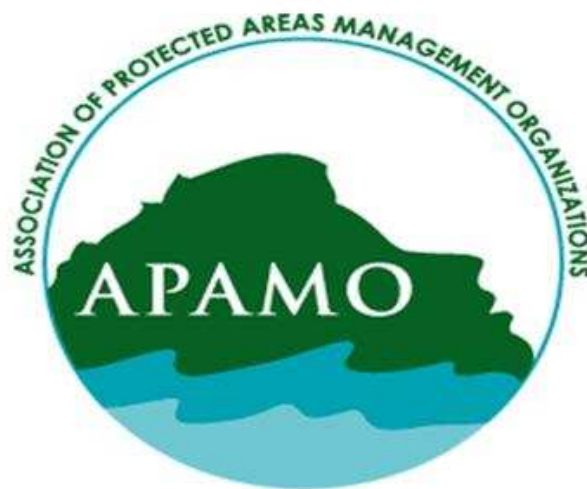


ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas



2008 ANNUAL REPORT



VISION of APAMO

APAMO, Belize's leading network of protected areas management organizations, envisions a healthy, productive and vibrant environment in which protected areas maintain their ecological integrity in perpetuity, play an integral role in national development, and contribute directly to the well being of communities and the nation of Belize.

MISSION of APAMO

APAMO is an association of non-governmental protected areas management organizations that advocates for and contributes to the sustainability and proper management of Belize's protected areas thus ensuring benefits for all stakeholders.

For More Information

*on APAMO and Belize's Protected Areas or to
support APAMO's Mission*

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LETTER from the Chairman



The year 2008 was full of accomplishments and challenges for APAMO. The arrival of a new Government who pledged good management of Belize's natural resources gave more hope to APAMO. The support of our donors and friends, the participation and support by the APAMO Members and the efforts of the APAMO staff made it possible for APAMO to have a successful year and to make giant steps towards meeting its mission. As such, APAMO has become the leading association of non-governmental protected areas management organizations that advocates for and contributes to the sustainability and proper management of Belize's protected areas.

Our Strategic Plan 2008-2012 is leading the way for APAMO. Yet there are many environmental needs and threats that require attention. Given the size and capacity of APAMO, the association has had to be careful not to spread itself too thin and to address the priority issues affecting protected areas and the protected areas management organizations.

Significant efforts were made on developing and strengthening APAMO as an institution from a management standpoint as well as its capacity. This year saw the growth of APAMO staff by 100 percent by the addition of a Program Assistant that will make APAMO more effective. The work and success of APAMO depends on the work and information from its Members as well as information from the community, its partners and the media. For this reason, APAMO developed a communication strategy that would make it more efficient in sharing and obtaining information and in communicating with its members and the external audience of interest and formalized its membership base by registering its members and developing a data and information base. The financial sustainability strategy and the fundraising strategy were developed to guide APAMO's direction in addressing the financial sustainability of the association as a first step to address this issue at the membership and country level.

Significant efforts were also made in developing the capacity of the APAMO members through training in "effective advocacy and lobbying skills", "negotiation skills and consensus building", "effective organizational development" and "principles and techniques of fundraising". Still, APAMO is of the opinion that more needs to be done in developing the capacity of its members, especially the smaller NGOs/CBOs and APAMO looks forward to addressing some of these capacity needs in 2009.

In the areas of policy and advocacy, APAMO has been actively advocating and will continue to advocate for the proper management and to ensure the long-term integrity of Belize's protected areas. APAMO met with the Ministers that have more direct responsibility and/or interest in the management of the country's protected areas to get their commitment regarding protected areas management and to work and consult with APAMO – this included the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Natural Resource and the Environment, the Minister responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries, the Minister responsible for Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Prime Minister. APAMO has been actively participating with two members on the National Protected Areas Commission (NPAC) who is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan. APAMO has been addressing many issues including the unregulated coastal development, mangrove clearance and dredging, and large scale tourism development that would have detrimental effects on the marine protected areas including the Belize Barrier Reef System World Heritage Site. APAMO's work in assessing the tourism policies resulted in the recommendations and action plan to include biodiversity conservation in tourism policies which was presented to the Minister and the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. In partnership with other NGOs, APAMO worked with the Government in first securing a moratorium in mangrove clearance and secondly in strengthening the mangrove act to ensure that this unique ecosystem and especially the mangroves in the protected areas and World Heritage Site are adequately protected.

APAMO also reviewed the co-management agreements of its Members and developed a co-management framework and a co-management agreement template to guide existing and future co-management agreements in view of securing the permanency and integrity of protected areas. The proposed co-management framework and agreement template has been presented to NPAC for endorsement and to the Forest Department for its adoption.

APAMO also lead the conservation NGOs in the national consultation process for the development of Belize's national budget. A white paper addressing the needs of the protected areas was submitted to the Ministry of Finance for consideration in the development of the national budget.

