



The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas

ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

APAMO

Annual Report 2017-2018



Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| About APAMO..... | 4 |
| Critical Objectives | 4 |
| Key Results Areas..... | 4 |
| Mission..... | 5 |
| Vision..... | 5 |
| Annual General Meeting 2017..... | 6 |
| Guest Speaker..... | 6 |
| Executive Council Members | 6 |
| Legislative Review Consultation Members Meeting- 2018..... | 8 |
| Business Planning and Training Workshop- 2018..... | 8 |
| Filming of APAMO Videos- 2018..... | 9 |
| Strengthening the capacity of CBOs to develop their management plan- 2018 | 9 |
| APAMO Representative & Members Appear on Open Your Eyes- 2018..... | 10 |
| Small Business Workshop- 2017 | 10 |
| Continued Support of CBOs managed parks as eco-tourism destinations- 2017..... | 11 |
| Executive Council 2017-2018..... | 12 |
| Staff | 12 |
| Donors & Partners..... | 12 |
| Support APAMO | 13 |
| Member Directory | 14 |
| Protected Areas Map..... | 15 |

List of Acronyms

| | |
|---|--------|
| Convention on Biological Diversity | CBD |
| Friends of Swallow Caye | FOSC |
| Mayflower Bocawina Environmental Development Group | MBEDG |
| Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development | MFFSD |
| National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan | NPAPSP |
| National Protected Areas System | NPAS |
| Programme for Belize | PfB |
| Protected Areas Conservation Trust | PACT |
| Rio Blanco Mayan Association | RBMA |
| Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management | SATIM |
| Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association | STACA |
| Southern Environmental Association | SEA |
| Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association | TASA |



About APAMO

Comprising of 14 out of the 17 viable protected areas managers, the Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations is Belize's leading network of conservation non-governmental organizations responsible for the management and co-management of 22 protected areas across Belize. Since its establishment in 2007, the 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 and achieving Belize's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international commitments.

APAMO focuses on improving the effective management of protected areas in Belize for the benefit of the people and the nation of Belize. The protected areas management 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 serves as the unified voice that advocates for and contributes to the sustainability and effective management of Belize's protected areas. Over the years, it has become increasingly urgent for Belize to be able to maintain its natural resources for vital environmental services such as clean water, clean air, and for economic and social contribution to the nation and people of Belize as well as to be able to meet its international commitments.

Critical Objectives

The critical objectives of APAMO are:

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

Key Results Areas

The two overarching goals of the Strategic Plan 2014-2018 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.

1. Institutional Strengthening and Governance
2. Protected Areas Advocacy and Policy Financial sustainability
3. Membership Capacity building
4. Strategic Data and Information

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.

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.



Annual General Meeting 2017

Guest Speaker

The Guest Speaker was Dr. Percival Cho, from the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development. Dr. Cho shared his thoughts on APAMO and the importance of relationships at every level. His approach was not a speech but a conversation that which welcomed. Mr. Andrade and Mr. Romero lead the discussion on behalf of APAMO on the topics of co-management agreement, filling the financial gap and taxes. Dr. Cho has extended an invitation to APAMO to engage the Ministry on newly passed pieces of legislation (PACT Amendment ACT and NPAS ACT).



Executive Council Members

The newly elected members on the Executive Council are the following: Anthony Hislop (STACA)-Vice Chair; Valdemar Andrade (TASA)- Secretary; Briony Ysaguirre (FOSC) - Councillor.



Program Highlights 2017- 2018

The limited capacity (technically and financially), of the CBOs restrict their ability to ensure effective management of protected areas, networking and fundraising. With funding from PACT and other donors, APAMO seeks to address the technical capacity and financial sustainability of the CBOs and to improve the networking and coordination of co-managers (APAMO Members in particular) and the Government in order to strengthen protected areas management.

APAMO has been developing a capacity development program for its CBOs, first by conducting a series of organizational development training workshops for Board Members and relevant representatives of seven of its CBOs under a capacity building project. This has resulted in improved capacities to govern their organizations, to participate more actively, and to be engaged in issues related to the management of the protected areas. These groups now understand the importance of good governance and their roles and functions as governing bodies. Nevertheless, they recognize that continuous support is necessary for them to embark on effective mobilization of funds and generation of additional funding through the implementation of business and marketing plans.

