries products, and promote sustainable management practices. Specific goals include enhancing government capacity for sustainable management of key commercial species and encouraging artisanal fisherfolk to adopt sustainable technologies and best practices.

The Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Program aims to develop urban centres in sustainable and climate-resilient ways, generating socio-economic benefits, enhancing food and water security, and fostering coastal and economic recovery nationwide. This initiative integrates both living and non-living elements of Belize's Blue Economy, promoting spatial integration to address coastal degradation, eliminate sectoral divisions, preserve natural assets, and facilitate sustainable, climate-resilient development to maximize the potential of Belize's Blue Economy.

## Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute

The Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) will continue to actively pursue Belize's Blue Bond commitments for the upcoming fiscal year 2024/2025, focusing on meeting two key time-bound milestones and conservation commitments signed on November 4, 2021. Milestone 4 involves providing technical support to the Belize Fisheries Department to establish Biodiversity Protection Zones covering 25% of Belize's ocean by July 2024. Additionally, under Milestone 5, CZMAI is updating the Belize National ICZM Plan and revising the Coastal Zone Management Act, slated for completion by November 4, 2025.

## Belize Department of Civil Aviation

The Department of Civil Aviation will continue to execute its strategic mission guided by its principles. In the upcoming year, Belize will host the Twelfth North American, Central American, and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (NACC/DCA/12) in Placencia, Stann Creek District. Plans include institutionalizing a Youth Summer Camp in collaboration with relevant education and private sector entities to cultivate the next generation of civil aviation professionals. The Department will also develop an Air Navigation Development Plan in partnership with COCESNA, implement an Air Navigation Safety Program, and pursue an Aerospace Modernization and Optimization Program to establish a durable, flexible, and sustainable air navigation system.

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# STAFFING AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

## Strengths

The strengths of the MBECA include:

- 1.The staff is dedicated and committed to the successful delivery of programmatic work programmes.
- 2.There are various capacity building opportunities for Blue Economy Officers.

## Weaknesses

- 1.No Blue Economy legislation to provide the legal mandate to support Blue Economy structures and processes for the whole of government coordination and communication, which limits the ability to make profound impact and influence the level of cooperation in the blue space.
- 2.Insufficient governance interventions and lobbying at the highest political level for the prioritization of funding for Blue Economy activities / initiatives.
- 3.Limited budgetary allocation to fulfil institutional operations and functions and to conduct continuous training and development of staff due to pre-approved ceiling set on budget by the Ministry of Finance.
- 4.Limited human resources to execute priority activities aligned with the execution of institutional roles and functions towards the development of sustainable blue economy for Belize.
- 5.Limited staffing with specialized positions to meet the needs. For instance, there is no dedicated staff overseeing data management. There is limited staff with the capacity to manipulate data collected, conduct data analysis and data analytics related to monitoring control and surveillance, identify trends, develop case studies to inform policies and decision making and database management.
- 6.Limited equipment and technology to perform duties such as collecting data, monitoring and managing the Blue Economy assets and processing data for decision making to effectively manage its operations.

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# STAFFING AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

## Desirable Changes

The desirable changes that are needed to enhance the performance of MBECA include the following:

1. Enactment of the Blue Economy legislation to empower the Blue Economy Unit with the requisite legal mandate, a defined organizational structure and clear functions and responsibilities.
2. Development of subsequent regulations and operational policies for Blue Economy implementation and development.
3. Increase of recurrent financial resources of the “Strategic Management and Administration” and the “Fisheries Resources Management and Development” programmes by fifty percent (50 %) and the “Civil Aviation” programme by twenty percent (20 %) to fulfil institutional operations and functions as less than 15 % is designated for operational costs (inclusive of fuel to execute activities). The increase in budget allocation is necessary to create an enabling environment (skilled staffing, equipment, materials and technology) to advance the implementation of the National Blue Economy Development Policy and Strategy and the fulfillment of the Ministry’s mission.
4. Allocation of higher budget for Capital II programmes to support the Blue Economy projects and initiatives.
5. Improvement of the Institutional capacity with human resources through the establishment and recruitment of the following key staff:

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## MBECA (Ministry Proper)

(i) Expansion of internal capacity to focus and implement key programmatic activities for blue economy development:

- 3 - Blue Economy Officer
- 1 - Legal Officer
- 1 - Communication and public outreach officer to support the implementation of projects being technically overseen by the unit and Ministry.
- 1 - Data manager
- 1- Driver dedicated for the Blue Economy Unit to allow for mobilization of staff

ii. Full time personnel to design, develop, operate and maintain the comprehensive information management system to manage the sector more efficiently and effectively by systematizing data collection, processing and analysis.

