



# ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT 2024

“Building Resilience, Empowering Change”



**MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**



# Acknowledgements

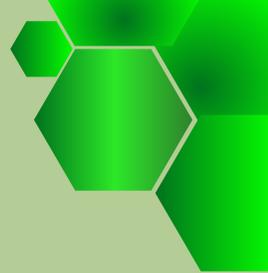
The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management (MSDCCSWM) expresses its deep gratitude to all government departments, non-governmental organizations, civil society partners, and international agencies for their continued commitment and support throughout the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year. Your contributions have been essential in advancing our shared goals of climate resilience, environmental protection, and sustainable national development.

We extend special thanks to the dedicated Heads of Departments, Senior Officers, and Technical Officers who provided the critical data, insights, and photographs that made up this Annual Technical Report (ATR). Your commitment to transparency and accountability ensures that this document accurately reflects our collective progress and challenges.

The Ministry recognizes the central role of the Policy, Planning, and Project Unit in the successful coordination, consolidation, and oversight of this year's report. Their leadership and dedication have been instrumental in aligning departmental contributions with strategic national and international development goals.

# FOREWORD

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## HON. ORLANDO HABET

MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the Annual Technical Report for the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management. This report highlights the work of a dedicated team committed to advancing Belize’s development agenda, **#planBelize MTDS**, through sound environmental stewardship, resilience-building and sustainable resource management.

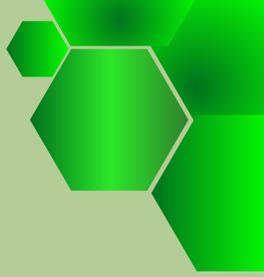
Over the past year, the Ministry has made significant strides in strengthening policy framework, improving service delivery, mobilizing resources and deepening our partnerships at both the national and international level. From advancing climate adaptation projects to modernizing solid waste infrastructure and promoting sustainable land use, the accomplishments outlined in this report speak to our collective efforts to build a more sustainable and inclusive Belize.

As we look ahead to the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year, we do so with clarity of purpose and renewed determination. Our focus will remain on implementing climate smart policies, expanding access to green financing, improving the efficiency of waste management systems and fostering stronger community engagement in environmental protection. These plans reflect our continued commitment to delivering tangible benefits for our people and ensuring that Belize remains on a path toward sustainable development.

These efforts are not just technical achievements but rather nation building measures especially considering that Belize’s economy is fundamentally tied to the health of our environment. Every step we take to improve environmental governance, reduce vulnerability and empower communities is an investment in economic stability and social wellbeing.

I wish to extend my gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders and the hardworking public officers whose contributions made this year’s progress possible. Together, we will continue to lead with vision, responsibility and integrity.

# MESSAGE FROM MINISTER OF STATE



## HON. RAMIRO RAMIREZ

MINISTER OF STATE,  
MINISTRY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

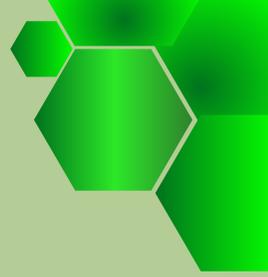
It is a privilege to contribute to this year's Annual Technical Report and to stand in full support of the Hon. Minister Orlando Habet and the dedicated team here at the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management. This report captures the measurable progress we've made over during the 2024–2025 reporting period in driving sustainable development while placing people and communities at the center of our work.

The Ministry continues to play a critical role in advancing the goals of **#planBelize MTDS** and Belize's Broader National Development Strategy by translating policy into action that strengthens local resilience, safeguards our natural resources, and supports inclusive economic growth. Whether through investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, improved waste management services, or community-based conservation initiatives, our work is ensuring that sustainability is not just a national vision but a lived experience for households across our nation.

We have seen firsthand the tangible benefits of targeted interventions, particularly in areas such as data collection, analysis, and program implementation. Initiatives like the Recycle Organics Programme have significantly strengthened institutional capacity, enabling our teams to generate more accurate and timely information to guide decision-making. These advancements are not only enhancing our ability to monitor environmental trends but are also supporting communities in building resilience to climate change while contributing to long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

The Ministry remains committed to building on these achievements. We will continue to champion integrated, community-focused approaches that align with the priorities of **#planBelize MTDS** while forging strong partnerships to deliver results at every level.

# MESSAGE FROM CEO



## MILAGRO MATUS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MINISTRY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

As Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, I am privileged to present this Annual Technical Report for the fiscal year 2024 –2025. This report is more than a record of what we’ve accomplished, it is a reflection of the enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment of our staff who continue to deliver on the Ministry’s extensive mandate with purpose and resolve.

This past year has been marked by real progress. We have strengthened institutional frameworks, expanded community outreach, and executed high-impact projects that are building resilience where it matters most, on the ground, in our towns, villages, and ecosystems. Our teams have worked diligently to align programs with the **#planBelize MTDS**, ensuring that sustainability, inclusion, and innovation remain at the heart of all we do.

Whether it’s advancing environmental management, enhancing protected area management, rolling out waste management upgrades, or mobilizing new financing for climate resilience, our achievements this year are the result of dedicated professionals across the Ministry who see public service not just as a duty, but as a meaningful contribution to nation building.

As we move into the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year, our task is clear: to remain focused, responsive, and proactive. My role as Chief Executive Officer is to ensure that our teams are equipped with the tools, training, and resources needed to drive forward the Ministry’s strategic plan. This includes strengthening internal systems, investing in staff development, improving coordination, and ensuring our operations remain accountable and impact driven.

To the staff of the Ministry: your work matters! Your ideas, your integrity and your day-to-day efforts are shaping a better Belize. I thank each of you for your contributions and encourage you to keep pushing boundaries, seeking solutions, and working together. With the continued leadership of our Hon. Habet, Hon. Ramirez and support from all levels of the Ministry, I am confident that we will not only meet our strategic goals, but we will also surpass them.

# Acronyms

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ATR	Annual Technical Report
BNPAS	Belize National Protected Areas System
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
CCAD	Central American Commission on the Environment and Development
CEFAS	Center for Environmental Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CMU	Chemical Management Unit
COP	Conference of the Parties
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
DOE	Department of Environment
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAZU	Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
FD	Forest Department
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Green House Gas
GSF	Gender Smart Facility
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ITVET	Institute for Technical Vocational Education and Training
IDB	International Development Bank
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LIDs	Lives in Dignity

# Acronyms

LLES	Limited Level Environmental Studies
MAC	Mobile Air Conditioning
MNAP	Multisectoral National Adaptation Plan
MSDCCSWM	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
MTDS	Medium Term Development Strategy
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBIO	National Biodiversity Office
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NHS	National Hydrological Service
NCCO	National Climate Change Office
NIWRA	National Integrated Water Resources Act
NOU	National Ozone Unit
NPASP	National Protected Areas System Plan
PPPU	Policy, Planning and Projects Unit
PACT	Protected Areas Conservation Trust
RSL	Regional Sanitary Landfill
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDU	Sustainable Development Unit
SWAMA	Solid Waste Management Authority
SWMP	Solid Waste Management Program
TEPA	Tourism Enhancement in Protected Areas
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WMO	World Meteorological Organization



Natural Arch - Chiquibul National Park  
Photo by Aurelio Sho

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# Vision

**A strong socio-ecologically resilient Belize.**

# Mission

**To lead Belize’s sustainable development via the wise management of human and natural capitals, achieving economic development, enhanced resiliency, and social well-being for the benefit of all.**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management (MSDCCSWM) continued to guide Belize's transition toward a more resilient, environmentally responsible, and inclusive development pathway throughout 2024–2025. Across its seven (7) technical departments and its statutory institution, the Ministry made measurable progress in climate transparency, biodiversity protection, waste system modernization, forest governance, water security, and sustainable development planning. These achievements reflect strengthened institutional capacity, growing partnerships, and the Ministry's commitment to meeting national priorities under #planBelize and global obligations such as the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **Advancing Environmental Oversight and Pollution Control**

The Department of the Environment delivered a strong year of results focused on environmental compliance, pollution monitoring, and improved public engagement. Notably, a total of 472 development applications were reviewed and 314 environmental clearances issued, applying a risk-based approach that strengthened early impact mitigation especially in sensitive coastal and marine areas.

Nationwide air quality monitoring expanded significantly with new real-time monitoring stations in target areas to compliment ongoing monitoring efforts in every district in support of fire-related pollution advisories following last year's intense fires. The DOE also completed two major national regulations under the Montreal Protocol, advancing Belize's transition away from controlled substances and formalizing technician licensing standards.

Public awareness efforts accelerated through a national anti-littering campaign and a highly successful National Clean-Up Day, which mobilized over 2,000 volunteers and introduced digital tools for tracking waste. The opening of a permanent sub-office in San Pedro strengthened compliance in the cayes, completing 64 inspections in its first year. Simultaneously, water and pesticide monitoring expanded, and the establishment of the Chemicals Management Unit enhanced oversight of hazardous chemicals and medical waste, aligning Belize with key international agreements.

## **Strengthening Forest Governance, Climate Reporting, and Wildlife Management**

The Forest Department advanced critical reforms that support ecosystem resilience, wildlife conservation, and climate action. Drafting of the Wildlife Management Act 2025 and progress on updates to the Forest Act and Forest Policy demonstrating the Department's commitment to modernizing national forest governance.

Wildlife protection capacity improved through new systems to manage human–wildlife conflict and specialized training under the GEF7 Jaguar Corridor initiative, which enabled the deployment of GPS collars and camera traps. The data will populate a new national wildlife database.

On the climate front, the Department completed Belize's second Forest Reference Level submission to the UNFCCC, reinforcing national commitments to emissions reductions.

The establishment of a dedicated Mangrove Unit will further support Belize's NDC 3.0 commitments and enhance protection of coastal ecosystems.

## **Modernizing Solid Waste Systems and Strengthening Operational Efficiency**

The Solid Waste Management Authority made significant strides in expanding and improving Belize's national waste management infrastructure. Full operationalization of the Belmopan and Dangriga transfer stations, along with expanded source separation initiatives in Placencia, Caye Caulker and newly in Belmopan and Dangriga have reduced landfill volumes and improved waste sorting practices.

Oversight and transparency were strengthened through the installation of surveillance systems, biometric attendance tools, improved waste tracking, and a refreshed public-facing website. Work began on a new landfill cell at the Regional Sanitary Landfill, while operations in the cayes were improved through more cost-effective, tonnage-based contracting.

## **Enhancing Climate Transparency, Adaptation Planning, and Public Engagement**

The National Climate Change Office achieved major milestones in strengthening Belize's climate governance architecture. The submission of Belize's first Biennial Transparency Report and Fifth National Greenhouse Gas Inventory positioned the country among early global adopters of the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

A major GEF-supported upgrade to the national GHG Data Management and Visualization Platform expanded sectoral data coverage and improved usability for policy planning. The NCCO also advanced development of the Multi-Sectoral National Adaptation Plan, engaging more than 300 stakeholders and incorporating social inclusion analyses.

Climate Week 2024 energized national awareness, convening over 200 participants particularly youth and agriculture groups and informing preparations for COP29. Partnerships

with UNEP, the GEF, and the NDC Partnership mobilized over US\$1.5 million to support climate data systems, resilience planning, and the development of the NDC Private Sector Investment Strategy.

## **Strengthening Biodiversity Governance and Stakeholder Inclusion**

The National Biodiversity Office delivered meaningful progress in biodiversity monitoring, policy integration, and community engagement. Working across partner agencies, the Office helped strengthen data flows, coordinate technical assessments, and develop tools to track ecosystem health and species status.