In pursuing this objective, the APAMO Secretariat has achieved several gains in the institutional strengthening of its CBO members, which have been recording improved management effectiveness scores over recent years. However, the ability of building on and sustaining these achievements is now threatened by dwindling access to grant funding for core costs.

It is therefore important for APAMO to continue to work closely with its members who can directly derive financial and economic benefits for themselves to implement a system of revenue sharing that will allow APAMO to continue to provide this invaluable service to its members. As part of the broader objective to ensure long term financial sustainability of the protected areas system, APAMO as an umbrella organization will revisit its fundraising strategy and will also identify innovative mechanisms to ensure its financial stability and that of its members.



Legislative Review Consultation Members Meeting- 2018

APAMO held a 2-day Legislative Review Consultation Members Meeting February 9th-10th, 2018 in Placencia. In attendance was the CEO of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development, and Climate Change, Dr. Percival Cho, as well as representatives from NPAS and APAMO member organizations (SEA, BAS, TASA, PFB, SATIM, TIDE, FOSC and RBMA).

The main objective of the meeting was to that a streamlined institutional arrangement is developed to improve the functionality of the NPAS contributing to national economic development by revamping the Ministry's departments, and streamlining PACT and APAMO's roles.



Business Planning and Training Workshop- 2018

A Business Planning and Training Workshop was held on April 21st & 22nd for several CBO members as a part of the APAMO-PACT Investment Project. In attendance were members of the board from Community Baboon Sanctuary, Friends of Swallow Caye, Mayflower Bocawina Environmental Development Group and Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association. Day one of the workshop was focused on the finalizing and the implementation of the individual CBO's business plan. While, day two was tailored to garner feedback and suggestions from members with regards to the implementation of business plans as well as establishing an APAMO Business Development Center. All together, the workshop was made successful due to a highly participatory audience.



Filming of APAMO Videos- 2018

Saturday, September 29th APAMO's CBO members came together in Hopkins for the filming of APAMO's second video (to be released soon) by Bel-Caribe Communication Services. In attendance were Chairpersons and representatives from Mayflower Bocawina Environmental Development Group, Friends of Swallow Caye, Community baboon Sanctuary, Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association and Rio Blanco Mayan Association.

The purpose of the videos are to highlight the importance of integration eco-tourism within the protected areas while maintaining the conservation efforts by each group and to market the Pas as tourism destinations.



Strengthening the capacity of CBOs to develop their management plan- 2018

The consultant, Evaristo Avella presented the draft management plan to all Community Based Organizations for their feedback and as a part of their capacity building. This forum was held in Hopkins Village subsequent to the filming of the APAMO's video.



APAMO Representative & Members Appear on Open Your Eyes- 2018

The topic of the discussion was integrating tourism within member organizations' protected areas. Tourism is important for job creation and poverty alleviation. Ecotourism in particular has the ability to increase local employment and build opportunities. Therefore, it is the intention of APAMO to use sustainable ecotourism and job creation to encourage and enable the local community of eager and hospitable residents to welcome tourists into the village. Present for the interview were: Aquila Flores, APAMO; Leon Dawson- CBSWG; and Briony Ysaguirre- FOSC.



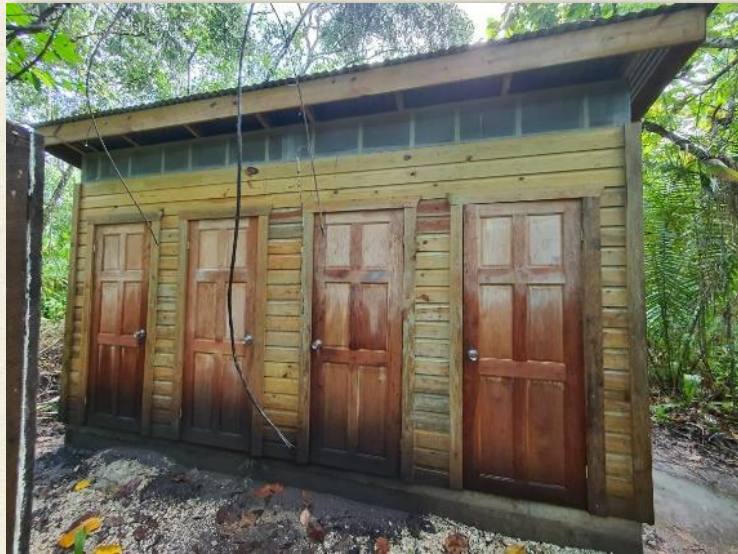
Small Business Workshop- 2017

A Small Business Workshop was conducted and facilitated by Ms. Audrey Pascasio, of the University of Belize, for several members. It focused on the basics of a small business- how to effectively supervise and proper record management among other topics.



