

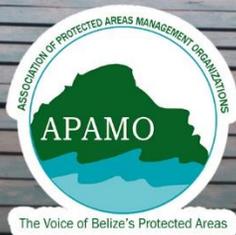
ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

APAMO

Annual Report

2019

2020



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ACRONYMS

Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations	APAMO
APAMO Central Resource Center	ACRC
APAMO Certificate of Good Standing	ACGS
Belize Audubon Society	BAS
Community Baboon Sanctuary Women’s Conservation Group	CBSWCG
Community Based Organization	CBO
Green Climate Fund	GCF
Mayflower Bocawina Environmental Development Group	MBEDG
National Protected Areas System	NPAS
Non-governmental Organization	NGO
Programme for Belize	PfB
Protected Areas Conservation Trust	PACT
Rancho Dolores Environmental and Development Group	RDEDG
Rio Blanco Mayan Association	RBMA
Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development	SACD
Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management	SATIIM
Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association	STACA
Southern Environmental Association	SEA
Toledo Institute for Development and Environment	TIDE
Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association	TASA
Global Environmental Facility-Small Grants Programme	GEF SGP
World Wildlife Fund	WWF
Ya’axche Conservation Trust	YCT



THE VOICE OF BENEFITERS PROTECTED AREAS



About APAMO

The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations, APAMO, is Belize's umbrella association for Protected Areas Co-managers. Established in August of 2007, APAMO has proven to be an essential partner to the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development in the implementation of the National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan. APAMO also contributes to achieving Belize's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international commitments. Over the years, APAMO has been able to build strategic partnerships with key conservation entities and donors including PACT, GEF SGP and WWF.

APAMO boasts fifteen protected areas co-manager members and a total of twenty-eight protected areas across Belize. This collectively helps to conserve 1.29 million acres of Belize's biodiversity, and through this, improves the lives of thousands of stakeholders. APAMO's membership has fostered a platform and environment whereby PA co-managers have committed to join forces to build on opportunities that will improve the management and secure the integrity of Belize's protected areas. Similarly, co-managers can effectively address the various challenges and threats that may hinder progress toward effective management or the quality of Belize's natural resources. Therefore, APAMO's role as the unified voice that advocates for and contributes to the sustainability and effective management of Belize's protected areas has demonstrated to be a critical one.

15 members
28 protected areas



Our Mission

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.

Our Vision

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.

Critical Objectives

The critical objectives of APAMO are:

1. To provide a forum for increased communication, discussion, and networking primarily among its members as well as other NGOs/CBOs
2. To create a network voice for member agencies
3. To represent its member agencies
4. To proactively lobby for actions related to protected areas issues
5. To build the institutional capacity for the financial sustainability of its members
6. To secure the financial sustainability of protected areas in Belize

KEY RESULT AREAS

The two overarching goals of the APAMO's Strategic Plan are: to consolidate APAMO's infrastructure and core competencies (human and technological) for long-term sustainability; and to steer programmatic focus for maximum mission impact.





Core Values

1. Consensus Building
2. Transparency & Accountability
3. Unity: Equity & Voice (1 Member = 1 Vote)
4. Commitment to National Sustainable Development
5. Evidence Based Advocacy
6. Collaboration & Consultation
7. Effectiveness & Efficiency
8. APAMO Brand
9. Empowering Member Agencies
10. Networks



2019-2020

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FROYLA TZALAM

CHAIRLADY

SATIIM, Executive Director

VALDEMAR ANDRADE

VICE-CHAIR

TASA, Executive Director

JOSEPH VILLA FRANCO

SECRETARY

TIDE, Programme Development Director

MARILYN LOPEZ

COUNCIL MEMBER

RDEDG, Vice-Chair

SIMON PAU

TREASURER

MBEDG, Chairman

ARREINI PALACIO- MORGAN

COUNCIL MEMBER

SEA, Executive Director

DWIGHT MONTERO

COUNCIL MEMBER

STACA, Chairman



APAMO TEAM

JOSE PEREZ

Executive Director

execdirector@apamobelize.org

DARRAH RAMCLAM- BARONA

Business Development Officer

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Finance Officer

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WENDY CASASOLA

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projectofficer@apamobelize.org

AQUILA FLORES

**Communications & Marketing
Officer**

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TERESITA BOTEQ

Administrative Assistant

adminassistant@apamobelize.org

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2019

COMMENCEMENT OF APAMO-PACT 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



April- The APAMO-PACT 3- year partnership aims to improve the overall management capacity of the CBOs including enhanced governance (including to effectively manage PACT's or any investment); to develop a business culture within the CBOs supporting financial self-stability; and for communities to integrate and benefit from the management of CBOs managed protected areas. Through this partnership APAMO was able to acquire a more suitable office space and a vehicle for mobilization.