Capacity-building efforts improved skills in monitoring, data management, and policy integration across both government and civil society. Extensive consultations ensured participation from youth, Indigenous, rural, and coastal communities, contributing to more inclusive biodiversity decision-making.

Partnerships with regional and international organizations mobilized technical and financial support, laying the groundwork for future updates to national biodiversity strategies, strengthened monitoring systems, and improved alignment with global frameworks.

## **Improving Water Governance and Hydrological Monitoring**

The National Hydrological Service made substantial progress in reforming water governance and strengthening monitoring systems. Draft legislation proposes re-establishing the NHS as a Government Department and creating a National Water Council, supporting implementation of the National Integrated Water Resources Act. An updated Water Policy, Strategy, and Action Plan

now provides clearer direction for water rights, quality standards, and watershed management.

Operationally, the NHS expanded and upgraded hydrological stations across major river systems, issued 301 flood forecasts, and strengthened real-time monitoring. Regulatory functions processed 141 water abstraction licenses, generating BZ\$77,500 in fees and advancing efforts to regularize unpermitted users.

Supported by GEF and GCF, the Service secured US\$1.65 million to modernize data systems, enhance infrastructure, and advance adaptation planning.

#### **Driving Policy Integration, Resource Mobilization, and Strategic Communications**

The Policy, Planning and Projects Unit continued to strengthen internal coordination, partnership development, and strategic oversight of a project portfolio exceeding US\$30 million. Quarterly Portfolio Review Meetings improved data-driven decision-making, staff capacity, and responsiveness to implementation challenges.

Key achievements included enhanced donor coordination particularly with Taiwan ICDF alignment with national planning frameworks, and improved outreach through updated communication tools.

Importantly, PPPU led the development of Belize's Roadmap for Implementing the Escazú Agreement, outlining national priorities for environmental information access, public participation, legal support, and rebuilding the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry.

#### **Advancing Sustainable Development, Climate Finance, and Community Empowerment**

The Sustainable Development Unit and the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) delivered a transformative year for conservation

financing, sustainable development, and community resilience. Key highlights included:

1. Presentation of Belize's Second Voluntary National Review at the UN High-Level Political Forum.
2. Delivery of major community infrastructure under the Lives in Dignity Project.
3. Launch of Conservation Investment Strategy 2.0, providing funding to nine NGOs for biodiversity monitoring, restoration, enforcement, and community livelihood initiatives.
4. A new partnership with the Belize Tourism Board to enhance tourism infrastructure in protected areas.
5. Mobilization of over BZ\$26.3 million in climate finance across GCF, Adaptation Fund, and other mechanisms.
6. Securing US\$500,000 from the CORE Gender Smart Facility to strengthen gender-responsive conservation.

These efforts enhanced Belize's capacity to meet biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development targets while strengthening community resilience and institutional sustainability.

## Strategic Outlook

Despite major progress, the Ministry recognizes ongoing challenges, including climate finance gaps, waste infrastructure needs, regulatory alignment in chemicals management, and maintaining public engagement. To address these, the Ministry will prioritize:

1. Operationalizing NDC 3.0 and scaling innovative finance mechanisms.
2. Accelerating waste infrastructure through landfills, transfer stations, and recycling systems.
3. Enacting chemicals governance reforms under the Integrated Chemicals Management Bill.
4. Scaling ecosystem restoration and biodiversity protection, particularly through expanded Green Belize initiatives.
5. Strengthening research and national data systems for adaptive management.

## Conclusion

The MSDCCSWM's achievements in 2024–2025 demonstrate a Ministry advancing with purpose, technical rigor, and a commitment to national well-being. Through policy leadership, institutional strengthening, expanded partnerships, and impactful community programs, Belize is better positioned to face climate risks, protect its natural heritage, and pursue sustainable, inclusive development. The year ahead promises continued innovation, collaboration, and progress toward a cleaner, greener, and more climate-resilient Belize.





01

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## Mission

“To be leaders in environmental stewardship for sustainable development both nationally and regionally.”

The DOE was established under the Environmental Protection Act of 1992, plays a central role in the stewardship of Belize’s natural resources. As a key regulatory agency under the MSDCCSWM, the DOE is mandated to protect, preserve, and manage the country’s environmental assets. With a broad legislative framework, including multiple regulations and statutory instruments. The DOE oversees critical areas such as pollution control, environmental impact assessments, chemical and hazardous waste management, and public awareness.

The DOE is centralized in Belmopan City, Cayo District with one sub office in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. The DOE staff works across seven (7) core units: the Project Evaluation Unit, the Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Unit, the Public Awareness and Outreach Unit, the Project Execution Unit, the Information Management Unit, the Water & Wastewater Laboratory, and the Chemicals Management Unit, with support from the Environmental Management Fund.

The legislation which govern the DOE:

1. The Environmental Protection Act
2. The Environmental Protection (Pollution Regulations)
3. The Environmental Protection (Effluent Limitation Regulations)
4. The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
5. The Hazardous Waste Regulations
6. The Returnable Containers Act
7. Refrigeration Technicians (Licensing) Act
8. Custom Regulations (Prohibited and Restricted Goods) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order
9. Summary Jurisdiction (Littering Offenses) (Violation Tickets) Regulations
10. Environmental Protection (Pollution from Plastics) Regulations
11. Radiation Safety and Security Act
12. Medical Wastes Regulations.



# DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, DOE demonstrated continued leadership in environmental governance through major institutional, legal, and technical advancements across multiple thematic areas. From project screening and compliance, enforcement to air quality monitoring and public engagement, DOE strengthened its capacity to protect Belize’s environment while supporting sustainable national development.

The DOE processed a total of 472 development applications under its Environmental Clearance framework, utilizing a risk-based screening approach in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. Of these, 314 projects were granted environmental clearance, and nine projects triggered full Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) or Limited Level Environmental Studies (LLES), including developments in ecologically sensitive marine and coastal areas. This approach ensured that potential environmental impacts were mitigated early in the project planning phase and that stakeholder concerns were incorporated into final project approvals.

A significant achievement this year was the national expansion of Belize’s ambient air quality monitoring program. With support from the UNDP Climate Promise Project, the DOE installed cutting-edge monitoring systems, including the Dust Sentry Proactive Monitor in Belmopan and the AEROQUAL AQM 65 in Valley of Peace. These devices provide real-time data on key air pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, and sulphur dioxide. Passive monitoring was also expanded across all six districts. Together, these tools allow DOE to inform national health advisories, track air pollution trends, and respond more effectively to air quality threats—particularly during the dry season when smoke and fire-related emissions are prevalent.





# DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

In the area of legal reform, DOE finalized two important national regulations to support Belize’s commitments under the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment. The Ozone Layer Protection Regulations establish a phased reduction of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), regulate imports of controlled substances, and mandate the registration of refrigerant-based equipment. The Refrigeration Technicians (Licensing) Regulations introduced a national licensing system, recordkeeping requirements, and a code of conduct to professionalize the sector. Together, these regulations form the backbone of Belize’s national ozone protection strategy.

Through the National Ozone Unit (NOU). To complement regulatory reform, DOE also prioritized capacity building. two major training programs were delivered: a five-day training on HCFC/HFC decommissioning for eight technicians in August 2024, and a Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) training for twenty technicians in February 2025. These sessions built technical expertise in refrigerant recovery and sustainable cooling practices, which are essential to Belize’s environmental and climate goals.

The DOE also launched a highly visible National Anti-Littering Campaign, led by its Public Awareness and Outreach Unit. The campaign culminated in a National Clean-Up Day on January 18, 2025, engaging more than 2,000 volunteers across Belize, including government officials, civil society groups, students, and residents. Data was tracked using the Clean Swell App, while live reports were broadcasted by Love FM during the event. The campaign was supported by public service announcements, branded outreach materials, and the distribution of waste bins to municipalities, reinforcing DOE’s message of civic responsibility and environmental pride.

In April 2024, DOE established a permanent sub-office in San Pedro Town to respond to the growing environmental pressures on Belize’s cayes. The office, staffed by an Environmental Officer and Technician, conducted 64 inspections within its first year, providing a dedicated regulatory presence on Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker, and Caye Chapel. This expansion marks a key step in decentralizing DOE’s enforcement functions and improving service delivery to island communities.



# DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

DOE also continued its collaboration with the technical and education sector by donating refrigerant recovery tools to vocational institutions such as the Stann Creek ITVET. This initiative, implemented in partnership with UNDP, supports skills training and prepares Belize's workforce for careers in sustainable refrigeration technologies, aligning with national climate and ozone protection goals.

Significant progress was also made in water quality monitoring. The DOE's Water and Wastewater Laboratory conducted quarterly sampling of five major rivers, Belize River, New River, Rio Hondo, and North and South Stann Creek Rivers and supported effluent analysis in partnership with ECMEU and the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority. A national pesticide screening project was launched in collaboration with the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), sampling 50 locations across Belize to identify emerging risks to freshwater systems.

Finally, the DOE formally established its Chemicals Management Unit (CMU) under a two-year institutional strengthening project. The unit was staffed with a dedicated Environmental Officer and Technician and initiated the development of a national strategy to implement the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions. The CMU conducted 30 inspections of chemical handling facilities and 3 medical waste audits, providing guidance on storage, labeling, and disposal in line with international standards.

Collectively, these achievements reflect DOE's expanding capacity to address complex environmental challenges, strengthen compliance systems, improve public health and ecosystem integrity, and fulfill Belize's regional and global environmental obligations.





# DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** Legal Strengthening of the Ozone Layer Protection Framework

**Funded By:** Government of Belize with Multilateral Fund (via UN support)  
**Implementation Period:** 2024–2025  
**Total Funds:** Not specified

### Objectives / Key Results:

Developed two new regulations:

1. Ozone Layer Protection Regulations (aligning with the Kigali Amendment).

2. Refrigeration Technicians (Licensing) Regulations.

Established licensing system, import controls, phase-out timelines for HFCs, and technician code of conduct. Supports Belize's obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

**Project Name:** RAC Technician Training & Certification

**Funded By:** National Ozone Unit / UNDP  
**Implementation Period:** 2024–2025  
**Total Funds:** Not stated (covered under NOU project)

### Objectives / Key Results:

Trained 8 technicians on recovery and decommissioning of refrigerants (August 2024). Trained 20 technicians in Mobile Air Conditioning systems (Feb 2025). Promotes safe handling of refrigerants, climate protection, and professional certification in the HVAC industry.

**Project Name:** National Anti-Littering Campaign

**Funded By:** Government of Belize and Partners (e.g., Oceana, Scouts, SWMA)  
**Implementation Period:** FY 2024–2025  
**Total Funds:** BZ\$55,000.00

### Objectives / Key Results:

Hosted National Clean-Up Day (Jan 18, 2025) with over 2,000 volunteers from across Belize. Distributed bins, created branding kits, ran radio and TV campaigns. Used Clean Swell App for citizen-based waste reporting. Promotes long-term public awareness and behavior change.

**Project Name:** DOE San Pedro Satellite Office

**Funded By:** Government of Belize  
**Implementation Period:** Established April 2024 – ongoing  
**Total Funds:** BZ\$60,388.00

### Objectives:

Enforces environmental laws on Ambergris Caye, Caye Caulker, and Caye Chapel. Conducted 64 inspections within the first year. Offers local compliance monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and environmental advisory services.



# DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (DOE)

## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program  
**Funded By:** Government of Belize with support from UNDP (Climate Promise Project)  
**Implementation Period:** Ongoing (expanded 2023–2025)  
**Total Funds:**

1. Dust Sentry Monitor: BZ\$38,978.00
2. AEROQUAL AQM 65 system: BZ\$83,200.00
3. Passive Monitoring Tubes: BZ\$3,400.00/month

**Objectives / Key Results:**  
Monitor air quality in all six districts using passive and real-time technologies. Installed high-tech monitors in Belmopan and Valley of Peace to measure particulate matter and pollutants. Real-time data will be publicly accessible via Belize Weather App, improving national response to smoke and pollution events.

**Project Name:** Refrigerant Recovery & Equipment Donations to ITVETs  
**Funded By:** National Ozone Unit / UNDP  
**Implementation Period:** 2024–2025  
**Total Funds:** Equipment costs (not listed)

**Objectives / Key Results:**  
Donated refrigerant recovery tools and equipment to ITVETs in Stann Creek and Cayo. Supports vocational training in safe refrigerant handling. Builds long-term workforce capacity aligned with environmental sustainability.

**Project Name:** Water Quality Monitoring & Lab Capacity Expansion  
**Funded By:** Government of Belize / Partnered with CEFAS  
**Implementation Period:** Ongoing 2024–2025  
**Total Funds:** Not specified

**Objectives / Key Results:**  
Monitors 5 major rivers (Belize, New River, Rio Hondo, Stann Creek North/South) quarterly. Conducted effluent testing for 21 ECMEU and 15 BSWAMA samples. Partnered with CEFAS to screen 50 river sites for pesticide contamination. Expanding into real-time monitoring and PCB analysis using GC-MS technology.

**Project Name:** Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste (CMU Establishment)  
**Funded By:** Global Chemicals and Waste Conventions / Institutional Strengthening Project  
**Implementation Period:** 2024–2026 (2 years project)  
**Total Funds:** Not stated

**Objectives / Key Results:**  
Created DOE's CMU. Hired Environmental Officer and Technician. Conducted 30 chemical inspections and 3 medical waste inspections. Began drafting a National Strategy for Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, and Minamata Convention implementation.





02

# BELIZE FOREST DEPARTMENT

## Mission

“To ensure the sustainable management and conservation of Belize’s forest resources, including forests, protected areas, wildlife, and mangroves, for the benefit of present and future generations.”

The Forest Department continues to make significant strides in strengthening Belize’s environmental resilience through improved wildlife, forest, and mangrove management.

A key milestone is the ongoing finalization of the Wildlife Management Act 2025, which will replace the existing Wildlife Protection Act of 2020. This updated legislation is being developed to better reflect current and emerging challenges in wildlife management and to align with Belize’s national, regional, and international environmental commitments.

To address the growing frequency of human to wildlife conflicts, the Department has expanded its national response capacity. Staff have been trained to manage conflict situations and respond to public reports of problem wildlife, including crocodiles and jaguars. In collaboration with “Enhancing Jaguar Corridors and Strongholds,” the GEF7 project selected personnel have received specialized training in jaguar capture using internationally approved methods. This includes deploying GPS collars and establishing a network of camera traps to monitor wildlife movement, which will feed into a new national wildlife database currently under development.





# BELIZE FOREST DEPARTMENT

In the area of forest restoration, the Department has commenced the implementation of the National Landscape Restoration Strategy, supported by the Blue Bond Government Strategic Allocation Project. The strategy aims to restore 130,000 hectares of degraded land within agro-productive and forested landscapes across the country.

On the climate change front, the Department completed the submission of Belize's second Forest Reference Level Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This report aligns with Belize's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets and reflects the country's leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Final discussions are ongoing with the UNFCCC Secretariat to formally publish the report.

The Department also collaborated with the National Climate Change Office to complete NDC 3.0, setting new, realistic national targets that reaffirm Belize's global leadership in biodiversity protection and climate action.

In response to the increase in forest fires in 2024, particularly in the Mountain Pine Ridge and Colombia Forest Reserves, the Department successfully controlled major outbreaks and implemented prescribed burns in high risk areas to reduce fuel loads ahead of the next dry season. Firefighting capacity was further strengthened through training sessions for staff, NGO partners, and private sector forestry companies in basic and intermediate wildfire response.





# BELIZE FOREST DEPARTMENT

## Key Achievements 2024–2025

- Revise the Forest Act and Forest Policy to reflect current realities and international obligations.
- Establish a dedicated Mangrove Unit, as outlined in Belize’s NDC 3.0, to strengthen enforcement and conservation of mangrove ecosystems.
- Modernize departmental operations to better manage the balance between sustainable forest, wildlife, and mangrove use while supporting national climate mitigation goals.
- Deepen collaboration with other government agencies, NGOs, and private stakeholders to ensure integrated approaches to water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change actions, in alignment with the Paris Agreement.







03

# BELIZE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## MISSION:

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

## LEGAL AUTHORITY of SWaMA

The Solid Waste Management Authority Act, Chapter 224 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition, 2020 establishes the Solid Waste Management Authority. It commences by establishing a Board of Directors which shall be appointed by the Minister. The Board of Directors is responsible for the policy and general administration of the affairs of the Authority.

Furthermore, Section 16 of the Act provides that the use of solid waste collection services in service areas provided by the authority shall be mandatory save for large commercial establishment exempted by the Minister. Moreover, Section 17 (1) specifies that the Minister may make regulations he considers necessary or expedient for giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

It also specifies that the Minister may require all occupiers of premises in service areas to facilitate the collection of solid waste and to keep their respective areas clean by adopting the prescribed measures; and prescribe the charges to be paid by occupiers of premises to the Authority for the provision of solid waste collection service; (c) provide for the recovery of charges.





# BELIZE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## TARGETS 2024/2025

- Operationalization of the Belmopan City and Dangriga Town Transfer Stations.
- Hiring of BSWaMA staff as detailed in the Institutional Study of 2022.
- Reintroduction of Source Separation Campaign/ System in Placencia and Caye
- Introduction of Source Separation Campaign/ System in City of Belmopan and Dangriga Town.
- Exploration of Organic Management through Waste to Energy, composting for Methane mitigation and Reduction.
- Update BSWaMA website and create a more intuitive and user-friendly experience.
- Installation of surveillance camera system at all operational transfer stations.
- Installation of Biometric Attendance Register at all operational transfer station.
- Construction of the Additional Cell at the Regional Sanitary Landfill.

## PRIORITIES:

- Determination of the institutional structure for the Belize Solid Waste Management Authority, the Authority has been functioning without a Board of Directors and is being administered as a department.
- Facilities operations management the operational staff were absorbed by the Authority when PASA abandoned the operations, thus there is a need for a definitive decision on whether the operations will be done by the Authority or whether this will be outsourced. This would mean that Government either completely outsources the operations including management of the staff or Government continues to manage the stations for which there is a need to regularize staff from yearly contracts and formally establish an Operations Management Unit at the Authority.





# BELIZE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## PRIORITIES

- Continued implementation of the Solid Waste Management Project II (SWMP II)
- Operationalization of the SWMP II Transfer Stations (Orange Walk Town)
- Preparation of facilities operational manual, SWMP II facilities.
- Utilization of internal transportation equipment at the Regional Sanitary Landfill.
- Contracting of operations service providers for the Operation of the Regional Sanitary landfill.
- Contracting of service provider for the Dangriga Transfer Station.
- Hiring and replacement of relevant staff for operations as detailed on the staff needs list.
- Development of a comprehensive repair and maintenance plan for all waste management facilities constructed under Solid Waste Management I&II.
- Focus on the improvement of tipping fee collection rates (includes installation of surveillance systems at the transfer station sites).
- Finalization of tipping fee schedule to standardize rates charged at the transfer stations.
- Continued monitoring of the operations at all operational facilities constructed under SWMP I & II.
- Work on communications campaign to raise awareness on waste management, including the fostering and encouragement of civic pride and community cleanliness.
- Complete and implement communication strategy for solid waste management under the SWMP II.





# BELIZE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## Achievements and Milestones

- **Increased Volume of Waste Transferred:** A notable increase in the volume of waste successfully transferred to the Regional Sanitary Landfill (RSL), improving overall waste management efficiency.
- **Enhanced Communication and Collaboration:** Strengthened coordination with contractors and site supervisors, ensuring smoother operational workflows and quicker issue resolution.
- **Tracking and Monitoring Systems:** Plans implemented to systematically track and monitor waste movement across transfer stations and the landfill, improving data collection and operational oversight.
- **Optimized Contracting for the Cayes:** Streamlining contracts for waste transfer from San Pedro and Caye Caulker, with a new payment system based on tonnage, aimed at improving cost-effectiveness and savings.
- **Biometric Attendance Systems:** Deployment of biometric systems at Regional Sanitary Landfill and Belize City Transfer Station (BCTS) to enhance staff accountability and reduce absenteeism.
- **Enhanced Surveillance and Monitoring:** Installation of camera systems at RSL and SPTS to provide additional monitoring support and improve site security.
- **Efficient Overtime Management:** Streamlining of overtime allocations for operational staff, ensuring better workforce management and budgetary control.
- **Key Staffing Enhancements:** Recruitment of new hires for critical roles at Regional Sanitary Landfill, strengthening overall operational capacity.
- **Equipment and Infrastructure Improvements:** Approval secured for the repair and maintenance of the Tabesa scale, ensuring accurate waste measurement, and improvements have been approved for upgrade of the ramp at RSL to facilitate smoother operations.







04

# NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE

## Mission

“To coordinate and facilitate Belize’s national and international response to climate change through evidence-based policy direction, institutional strengthening, data-driven planning, and inclusive stakeholder engagement ensuring national resilience and sustainable development for all.”

The National Climate Change Office, under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, serves as Belize’s central coordinating body for climate action and policy implementation. Guided by its vision of a climate-resilient Belize, the NCCO is committed to integrating climate change considerations into national development planning and everyday decision-making to safeguard present and future generations.

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the NCCO advanced national transparency, strengthened institutional capacity, mobilized climate finance, and deepened inclusive stakeholder engagement particularly with youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, and rural communities. These efforts were anchored by strategic projects and partnerships, which positioned Belize as a regional leader in climate reporting under the Paris Agreement’s Enhanced Transparency Framework.





# NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE

Key initiatives included the preparation and timely submission of Belize's first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and Fifth National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory to the UNFCCC; the rollout of an advanced national GHG data management and visualization platform; capacity-building programs reaching over 80 participants; and the development of the Multi Sectoral National Adaptation Plan (MNAP) through consultations with over 300 stakeholders. Events such as Climate Week 2024 further expanded national awareness and cross-sector dialogue, while the NCCO's collaboration with institutions like UNEP, the GEF, and the NDC Partnership secured over \$1.5 million in external funding to enhance Belize's climate resilience and data systems.

Through these achievements, the NCCO reinforced Belize's commitment to evidence-based climate action, strengthened national systems for monitoring and reporting, and built the foundation for more inclusive and sustainable climate governance.

## Key Achievements 2024–2025

### 1. Submission of Belize's BTR & Fifth National Green House Gas Inventory

Successfully prepared and submitted to the UNFCCC by the 31 December 2024 deadline, positioning Belize among the first 86 countries globally to comply with the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

Strengthened national data systems and built technical capacity through collaboration with key ministries.

### 2. Implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) Project

Deployed a \$1.5 million usd GEF-funded initiative to design and launch a national online GHG data management platform, enabling real-time data entry, visualization dashboards, and mobile access.