Continued Support of CBOs managed parks as eco-tourism destinations- 2017

Infrastructural improvements were made to the Mayflower Bocawina National Park- the roof of the visitor center was modified to improve the lighting. Also, the restrooms were refurbished (expanded and tiled). While the Rio Blanco Mayan Association commenced the enhancement of the medicinal trail at Rio Blanco National Park. CBS improved their catering for visitors by expanding and improving their bathroom facilities.



Restroom at CBS (left) and MBNP (right)



Community members and the board of RBMA constructing the medicinal trail



Improved roof at MBNP

Executive Council 2017-2018

Chairperson – Ms. Froyla Tzalam (SATIM)

Vice Chair – Mr. Anthony Hislop (STACA)

Secretary – Mr. Valdemar Andrade (TASA)

Treasurer – Edilberto Romero (PFB)

Council Member 1 – Mrs. Arreini Palacio Morgan (SEA)

Council Member 2 – Mrs. Briony Ysaguirre (FOSC)

Council Member 3 – Mr. Simon Pau (MBEDG)

Staff

Jose Perez- Executive Director

Email: execdirector@apamobelize.org

Keylin Ramos- Administrative Assistant

Email: info@apamobelize.org

Aquila Flores- Communication and Marketing Officer

Email: communications@apamobelize.org

Donors & Partners

The year was a productive one thanks to the generous support by our main donors. APAMO was able to diligently work in order to meet its mandate. To all the local and international NGOs that expressed solidarity and that assisted the organization in some form, we are grateful.

We thank the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, Sustainable Development and Environment for their support and look forward to a continued dynamic and productive partnership in the interest of national objectives. We salute and thank our main donors and partners:

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

Support APAMO

Grant funds help to sustain APAMO and enable us to fund essential program expansions and organizational improvements. Your support, in any amount, will help us continue advocating for and contributing to the proper management of our protected areas and will ensure that the integrity of these are maintained. It will allow us to continue to be the **VOICE OF BELIZE'S PROTECTED AREAS**.



Member Directory

| No. | Contact Name | Organization/ E-mail | Contact Number |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Amanda Burgos Acosta | Belize Audubon Society executivedirector@belizeaudubon.org | 223-5004 |
| 2 | Jessie Young | Community Baboon Sanctuary Women's Conservation Group baboonsanctuary@hotmail.com | 660-3545 |
| 3 | Heron Moreno | Corozal Sustainable Future Initiative heron.ed@csfi.bz | 660-1807 |
| 4 | Simon Pau | Mayflower Bocawina Environmental Development Group simonruebenpau35@gmail.com | 523-7223 |
| 5 | Marcial Alamina | Friends of Swallow Caye alaminabz@gmail.com | 605-6220 |
| 6 | Antonio Aguilar (Inactive) | Forest and Marine Reserves Association of Caye Caulker siwaban@gmail.com | |
| 7 | Edilberto Romero | Programme for Belize execdirector@pfbelize.org | 227-5617 |
| 8 | Dirk Sutherland | Rancho Dolores Environment & Development Company Ltd. spanishcreek@hotmail.com | |
| 9 | Froyla Tzalam | Sarstoon Temash Institute of Indigenous Management froyla@satiim.org.bz | 722-0103 |
| 10 | Arrieni Palacio | Southern Environmental Association execdirector@seabelize.org | 523-3377 |
| 11 | Anthony Hislop | Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association billybarquediernationalpark@yahoo.com | 668-0183 |
| 12 | Celia Mahung | Toledo Institute for Development and Environment cmahung@tidebelize.org | 722-2274 |
| 13 | Valdemar Andrade | Turneffe Attol Sustainable Association valdemar@tasabelize.com | 227-5617 |
| 14 | Prudencio Canti | Rio Blanco Mayan Association rioblanco798@gmail.com | 620-4493 |

Protected Areas Map

