



MCCAP

Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project



Project Inception Workshop Report

Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza

March 17, 2015



MCCAP Official Launch

1. The launch of the Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project was held at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza, River Hall Conference Room, Belize City on March 17, 2015 (Appendix 1). The workshop began at 10:20 am with the playing of the national anthem and prayer by the Masters of Ceremony, Mr. George Myvett.
2. Mr. Myvett first introduced the members of the head table, which included: Ms. Beverly Wade, Fisheries Administrator; Mrs. Adele Catzim-Sanchez, CEO in the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development; Mr. Enos E. Esikuri, Senior Environmental Specialist and Task Team Leader, GENDR, World Bank; and Mr. Vincent Gillett, CEO Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (Appendix 6).
3. He then welcomed over 43 participants to the meeting, namely, representatives from Fishermen Organizations/Associations (Chunox, Sarteneja, Belize City, Stann Creek, Belize Fishermen Federation), Fishermen Cooperatives (Northern, National), the NGO community (WWF, WCS, OCEANA, TNC, TASA, BAS), partner organizations (PACT, Forestry, NPAS, CZMAI), the media (Press Office, Reporter, Channel 7, Channel 5), and staff of the Fisheries Department and the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (Appendix 3).
4. The welcome and opening remarks was done by Ms. Beverly Wade, Fisheries Administrator. She welcomed participants to the official launch of MCCAP, a collaboration between the Government of Belize and the World Bank. The primary objective of this 5 year project, valued at USD 5.53 million from the Adaptation Fund, is to implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System (Appendix 2). It is envisioned that this project will build on existing programs and in so doing strengthen the current national framework for the sustainable use and conservation of Belize's Marine Resources. She further stated that this project will in turn increase the resiliency of our Barrier Reef and its associated ecosystems to the potential impacts of climate change. It will also reduce the vulnerabilities of the various economic and livelihood activities which depend on healthy and robust Marine ecosystems for their viability. In closing she welcomed the fishing community and organizational partners in development and conservation to the launch of the Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project, which she hoped will implement new approaches to ensure the continued viability of our marine resources and which will provide continued benefits to the people of Belize.
5. Mr. Enos Esikuri, Task Team Leader on the project representing the World Bank noted that in Belize the population growth rate is higher than the economic growth rate, and hence the importance of maintaining the viability of the ecosystem that provides the key anchor for economic growth. He also informed participants that structural measures is not the best

way to deal with climate change issues facing Belize. The best approach is to maintain ecosystems (mangroves, barrier reef) to be alive and viable. That is why the project was designed to invest in ecosystem-based measures that will maintain coral life and viable fish populations. He further noted that this project is an initial step and hoped that the partnership between the World Bank, the Government of Belize, and all those present at the workshop will move the project to the next level of implementation.

6. Mr. Eleodoro Martinez, Chairman of the Belize Fishermen Federation and Chairman of the Chunox Fishermen Association addressed workshop participants. He stated that fishers entire livelihoods depend on the resources of the sea; therefore, the health of the oceans is of special concern to them. The importance of the ocean's health extends to those that depend on it as a way of earning their living; healthy oceans are everyone's business. He noted that fishers have been observing alarming factors over time and have been ignoring them. These include less fish, weather patterns are crazy, corals are dying, and over the years we have seen stronger hurricanes - yet they continue with business as usual. Climate Change poses a great threat to the ocean's health and to humans safety and wellbeing. Therefore, addressing this issue requires a joint effort from everyone - fishers, government and NGO's. The fisher representative applaud the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development for their effort in seeking ways to minimize the impacts that Climate Change can have on their lives and pledge to continue working with the relevant parties to move forward with this initiative with the goal of securing their livelihoods and a healthy ecosystem for fishers, their families and generations to come.
7. The Masters of Ceremony, Mr. George Myvett welcomed comments from workshop participants. Mr. David Gabb, fisher pointed out that the tourism and agriculture sectors, while beneficial also had a negative effect on the fishing industry. He highlighted the unsustainable practices of these sectors with the increasing number of tourists and the damage they cause on the reef and the runoffs from agriculture.
8. Mr. Dawson, National Fishermen Cooperative, informed the group of the excessive amounts of seaweed on the beaches that is causing problems for tourism and fishing. He urge the Government of Belize and others to assist in dealing with this issue.
9. Ms. Wade, Fisheries Administrator noted Mr. Dawson's concern for the increased abundance of Sargassum which is potentially linked to climate change. She noted similar issues in the Eastern Caribbean and the efforts of CARICOM through the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) to deal with this issue. She informed participants that the Fisheries Division is investigating the issue to determine the potential impact.
10. Mrs. Catzim-Sanchez, CEO in the Ministry of Forestry Fisheries and Sustainable Development (MFFSD) gave the feature address. In her remarks she talked about the role of the MFFSD. She noted that the Government understands the importance of integrating the work of conservation and sustainable management of our ecosystem resources within the broader operating goal of development (economic and human), hence they are actively