Expanded data coverage across Energy, Waste, IPPU, and Agriculture sectors (1994–2022).





# NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE

## Key Achievements 2024–2025

### 3. Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

Delivered six specialized workshops to over 80 participants from government and NGOs, covering GHG inventory, Measuring Reporting and Verification Systems, and Adaptation Tracking.

### 4. Development of the Multi-Sectoral National Adaptation Plan (MNAP).

Conducted national consultations, focus groups, and regional workshops with over 300 stakeholders, producing five sectoral vulnerability assessments and a youth, gender and social inclusion analysis.

Integrated local perspectives to inform municipal and sectoral adaptation strategies.

### 5. Climate Week 2024 and Strategic Partnerships.

Hosted Climate Week 2024, engaging 203 participants including youth and agriculture representatives to strengthen cross-sector dialogue and inform Belize's COP29 position.

Partnered with UNEP, GEF, NDC Partnership, and community groups, mobilizing over \$1.5 million USD in external funding and finalizing the NDC Private Sector Investment Strategy.





# NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE

## On-going Projects

**Project Name:** Enhanced Transparency Framework – MRV and GHG Data Platform.

**Implementation Period:** 2023–2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** \$1,500,000 (GEF)

**Project Name:** Development of Belize’s Multi-Sectoral National Adaptation Plan.

**Implementation Period:** 2024–2026

**Total Funds in US\$:** To be confirmed (funded by NCCO and partners)

**Project Name:** NDC Private Sector Investment Strategy Rollout

**Implementation Period:** 2024–2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** To be confirmed (supported by UNEP and NDC Partnership)





# NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE

## Future Priorities

Key upcoming priorities include advancing the Loss and Damage Framework and implementing the NDC Implementation Plan. Work will also begin on updating the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy, and Master Plan to reflect evolving national and global priorities. Additionally, preparation for the Second Biennial Transparency Report, Fifth National Communication, and updated Greenhouse Gas Inventory targeted for submission by March 2027 will commence this year, with data collection and stakeholder engagement forming the foundation of these efforts.

## STAFFING AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Office continues to rely significantly on project-based funding, which poses challenges to long-term strategic planning and institutional sustainability. A majority of personnel are engaged on a contractual basis, underscoring the urgent need to formalize and establish permanent posts within the organizational structure to ensure continuity and strengthen institutional capacity. Furthermore, inadequate access to reliable transportation remains a critical limitation, impeding effective fieldwork and stakeholder engagement. By endorsement of the Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiative Bill will secure staffing once the office becomes department.





# NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE

## Conclusions and Recommendations

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the NCCO achieved several critical milestones that significantly advanced Belize’s climate transparency, adaptation planning, and institutional capacity. Despite persistent challenges, including limited financial autonomy, fragmented data systems, and staffing constraints.

The Office effectively leveraged strategic partnerships, implemented cutting-edge digital tools, and facilitated inclusive stakeholder engagement to strengthen national climate resilience. Moving forward, it is recommended that priority be given to securing sustainable financing and establishing permanent technical positions to stabilize the institutional structure. Continued investment in digital infrastructure, sequenced capacity building, and targeted outreach, especially to underrepresented groups will be essential for deepening impact.

Strengthening data-sharing protocols across ministries and formalizing interagency collaboration mechanisms will also improve coordination and long-term planning. These actions, alongside preparations for Belize’s second Biennial Transparency Report and updated National Climate Policy, are vital to maintaining momentum and fulfilling both national and international climate obligations.



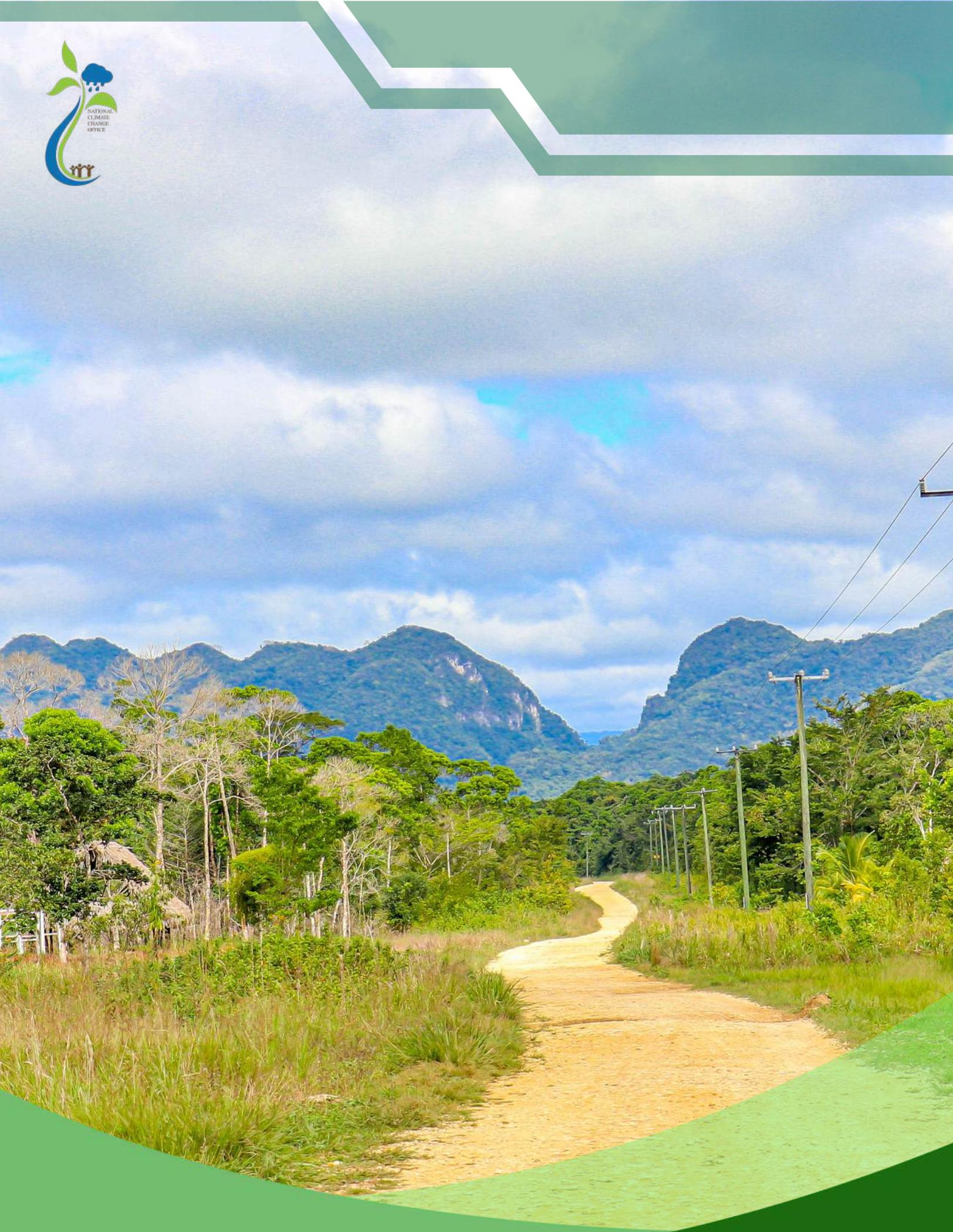


## Technical Staff of the National Climate Change Office

Staff	Positions
Edalmi Pinelo	Chief Climate Change Officer
Sumeet Betancourt	Deputy Chief Climate Change Officer
Kamil Salazar	Monitoring, Reporting, Verification Officer
Jasmine Tzul	Project Manager
Ide Sosa	Project Manager
Amieka Myers	Communications Associate
Melvin Xis	QA&QC Officer
Carlos Itza	Project Developer CCCCC

## ICAT Climate Finance Budget

ICAT Climate Finance	
Catergory	Total Budget USD
Personnel	\$37,400.00
Meeting Venue,Catering etc	\$26,000.00
Travel accomodation	\$3,550.00
Contract (sub-contracts)	\$82,500.00
Outreach and Knowledge contracts	\$5,000.00
Administrative Cost	\$15,425.00
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$169,875.00</b>





**SDU**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

05

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

## Mission

“To lead, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Belize by fostering inclusive stakeholder engagement, strengthening national data systems, building climate resilience, and mobilizing strategic partnerships and resources. The SDU is dedicated to ensuring that sustainable development is rooted in equity, transparency, and measurable impact across all communities.”

The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) continues to serve as the Government of Belize’s coordinating body for advancing national progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Guided by the #PlanBelize Medium Term Development Strategy, the SDU’s work is rooted in data-driven planning, inclusive dialogue, and evidence-based policymaking.

Our efforts this year reflect a broader vision: building institutions and systems that can adapt to emerging challenges, mobilize resources efficiently, and empower all Belizeans to actively contribute to national development. This ATR captures the milestones, on-going projects, and measurable impacts that move us closer to achieving the SDGs by 2030.

In the 2024–2025 reporting period, the SDU strengthened Belize’s resilience to climate change, elevated youth participation in national development, and deepened the use of reliable data to guide interventions and track results. Through cross-sector partnerships and targeted investments in vulnerable communities, the SDU remains committed to ensuring that Belize’s development pathway is sustainable, equitable, and leaves no one behind.





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

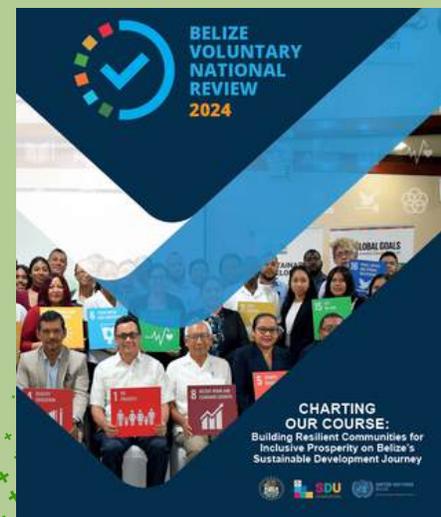
## Key Achievements 2024–2025

### 1. Successful Submission and International Presentation of Belize’s 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR)

The SDU led the coordination and development of Belize’s second VNR, presented by Hon. Minister Orlando Habet at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. This major national milestone included consultations across all six districts, thematic working groups for each of the 17 SDGs, and the analysis of 84 national targets. The VNR strengthened transparency, accountability, and international visibility of Belize’s sustainable development progress while deepening domestic engagement through inclusive validation and participation processes.

### 2. Implementation of the Lives in Dignity (LiDs) Project – Infrastructure, Resilience & Inclusion.

In collaboration with UNOPS and IOM, the SDU completed key deliverables under the EU-funded LiDs Project to support vulnerable and displaced populations in western Belize. Key achievements include: Construction of 5 multi-use hurricane shelters and upgrades to 2 school facilities. Installation of potable water systems in Santa Familia, Los Tambos, and Billy White, benefitting over 4,300 residents. Construction of a new polyclinic in Duck Run, extending healthcare access to nearly 6,000 people. Delivery of a firefighting water bowser and equipment to support local disaster preparedness and forest fire management.





**SDU**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

## Ongoing Projects 2024-2025

**Project Name:** Lives in Dignity (LiDs) – Building Climate Resilience and Social Inclusion

**Funded By:** European Union through the UNOPS Lives in Dignity Grant Facility

**Implementation Period:** 2022–2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** \$2,000,000 (plus ~BZ\$700,000 Government of Belize co-financing)

The project focuses on increasing climate resilience and promoting the social integration of displaced and vulnerable populations in Western Belize. Key outputs include the construction of five hurricane shelters, potable water upgrades in three communities, a new polyclinic, and enhanced fire preparedness through equipment and training.