ASSEMBLY OF THE APAMO CENTRAL RESOURCE CENTER



June- APAMO, through the ACRC, serves as the management support to positively enable PACT's investment until the CBOs and or the buffer community develops the capacity to do so. The Centre will allow for the organizations to adopt a joint approach to fulfilling key requirements for successful business development such as marketing and financial planning. The Resource Center is comprised of a Business Development Officer, Project Officer, Finance Officer, Communications & Marketing Officer, and an Administrative Assistant.

Outreach & Awareness



July- The APAMO Team conducted several outreach activities to engage the locals working at and attending the Lobster Fests in Placencia and Caye Caulker Villages and San Pedro Costa Maya. The objective was to inform them about the impacts of climate change as well as to obtain their feedback on climate change including adaptation ideas or strategies. A crucial step was to include a sign-up sheet to obtain contact information to keep the individuals informed and engaged throughout the project.

Development of ACGS



September- The APAMO Certificate of Good Standing (ACGS), will serve as a mechanism for APAMO to continuously monitor that Protected Areas Co-managers are working towards compliance through an established certification protocol for Good Governance, Sound Financial Management, Accountability and Transparency and Human Resource Management.

Capacity Building Program



October -ACRC Financial Management & SOP for CBOs- The ACRC, via a consultant, provided support to STACA and MBEDG with monitoring and implementing their business plans. Assistance was also provided to both Park Managers guiding them with best practices in handling revenues. **Proposal Writing Training-** The ACRC also hosted Park Managers from STACA, MBEDG & CBS with the objective to increase their capacity in proposal writing.

APAMO's 2019 AGM



November- At the AGM, a new board was elected, and other matters were discussed and presented. Mr. Andrade of TASA conducted a brief presentation of the Fisheries Bill and it was agreed that there would be a more detailed follow-up session. A hard copy of APAMO's Visitor's Guide was given to each member as a memorabilia. Also, consultant, Carlos Moreno presented the ACGS and Bookkeeping and Accounting Operating Procedures to streamline the operations between the ACRC and APAMO members.

Academic Outreach



November- Members of the ACRC conducted presentations at several academic institutions across Belize, creating awareness about APAMO, our members and environmental issues such as climate change. The team presented at these institutions: Caye Caulker Oceans Academy; Independence High School; Chunox St. Viator Vocational High School; and Sarteneja Inmaculada RC School. APAMO also participated in the University of Belize's Science Open Day & Expo in Belmopan City along with representatives of MBEDG.

Media Appearance



December- APAMO, MBEDG and STACA participated in an Open Your Eyes TV show to promote the work being done under the investment partnership. The three representatives spoke about the role and importance of their respective organizations, the three-year tripartite partnership initiative with PACT and promote the national park as tourist destinations.

Climate Crowd Surveys



December- ACRC members and staff members of SACD, SEA and TIDE administered Climate Crowd surveys developed by WWF to coastal communities. The Climate Crowd survey is utilized to gather data on the impacts of climate change as observed by rural and coastal communities targeted in this project. Surveys were also administered to participants that attended the Climate Talks session held in Punta Gorda.

YCT Joins APAMO



December- Ya'axché Conservation Trust officially rejoined APAMO making the membership a collective of 14 protected areas co-managers.

Capacity Building Program



January- As a part of APAMO's capacity building program, a training was held at the BEST conference room which focused on Financial Management and Control using a developed Financial Operating Procedures manual. The objective of the training was to provide administrative staff with the basic financial management principles to implement proper financial controls and guide on procedures in obtaining necessary accounting support from the APAMO Finance Officer.