working on re-orienting the perception of the role of the Ministry plays in the development process. The Ministry has been driving the integration of climate change discussion on the sustainable management of our resources in the overall discourse of development in tourism, fishing and agriculture. Hoping that this project will build on the broader initiatives that the government is undertaking to address the development issue in general and also climate change. This particular project complements other major initiatives that the Ministry has been undertaking: (i) strengthening key biodiversity areas, and (ii) adapting to climate change through greater use of science and technology. The CEO noted that the Ministry is very pleased with the approval of the MCCAP, and is grateful for this fruitful collaboration with the world Bank. She also recognize the importance of partnerships with stakeholders in particular those from the fishing and tourism sectors.

11. Ms. Grant, MCCAP Project Manager made a presentation on the Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project objectives, main features, and implementation plan (Appendix 4). After the presentation Ms. Julie Robinson, TNC noted the work that TNC is currently doing which complements the work of MCCAP. The PC commended the work of TNC and other NGOs and re-affirmed that this project will build on existing activities and create synergies where possible.

12. Mr. Gillett thanked workshop participants, invited guest, local organizers, and the media for covering the event. He concluded the meeting by stating that the project was a strong one which will benefit the Ministry, all communities involved, and the people of Belize.

13. Appendices

1. Agenda
2. Brochure
3. Meeting attendance
4. Presentation on MCCAP
5. Press Release
6. Photos
7. Media Reports (Channel 5, Channel 7, The Reporter)

Appendix 1: Agenda



Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)

Project Inception Workshop

Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza, River Hall, 17 March 2015, 10:00 am

AGENDA

Masters of Ceremony: Mr. George Myvett

- 10:00-10:05 National Anthem
Prayer
- 10:05-10:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks
(Fisheries Administrator, Fisheries Department, Ms. Beverly Wade)
- 10:10-10:20 Remarks from the World Bank
(Senior Environmental Specialist and Task Team Leader, GENDR, World Bank
Mr. Enos E. Esikuri)
- 10:20-10:30 Remarks from Beneficiary Groups
- Fishermen
 - MPAs
- 10:30-10:50 Feature Address
(Chief Executive Officer, MFFSD, Mrs. Adele Catzim-Sanchez)
- 10:50-11:10 Presentation on the MCCAP
(Project Coordinator, MCCAP, Ms. Sandra Grant)
- 11:10-11:25 Questions and Answers
- 11:25-11:30 Vote of Thanks
(Chief Executive Officer, CZMAI, Mr. Vincent Gillett)

LUNCH

Appendix 2: Brochure



MCCAP

**Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project
(2015-2020)**

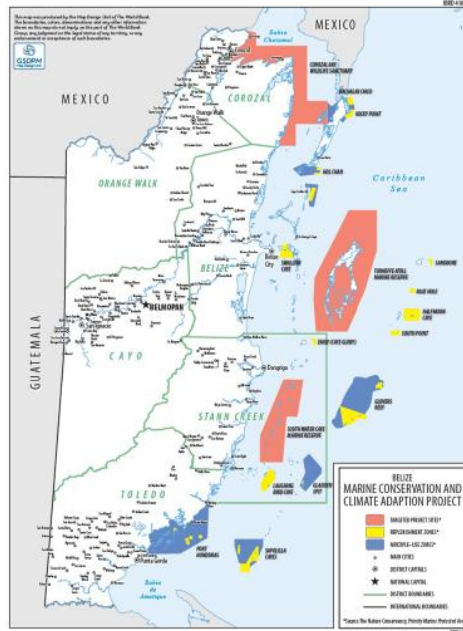
Aims to implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System



Project implemented by The World Bank and funded by the Adaptation Fund

PRIORITY MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS)
Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve (TAMR)
South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR)



Component 1 (US\$ 2M) Protection of marine and coastal ecosystem

- Protection of coral reef, mangroves, seagrass bed, lagoon systems, fish spawning aggregation sites
- Finalize zoning maps for CBWS, TAMR, SWCMR
- Establish coral nurseries in TAMR and SWCMR
- Construction of a ranger station, pier at SWCMR
- Implement the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the long-term development of all coastal areas