**Project Name:** National SDG

Partnership and Monitoring Platform

**Funded By:** Government of Belize (initial development); seeking donor co-financing

**Implementation Period:** 2024–2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** TBD (est. \$75,000–\$100,000)

This digital platform will centralize SDG-related data, stakeholder contributions, project tracking, and reporting. It aims to improve coordination and transparency in national development efforts.





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT

## Ongoing Projects 2024-2025

**Project Name:** Localizing the SDGs – Subnational Indicator Framework.

**Funded By:** SDU operational budget; technical support from SIB and partners

**Implementation Period:** 2024–2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. \$15,000 (in-kind and budgeted activities)

This pilot project will develop localized scorecards and capacity building for municipalities to monitor and report on SDG progress using community-specific indicators.

**Project Name:** SDG Youth Action Plan 2025

**Funded By:** SDU; support from youth-serving NGOs and development partners (TBD)

**Implementation Period:** 2024–2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** TBD (proposal stage)

This initiative builds on the 2024 Youth Declaration to empower young Belizeans with tools, microgrants, and platforms to implement SDG-related community initiatives and strengthen national youth engagement in the 2030 Agenda.





**SDU**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNIT



## Mission

“To coordinate and facilitate Belize’s national and international response to climate change through evidence-based policy direction, institutional strengthening, data-driven planning, and inclusive stakeholder engagement ensuring national resilience and sustainable development for all.”

National Biodiversity Office  
Established by Cabinet decision on April 1, 2020, the NBIO plays a key coordinating role in strengthening biodiversity governance in Belize. As a dedicated unit within the Government of Belize, the NBIO works to realign existing resources and public financing to improve biodiversity outcomes and enhance the management efficiency of protected areas. Its mandate includes supporting the implementation of national strategies such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the National Protected Areas System Plan (NPASP), and Belize’s commitments under international conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Belize’s biodiversity forms the foundation of its economy and identity, with intact ecosystems delivering vital services like water security, disaster protection, tourism, fisheries, and sustainable livelihoods. The country’s protected areas network, which includes two Ramsar sites and the World Heritage-listed Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, safeguards critical habitats, watershed headwaters, and marine ecosystems that support over half of the population. The NBIO’s work is especially important given the presence of 118 globally threatened species and the urgent need to conserve endangered wildlife such as the critically endangered scarlet macaws and protect ecosystems from continued threats.



A key priority identified was the need to modernize outdated legislation, policies, and operational frameworks. The NBIO has since prioritized strengthening its legal mandate, enhancing governance structures, and promoting stakeholder inclusion in biodiversity planning and decision-making. This work also includes identifying and leveraging financial mechanisms to help close the national biodiversity funding gap.

Now entering its fifth year, and with approximately 2.5 years of full operational activity the NBIO continues to drive the modernization of Belize's biodiversity governance framework, laying the foundation for a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainably financed national system.

Launched during the challenging fiscal and economic climate brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NBIO faced significant constraints in implementing its initial operational plans. With limited access to external funding, the Office focused its early efforts on developing its first Strategic Plan (2022–2027), which was officially launched in November 2022. This process laid the foundation for a more innovative and strategic approach to biodiversity and protected areas management.





# NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY OFFICE

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

Strengthened Governance of Protected Areas Nationwide, NBIO provided direct support to 18 co-management partners overseeing 24 protected areas, ensuring that operational and strategic plans were aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Protected Areas System Plan. This resulted in improved enforcement and biodiversity monitoring. Strengthened institutional capacity of co-managers. Enhanced conservation outcomes contributing to climate resilience, water security, and biodiversity protection. Critically, the NBIO's inclusive governance model which mandates the creation of Local Advisory Committees has empowered over 80 communities to directly participate in biodiversity management. These committees include youths, women, indigenous peoples, educators, fishers, and private sector representatives, enhancing transparency, community stewardship, and legitimacy.

Mobilization of Over BZ\$10 Million for Protected Areas through the Protected Areas Conservation Trust, NBIO helped mobilize more than BZ \$10 million in grants. These investments are supported by biodiversity research and species monitoring. Community livelihoods tied to conservation (e.g., sustainable tourism, agroforestry). Patrolling and enforcement to reduce illegal activities within protected areas. This financing directly contributes to Belize's progress toward the 30x30 global biodiversity target.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

- Updating of NBSAP.
- NBIO spearheaded the comprehensive update of the NBSAP now designed as a 10 years roadmap for national action.
- Key features include: Alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Integration of gender equality, indigenous rights, climate action, and sustainable financing.
- Engagement of over 120 stakeholders across 20+ sectors through interviews, focus groups, and national consultations. Development of measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.
- The updated NBSAP, expected to be finalized and presented to Cabinet by mid-2025, positions Belize to effectively meet both national development goals and international biodiversity targets.
- Development of New National Planning and Monitoring Tools to enhance planning, accountability, and reporting across the biodiversity sector, the NBIO developed: Standardized M&E templates and dashboards for co-managers.
- The National Management Effectiveness Tool, based on IUCN standards, to assess the health and performance of protected areas. Training workshops and hands-on support for site-level application of these tools. These innovations improve Belize's ability to track progress, report to the CBD, and prioritize investments where they are needed most.
- Expansion of the Biodiversity Finance Framework (BIOFIN) - The NBIO advanced the rollout of the BIOFIN Business Planning Framework across Belize's protected areas.
- This included: Technical support to 4 co-managers to develop their protected area business plans.
- Integration of biodiversity finance tools, including a Biodiversity Investment Tracking Tool and guidance for crowdfunding and impact investing.
- Recruitment of a Biodiversity Finance Associate to lead the financial sustainability efforts. This framework strengthens financial diversification and reduces reliance on public or donor funds.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

**Leadership in Policy Reform and Legal Frameworks** NBIO initiated key legislative reforms and institutional frameworks, including: The review of the National Protected Areas System Act (NPAS Act) to clarify NBIO’s legal authority and oversight role. Drafting of a Co-Management Framework that formalizes agreements, governance structures, and shared responsibilities with NGOs and communities. Launch of a foundational study on protected areas entrance fees to inform a more sustainable financing strategy. These tools set the stage for a legally empowered, systematic, and inclusive biodiversity governance regime in Belize.

The Office successfully secured over US \$3.3 million in new project financing from multiple international donors. These funds are being channeled into: NBSAP implementation and reporting (GEF/UNDP). Access and Benefit Sharing legislation and frameworks (Global Biodiversity Framework Fund). Community-led conservation and restoration projects (Adaptation Fund/EDA). Government-led awareness and law enforcement coordination initiatives (PACT Government Strategic Allocation). This robust resource mobilization reflects NBIO’s credibility as a national biodiversity leader and its capacity to attract funding aligned with global priorities.

**Institutional Growth and Capacity Building** - The Office expanded its team from 3 permanent staff to 8 total, adding: A Grants Officer to support ongoing donor engagement. A Programmed Associate to coordinate implementation.

A Communications Associate to lead outreach and stakeholder education. A Biodiversity Finance Associate to manage financial planning across protected areas. This growth is critical to meeting the demands of increasing project implementation and stakeholder engagement.

**National Participation in Global Environmental Framework** - NBIO ensured that Belize remained an active contributor to international biodiversity dialogue, through: Integration of global reporting standards (e.g., BIOFIN Workbook, IUCN M&E tools). Alignment of national policies with CBD’s new targets. Participation in regional and international technical forums to showcase Belize’s biodiversity innovations.

## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** Early Action Support Grant  
**Funded By:** Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
 / United Nations Development Programme  
 (UNDP)

**Implementation Period:** 2022 – July 2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** 250,000.00

**Objectives:**

- Conducted baseline assessments including the Policy and Institutional Review and the Biodiversity Expenditure Review.
- Supported the update of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
- Facilitated national consultations, stakeholder interviews, and development of the 2024 Status of Protected Areas Report.
- Strengthened Belize’s reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Project Name:** Protected Areas System Strengthening.

**Funded By:** Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) / NBIO

**Implementation Period:** 2023 – 2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. 173,381.00  
 (BZ\$346,762.00)

**Key Results:**

- Covered operational costs for NBIO field visits, coordination meetings, and stakeholder engagement.
- Supported improved co-management relationships and facilitated on-the-ground biodiversity governance.



## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)

**Funded By:** UNDP BIOFIN Programme

**Implementation Period:** Ongoing since 2020; new funding for 2024–2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** \$280,000.00 (2024); \$388,600.00 (programmed for 2025)

**Objectives:**

- Developed and rolled out the Protected Areas Business Planning Framework.
- Provided direct technical support to 4 co-managers to build site-specific financial plans.
- Implemented tools for biodiversity investment tracking, crowdfunding, and finance planning.

**Project Name:** Umbrella Programme for NBSAP & 7th National Report

**Funded By:** GEF / UNDP Belize Country Office

**Implementation Period:** 2024 – 2026

**Total Funds in US\$:** Over 400,000.00

**Objectives:**

- Fast-tracks NBSAP implementation and submission of Belize’s 7th National Report to the CBD.
- Enhances data systems and performance tracking aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.



## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Belize

**Funded By:** Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)

**Implementation Period:** Approved 2024; implementation begins 2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** 1.01 million

**Objectives:**

- Establishes a national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Framework.
- Empowers Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to protect traditional knowledge.
- Supports legal reforms for equitable benefit sharing of genetic resources.

**Project Name:** Voluntary Community Conservation Areas (VCCAs)

**Funded By:** Adaptation Fund via EDA Project (Implemented by PACT)

**Implementation Period:** 2025 – 2028

**Total Funds in US\$:** 1.2 million

**Objectives:**

- Develops a national framework to recognize and support community-led conservation.
- Strengthens community organizations in biodiversity monitoring and ecosystem restoration.
- Promotes best practices in land management, soil conservation, and biological corridor development

**Project Name:** Government Strategic Allocation for Protected Areas Awareness & Law Enforcement

**Funded By:** Government of Belize via PACT

**Implementation Period:** 2024 – 2026

**Total Funds in US\$:** 500,000.00

**Objectives:**

- Promotes mainstreaming of biodiversity in national sector policies.
- Builds strategic partnerships with law enforcement agencies to combat illegal environmental activities.
- Supports national outreach and the development of a coordinated research framework.





NATIONAL  
BIODIVERSITY  
OFFICE

# NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY OFFICE





07

# NATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL SERVICE

## Mission

“To ensure the sustainable management and equitable distribution of Belize’s water resources by implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles through monitoring, policy development, licensing, forecasting, and stakeholder engagement.”

The National Hydrological Service (NHS), Belize’s lead water resource authority under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining, plays a central role in the sustainable management of the nation’s water resources. Operating under the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), the NHS promotes economic efficiency, ecological sustainability, and social equity. NHS activities encompass surface and groundwater monitoring, hydrological forecasting, water quality assessments, licensing for water abstraction and drilling, data analysis, and public advisories for disaster risk management.

Established in the 1970s and reorganized in 2015 under a Principal Hydrologist, NHS continues to evolve its structure to support expanded IWRM functions. It currently functions under Unit status, though its operations and national responsibilities warrant reinstatement as a full Government Department. The Service is also guided by the World Meteorological Organization’s (WMO) standards and has developed a comprehensive mandate to support development planning, infrastructure design, environmental protection, and climate adaptation.





# NATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL SERVICE

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

### 1. Legislation & Policy

In 2024, the NHS advanced the institutionalization of IWRM by drafting legislation to re-establish the Service as a Government Department. The draft Cabinet Paper includes the formation of a National Water Council to support the implementation of the National Integrated Water Resources Act (NIWRA). NHS also finalized a revised Water Policy, Strategy, and Action Plan. These steps aim to provide legal authority and clarity in managing national water rights, quality standards, and watershed planning.

### 2. Institutional Strengthening

Key progress includes the appointment of a Hydrological Data Analyst to replace a retiring officer and the proposed establishment of additional technical roles such as a Deputy Principal Hydrologist, Water Rights Administrator, and multiple technicians to ease current staff workload. Staff continued to perform critical tasks despite structural gaps.

### 3. Capacity Building & Training

Staff participated in national and international training sessions in hydrometry, drone operation, groundwater geophysics, and hydrological modeling. Courses delivered by WMO, ICDF, USGS, and other institutions enhanced technical competencies in station maintenance, data collection, electrical resistivity, and rating curve development.

### 4. Surface and Groundwater Monitoring

The hydrological network was expanded through the installation or upgrade of observation stations in the Belize River (Banana Bank, Rancho Dolores, Iguana Creek), Macal River (Rio On, Guacamallo), and southern regions (Swasey, Blue Creek, Jordan, San Pedro Colombia). Real-time data platforms like DEWETRA and GEOGLoWS were used to issue 301 flood forecasts. Despite technical setbacks in data transmission software (HYDRAS3), daily flood forecasts and discharge measurements continued.



# NATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL SERVICE

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2025–2026

### 5. Water Rights Administration

A total of 149 water abstraction license applications and 6 drilling permit applications were received in 2024. Of these, 141 licenses were processed and issued, generating BZ\$77,500 in administrative fees. NHS also identified major unregulated water users and recommended regularization to enhance national water planning.

### 6. Project Implementation

NHS successfully closed the IDB Technical Assistance and GCF Readiness Projects. It continues to implement the GEF-6 and Resilient Reefs Initiatives. Under GEF-6, groundwater well surveys in Cayo and Belize Districts have been initiated, laying the foundation for a Water Master Plan and Water Quality Control Plan. Resilient Reefs activities involve sediment transport and salinity monitoring in the Monkey River watershed using NASA-SERVIR remote sensing tools.

### 7. Financial Mobilization

Through GEF and GCF funding, the NHS secured approximately US\$1.65 million to strengthen hydrological monitoring, develop national adaptation plans, and modernize data systems such as the WISKI platform and WRMIS (Water Resources Management Information System).





# NATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL SERVICE



## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** GEF-6: Integrated Management of Production Landscapes  
**Funded By:** Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
**Implementation Period:** 2023 – 2026  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. \$1.2 million  
**Objectives / Results:**  
Improve the sustainable management of production landscapes by integrating water resource planning with biodiversity and climate objectives. Activities include strengthening the national hydrological network, conducting groundwater well surveys in key districts, and producing a Water Master Plan and Water Quality Control Plan for the Belize River watershed. The project also supports harmonized policy frameworks for riparian zones and interagency data sharing mechanisms.

**Project Name:** Resilient Reefs Initiative  
**Funded By:** International Coral Reef Initiative / NASA-SERVIR  
**Implementation Period:** 2024 – 2026  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. \$200,000  
**Objectives / Results:**  
Support ecosystem-based adaptation through analysis of sediment transport and salinity impacts in the Monkey River Watershed. Remote sensing tools are used to detect erosion trends and support the design of conservation measures to protect reefs and coastal communities. The project builds climate resilience by linking upstream watershed health with reef sustainability.





# NATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL SERVICE

## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support

**Funded By:** Green Climate Fund (GCF)

**Implementation Period:** 2022 – 2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. \$250,000

**Objectives / Results:**

Strengthen national water governance to support climate adaptation. Key deliverables include a National Adaptation Plan for water resources, a Groundwater Flow Regime Report, and a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Framework (MELF). The project also developed a WRMIS and decision-support tools to improve planning and risk management.

**Project Name:** IDB Technical Assistance Project for IWRM

**Funded By:** Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

**Implementation Period:** 2021 – 2024 (Completed)

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. \$400,000

**Objectives / Results:**

Provided critical technical assistance and institutional capacity building to support Belize's IWRM goals. Outputs included the acquisition of geophysical survey equipment, training in groundwater management, development of a national communication strategy, and aquifer characterization studies in Toledo.

**Project Name:** Taiwan ICDF Hydrological Network Expansion

**Funded By:** Taiwan ICDF

**Implementation Period:** 2022 – 2025

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. \$150,000

**Objectives / Results:**

Enhance flood forecasting and early warning systems through the installation and upgrade of hydrological stations across the Belize River basin. The project also includes the reinstallation of vandalized stations, maintenance of sensor equipment, and capacity building for field staff in station operations and data management.





08

# POLICY, PLANNING AND PROJECTS UNIT

## Mission

“To provide the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management with visionary leadership in planning, coordination, and communication that supports an enabling environment for policy mainstreaming and portfolio management.”

The Policy, Planning and Projects Unit (PPPU) plays a central role in shaping the strategic direction and operational coherence of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management. Tasked with providing visionary leadership in planning, coordination, and communication, the PPPU drives policy mainstreaming and oversees the Ministry’s project portfolio to ensure alignment with national priorities. It also serves as a hub for resource mobilization and partnership development, both nationally and internationally.





# POLICY, PLANNING AND PROJECTS UNIT

## Core Functions

- The PPPU supports the Ministry through:
- Policy integration and strategic planning
- Project portfolio coordination and oversight
- Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting
- Internal and external communications
- Institutional capacity building
- Partnership management and donor engagement

Its work is guided by six strategic goals focused on improving evidence-based decision-making, fostering institutional resilience, promoting sustainability, and creating an inclusive and high-performing work culture.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

### 1. Enhanced Project Portfolio Oversight

The Ministry is currently implementing a project portfolio valued at over USD \$30 million. To improve oversight, the PPPU institutionalized Quarterly Portfolio Review Meetings, providing a platform for project managers to report on progress, challenges, and lessons learned. This has significantly improved reporting quality, coordination, and responsiveness to implementation delays. This initiative is a core element of the Ministry's monitoring and evaluation mechanism aimed at promoting transparency, accountability and alignment with national development and climate resilience priorities.

Each quarter, project managers across the Ministry's portfolio convene to present the status of project implementation, share key results, identify delivery challenges and discuss adaptive strategies. These sessions not only provide a structured platform for tracking progress against planned targets, but also encourage cross learning, coordination across projects and dissemination of best practices.





# POLICY, PLANNING AND PROJECTS UNIT

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

These have resulted in:

- Improved portfolio oversight: Regular reporting has enabled early detection of implementation delays, cost overruns and procurement bottlenecks allowing for timely intervention.
- Enhanced coordination: The reviews have strengthened inter-unit collaboration and fostered a more integrated approach to project delivery across thematic areas
- Data-driven Decision making: Portfolio review outputs have informed senior management decisions on resource reallocation, technical assistance needs and policy adjustments
- Capacity Building: Project teams have benefited from peer-to-peer exchanges resulting in improved M&E practices, reporting

Going forward the Ministry aims to further digitize the portfolio tracking systems and link it with national performance dashboards to improve visibility, accessibility and strategic alignment across all active projects.

## 2. Strategic Partnerships

The PPPU played a lead role in deepening cooperation with several partners including the Taiwan ICDF, resulting in the co-development and execution of several initiatives supporting climate resilience within the GOB and at the community level. This partnership has contributed to technical capacity-building, financial support, and long-term collaboration frameworks.

## 3. Improved Institutional Coordination and Policy Mainstreaming

Through cross-unit working sessions and inter-ministerial coordination, the PPPU helped align programmatic priorities with national strategies such as the Integrated Financing Framework to mobilize resources to support climate change priorities and the Sustainable Development goals, supporting greater policy coherence.





# POLICY, PLANNING AND PROJECTS UNIT

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

### 4. Internal Communications and Branding

The Unit facilitated strategic communications planning and led efforts to improve the public image of the Ministry through targeted outreach, updated digital materials, and interdepartmental briefings.

#### Priority Actions for 2025-2026

- **Digitize Portfolio Management:** Implement an online dashboard for real-time project tracking and results reporting
- **Strengthen Donor Engagement:** Build on existing partnerships by developing a donor mapping and intelligence plan to diversify funding streams
- **Capacity Building:** Host M&E and project design training workshops for technical staff to strengthen internal competencies
- **Improve inter-unit communication:** Launch an internal coordination protocol to streamline policy and project updates across units. Develop and implement 1<sup>st</sup> phase to the Ministry's Communication Strategy
- **Promote Inclusivity:** Develop internal guidelines and staff feedback systems to support respectful, inclusive and productive work environment

### Development of the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Escazú Agreement

Following Belize's ratification of the Escazú Agreement in March 2023, the Ministry, with support from ECLAC and the World Bank, led the development of a national implementation roadmap, finalized in September 2024. The roadmap was informed by wide-ranging consultations with civil society, NGOs, and government agencies. Key priorities include:

1. Improving access to environmental information
2. Strengthening public participation processes
3. Launching public awareness campaigns
4. Enhancing mechanisms for environmental complaints and legal aid
5. Rebuilding the Pollutant Release and Transfer Registry.

Notwithstanding the above-mentioned priority actions that were identified during the roadmap development process, there is still the need to conduct a robust process of nation-wide consultation sessions to develop Belize's Implementation Plan for the Escazú Agreement.



## Mission

“To sustainably enhance Belize's socio-ecological systems through strategic financing and partnerships.”

## Vision

“A sustainable and productive Belizean environment that benefits all.”

Belize continues to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience through strategic investments, inclusive policymaking, and international cooperation.

The 2024–2025 reporting period reflects a year of transformation, marked by strengthened partnerships, expanded funding for conservation and climate action, and deepened stakeholder engagement across all levels of society. SDU and PACT have worked synergistically to align national actions with global goals, including Belize’s commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and **#planBelize MTDS**.

Together, they have spearheaded projects that respond directly to community needs particularly in vulnerable and underserved areas while also enhancing the institutional frameworks needed to manage climate risk, protect biodiversity, and mainstream equity.

The reporting year witnessed notable achievements: Belize’s second Voluntary National Review was successfully presented at the UN High-Level Political Forum.

Extensive community infrastructure was delivered through the Lives in Dignity Project, and the roll-out of Conservation Investment Strategy 2.0 allowed for significant scaling-up of financing to NGOs and protected areas co-managers.

Climate finance also advanced meaningfully with PACT's growing portfolio of GCF-funded Readiness Projects, proposal development for multi-million-dollar national adaptation programs, and technical assistance for enhancing gender-responsive and community-led climate solutions. Youth engagement, gender inclusion, and data system strengthening remained cross-cutting themes throughout all programmatic areas.

This Annual Technical Report provides a consolidated summary of strategic outcomes delivered across conservation, climate, and development portfolios.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

Successfully disbursed Year 1 funding under the Conservation Investment Strategy 2.0, benefiting nine NGOs. This funding supports critical needs such as improved biodiversity monitoring, enhanced enforcement, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable community livelihoods directly strengthening the management and resilience of the Belize National Protected Areas System.