VNR Peer Exchange



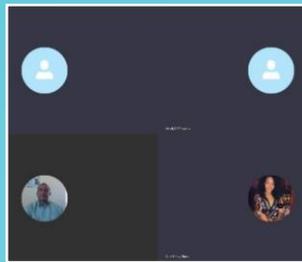
February- Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) showcase countries' individual approaches to implementing and reviewing the 2030 Agenda, and encourage further reflection, learning and debate on shared challenges. The peer exchange programme aimed to deepen discussions and to share best practices and lessons learned from the first VNRs. This mutual exchange assisted to ensure a meaningful and inclusive VNR of each country as well as to contribute to strengthening their national mechanisms for follow-up and review.

COVID-19 Financial Assessment



March- APAMO, in the face of COVID-19 commenced the process of conducting financial assessment surveys to garner information from members, taking into consideration the pandemic’s adverse effect on tourism, which directly affected the financial status of each protected area. This was the first step to assist co-managers to highlight financial gaps caused by the pandemic..

APAMO Goes Virtual



April- Despite the impacts of the pandemic and having to close its office doors, APAMO carried on to fulfill its mandate and the team proceeded to work from home.

GEF SGP Supports ACRC



May- APAMO commenced with the project entitled *Supporting the ACRC Program Management and its Governance Structures* which is funded by GEF SGP. The aim is an institutionally strengthened APAMO network that has a financially empowered membership undertaking effective protected areas management whilst generating its own revenue under the APAMO brand. The project will contribute significantly to the fulfillment of the NPSAP and to the SGP OP6 Component 1 *Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation*.

GCF Virtual Training Course



June- Three ACRC team members participated in a five-weeks virtual training course entitled, “Building Capacity for Direct Access to Climate Finance”. The overall objective of the course was to build the capacity of the Belize National Climate Change Committee members to perform their GCF responsibilities. APAMO was rewarded a certificate for successfully completing the training.

MBEDG KAP Survey



July- ACRC staff along with MBEDG participated in the KAP survey data collection for MBNP. The survey was conducted in three buffer communities to assess the knowledge, attitudes and perception of community members about the National Park. The KAP survey will provide MBEDG with information needed to make strategic decisions for the effective management of the park.

APAMO Facemasks



August APAMO created a beautifully designed "Visit Belize's Protected Areas" facemask for our members. Along with contributing to the personal protection of the staff, the aim of this branding initiative were build recognition among visitors and to uniquely identify co-managers as a Proud Members of APAMO.

COVID-19 Relief Fund Granted



August- APAMO was granted funding from PACT in the form of an Extraordinary Investment entitled "COVID-19 Relief for Protected Areas Co-managers". The investment is to support the promotion and protection of natural and/or cultural assets of the BNPAS. Specifically by providing financial support to two APAMO member organizations to meet operational gaps resulting from economic downturn of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Establishment of APAMO GCF Technical Committee



August- The APAMO GCF Technical Committee was established with the objective of developing a participatory Concept Note for an APAMO GCF Project. The committee members met for the first time and the purpose of meeting was primarily to review and agree on a proposed process to develop the concept note and to commence with the first phase that includes development of a Problem Tree.

CANARI



September- APAMO signed on to the Regional Green Climate Fund Readiness Project entitled, "Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society's Access and Readiness for Climate Finance" as the National Project Coordinator & Civil Society Liaison. The overall objective of this consultancy is to coordinate and support implementation of project activities in Belize, including mobilizing and convening key civil society stakeholders.

SACD Joins APAMO



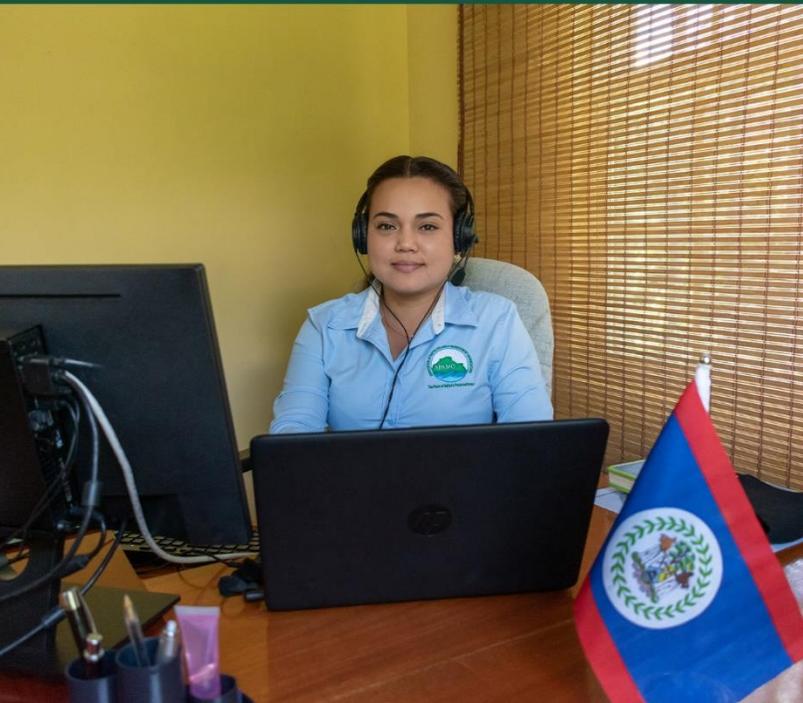
September- Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development became the most recent protected areas commander to join the APAMO membership.