APAMO also lead an eight member committee of NGO networks that defined the process and held elections for the election of an NGO, with majority support, to be the NGO representative at the Senate. Three representatives from three different networks were nominated weeks in advance. On election-day, APAMO's representative Gregory Choc received the majority of votes to become the NGO representative to the Senate. Unfortunately, the constitutional amendment bill that provides the seat for the NGO representative has been challenged at the court level and the NGOs will have to wait until the bill is enacted.

While APAMO has done a lot to address the issues affecting protected areas in Belize, APAMO realizes that there is still growing threats from unsustainable development and political decisions that puts the integrity of protected areas at risks. APAMO will continue to develop the capacity of its members and to work hard to address these issues and to lobby for changes in the national legislations and policies to ensure the proper management and long-term integrity of protected areas.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the donors and partners who have supported APAMO in 2008, to the APAMO Members and to the APAMO Staff for their work and active participation in the efforts of the Association.

Yours in Protected Areas Management,



Edilberto Romero
Chairperson, APAMO
Executive Director, Programme for Belize.

LETTER from the Coordinator



Two years seemed to have passed by in the blink of an eye and there was not once a dull moment at APAMO. In fact these have been two of the most exciting years in my career having had the opportunity to participate in the formation of the association of non governmental protected areas management organizations that advocate for and contribute to the sustainability and proper management of Belize's protected areas.

I take great pride in reporting that APAMO has made significant strides in these last two years. We strengthened the organization's structure, built its capacity and that of its membership, created several partnerships and developed its identity. Along the way, we advocated and lobbied on many issues threatening our protected areas, some of which had positive results, and others we recognize will require more lobbying. There is much work to be done before Belize can boast a well managed and functional protected areas system and much of this lies in policy development that provide for the long term integrity and proper management of our protected areas. Hence we consider that the development of a National Co-management Framework led by APAMO and completed in 2008 is a great step in ensuring effective management, sustainability, equity and good governance of Belize's co-managed protected areas by both the government agencies and the NGOs and CBOs co-managers of these areas.

Our achievements have only been possible through hard work, trust and mutual respect of an impressive Executive Council that provided the leadership for the organization, unwavering commitment and collaboration from our members and the confidence and support of our donors and partners to whom we are very grateful.

APAMO will continue to deliver compelling results that will make a substantial impact on the proper management of our protected areas for the benefit of all Belizeans and that contribute positively to the economy of Belize. You can be assured that APAMO will continue to collaborate with all protected areas stakeholders and will remain vigilant and active in order to ensure that the protected areas are properly managed and protected for the present and future generation.

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvette Alonzo', written over a horizontal line.

Yvette Alonzo

About APAMO

The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) is Belize's leading network of environmental non-governmental conservation organizations, focused on protected areas management. APAMO's sixteen member agencies are responsible for the management or co-management of 20 terrestrial protected areas and 9 marine protected areas representing 1.13 million acres or 42 % of Belize's protected areas.

Belize has done well in declaring 94 protected areas with various degrees of protection status and completing its National Protected Area Policy and System Plan. However, the integrity and existence of these areas are increasingly threatened by unsustainable development and policies and decisions made from the lowest to the highest level of Government. The APAMO organizations therefore, have committed to join forces to effectively address the challenges and build on opportunities to improve the management and secure the integrity of Belize's protected areas. APAMO therefore serves as the unified voice that advocates for and contributes to the sustainability and proper management of Belize's protected areas.

APAMO's Core Programs

In order to achieve its mission, APAMO's work is focused on the following core programs:

1. Advocacy and lobbying,
2. Policy
3. Financial sustainability
4. Networking
5. Capacity building
6. Improving standards for protected areas management

APAMO is a key player in the implementation of the National Protected Areas System Plan (NPASP) and is an advocate for the contribution that protected areas make to the economy and environment of Belize and social well-being of all Belizeans.

APAMO was formally established in 2007 as a legally registered NGO. In its first year of operation APAMO focused much of its effort on establishing the organization and developing its programmatic framework. This involved the development of its vision and mission statements, membership criteria, management structure and bylaws as well as its five year strategic plan and three year work plan, a major step in the growth of the association. This first strategic plan was developed with the full participation and support of the APAMO members to guide the activities and priorities of the association for the first five years. As a result, of the Strategic Plan APAMO decided to concentrate its work in: 1) Institutional Management and Strengthening, 2) Membership, 3) Protected Areas Policy and Advocacy, and 4) Strategic Data and Information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2008

1. Institutional Management and Strengthening

In 2006 the protected areas organizations came together and decided to form the Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) to address the growing threats to the integrity and proper management of Belize's protected areas.

Under the leadership of Program for Belize's Executive Director, Edilberto Romero, APAMO secured funding from the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) and the Oak Foundation to establish and formalize the association. Funding was obtained by the end of 2006 and APAMO dedicated most of its efforts in developing its structure, its mission, vision and bylaws while simultaneously addressing some of the urgent issues.