Established a formal partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Belize Tourism Board, launching the Tourism Enhancement in Protected Areas Program. This initiative aims to revitalize protected areas as visitor destinations post-pandemic by investing in trail development, emergency response, visitor facilities, capacity building, and strategic recreation planning.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024–2025

Secured US\$500,000.00 under the CORE Gender Smart Facility through collaboration with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. This achievement supports the integration of gender-responsive approaches into protected area management, promotes gender-sensitive research and data collection, and increases participation of women and marginalized groups in conservation-led livelihood programs.

Mobilized over BZ\$26.3 million in climate financing to date across multiple funding mechanisms, including the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. These funds directly contribute to national adaptation measures, disaster preparedness, and large-scale climate resilience projects aligned with Belize’s commitments under Plan Belize and international frameworks.

Supported the modernization of the Protected Areas Fee System, enhancing the long-term financial sustainability and revenue generation capacity of protected areas ensuring better reinvestment in conservation activities and community development.

Advanced the implementation of national conservation and climate strategies, including NBSAP and the NPASP. These efforts help strengthen Belize’s position in meeting global targets under the SDGs and the Convention on Biological Diversity.





## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** CIS 2.0 Year 1  
**Funded By:** PACT  
**Implementation Period:** 2024–2026  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Part of overall BZ\$12.7 million  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Improve management effectiveness of the Belize National Protected Areas System (BNPAS) by supporting NGOs with strategic funding to address critical conservation needs, enhance enforcement, biodiversity monitoring, and community benefits.

**Project Name:** Tourism Enhancement in Protected Areas  
**Funded By:** Belize Tourism Board & PACT  
**Implementation Period:** From March 2024 onward  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Not specified  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Strengthen protected areas as tourism destinations by improving visitor facilities, trail development, business and recreation planning, and emergency services — ultimately supporting Belize’s tourism recovery and sustainable economic diversification.

**Project Name:** CORE Gender Smart Facility  
**Funded By:** Caribbean Biodiversity Fund  
**Implementation Period:** February 2025 – December 2026  
**Total Funds in US\$:** 500,000.00  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Mobilize gender-responsive financing, mainstream gender considerations in conservation, improve gender-related data and decision-making, and increase participation of women and marginalized groups in sustainable livelihoods.

**Project Name:** Innovation Project (Climate-resilient water security)  
**Funded By:** Adaptation Fund (planned)  
**Implementation Period:** Under development  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$10 million  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Enhance water security in four rural communities through innovative climate-resilient approaches, including solar-powered water systems, to increase adaptation capacity to climate change impacts.



## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** BNPAS Concept Note  
**Funded By:** GCF  
**Implementation Period:** In full proposal phase  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$20 million  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Build climate resilience of protected areas through climate-smart planning, ecosystem restoration, institutional strengthening, awareness raising, and carbon stock management.

**Project Name:** Belize Red Cross Concept Note  
**Funded By:** GCF  
**Implementation Period:** Under informal review  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$20 million  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Enhance resilience of vulnerable communities to natural disasters via integrated water, sanitation, food security measures, and early warning systems.

**Project Name:** Direct Access Entities Support  
**Funded By:** PACT  
**Implementation Period:** In design  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$1 million  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Strengthen PACT's capacity to design, implement, and manage climate finance projects; promote project preparation and knowledge sharing.

**Project Name:** Readiness (BLZ-RS-010)  
**Funded By:** GCF  
**Implementation Period:** Under implementation  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$2 million  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Support MET and Belize Social Investment Fund with accreditation, while strengthening BNPAS climate resilience strategies.

**Project Name:** Readiness (BLZ-RS-011)  
**Funded By:** GCF  
**Implementation Period:** Under implementation  
**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$3 million  
**Goal/Objective:**  
Develop a multisectoral National Adaptation Plan to coordinate Belize's climate adaptation actions across sectors.



## On-Going Projects

**Project Name:** Readiness (BLZ-RS-013)

**Funded By:** GCF

**Implementation Period:** Under implementation

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$1.36 million

**Goal/Objective:**

Enhance climate change capacity and awareness among PACT, Sustainable Development Unit, Galen University, Belize Livestock Producers Association, and MET.

**Project Name:** Enhanced Direct Access Project

**Funded By:** GCF

**Implementation Period:** Under implementation

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$10 million

**Goal/Objective:**

Build adaptive capacity of communities through initiatives like climate-smart agriculture, fire management, sustainable livelihoods, flood mitigation, and restoration.

**Project Name:** Regular Country Allocation

**Funded By:** GCF

**Implementation Period:** Awaiting disbursement

**Total Funds in US\$:** Approx. BZ\$8 million

**Goal/Objective:**

Improve adaptive capacity of Belize's coastal communities to better manage climate change risks.



# Lessons Learnt

The departments have learned valuable lessons from their experiences, including the importance of interagency collaboration, the need for continuous capacity building, and the benefits of leveraging technology for data management and reporting. These lessons will inform future strategies and improve the effectiveness of ongoing and new initiatives.



## Department of the Environment

- Enforcement improves with decentralized operations and digital monitoring tools.
- Response: Expand field presence in San Pedro and establish regional inspection hubs. Scale national outreach via the Anti-Littering Campaign.



## Forest Department

- Increased wildfires and human-wildlife conflicts require specialized field teams and improved protocols.
- Response: Scale the fire response program, equip rapid-response teams, and operationalize the Mangrove Unit in 2025.



## Solid waste Management Authority

- Improve project delivery by ensuring consistent public outreach, retaining key staff, and integrating proactive planning into the project cycle.
- Advance national waste management through dedicated funding for curbside separation and stronger collaboration with municipal authorities.



## National Climate Change Office

- Without a permanent technical staff structure, institutional knowledge is fragmented.
- Climate data systems are effective only when tied to legal mandates.
- Support the Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiative Bill to formalize the Office as a Department and stabilize staffing and budget allocations.



## Sustainable Development Unit

- Subnational and youth engagement increases local ownership of SDGs.
- Data gaps limit cross-sectoral policy targeting.
- Expand the SDG Youth Action Plan, launch the National SDG Monitoring Platform, and institutionalize data-sharing with SIB and other partners.



## National Biodiversity Office

- Decentralized governance structures like Local Advisory Committees increase conservation legitimacy and outcomes.
- Finalize legislative reform to embed co-management and stakeholder-led biodiversity monitoring.



## National Hydrological Service

- Integrated Water Resources Management cannot be fully realized under current unit-level authority.
- Re-establish NHS as a Government Department and adopt WRMIS to support policy enforcement, licensing, and risk reduction.



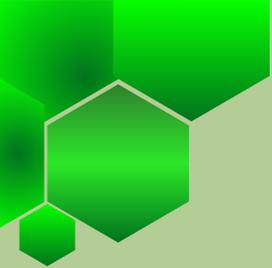
## Policy, Planning and Projects Unit

- Teamwork and communication help projects succeed. Regular check-ins and sharing updates improved coordination and solved issues faster.
- Public input and staff stability matter. More community feedback is needed, and keeping trained staff helps projects run smoothly.

## Protected Areas Conservation Trust

- Direct access climate finance is more effective when rooted in local solutions.
- Continue supporting NGOs and communities in designing scalable, gender-sensitive, nature-based climate solutions.





# Future Priorities



The departments have identified several future priorities, including the implementation of the Loss and Damage Framework, updating national policies, enhancing data management systems, and strengthening partnerships with national and international agencies. These priorities will guide the departments' efforts in the coming years and ensure continued progress towards their goals.

## **Advance Belize's Climate Agenda**

- Prepare and submit the Second BTR, Fifth National Communication, and National Adaptation Plan.
- Finalize updates to the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan.

## **Enhance Environmental Governance**

- Strengthen monitoring systems (WRMIS, BIOFIN, GHG MRV), expand mobile enforcement teams, and develop integrated licensing platforms.
- Formalize institutional mandates for NHS and NBIO.

## **Secure Long-Term Institutional Sustainability**

- Transition key staff from contract-based to permanent technical posts.
- Develop internal M&E frameworks and PPPU-wide results dashboards.

## **Expand Strategic Partnerships**

- Deepen engagement with regional and international agencies, development banks, and conservation finance mechanisms.
- Scale co-financing models with NGOs and private sector for ecosystem-based adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.

## **Invest in People and Communities**

- Launch national youth-led SDG campaigns and expand local climate action grants.
- Prioritize capacity-building for enforcement officers, community rangers, and local technicians.



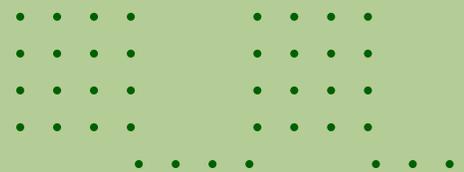
# CONCLUSION

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The MSDCCSWM’s achievements in 2024 –2025 demonstrate a Ministry advancing with purpose, technical rigor, and a commitment to national well-being.

Through policy leadership, institutional strengthening, expanded partnerships, and impactful community programs, Belize is better positioned to face climate risks, protect its natural heritage, and pursue sustainable, inclusive development.

The year ahead promises continued innovation, collaboration, and progress toward a cleaner, greener, and more climate-resilient Belize.



# Special Thanks

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Aurelio Sho, Communications Specialist, for his invaluable guidance and for generously providing the photographs featured in this report. His continued support and dedication to quality communication have greatly enhanced the presentation and outreach of this publication.

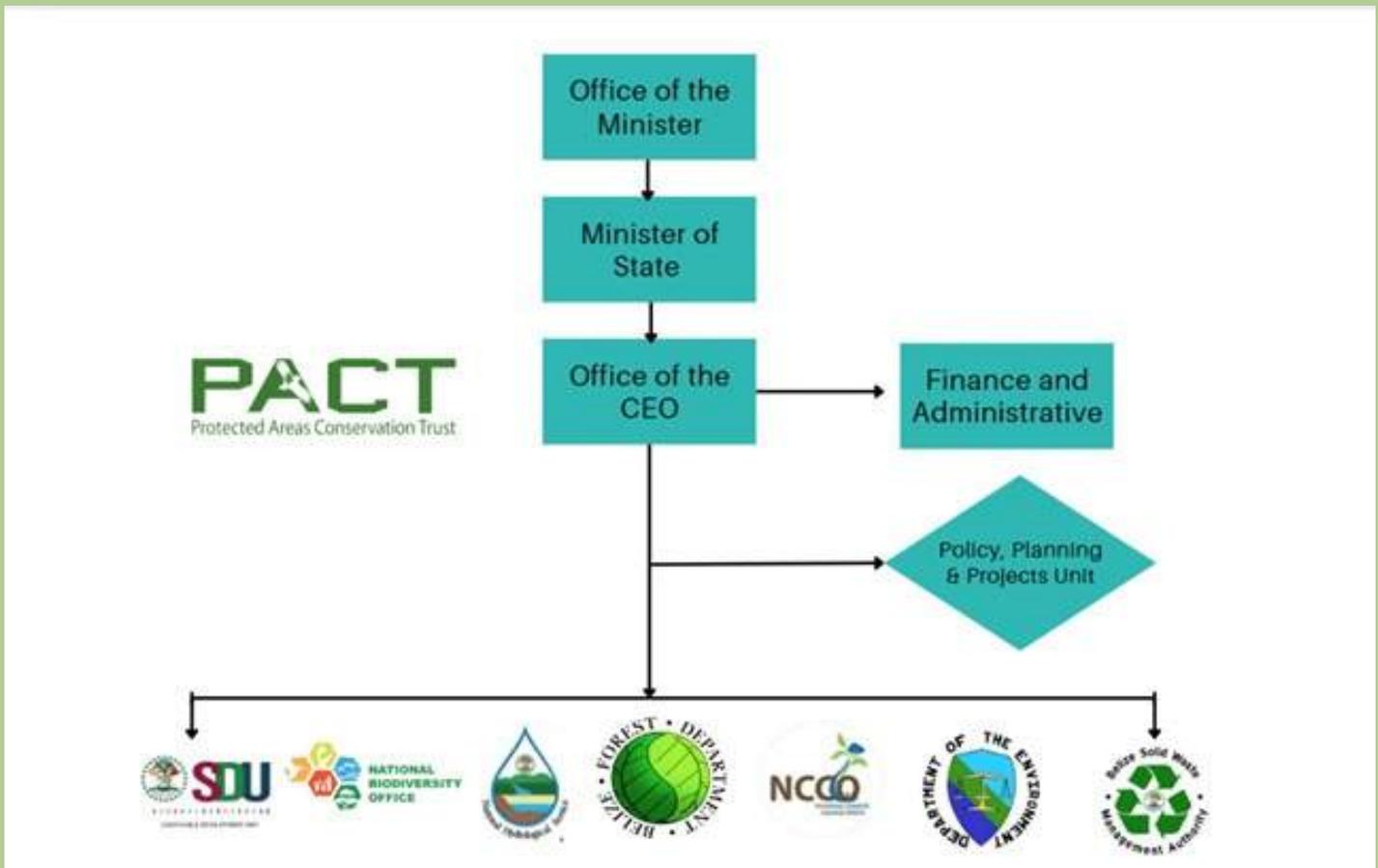
Special thanks are also extended to Ms. Reyna Neal and Ms. Bryanna Castellanos, interns at the PPPU from the Natural Resources Management Program, University of Belize, for their support and collaborative efforts toward the successful completion of this Annual Technical Report. Their work, from data collection and analysis to coordination, was essential to meeting key deliverables on a tight timeline

