



PR#096-26

PRESS RELEASE

Belize Advances Early Warning Systems and Climate-Resilient Housing

Belmopan, April 10, 2026.

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Economic Transformation, as the National Designated Authority of the Adaptation Fund, has secured a major milestone in its climate resilience agenda following the approval of a concept note at the Adaptation Fund Board Meeting held on April 10, 2026, in Bonn, Germany.

The approved concept note titled, *“Strengthening Disaster Preparedness, Early Warning Systems, and Climate-Resilient Housing,”* was developed by the Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET), the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), in collaboration with the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) as the National Implementing Entity.

This approval signals the Adaptation Fund’s confidence in Belize’s strategic approach to addressing climate vulnerability and advancing integrated, large-scale resilience solutions.

Belize continues to face increasing risks from climate-related hazards, including hurricanes, flooding, and storm surges, which disproportionately impact vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure. The housing sector remains particularly exposed, with a significant portion of homes constructed using materials and designs that are not resilient to extreme weather events.

The programme is designed to address these challenges through three strategic pillars:

- **Strengthening Disaster Preparedness:** Enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) to improve response and coordination mechanisms.
- **Advancing Early Warning Systems:** Upgrading the technical capabilities of the National Meteorological Service (NMS) to improve hurricane monitoring, forecasting, and the timely dissemination of warnings.
- **Delivering Climate-Resilient Housing:** Supporting the construction and retrofitting of resilient housing and critical infrastructure through innovative and inclusive financing mechanisms targeting vulnerable households.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño welcomed the approval and emphasized its national significance, stating, “This approval represents a critical step forward for Belize. It reflects my administration’s commitment to protecting our people, strengthening national systems, and ensuring that our development pathway is climate-resilient. Investing in resilient housing and early warning systems is fundamental to reducing risk and safeguarding livelihoods.”

The approval of the concept note allows Belize to advance to the next stage of developing a full funding proposal. To support this process, a Project Formulation Grant of BZD 300,000 has also been approved by the Adaptation Fund to finance the necessary baseline studies and technical assessments.

Once fully developed and approved, the BZD 50 million programme is expected to be implemented over a five-year period, delivering transformative benefits, including reduced disaster-related losses, improved protection of vulnerable populations, enhanced institutional capacity, and strengthened national resilience.

This initiative aligns with the Government's broader development priorities under Plan Belize 2.0 and further reinforces Belize's leadership in accessing international climate finance to address pressing climate challenges.

The Ministry acknowledges the valuable contributions of Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation; Senator Hon. Christopher Coye; Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Economic Transformation; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DFC, PACT, and the staff of the Integrated Climate Finance Development and Coordination Unit (CFU) within the Ministry of Economic Transformation, whose collaborative efforts were instrumental in advancing this initiative.

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