The campaign that made the then Government to reverse its decision to sell part of the Bacalar Chico National Park and Marine Reserve and the commitment to halt the de-reservation of protected areas and the establishment of the National Protected Areas Commission (NPAC) are among some of APAMO's success in 2007.

In 2008, APAMO made significant efforts to refine its management structure and strengthen the institution. Its Strategic Plan 2008-2012 is now serving as the guiding document for APAMO's work until 2012.

In order to strengthen the Association, APAMO developed a Communications Strategy, a Financial Sustainability Strategy, a Fundraising Strategy and Plan and hired a Program Assistant.



Communication Strategy 2008

Recognizing the need to establish itself publicly as a lead agency for advocating protected areas issues and the protected areas system plan in Belize, APAMO successfully developed its first communications strategy. The strategy outlines the communications channels to be used by APAMO and the various target audiences, which include its membership organizations, the public, government, other non-governmental conservation organizations, professional associations, cultural groups, donor organizations and the media. APAMO's tag line: *The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas* was one of many recommendations resulting from this strategy.

Financial Sustainability Strategy (2008—2012)

APAMO is deeply concerned about the financial sustainability of Belize's protected areas. As a first step to address this issue APAMO developed its Financial Sustainability Strategy (2008-2012) to implement its strategic plan and secure long term financing for the organization. This strategy provides a blue print and framework for financial resource allocation strategies which support APAMO's broader strategic goals and objectives and a framework and mechanism for enhanced coordination which lend to APAMO's overall development and stability. It also provides strategies to reduce the dependency on project funding for operational needs and diversifying APAMO's financial portfolio.

Fundraising Strategy and Plan (2009-2013)

This year APAMO developed its Fundraising Strategy and Plan (2009-2013) to address the funding needs of the organization identified in the institutions Strategic Plan of 2008-2012. The Fundraising Strategy and Plan embrace a multi-prong approach to fundraising and seek to establish a balance between institutional fundraising and attending to immediate financial needs of the organization.

APAMO hires Program Assistant



In order to effectively carry out its mission, to better serve its members and address the pressing issues effectively, APAMO added a new staff to its Secretariat whose only staff member in place was a coordinator. As such Ms. Natalie Palacio was hired in October 2008 as the Program Assistant. With this new addition, APAMO increased its staff by 100% ensuring that it will be able to serve its members and purpose more effectively.

APAMO Audit

As a new organization, APAMO does not yet have a financial system in place and as such its funding is currently being managed by Programme for Belize (Pfb). The APAMO Executive Council endorsed this arrangement between APAMO and Pfb until APAMO is able to establish its own financial system. As such, in 2007 APAMO was audited under Pfb's annual audit process as a project. APAMO's office is currently housed at the Programme for Belize office making this arrangement convenient. However, with support from the Oak Foundation Grant received in August 2008, APAMO conducted its audit as an independent organization for the year ended December 2008. The audit was conducted by R.F Magana & Associates. Apart from providing its first audited financial statements the audit also provided recommendations for APAMO to establish its own financial system.

2. Membership



The Strength of APAMO is in its members. As such, much of APAMO's work is focused on helping to build up and maintain the capacity of its member agencies, representing its members, and strengthening existing institutional partnerships and forging new ones. APAMO is able to achieve these through membership outreach, capacity building and networking and partnerships.

Membership base formalized

To ensure a clear, well organized membership base that can effectively work to accomplish its mission, APAMO worked towards officially registering its members with the Association. This also represented a form of commitment by the organizations to the association. A total of 14 organizations are registered as APAMO members.

Capacity Building



During 2008 APAMO organized and facilitated four key trainings as prioritized by its members and which were made possible through projects funded by Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, Oak Foundation and the Protected Areas Conservation Trust.

On May 12-15, 2008, APAMO hosted a two-part workshop series in Burrell Boom, Belize District aimed at building the capacity of APAMO and its members to enhance advocacy, lobbying and negotiations skills. The first workshop entitled ***Effective Advocacy and Lobbying Skills*** was held from May 12-13, 2008. There were a total of 13 participants representing 9 member organizations. The overall objective of the first training workshop was to build and further develop the advocacy and lobbying skills of non-governmental and community-based organizations involved in protected areas management, to effectively influencing policy and programs that will increase and improve the sustainability and proper management of Belize's protected areas. The second workshop entitled ***Negotiation Skills & Consensus Building*** was held from May 14-15, 2008. The workshop sought to develop skills and know-how in preparing for, and participating in negotiations. It covered the following topics, among others:

- Applying negotiation strategies and tactics
- Language associated with negotiation orientations
- Preparing for multi-party environmental negotiations
- Managing delegations
- Negotiation 'Best-Practices'



Another key training entitled ***Effective Organizational Development*** was held on June 9-12, 2008 in Big Falls, Toledo. Seventeen participants representing twelve member organizations participated in a 4 day workshop aimed at providing participants tools that they can use to develop effective, efficient and healthy organizations. Some of the key training areas included:

- o A healthy organization approach
- o Functions of an organization
- o Organizational skills
- o Effective boards
- o Governance
- o Organizational life cycles
- o Strategic/action planning – Operational Plan
- o Evaluation – Monitoring and evaluation plan



With the development of its Fundraising Strategy and Plan, member organization also received training in ***Principles and Techniques of Fundraising***, a two day training workshop held on December 15th and 16th 2008. A total of twelve participants representing 10 organizations took advantage of this training.