We also acknowledge the support of the wider PPPU staff and partner agencies who contributed their expertise, time, and resources throughout the reporting period. This report stands as a reflection of true teamwork and shared purpose.



# Annex 1

## The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management ORGANOGRAM



# Annex 2

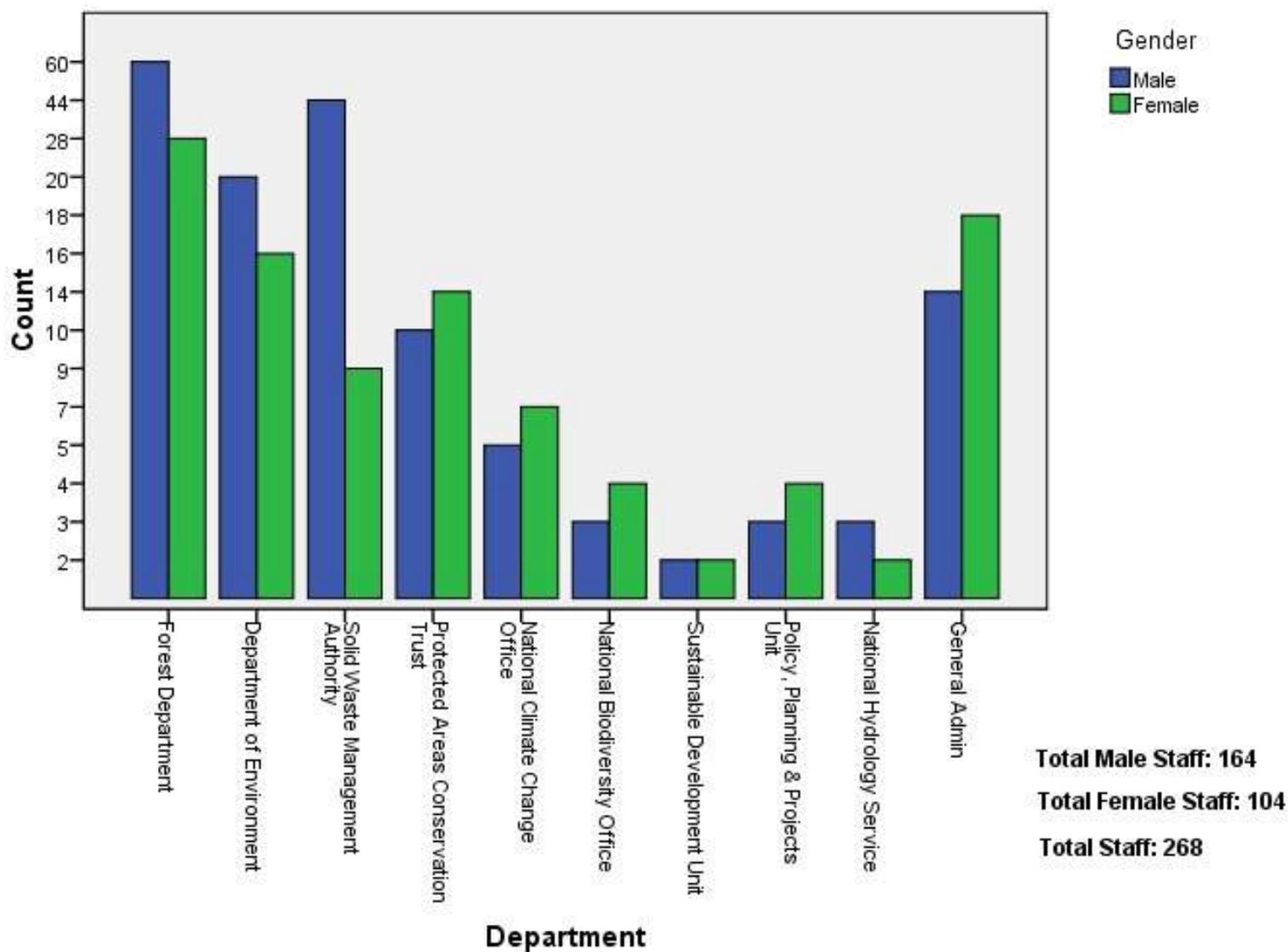
## HOD STAFF

Name	Post	Contact
<b>Ministers</b>		
<b>Hon. Orlando Habet</b>	Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management	<a href="mailto:minister@environment.gov.bz">minister@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Hon. Ramiro Ramirez</b>	Minister of State	<a href="mailto:stateminister@environment.gov.bz">stateminister@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>		
<b>Milagro Matus</b>	Chief Executive Officer	<a href="mailto:ceo@environment.gov.bz">ceo@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Technical Staff</b>		
<b>Kenneth Williams</b>	Ag. Director, Solid Waste Management Authority	<a href="mailto:sr.swmo@solidwaste.gov.bz">sr.swmo@solidwaste.gov.bz</a>
<b>Edalmi Pinelo</b>	Chief Climate Change Officer	<a href="mailto:coord.cc@environment.gov.bz">coord.cc@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Victor Alegria</b>	Director, Sustainable Development Unit	<a href="mailto:Dir.Susdev@environment.gov.bz">Dir.Susdev@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Judene Tingling Linares</b>	Director, Policy, Planning & Projects Unit	<a href="mailto:coord.pppu@environment.gov.bz">coord.pppu@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Tennielle Hendy</b>	Principal Hydrologist	<a href="mailto:principal.hydrologist@naturalresources.gov.bz">principal.hydrologist@naturalresources.gov.bz</a>
<b>Saul Cruz</b>	Director- National Biodiversity Office	<a href="mailto:director.nbio@environment.gov.bz">director.nbio@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Anthony Mai</b>	Chief Environmental Officer	<a href="mailto:doe.ceo@environment.gov.bz">doe.ceo@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Wilber Sabido</b>	Chief Forest Officer	<a href="mailto:cfo@forest.gov.bz">cfo@forest.gov.bz</a>
<b>Administrative Officer</b>		
<b>Erica Young</b>	Administrative Officer	<a href="mailto:YoungEEv@gobmail.gov.bz">YoungEEv@gobmail.gov.bz</a>
<b>Patricia Rodriguez</b>	Administrative Officer	<a href="mailto:RodriguezLPE@environment.gov.bz">RodriguezLPE@environment.gov.bz</a>
<b>Finance Officer</b>		
<b>Salvador Alas</b>	Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:AlasSM@gobmail.gov.bz">AlasSM@gobmail.gov.bz</a>
<b>Denbigh Young</b>	Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:YoungDB@gobmail.gov.bz">YoungDB@gobmail.gov.bz</a>
<b>Legal Counsel</b>		
<b>Jeavon Hulse</b>	Legal Counsel	<a href="mailto:HulseJJ@gobmail.gov.bz">HulseJJ@gobmail.gov.bz</a>

# Annex 3

## Ministry Staff

Number of Staff (Male and Female) per Department/ Unit



# Annex 3

## Revised Budget 2024-2025

<b>PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE SUMMARY</b>					
No.	Programme	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Budget Estimate	2024/25 Revised Estimate
052	<b>STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION (FORESTRY)</b>	\$1,212,023	\$1,212,024	\$2,930,448	\$2,602,355
	Recurrent Expenditure	\$2,534,146	\$2,824,355	\$3,535,308	\$3,250,189
	Capital II Expenditure	\$1,217,551	\$2,370,140	\$1,048,000	\$1,795,192
	Capital III Expenditure	\$185,569	\$79,360	\$303,000	\$378,647
108	<b>FORESTRY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	\$3,495,350	\$3,905,596	\$4,751,041	\$3,973,827
	Recurrent Expenditure	\$3,076,114	\$3,280,742	\$4,143,804	\$3,774,508
	Capital II Expenditure	\$419,236	\$624,854	\$607,237	\$198,069
	Capital III Expenditure	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,250
054	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT</b>	\$883,236	\$1,034,793	\$1,670,265	\$1,259,252
	Recurrent Expenditure	\$874,138	\$983,530	\$1,209,228	\$1,130,193
	Capital II Expenditure	\$9,098	\$41,106	\$71,200	\$61,216
	Capital III Expenditure	\$0	\$10,157	\$389,837	\$67,843
060	<b>SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	\$6,880,341	\$8,012,672	\$10,618,613	\$9,744,724
	Recurrent Expenditure	\$394,103	\$469,088	\$491,688	\$508,939
	Capital II Expenditure	\$5,521,434	\$7,135,380	\$7,626,925	\$6,678,687
	Capital III Expenditure	\$964,805	\$408,204	\$2,500,000	\$2,557,098
065	<b>HYDROLOGY</b>	\$323,730	\$636,002	\$1,122,692	\$1,098,563
	Recurrent Expenditure	\$319,443	\$309,105	\$430,692	\$391,797
	Capital II Expenditure	\$0	\$85,634	\$495,000	\$446,087
	Capital III Expenditure	\$4,287	\$241,263	\$197,000	\$260,679
<b>TOTAL BUDGET CEILING</b>		<b>\$15,519,924</b>	<b>\$18,862,916</b>	<b>\$23,048,919</b>	<b>\$21,500,394</b>
Recurrent Expenditure		\$7,197,944	\$7,866,820	\$9,810,720	\$9,055,626
Capital II Expenditure		\$7,167,319	\$10,257,114	\$9,848,362	\$9,179,251
Capital III Expenditure		\$1,154,661	\$738,983	\$3,389,837	\$3,265,517





**MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,  
CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

<https://sustainabledevelopment.gov.bz>



**EMAIL: COMMUNICATIONS@ENVIRONMENT.GOV.BZ  
PHONE: 822-0160 / 62**



**Green Complex Building, 7552 Hummingbird highway, Belmopan City**