- 1 - System Analyst
- 1 - Software Developer
- 1 - Software Engineer
- 1 - Database Administrator
- 1 - Data Entry Clerk

## Belize Fisheries Department

- i) Deputy Fisheries Administrator
- ii) 6- Fisheries Officers for Monitoring Control and Surveillance
- iii) 1 – Information Technology Officer
- iv) Senior Fisheries Officers (Enforcement)
- v) Senior Fisheries Officers (Capture Fisheries)
- vi) Senior Fisheries Officers (Monitoring Control and Surveillance)
- vii) 1 - Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Co-management Agreements)
- viii) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Protected Areas Specialist
- ix) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Marine Ecologist
- x) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Biologist
- xi) 2 - Fisheries Officer/ Geographic Information System Specialist
- xii) 1- Fisheries Officer/ Data Manager / Analyst
- xiii) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Fisheries Research and Development

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- xiv) 1- Mariculture Officer
  - xv) 1 - Assistant Fisheries Officer/ Stakeholder Engagement Officer
  - xvi) 1 - Assistant Fisheries Officer/ Gender and Climate Change Officer
  - xvii) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Marine Spatial Planning
  - xviii) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Protected and Invasive Species Expert
  - xix) 4 – Fisheries Compliance Officers
  - xx) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Verification Monitoring System Specialist
  - xxi) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Data Analyst
  - xxii) 1- Fisheries Officer/ Inland Fisheries Coordinator
  - xxiii) 1- Fisheries / Inland Fisheries Inspector
  - xxiv) 1 – Fisheries Officer/ Inland Reserves
  - xxv) 1 – Fisheries Officer/ Inland Biologist
  - xxvi) 1 - Fisheries Officer/ Biologist
  - xxvii) Administrative Officer
  - xxviii) Second class clerk to support AO
  - xxix) Information Technology technician
  - xxx) Cleaner

## Belize Department of Civil Aviation

- i. Human resources – Staffing for the formalization of the BDCA State Safety Unit

### **Equipment, materials and supplies**

## **MBECA (Ministry Proper)**

- i. Vehicle to support the Blue Economy unit in its daily operations.
- ii. Fuel allocation required for vehicle mobilization.
- iii. Information technology equipment (hardware and software) needed to systematize and optimize key processes necessary to fulfil institutional mandate.

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## Belize Fisheries Department

- i. 1 – Remote underwater vehicle (ROV), inclusive of training for staff.
- ii. 3 – Marine Monitor Radars
- iii. Generator
- iv. Fuel to conduct regular targeted enforcement operations and required data collection through surveys required to conduct stock assessment of conch and lobster.
- v. 5 – Garmin GPS for vessels
- vi. 4 – Industrial First Aid kits
- vii. 20 sets of diving gears
- viii. Underwater drones and aerial conservation drones
- ix. Communication equipment including marine hand-held VHF radios and a working communication network more patrol vessels.
- xi. Lube
- xii. 1 – 55 ft vessels for research and monitoring of blue economy assets with twin inboard diesel engines, equipped with an in-house wet /dry lab to process samples for water quality and fish samples and equipped with bathymetric equipment, fishing equipment, GPS fish finders, depth finders, etc.
- xiii. Information technology equipment (hardware and software) is needed to systematize and optimize key processes necessary to fulfil the institutional mandate.

## Belize Department of Civil Aviation

- I. Equipment and resources required to fulfil the BDCA State Safety Unit's functional roles.

## CONCLUSION

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation has made remarkable strides in advancing the sustainable development of the Belize Blue Economy. From producing a comprehensive legislative brief to securing external funding for crucial projects, MBECA has demonstrated proactive and forward-thinking leadership.



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The commitment to gender equality, marine conservation initiatives, and strategic investments reflects a holistic and visionary approach essential for the long-term success of the blue economy. Engaging in international collaborations, such as the "Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (BE: CLME+)" Project, showcases global best practices alignment and proactive engagement in international initiatives.

The Ministry's achievements and efforts serve as an inspiration for countries seeking to develop and sustain their blue economies. The collaborative approach, strategic partnerships, and focus on environmental conservation lay a strong foundation for the future growth and prosperity of the Belize Blue Economy.

Belize's Civil Aviation Department has also made significant strides in establishing and enhancing its safety and security framework. Key accomplishments include the development of the State Safety Programme unit, ongoing efforts to establish the Aircraft Accident Investigations Unit, and the implementation of the National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme. Despite encountering challenges such as human resource constraints, the department remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a culture of safety within the aviation industry.

These endeavours are critical in elevating Belize's safety and security standards and instilling public confidence in the aviation sector. Through sustained dedication and collaboration with industry stakeholders, the Belize Civil Aviation Department is well-positioned to realize its objectives and contribute to a safer and more secure aviation landscape.