PROJECTS

Photo by Belize Audubon Society

PROJECT	DONOR
Climate-smarting Marine Protected Areas and Coastal Management in the Mesoamerican Reef <i>The regional project aims to mainstream climate-smart principles into marine protected area management and coastal development policies in countries the Mesoamerican Reef with a view to improve the adaptive capacities of coastal communities in the region.</i>	World Wildlife Fund <i>October 2018- October 2019</i>
FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES <i>The main objectives are to establish the ACRC as a Central Hub for Protected Areas Co-managers, to improve management capacity of the CBOs and to assist CBOs in accessing funds and to develop new income generating opportunities.</i>	Protected Areas Conservation Trust <i>March 2019- February 2022</i>
SUPPORTING THE ACRC PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ITS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES <i>The project aim is an institutionally strengthened APAMO network that has a financially empowered membership undertaking effective protected areas management whilst generating its own revenue under the APAMO brand and a comprehensive marketing strategy.</i>	GEF Small Grants Programme/ ICCA <i>March 2020- December 2021</i>
COVID-19 RELIEF FOR PROTECTED AREAS CO-MANAGERS <i>This project is to assist Co-managers with Financial Gaps as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</i>	Protected Areas Conservation Trust <i>August 2020- January 2021</i>
ENHANCING CARIBBEAN CIVIL SOCIETY'S ACCESS AND READINESS FOR CLIMATE FINANCE <i>To enhance civil society's capacity, including knowledge, skills and organizational structures, and the enabling external institutions to improve access to climate finance and delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Caribbean</i>	CANARI/ Green Climate Fund <i>September 2020- August 2021</i>

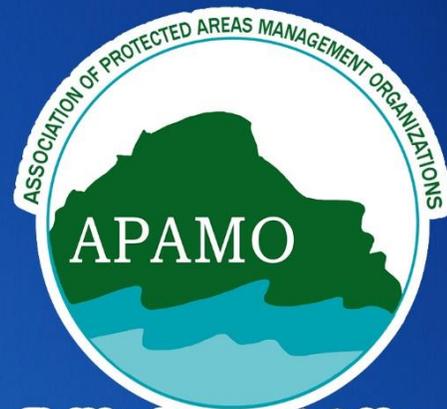
APAMO had limited human and financial resources and was being managed solely by the Executive Director. With the establishment of the ACRC, APAMO is now comprised of five staff including the Executive Director and operates from an improved office space with the necessary resources to provide services to its members. Additionally, APAMO now has a formal agreement with multiple members which sets out the terms of collaboration and the services to be provided by the ACRC.



With no specific guidance or procedures for how to be effective co-managers, APAMO has developed the ACGS, a monitoring tool to determine if co-managers are achieving optimum management effectiveness. The ACGS exists to improve the effectiveness of co-managers with managing protected areas, to achieve financial stability, and to increase accountability.

There was no adequate monitoring and reporting of financial resources done by the CBOs, other than those procedures set by funding organizations. Nor were there personnel onsite to manage project activities for CBOs and APAMO did not have the necessary staff to provide oversight for project implementation. With support from the ACRC, CBOs are now in the process of strengthening their legal and financial accountability and is strengthening the management capability with the establishment of a capacity building program.