Networking



APAMO provides a forum for increased communication, discussion and networking among its members in order to enhance coordination and collaboration among them. As an association, networking is important for APAMO to ensure support from its member organizations, local and international partners, local communities, the private sector, the Belizean public, friends and donors in order to effectively advocate and lobby the government to ensure the integrity of Belize's protected areas.

APAMO works in close collaboration with the National Protected Areas Commission

(NPAC). APAMO's chairman, Edilberto Romero, and council member, Lindsay Garbutt actively participated on NPAC. APAMO member organizations also played a key role in the initial implementation of activities of the National Protected Areas System Plan led by NPAC, such as the development of the financial sustainability score card.

In 2008, APAMO was invited to participate on various boards and committees. However APAMO has been careful not to stretch itself thin and get involved in too many of these bodies than it can effectively handle. Some of the key bodies APAMO actively participates include the: National Protected Areas Commission (NPAC), University of Belize Board of Trustees, Horizon 2030 Steering Committee, BELTRAIDE Board of Directors, Fisheries Advisory Board and the Mangrove Working Committee.

Keeping its members informed is important particularly when addressing critical protected area issues. APAMO acts as a clearing house and provides members with updates on key issues, notices of national events related to protected areas among other related information.

Regular communication with members is primarily carried out via email and telephone. However, quarterly General Assembly meetings are also another way of keeping members informed.

3. Advocacy and Policy

APAMO's core business is to advocate for the integrity and proper management of Belize's protected areas. APAMO's Advocacy and Policy program focuses on issues revolving around and affecting protected areas at the unit and system-level. A general constraint is a lack of long-term planning, which leads to unregulated development and project-driven management, and the consequent pressures to Belize's natural resource base.

During 2008 APAMO formulated many position statements on issues including unregulated coastal development (South Beach project) increased mangrove clearance and dredging (Cockroach Caye), proposed large scale developments within marine protected areas, particularly within the world heritage site (Pelican Cayes Range). These position statements were disseminated via press releases, letters, mass email distribution etc. APAMO also focused on addressing broader policy areas (National Co-management framework) and issues that will have a positive impact on the wider membership and the national protected areas system.

Liaising with Government



In January and February 2008, prior to the 2008 National Elections, APAMO held Pre-Election Business Mixers with political parties and APAMO members and the wider conservation community to give all the competing political parties an opportunity to elaborate on their plans for the management of natural resources and Belize's protected areas.

After the National Elections, APAMO continued to dialog with

the Prime Minister, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture to lobby and advocate for policies that will increase effective management of protected areas and to ensure their long term integrity. The meetings also served to inform the Minister on issues, challenges affecting protected areas as well as potential opportunities that could benefit protected areas.

A National Co-management Framework

Of urgent priority for APAMO was the development of a National Co-management Framework and revised co-management agreements. While co-management in Belize has been practiced for the past four decades, no framework existed to guide the scope of co-management. With the endorsement from NPAC, APAMO embarked on the development of a National Co-management Framework, also called for under the National Protected Areas System Plan, to provide technical guidelines on how to address specific co-management issues and define the scope that will ensure effective management, sustainability, equity and good governance of Belize's co-managed protected areas by both the government agencies and the NGOs and CBOs co-managers of these areas. This Framework, made possible with the support from Conservation International - Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund and the Oak Foundation, was completed in November 2008, a process that took nine months and involved extensive consultation with stakeholders. This framework and a new co-management agreement template were officially submitted to the National Protected Areas Commission in December 2008 and are awaiting endorsement by NPAC and Government.

Influencing Tourism Policies



APAMO had the opportunity to partner with Counterpart International in a project that sought to influence tourism policies in Belize and Guatemala by integrating biodiversity conservation into these policies. A project funded by Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund. Recommendations and an action plan

were developed to integrate Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development into national tourism policies for Belize. The result of this project, Assessment of Priority Tourism Policies and Action Plan for the inclusion of Biodiversity Conservation in Tourism Policies, was presented to the Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture on October 6, 2008.

Resolution developed to address the threat to the Belize Barrier Reef World Heritage Site



APAMO in collaboration with other conservation partners such as Healthy Reefs Initiative, Belize Institute of Environmental Law and Policy and the Wildlife Conservation Society developed a resolution on development activities in the Pelican Cayes within the Belize Barrier Reef System World Heritage Sites and other Marine Protected Areas. An urgent call was made to the Government of Belize to urgently implement 8 specific actions in an effort to address the issue. As a result the Government has

revitalized the Coastal Zone Management Institute and Authority. APAMO continues to work with the government in ensuring that the actions requested are implemented.