Component 2 (US\$ 2.45M) Promoting alternative livelihood options

- Develop community-based business ventures in aquaculture, agriculture, and tourism
- Training to build skills sets that support small business development

Component 3 (US\$ 0.56M) Raising awareness on the impact of climate change

- Increase awareness of the impact of climate change and the value of marine conservation
- Develop and explore climate resilient strategies
- Community exchange visits to support dialogue and learning events on climate change adaptation

The Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP) is a five year project implemented by the World Bank and funded by an Adaptation Fund grant in the amount of US\$ 5.53 million and US\$1.78 million in-kind contribution by the GoB.

The Objective of MCCAP is to implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System. Specifically, the Project will support:

- (1) improvement of the coral reef protection regime including an expansion and enforcement of the MPAs and replenishment (no-take) zones in strategic locations to build climate resilience,
- (2) promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods and income diversification for affected users of the reef, and
- (3) building local capacity and raising awareness regarding the importance of the overall health of the reef ecosystem to its climate resilience and, consequently the community welfare as well as the growth prospect of the country's economy.

The proposed adaptation, conservation, and restoration activities of the Belize Barrier Reef System have socio-economic significance, providing an opportunity for maintaining and potentially increasing the income level and marine resources available for an estimated 203,000 people living in the coastal areas of Belize. The Project will build capacity for local communities, which are directly affected by the climate impacts, to act as champions of the marine managed areas and of the resources upon which they depend. (World Bank Project Appraisal Document, 2015)

Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project

Beneficiary Communities

Corozal Town
Consejo
Copper Bank
Chunox
Sarteneja
Belize City
Dangriga
Hopkins
Sittee River
Riverdale
Seine Bight
Placencia

For more information contact:



Belize Fisheries Department
Princess Margaret Drive
P.O. Box 148
Belize City, Belize
Phone: (501) 224-4552/223-2187
Fax: (501) 223-2986
Email: Fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz

Appendix 3: Meeting Attendance

Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)



Meeting Attendance

Meeting: NCCAP (Project Inception Workshop)	Date: 17 th March 2015.
Location: Belize, Belmopan	Time: 10:00

Total 43

No.	Name	Title/Position	Contact Information	Signature	Comments
1	Aaron Amos	Reporter, MUSEV	aamos@bceetel.net.il.com 635-7152		
2	Carlos Cruz	Chairman	622-3246		DSA 1
3	Sandra Grant	PC	lgrant@guail.com		
4	Miriam Longworth	Information Officer	info@pressoffice.gov.bz		Media
5	Eledora Martinez	Chairman	664-2804 elec.martinez@gnail.com		DSA 2
6	Bernardo Santoya		663-3671	B.S.	DSA 3
	Hipolito Navelo	Reporter	607-4605	HN	Media
	Dennisa Francisco	ED, PACT	822-3637		
	Felicia Cruz	Fisheries Dept	224-4552		
	Alyssa Carnegie	OCEANA	610-2728 / 822-2792		



Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)

No.	Name	Title/Position	Contact Information	Signature	Comment
	Pauline Dawson	vice chairman	cell# 625 9162		
	Gregory Myglett	Fish-Dept.	625-4181		
	Alma Mielitzky	Director, NARS-MFFSD	822-0870		
	Julie Robinson	Marine Specialist - TNC	822-0274		
	Jamit Gibson	Country Director - WCS	223-3271		
	Farralle Tonglong	ACT/PACT	620-8380		
	Andrea Tillet	PACT - PO	822-3637		
	Alexi Flores	WIDE	223-7680		
	JOEL AVARDE	SACD - ED	606-4507		
	Nilboer Sabido	Chief Forest Officer	822-2079		
	Daniel Ortiz	Journalist / Channel 7	610-2821		Media
	Isaac Danley	chairman: nesther.com	620-3963		D.S.A
	Mark McKeever	CHAIR - SCFA	634-6501		
	Antonia Pembrey	Fisheries Dept	224-4552		
	Gianni Kammerer	Fisheries Dept	224-4552		
	Julio Maaz	WCS	223-3271		



Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)

No.	Name	Title/Position	Contact Information	Signature	Comment
	Carlo Patti	Project Coordinator CPA	667-1052 patti.carlo@practica		DSA 4 ✓
	Marcos Gonzalez	V. Chairman C.F.A	664-540		DSA 5 ✓
	Myles Williams	videographer	651-5553		Media
	Adele G. Jimenez-Sanchez	CEO	822-0810		
	Diane Masdy	Reporter/Journalist	670-8786 dianemasdy@gmail.com		Media
	Rigoberto Quintana	Fisheries Officer	224-4552		
	Dorothy Wade	Fisheries Adm.	224-4552		
	Vincent Gilllett	C.E.O.	610-2897		
	James Arzeta	Fisheries	620-2353		
	Dr. Enos Fikruhin	World Bank	EFikruhin@worldbank.org		
	David Stahl		664-3270		DSA 6 ✓
	Karin Maddison	Driver/Office Assistant	822-3657		PACT
	Estela Requena	ED	600-2922		TASA
	Emilia Babb	N.F. Corp	667-7814		DSA 7 ✓
	Roseli Lisbey	Civil Society Liaison Officer	623-6925		MNCA
	Theresa Tropp	Fisheries Dept./sec.	224-4552		



Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)

No.	Name	Title/Position	Contact Information	Signature	Comment
	William G. Ysaguirre	The Reporter Press	660-6284 williamysaguirre@gmail.com		Media



Appendix 4: Presentation on MCCAP



MCCAP
Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project




Project Inception Workshop, Belize City, 17 March, 2015



PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND MAIN FEATURES

Summary of the Project

Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE)	World Bank
Project effectiveness date	1 May 2015
Expected closing date	31 March 2020
Responsible Agencies	Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Protected Area Conservation Trust (PACT)
Project financing data	Grant
Funded by:	
Adaptation Fund	US\$ 5.53 M
Government of Belize	US\$ 1.78 M in-kind contribution

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Objective

To implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System



Specific Objectives

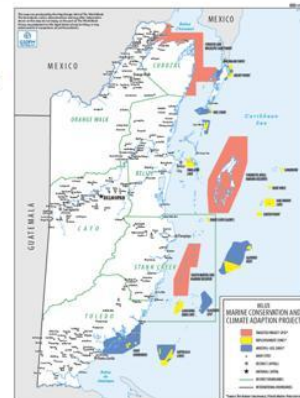
1. Improve coral reef protection regime including an expansion and enforcement of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and replenishment (no-take) zones in strategic locations to build climate resilience,
2. Promote sustainable alternative livelihoods and income diversification for affected users of the reef, and
3. Build local capacity and raise public awareness regarding the importance of the overall health of the reef ecosystem to its climate resilience and, consequently to community welfare as well as the growth prospect of the country's economy

Target MPAs

- Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
- Truneffe Atoll Marine Reserve
- South Water Caye Marine Reserve
- 495 fishers

Beneficiary communities

- Corozal Town,
- Consejo,
- Copper Bank,
- Chunox,
- Sarteneja,
- Belize City,
- Dangriga,
- Hopkins,
- Sittee River,
- Riversdale,
- Seine Bight,
- Placencia



Project Component 1 (US\$ 2M)

Improving the protection regime of marine and coastal ecosystem

1.1 - Expansion and securing MPAs and replenishment zones in strategic locations for climate resilience

- 1.1.1 – Spatial mapping and analysis of selected MPAs
- 1.1.2 – Field verification of spatial mapping activities under the Project



Project Component 1 ...

- 1.1.3 – Preparation of revisions to the zoning of selected MPAs based on Project field verification and consultation activities
- 1.1.4 – Finalizing zoning maps for selected MPAs and incorporate said maps in the respective management plans of the selected MPAs
- 1.1.5 – Re-demarcation of selected MPAs

1.2 - Promoting effective management of selected MPAs, including replenishment zones

- 1.2.1 – Strengthening surveillance, monitoring and enforcement
 - Construction of a ranger station, new pier, and watchtower/base station at SWCMR, purchase of boats and equipment to strengthen surveillance
- 1.2.2 – Supporting biological and water quality monitoring



1.3 – Supporting pilot investments to re-populate coral reefs within replenishment fishing zones

- 1.3.1 – Establishment of coral nurseries within selected MPAs
TAMR and SWCMR will be thoroughly ground-truthed to identify suitable areas for construction of coral nursery tables for propagating corals.
- 1.3.2 – Supporting coral out-planting
Coral colonies propagated within nurseries will be out-planted to locales identified in the ground-truthing



1.4 – Strengthening the Belize's legal framework for the management of MPAs and coastal zones

- 1.4.1 – Review and reform of Belize's legal and institutional framework for MPAs
- 1.4.2 – Review of mangrove regulations
- 1.4.3 – Review and reform of the CZM Act
- 1.4.4 – Implementation of an ICZM plan

Project Component 2 (US\$ 2.45 M)

Promoting viable alternative livelihoods for affected users of the reef

2.1 – Supporting Community mobilization for the development of alternative livelihoods

- 2.1.1 - Community Needs Assessments
 - Initial meeting with communities on the goals and objectives of the Project and opportunities for alternative livelihoods
- 2.1.2 - Participatory workshops for alternative livelihoods



2.2 – Carrying out alternative livelihoods

- Development of business plans
- Provision of financial and technical assistance for viable and sustainable community-based business ventures with approved business plans.



2.3 – Capacity building to transition to economically viable and sustainable alternative livelihoods

- 2.3.1 - Business skills training for alternative livelihoods
 - A comprehensive training programme will be established for beneficiaries under this Project
- 2.3.2 - Occupational skills Training
 - In the areas of mari-culture, eco-tourism, agriculture, and vocational education



Project Component 3 (US\$ 0.56M)

Raising awareness and building local capacity

- 3.1 - Climate change knowledge, attitude and behavioral practice (KAP) survey;
- 3.2 - Dissemination of information about Project investments;
- 3.3 - Design and implementation of a coordinated behavior change communication (BCC) strategy;
- 3.4 - Inter-community learning forum



Project Component 4 (US\$ 0.52M)

Project Management

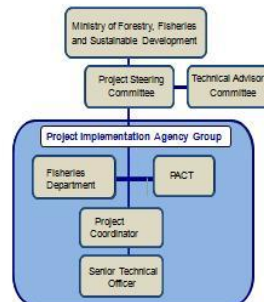
Support the Project Implementing Agency Group (PIAG) to undertake:

- project management and implementation support including technical, administrative and fiduciary management,
- monitoring and evaluation, data collection, and coordination



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Institutional Arrangement



- **The World Bank** - acts as the multilateral implementing entity (MIE) and bear the full responsibility for the overall management of the Project financed by the Adaptation Fund, and will bear all financial, monitoring, and reporting responsibilities to the Adaptation Fund Board
- **MFED** – designated authority charged to endorse the Adaptation Fund Project
- **MFFSD** - is responsible for the overall implementation of the Project with the fiduciary assistance of PACT
- **PSC** - support project implementation
- **TAC** - provide general technical guidance for project implementation
- **PIAG** - carries out the day-to-day management of the Project

Members of the PSC

- CEO in the Ministry of Forest, Fisheries and Sustainable Development
- CEO in the Ministry of Economic Development
- Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance
- CEO of the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute
- CEO in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture
- CEO in the Ministry of Labor, Local Government, Rural Development and National Emergency Management
- CEO in the Ministry of Tourism and Culture
- Fisheries Administrator *an ex-officio observer*
- Executive Director of PACT *an ex-officio observer*
- The PIAG PC *as an ex-officio observer*

Members of the TAC

- Fisheries Administrator, Fisheries Department, Chair
- Chief Forest Officer, Forest Department;
- Chief Environmental Officer, Department of the Environment;
- Coordinator, National Climate Change Office
- Economist, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- Director, National Protected Areas System;
- Representative, Protected Areas Conservation Trust;
- Director, Coastal Management Authority and Institute
- Representative, Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve management agency;
- Executive Director, Sartenetj's Alliance for Conservation and Development;
- Representative, Belize Fishermen's Federation; and
- Commissioner of Lands, Lands and Survey Department

Inception Activities (February – May)

- Full installation of the Project Office (office space, furniture, equipment, vehicle, communication, administrative/financial system)
- Recruitment of Project Staff (Project Coordinator, Senior Technical Officer, Administrative Assistant)
- Organize the 1st Project Steering Committee meeting to approve activities (March 12)
- Organize project inception workshop (17 March, due no later than March 23)

Inception Activities (February – May) ...

- Finalize the Operations Manual for submission to the World Bank (due before March 23)
- Preparation of the annual Work Plan 2015 for review and approval by the TAC and PSC (submitted by June 30)
- Organize the 1st meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the annual Work Plan
- Preparation, review and approval of Consultancy TOR for KAP survey by TAC and PSC
- Secure Consultant and execute activities related to the KAP survey.



THANK YOU



Appendix 5: Press release



BELIZE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES & SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
PRINCESS MARGARET DRIVE • P.O. BOX 148 • BELIZE CITY, BELIZE C.A.
PHONE: (501) 224-6352/223-2187 • FAX: (501) 223-2986
Email: fisheries_department@fisheries.gov.bz



March 16, 2015

Press Release

Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)

The Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (MFFSD) in collaboration with the World Bank is pleased to announce the approval by the Adaptation Fund of the Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP).

The MCCAP is a Five year US 5.53 Million Grant. Its primary objective is to implement priority ecosystem-based marine conservation and climate adaptation measures to strengthen the climate resilience of the Belize Barrier Reef System. The Project targets the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, The Turneffe Marine Reserve and the South Water Cay Marine Reserve; and their associated communities and stakeholders from Corozal Town in the North to Placencia in the South.

The Project consist of three main components:

- Component 1: Protection of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem (US 1 M)
- Component 2: Promotion of Alternative Livelihoods Options (US 2.45M)
- Component 3: Raising Awareness on the Impact of Climate Change (US 0.56M)

These components will support:

- (1) Improvement of the coral reef protection regime including an expansion and enforcement of the MPAs and replenishment zones in strategic locations to build climate resilience,
- (2) Promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods and income diversification for affected users of the reef, and
- (3) Building local capacity and raising awareness regarding the importance of the overall health of the reef ecosystem to its climate resilience and, consequently the community welfare as well as the growth prospect of the country's economy.

The proposed adaptation, conservation, and restoration activities of the Belize Barrier Reef System have socio-economic significance. They provide an opportunity for maintaining and potentially increasing the income level and marine resources available for an estimated 203,000 people living in the coastal areas of Belize. The Project will build capacity for the most affected local communities so that they can act as champions of the marine managed areas and of the resources upon which they depend.

The Official Launch of the MCCAP will take place at on March 17th, 2015 at the Belize Best Western Biltmore Plaza and all media stations are invited to attend.

For any further information on MCCAP, kindly contact Ms. Sandra Grant, Project Coordinator at the Belize Fisheries Department telephone 224-4552 or by email at linesgrant@gmail.com.



PACT
Protected Areas Conservation Trust



Appendix 6: Photo



Head table: Mr. Vincent Gillett, Mr. Enos Esikuri, Mrs. Adele Catzim-Sanchez, Ms. Beverley Wade, Mr. George Myvett



Feature Address by the CEO, Adele Catzim-Sanchez

Welcome Remarks from the Fisheries Administrator, Beverley Wade



Remarks from the World Bank, Enos Esikuri



Presentation by the Project Coordinator, Sandra Grant

Vote of Thanks, Vincent Gillett

Masters of Ceremony, George Myvett (below)





Representatives from the fishing communities and Fishermen Cooperatives





Representatives from the NGO community



Representative from partner organization



The CEO and Project Coordinator being interviewed by the Media



Thanks to the workshop support staff who assisted in organizing the workshop.

Appendix 7: Media Reports

1. CHANNEL 7 NEWS <http://www.7newsbelize.com/sstory.php?nid=31905>

Getting the Climate Change Message Out To The Community posted (March 17, 2015)

For the past few years, climate change has become a hot-button subject at both the policy and people level. It's a very serious issue, especially for any investment in infrastructure, because the effects of climate change can, for example, cause a newly upgraded street or highway to break up or become inundated, forcing early obsolescence.

But, is it being taken seriously at the community level? That's exactly the target audience that the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development are hoping to reach with their latest project. It's called the Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project or MCCAP for short, and it has a budget of US 5.53 million dollars, which is an approved grant by the World Bank. The project seeks to strengthen the Belize Barrier Reef System's resilience to climate change by targeting conservation efforts at the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, The Turneffe Marine Reserve, and Southwater Caye Marine Reserve.

Of course, there are communities, such as Corozal Town in the north and Placencia Village in the south, that live near these reserves, and a major part of the program is to engage and educate persons like the fishermen who operate near these protected areas, and to reduce their dependence on that type of livelihood.

The Climate Change project was unveiled today at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel, and 7News was there. Here's how the project coordinator explained its importance:



Sandra Grant, Project Coordinator - MCCAP

"The project is a community-based project and we are looking at the impact of climate change and looking at it from a development standpoint. What we want to do is to ensure that the ecosystems are sustainable, but also, that livelihoods for fisher folks, fishermen - that we can provide alternative livelihoods support for our fishermen, but also to send the word around about climate change and the impact, especially for our low laying communities. What we are trying to do, is trying to ensure that our man protected areas are sustainable, so we will put a lot of effort in strengthening our man protected areas and also to encourage alternative livelihoods and to financially support these livelihoods initially and hope that they will be sustainable over time."