# ANNEX ONE - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF MBECA

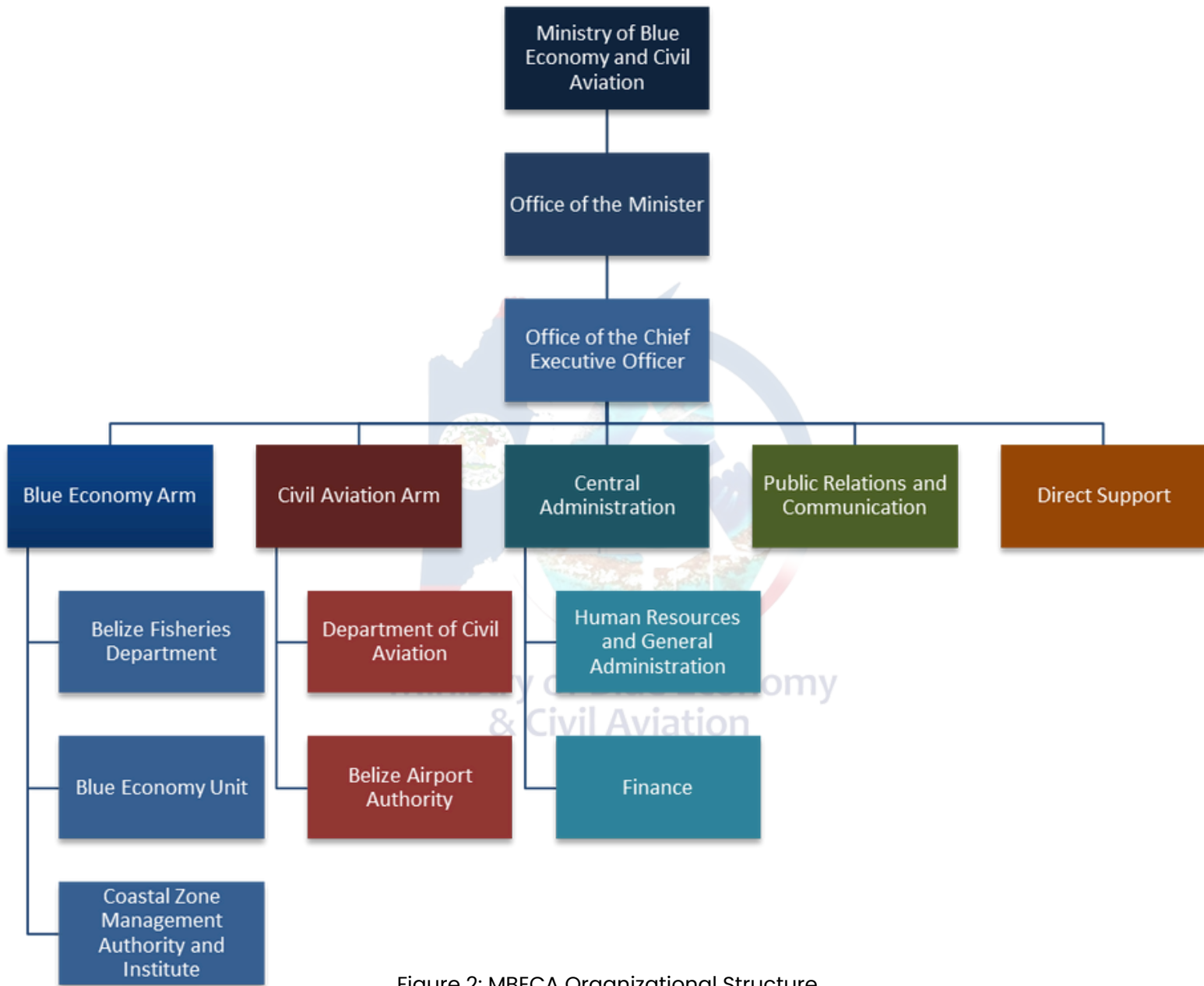


Figure 2: MBECA Organizational Structure

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## ANNEX TWO - PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE MBECA



**HON.  
ANDRE  
PEREZ**

Minister of Blue Economy  
& Civil Aviation



**KENNEDY  
CARRILLO**

Chief Executive Officer



**FELICIA  
CRUZ**

Director of  
Blue Economy



**ANDRIA  
GRINAGE**

Senior Blue  
Economy Officer



**RIGOBERTO  
QUINTANA**

Ag. Fisheries  
Administrator



**ADRIEL  
CASTANEDA**

Ag. Senior  
Fisheries Officer

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## PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE MBECA



**CHANTALLE  
SAMUELS**

CZMAI Chief  
Executive Officer



**ARLENE  
YOUNG**

CZMAI Director



**NIGEL  
CARTER**

BDCA Director General



**STANLEY  
GIDEON**

BDCA Deputy Director

## ANNEX THREE - BUDGET

Annex 1. Approved Budget distribution for CAP II Programs for FY 2023/24 and the estimated budget for CAP II Programs for 2024/25.

CAPITAL II EXPENDITURE			
Account	Description	2023/24 Budget approved (BZD)	2024/25 Estimated Budget (BZD)
2019	Public Education & Awareness Program and Consultancy for Community Innovation and Resiliency	75,000	100,000
9328	Development and Implementation of the Blue Economy Policy	100,000	100,000



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# ANNEX FOUR - LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, PROPOSAL AND REPORTS

## Blue Economy Unit

1. Draft Community Innovations and Resiliency Plan
2. Institutional Strengthening Assessment and Action Plan report for MBECA
3. Technical study on the architectural feasibility of the design and construction of a Blue Economy Multi-Complex Building

## CZMAI

1. Reef Resilience in Belize Strategy

## BDCA

1. AvSec Quality Control Inspectors' Handbook
2. Draft National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP)
3. Updated Manuals for Air Traffic Control procedures



Ministry of Blue Economy  
& Civil Aviation