While development is important and necessary for Belize, APAMO considers it equally important to find a balance between development and conservation of critical habitats and ecosystem services particularly within protected area as it goes against the purpose of declaring the area protected and Belize's commitment to the world to give it our highest protection as part of the Belize Barrier Reef World Heritage Site.

Strengthening our Mangrove Act

Belize's mangroves have significant ecological and economic value for all Belizeans. They provide us with a natural barrier against hurricanes, vital nursery ground for some of Belize's important fishery resources and tourism-related products and services if properly managed and protected. With an increase in large scale coastal development resulting in an increase in mangrove clearance the government placed a moratorium on the alteration of mangroves to allow for revisions to the Mangrove Act and to undertake a comprehensive stocktaking of Belize's mangroves.



A mangrove working group was established comprised of Government and non-government stakeholders, including the Forest department, Department of the Environment, Health Reefs Initiative, the Belize Audubon Society, and the Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO). A proposed amendment to the mangrove act has been developed to improve the present regulations with more stringent licensing guidelines, increased fines, and other mechanisms to strengthen the protection of the mangrove ecosystems.

APAMO's representative elected as NGO representative to the Senate

In March 2008 the NGO Networks of Belize agreed to embark on defining a process and jointly electing a person from the NGO community to serve as Senator. This initiative was based on the recognition of the important role that NGOs play in the economic, social and



environmental development of Belize and the need to empower the Senate by adding a seat for the non-governmental organizations as was included in the Belize Constitution Sixth (Amendment) Bill. APAMO lead the establishment of an NGO Advisory Committee comprised of the 8 NGO Network Organizations of Belize with the objective of defining the election process and to act as a monitoring mechanism for the NGO senator once instituted. The election was held on October 15, 2008 at the Coastal Zone Training Room in Belize City with the participation of 26 NGOs. There were three candidates that ran for the NGO seat to the Senate and APAMO's representative, **Gregory Choc**, was elected. Unfortunately the enactment of the constitution Sixth Amendment Bill has been delayed since it has been challenged at the court level.



4. Strategic Data and Information

Accurate data is very valuable particularly in arriving at credible and rigorous policy positions, proper organizational management; identifying funding priorities especially when resources are limited, to effectively manage protected areas and addressing the increasing challenges that affect these areas.

APAMO has begun to collect, store and secure data about its various members so that it could provide strategic support to their institutional strengthening and programmatic needs. While APAMO is not expected to engage in site specific research, APAMO will facilitate its members' efforts to create and maintain a central database of scientific information that will be easily accessible by members and other stakeholders. APAMO's role is to seek ways to promote the work of its member agencies as well as to facilitate data to policymakers, the media, protected area managers, and the general public, in the most useful language and formats and at the most opportune times.

APAMO disseminates information among its member agencies and creates awareness about APAMO's work via quarterly newsletters augmented by its newly developed website www.apamo.net also geared at sharing information about APAMO's work as well as to promote the work of APAMO's member agencies.

APAMO Logo and Motto



The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas

Through a participatory process with all members, the concept for APAMO's logo was born. Members wanted a logo, representative of the scope of APAMO's mission. This logo, developed by Idea Lab Studios using the ideas of its members is the embodiment of APAMO's mission. The blue area represents the marine component of our protected areas and is depicted by the image of waves from the sea. The green area represents the terrestrial component of protected areas in the form of a mountain but on closer inspection, the face of a person can also be seen. The face serves to remind us of the importance of protecting these areas for the benefit of the people as well as to show that APAMO is "*The voice of Belize's protected areas*" which represents our motto. We hope that upon seeing this logo, you will understand and share in our mission to speak out on behalf of our protected areas.

Donors and Partners

The Executive Council, staff and members of APAMO express their sincere thanks to its donors friends and partners for their generous support in 2008. APAMO's accomplishments would not have been possible without their support.

APAMO is also grateful to all the local NGOs, international NGOs, other businesses and government organizations and individuals who supported the work and advocacy efforts of APAMO.

Our Major Donors include

Oak Foundation

Protected Areas Conservation
Trust

Critical Ecosystems Partnership
Fund

Counterpart International

Support APAMO

Grant funds help to sustain APAMO and enable us to fund essential program expansion and organizational improvements. Your support, in any amount, will help us continue to proper management and ensuring the integrity of Belize's protected areas. It will allow us to continue to be the ***VOICE OF BELIZE'S PROTECTED AREAS.***

If you are interested in making a donation to support the work of APAMO please contact us at:

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Executive Council and STAFF 2008

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APAMO Members 2008

APAMO is currently comprised of sixteen member organizations which manage 20 terrestrial protected areas (three of which are privately owned) and 9 marine protected areas. This represents a total area of 1.13 million areas or 42% of the area currently under protection.

Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations <i>Listing of Membership Organizations</i>			
	Name	Organization	Contact Number
1		Agua Caliente Management Team amt_aws@yahoo.com	665-4301
2	Anna Hoare	Belize Audubon Society executivedirector@belizeaudubon.org	223-5004
3	Jessie Young	Community Baboon Sanctuary baboonsanctuary@hotmail.com	660-3545
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5	Julian Lewis	Friends of Gra Gra Lagoon gglagoon@yahoo.com	600-6222
6	Terrence Salam	Friends of May Flower Bucawina National Park friendsofmayflower@hotmail.com	603-5659
7	Lindsay Garbutt	Friends of Nature lindsaybz25@yahoo.com	523-3377
8	Leonel Heredia	Friends of Swallow Caye Wildlife Sanctuary (FOSCS) chocolateseashore@gmail.com	226-0151
9	Ellen McRae	Forest and Marine Reserve Association of Caye Caulker siwanban@yahoo.com	226-0178
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16	Lisel Alamilla	Ya'ac Che Conservation Trust executivedirector.yct@gmail.com	722-0108

APAMO Guiding Principles

APAMO members have agreed to subscribe to the following values in carrying out the mission of the association.

An integrated membership centered and driven approach (strength in unity);

An unflinching belief in the continuous existence of naturally-functioning ecosystems;

A belief that the abuse of power is unacceptable;

Member agencies operate within a spirit of collaboration;

Respect of differences of ideas and opinions among members;

The practice of collective decision-making;

Transparency and accountability in decision-making processes;

Members' ownership of decision-making processes and decisions;

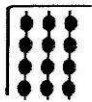
Empowering member agencies;

A belief that behavioral and attitudinal change are essential for the good of natural resources and people; and

APAMO will abide by a code of conduct based on its values.

Financials January – December 2008

Auditor's report



R.F.MAGAÑA & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
BUSINESS SERVICES STRATEGIC BUSINESS PARTNERS

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AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2008, statement of activities, statement of changes in fund balance and cash flow statement for year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS as of 31 December 2008, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

2 April 2009

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>>>MOVING BUSINESS FORWARD >>>

Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations

Statement of financial position

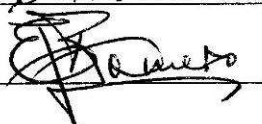
As at 31, December 2008

In BZ\$	Note	2008	2007
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	8,422	3,536
Due from related party	4	200,000	50,000
Total non-current assets		208,422	53,536
Current assets			
Cash and bank		21,474	45,169
Total current assets		21,474	45,169
Total assets		229,896	98,705
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and accruals	5	12,091	784
Due to related party	6	1,000	-
Total current liabilities		13,091	784
Net Assets			
Unrestricted		462	-
Restricted		216,343	97,921
Total net assets		216,805	97,921
Total liabilities and net assets		229,896	98,705

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors on 2 April 2009.

 Director

 Director

Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations
Statement of activities
For the year ended 30th December 2008

For the year ended 30th December 2008					
In BZ\$	Note	2008		2008	2007
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Revenues, gains and other support					
Grants restricted APAMO OAK- Large Grant	7	-	273,000	273,000	-
Conservation International	7	-	69,858	69,858	50,000
Counterpart International	7	-	42,000	42,000	-
Grants restricted APAMO OAK- Discretionary Grant	7	-	-	-	50,000
Special Grants	7	12,100	-	12,100	6,216
Grants restricted APAMO PACT	7	-	2,260	2,260	25,494
Donated properties			864	864	-
Total revenues, gains and other support		12,100	387,982	400,082	131,710
Expenditures					
APAMO Oak- Large Grant	8	-	56,656	56,656	688
Conservation International	9	-	132,589	132,589	-
Counterpart International	10	-	37,788	37,788	-
Grants restricted APAMO OAK- Discretionary Grant	11	-	33,450	33,450	62,139
Special Grants	12	11,638	-	11,638	6,216
Grants restricted APAMO PACT	13	-	9,077	9,077	34,905
Total expenditures		11,638	269,560	281,198	103,948
Changes in net assets / net savings		462	118,422	118,884	27,762
Net assets at beginning of the year		-	97,921	97,921	70,159
Net assets at end of year		462	216,343	216,805	97,921

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

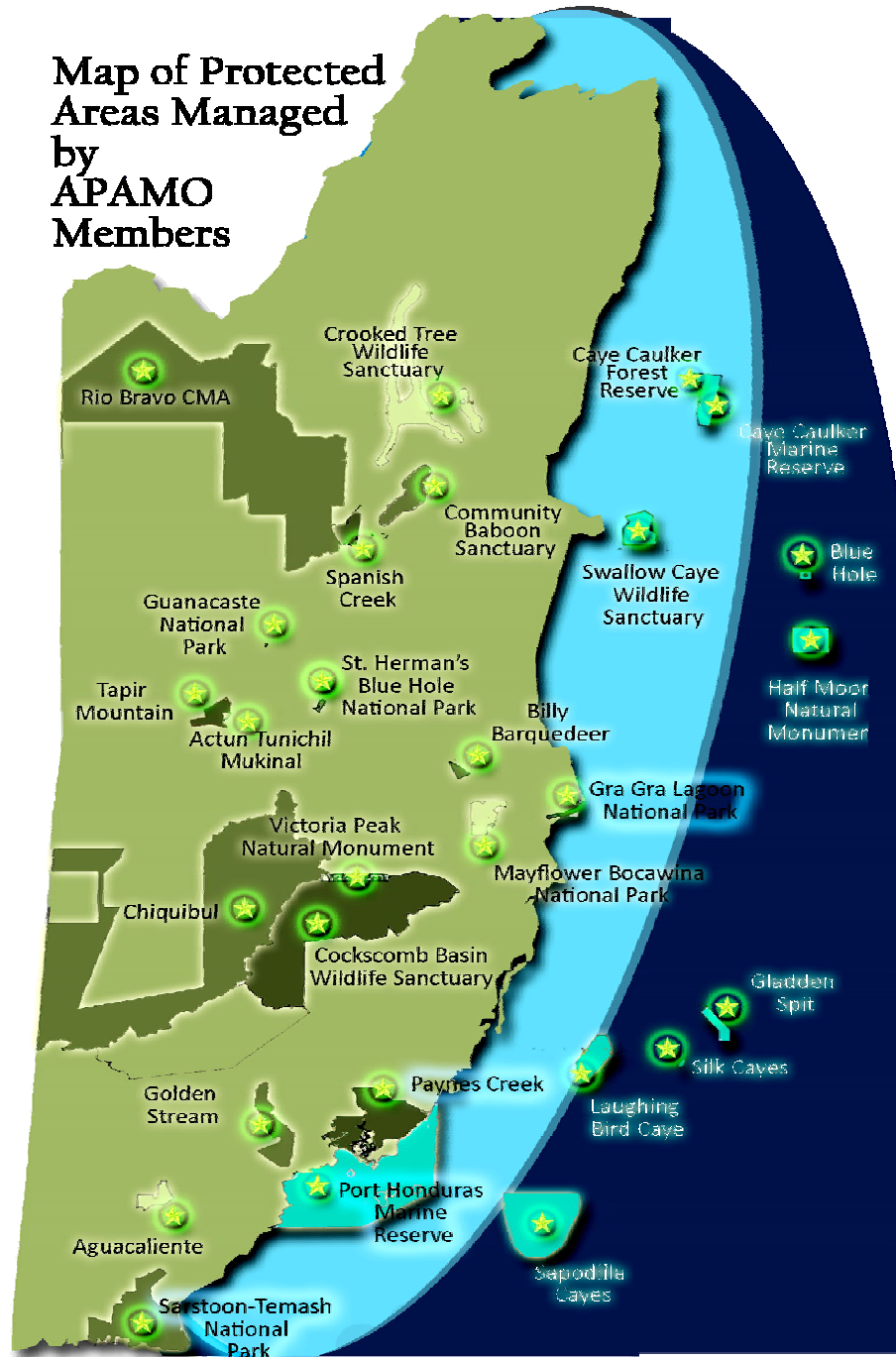
Protected Areas Co-managed by APAMO

Member Agencies

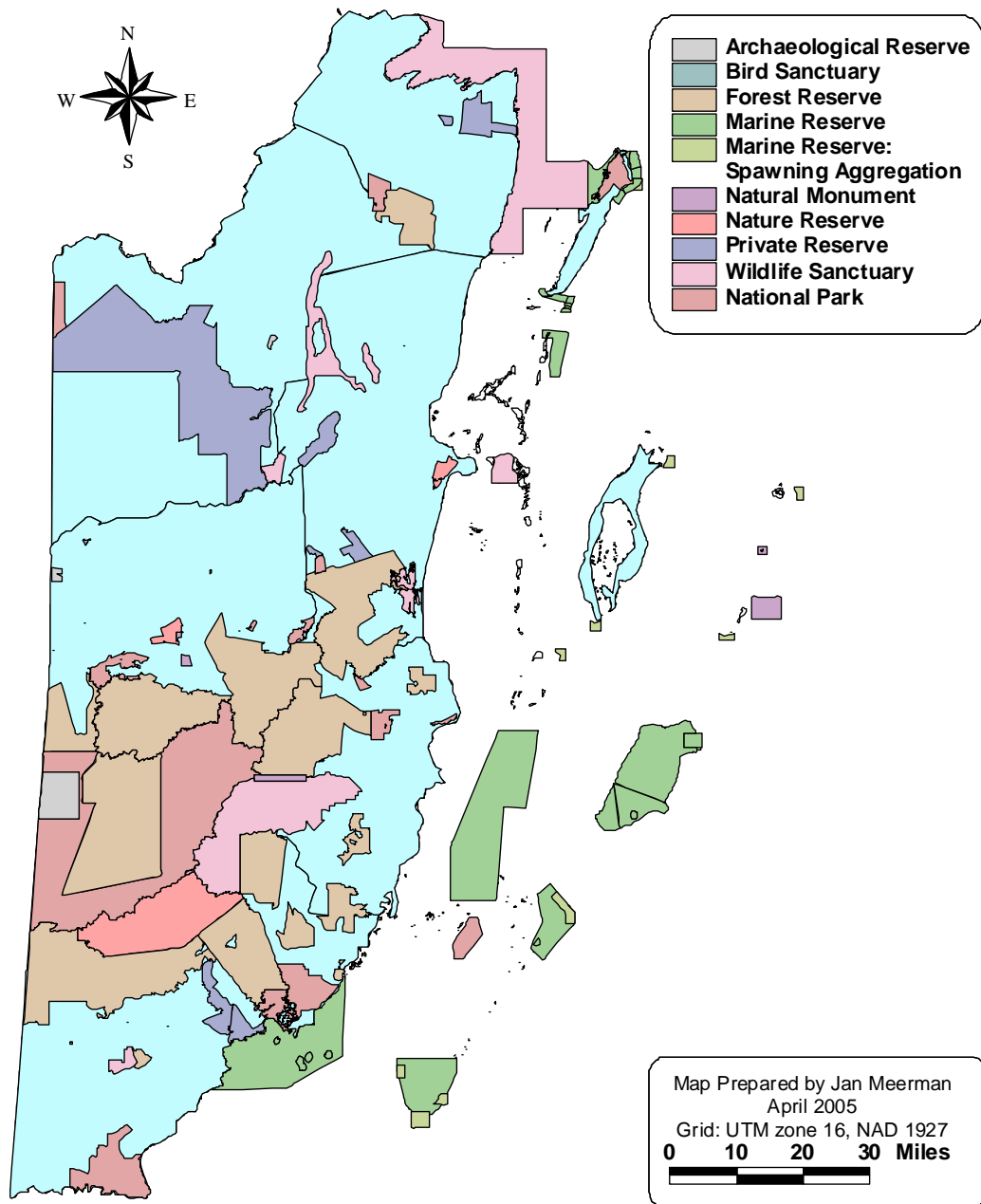
Organization	Protected Areas Co-managed	Area (acres)
Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association	Billy Barquedeer National Park	1,639.1
Friends of Gra Gra Lagoon Conservation Group	Gra Gra Lagoon National Park	1,319.7
Friends of Mayflower Bocawina National Park	Mayflower Bocawina National Park	7,854.0
Rancho Dolores Environmental and Development Group	Spanish Creek Wildlife Sanctuary	6,001.3
Friends of Swallow Caye	Swallow Caye Wildlife Sanctuary	8,972.1
Forest and Marine Reserve Association of Caye Caulker	Caye Caulker Marine Reserve	9,670.2
Forest and Marine Reserve Association of Caye Caulker	Caye Caulker Forest Reserve	93.7
Aguacaliente Management Team	Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary	5,467.9
Community Baboon Sanctuary Women's Conservation Group	Community Baboon Sanctuary	12,980.1
Belize Audubon Society	Guanacaste National Park	57.6
Belize Audubon Society	St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park	664.5
Belize Audubon Society	Actun Tunichil Muknal Natural Monument	457.3
Belize Audubon Society	Blue Hole Natural Monument	1,023.1
Belize Audubon Society	Half Moon Caye Natural Monument	9,770.9
Belize Audubon Society	Victoria Peak Natural Monument	4,840.6
Belize Audubon Society	Tapir Mountain Forest Reserve	6,299.6
Belize Audubon Society	Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary	122,260.1
Belize Audubon Society	Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary	36,479.3
Friends of Nature	Laughing Bird Caye National Park	10,119.6
Friends of Nature	Gladden Spit Marine Reserve	25,978.3
Friends of Nature	Silk Cayes Marine Reserve	378.3
Toledo Institute for Development and Environment	Payne's Creek National Park	36,420.5
Toledo Institute for Development and Environment	Port Honduras Marine Reserve	100,001.1
Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management	Sarstoon Temash National Park	41,854.7
Friends of Conservation and Development	Chiquibul National Park	264,003.3
Programme for Belize	Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area	259,205.7
Toledo Association for Sustainable Tourism and Empowerment	Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve	38,594.0
Ya'axché Conservation Trust	Golden Stream Corridor Preserve	15,038.1
	Bladen Nature Reserve	99,673.8
Total		1,127,118.50

MAP of Protected Areas Managed by APAMO

Member Agencies



MAP of Belize's Protected Areas



Source: The Belize National Protected Areas System Plan, 2005