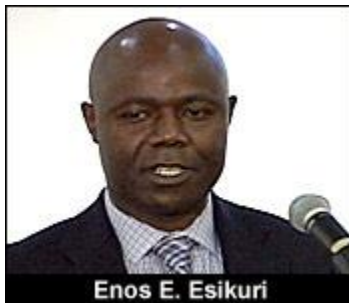
Adele Catzim-Sanchez, CEO - Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development

"The Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and the government in general, sees this particular project as being important, because it's responding to one of the biggest global issues affecting us in today's world which is climate change and we are of the perspective that climate change is not something that happens out there to other people."



Enos E. Esikuri, Representative - World Bank

"The most important message that I could present to you from the World Bank is that climate change is not an environmental issue. Climate change is a development issue. That's the way we are approaching it."



The project consists of 3 many components which will be put into place at the same time during the next 3 years. The first is the projection of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems where US 1 million dollars will be invested from the grant. The second component is the Promotion of Alternative Livelihoods Options, where US 2.45 million will be invested. This component has the biggest portion of the budget, since its focus is on the communities living near to the 3 protected areas. The last

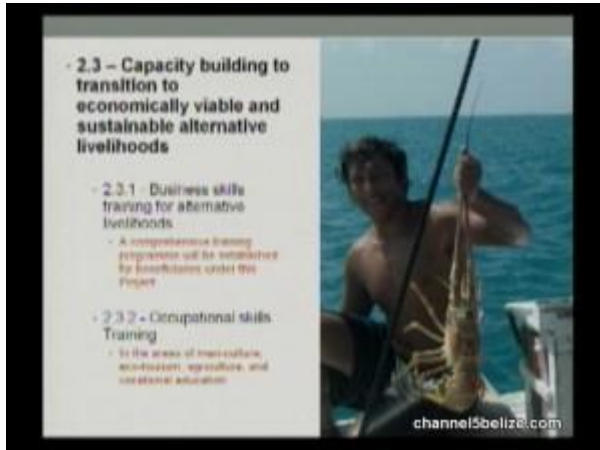
component is referred to as Raising Awareness on the Impact of Climate Change, where US 0.56 million dollars will be invested from the grant.

So, just how important is the Belize Barrier reef, apart from the environmental reasons? Well, the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development estimates that 203,000 persons living in coastal areas of the country depend on the reef for income or marine resources.

2. CHANNEL 5 NEWS

Mar 17, 2015

[Marine Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation Project Launched in Belize](#)



A community-based project that looks at the impact of climate change on the ecosystem from a development standpoint was launched today by the Fisheries Department. The marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation project, also referred to as MCCAP, seeks to ensure the sustainable development and the viability of the fishing industry, while creating awareness on the global issue of climate change. The five-year project will focus on three marine protected areas in the Jewel and will encompass three components that will run simultaneously over the years. Project Coordinator, Sandra Grant, spoke more on the project.



Sandra Grant

Sandra Grant, Project Coordinator, MCCAP, Belize

“Ensure that the ecosystems is sustainable, but also that livelihoods for fisher folks...that we can provide alternative livelihoods support for our fishermen, but also to send the word around about climate change and the impact especially for our low-lying community like Belize. So what we are trying to ensure that our marine protected areas are sustainable so we will put a lot of effort in strengthening our marine protected areas and also to encourage alternative livelihoods and to financially support these livelihoods initially and hope that they will be sustainable over time. We are focusing on the barrier reef and as we said earlier, we are focusing on three major protected areas, three sites: the South Water Caye Marine Reserve, the Turneffe Atoll Marine Sanctuary, a reserve as well, and the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. So we are going to focus on three because we still have a lot more marine protected areas and other areas in the south, but the focus is on the northern and central which are Corozal and Belize City and the South Water Caye area. I think one of the most attractive part of the project is the alternative livelihoods and that is the part that I like. It is trying to retool people to develop their own livelihood activities, employment activities, and that for me is the critical part of the project. That’s the part that stands out; to try to enable people to be able to create employments where there is none. We are also working with tourism and other rural development groups in order to strengthen. So we are not working alone, but we are going to build some of these activities that are already existent.”

The project is estimated at over ten million dollars. It is being implemented by the World Bank and funded by the Adaptation Fund

3. THE REPORTER NEWSPAPER

[World Bank grants Belize US\\$5.53 Million to farm the sea](#)

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By William Ysaguirre
Freelance Reporter

Belizeans living in coastal areas will be learning to farm the sea, with the help of a US\$5.53 million grant provided by the World Bank for conservation of Belize's Meso-American Barrier Reef and marine eco-systems.

Some 203,000 Belizeans, almost two-thirds of Belize's population, live in coastal areas and all stand to benefit from the US\$7.31 million, five-year Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project, which Chief Executive Officer Adele Catzim-Sanchez, of the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, launched at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel in Belize City on Tuesday, March 17. In addition to the US\$5.53 million grant, the Government of Belize will be contributing US\$1.78 million in kind.

Farming the sea is an alternative livelihood to fishing, and will help to reduce the burden of wild harvest on Belize's fisheries industry, and help the remaining fishermen become more sustainable by reducing the danger of over-fishing, explained Project Coordinator Sandra Grant at the launch. Communities which will benefit include Consejo, Sarteneja and Copper bank in the north, Belize City, and Dangriga, Hopkins, Sittee River, Riversdale, Seine Bight and Placencia in the south.

Grant said the project will have three components, with almost half the grant – US\$2.45 Million being used to promote alternative livelihoods. Global demand for seaweed for use in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and as a thickener for ice cream is a billion dollar industry, and so far only one cooperative in Placencia has pioneered growing and drying seaweed for export. The project will help finance community based projects to create small-scale seaweed farms, which will include training the coastal residents how to farm the seaweed in the sea, start-up funding to buy equipment, and training in small business management and development.

Another option being considered is farming sea cucumber, a bottom-feeding animal which is prized as a delicacy and for reputed medicinal properties in many parts of Asia and China, and which fetched a premium price of up to US\$150 per pound for the dried product on international markets. Belize exports about 400,000 pounds of dried sea cucumber per year, but this could be expanded, if the animal were cultivated, like shrimp or tilapia. Exporters report getting prices of about US\$25 per pound, and presently only one cooperative has invested in the equipment to dry the sea cucumber and prepare it for export; the fishermen who harvest the sea cucumbers get paid \$4.00 – \$8.00 per pound for the wet product: the animal is 75 per cent water.

Other alternative livelihoods which could receive funding, technical support and business development assistance include aquaculture, agriculture and tourism. Learning to farm the sea can build Belize's resilience to climate change, since the predicted sea level rise threatens to flood much of Belize's coastal plain and significantly reduce Belize's land mass over the next 100 years.

A second component of the project is to raise the sea-side folks' awareness about the impacts of climate change, and US\$560,000 will be invested to educate them about how climate change will impact their lives and the value of marine conservation. The project will explore and develop strategies to help coastal communities become more resilient to climate change, and will encourage community exchange visits to help the people learn how they can adapt to climate change.

Another US\$2 million will be invested in a third component of the project: protection of marine and coastal eco-systems; prioritizing marine protected areas such as the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve and the Southwater Caye Marine Reserve. This includes protection of the coral reef, the mangroves, and fish spawning aggregation sites like the Gladden Spit.

Just as pearl divers learnt how to plant a tiny grain of sand in oysters to grow seeded pearls, Belizeans can also learn to grow coral to help restore our Barrier Reef. The Fragments of Hope NGO in Placencia has already pioneered growing coral in nurseries and re-seeding the coral at new locations for the past eight years to help the reef to regenerate. This activity will be considerably expanded, with coral nurseries for the Turneffe Atoll and Southwater Caye reserves.

The project will also provide the money for a new Ranger Station and pier to be built for Southwater Caye, and for a long term Coastal Zone management plan to be implemented for the development of all coastal areas. The project will also finalize zoning maps for the three priority reserves.

All comes down to dollars and sense, explained environmental specialist Mr Enos Esikuri, Task Team leader for the Environmental and Natural Resources Global Practice unit of the World Bank. Belize has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about Bze\$3 Billion or US\$1.5 Billion, which divided by the population of 332,000, works out to about US\$4,800 per person. Fisheries exports accounts for about 15 per cent of Belize's GDP, with Belize having about 4,500 licensed fishermen and about 18,000 Belizeans directly dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods. Many more of the 203,000 Belizeans living in coastal areas earn their livelihoods from tourism, which accounts for almost 25 per cent of GDP. The barrier reef and its fish are a very important resource for this industry, so protecting it protects more livelihoods.