The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas

VISIT Belize's Protected AREAS



YOUR NEW BUCKET LIST ADVENTURES

For more information visit www.apamobelize.org/makeanimpact





DONORS

& PARTNERS

The year was a productive one thanks to the continuous support from our partners and donors. Despite the pandemic, we were able to carry on working to meet our mandate. To all the local and international NGOs that expressed solidarity and that assisted the APAMO in some form, we are grateful.

We thank the MFFSD and the National Biodiversity Office for their support and look forward to a continued dynamic and productive partnership in the interest of national objectives. We salute and thank our donors and partners.

- Protected Areas Conservation Trust
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Accounting for International Development
- International Community Foundation
- UNDP GEF SGP



FINANCIALS

ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2019

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ASSETS					
	NOTES	Restricted	Unrestricted	2019	2018
Current Assets					
Cash and bank	2.4,3	142,072	6,741	148,813	83,615
Accounts Receivable and prepayments	2.5	2,900	-	2,900	111,852
		144,972	6,741	151,713	195,467
Property and equipment	2.7, 4	71,410	6,236	77,646	471
		\$216,382	\$12,977	\$229,359	\$195,938

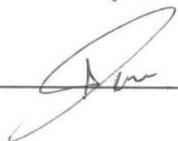
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Current Liabilities					
Accounts payable and accruals	2.6, 5	-	8,592	8,592	9,500
Deferred grants	6	-	-	-	55,026
Total current liabilities		-	8,592	8,592	64,526
Fund balances					
Restricted funds		216,382	-	216,382	108,332
Unrestricted funds		-	4,385	4,385	23,080
		216,382	4,385	220,767	131,412
Total Liabilities and fund balances		\$216,382	\$12,977	\$229,359	\$195,938

Approved on behalf of the Directors:



Director



Director

ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
 INCOME STATEMENT
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31ST,

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	NOTES	Restricted	Unrestricted	2019	2018
Revenues	7	390,523	9,000	399,523	224,935
Selling General and administrative expenses					
Operating expenses	8	244,804	5,414	250,218	313,406
Depreciation	2.7	13,029	631	13,660	365
		257,833	6,045	263,878	313,771
Prior period adjustment	11	53,590	-	53,590	-
Surplus (deficit) for the period		\$79,100	\$2,955	\$82,055	(\$88,836)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31ST,

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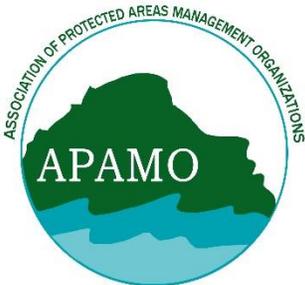
	2019	2018
Cash flows from operating activities-		
Surplus (deficit) for the year	82,055	(88,836)
Depreciation	13,660	365
	<u>95,715</u>	<u>(88,471)</u>
Changes in working capital		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	108,952	(400)
(Decrease) Increase in accounts payable	6,393	5,750
Deferred grant	(55,026)	-
Net cash (used)/Provided from operating activities	<u>156,034</u>	<u>(83,121)</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(90,836)	-
Cash flow (used) by investing activities	<u>(90,836)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalent	65,198	(83,121)
Cash balance at the beginning of the year	83,615	166,736
Cash balance at the end of year	<u>\$148,813</u>	<u>\$83,615</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

DIRECTORY

Director	Organization	Office Contact
Amanda Burgos Acosta	Belize Audubon Society	223-5004
Jessie Young	Community Baboon Sanctuary Women's Conservation Group	245-2007
Heron Moreno	Corozal Sustainable Future Initiative	660-1807
Simon Pau	Mayflower Bocawina Environmental Development Group	672-2001
Antonio Aguilar <i>(Inactive)</i>	Forest and Marine Reserves Association of Caye Caulker	N/A
Edilberto Romero	Programme for Belize	227-5616
Dirk Sutherland	Rancho Dolores Environment & Development Group	628-7133
Froyla Tzalam	Sarstoon Temash Institute of Indigenous Management	615-8536
Arreini Palacio	Southern Environmental Association	523-3377
Dwight Montero	Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association	625-9738
Celia Mahung	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment	722-2274
Valdemar Andrade	Turneffe Atoll Sustainable Association	223-1927
Christina Garcia	Ya'axché Conservation Trust	722-0108
Joel Verde	Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development	671-1440
Prudencio Canti	Rio Blanco Mayan Association	620-4493

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The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas