

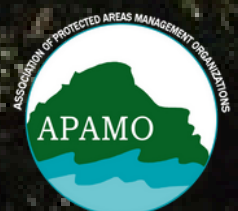


*The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas*

**ASSOCIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS  
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021- 2022

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# List of Acronyms

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Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations	APAMO
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute	CANARI
Civil Society Organization	CSO
Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment	MED
National Protected Areas System	NPAS
Protected Areas Conservation Trust	PACT
National Designated Authority	NDA
Green Climate Fund	GCF
Southern Environmental Association	SEA
Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development	SACD
Belize Karst Habitat for Conservation	BKHC

# ABOUT

The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations, APAMO, is Belize's umbrella association for Protected Areas Co-managers. APAMO was formally constituted in 2007 to facilitate unified representation for protected areas management organizations. Today, APAMO is considered Belize's largest frontrunner network of non-governmental conservation organizations dedicated to conserving irreplaceable natural resources within the national protected areas. APAMO's mission is to effectively support the National Protected Areas System to maintain its capacity to protect biodiversity and provide ecosystem goods and services that are critical for socio-economic resilience and national development.

APAMO boasts fifteen protected areas co-manager members and a total of twenty-eight Protected Areas across Belize. This collectively helps to conserve approximately 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.

## OUR VISION

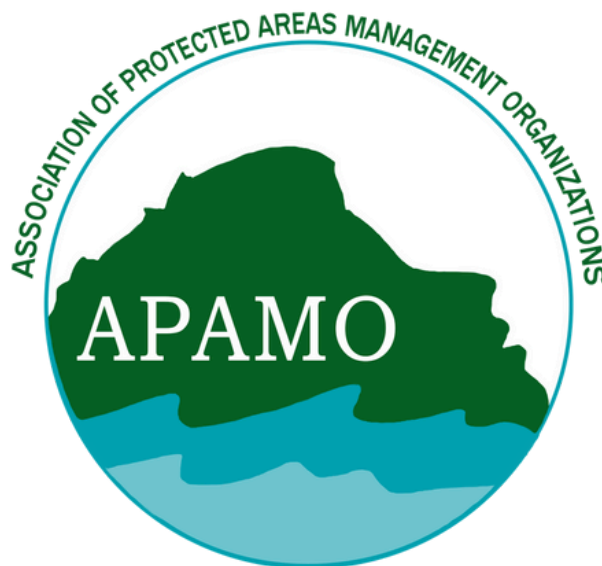
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APAMO is a diverse non-governmental protected areas management network contributing to the effective and sustainable management of Belize's National Protected Areas System for the benefit of all Belizeans.

## OUR MISSION

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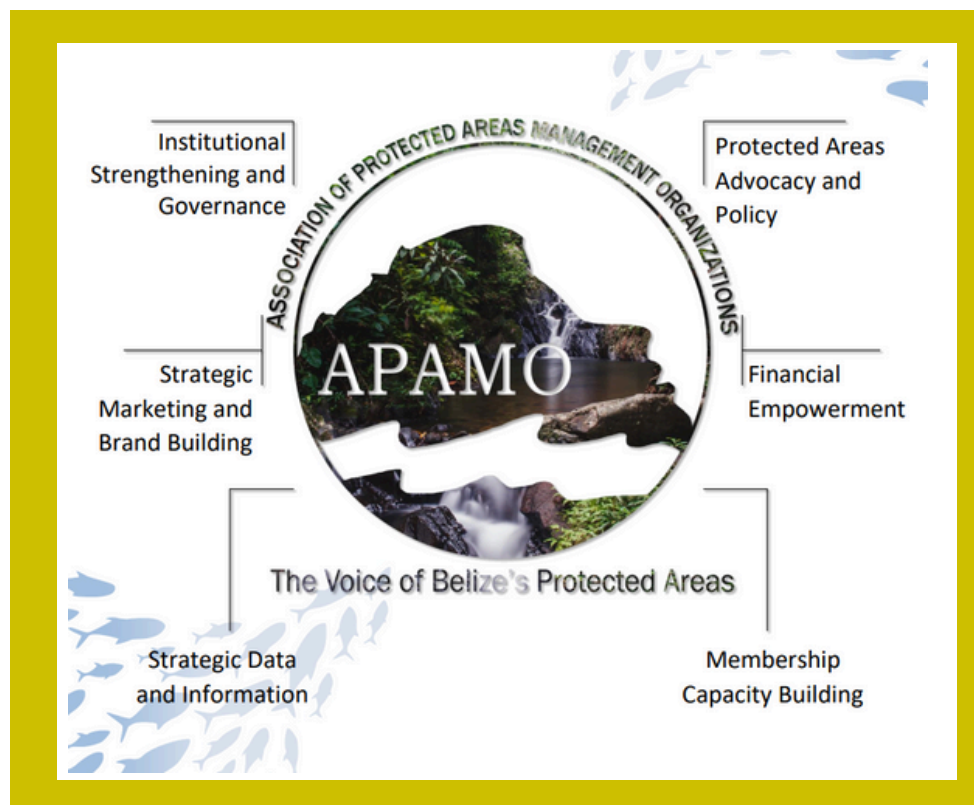
APAMO effectively supporting the National Protected Areas System to maintain its capacity to protect biodiversity and provide ecosystem goods and services that are critical for socio-economic resilience and national development.



*The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas*

# 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 longterm sustainability; and to steer programmatic focus for maximum mission impact.



## Core Values

1. Unity: Equity & Voice (1 Member = 1 Vote)
2. Consensus Building
3. Transparency & Accountability
4. Programmatic Effectiveness and Efficiency
5. Empowerment

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**AMANDA ACOSTA**  
CHAIRLADY  
BAS, Executive Director



**JOSE PEREZ**  
APAMO  
Executive Director

**DWIGHT MONTERO**  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
STACA, Board Member

**JESSIE YOUNG**  
SECRETARY  
BELIZE COUNTRY PLAN, Project  
Officer

**ROSHELL DALEY**  
TREASURER  
Social Security Board, Team  
Leader- Compliance- Finance

**MAYA CHO'C**  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
SATIIM, Executive Director

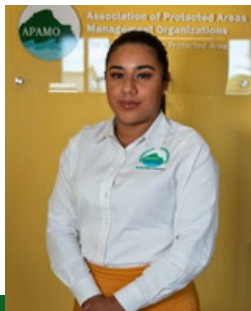
**MARILYN LOPEZ**  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
RDEDG, Vice Chairlady

**CHRISTINA GARCIA**  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
YCT, Executive Director



# ACRC Team

The APAMO Central Resource Center (ACRC) team was formalized to fulfil the evolving role of APAMO and support the sustainable development of Protected Areas under the APAMO umbrella. The Centre allows joint approach to fulfilling key requirements for successful business development such as marketing, financial planning, report writing and event planning and execution. The Resource Center is comprised of a Project Officer, Finance Officer, Communications & Marketing Officer, and an Administrative Assistant, under the leadership of the Executive Director.



**MELISSA BERJES**  
PROJECT OFFICER



**SHARY HOWE**  
FINANCE OFFICER



**MANOELLIE TORRES**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



**ROBYN KUYLEN**  
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING  
OFFICER



**JOANNA GÓMEZ**  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

# ACTIVITY

# HIGHLIGHTS





### Ministry of Economic Development in Protected Areas

On January 6th, 2022, the Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) hosted Dr. Osmond Martinez, CEO of the Ministry of Economic Development; and Mr. Carlos Pol, Director of the Climate Finance Unit on a site visit to the Billy Barquedier National Park (BBNP) and Mayflower Bocawina National Park (MBNP). The objective of the meeting was to demonstrate, first-hand, some of the on-the-ground realities and dynamics of non-governmental conservation organizations in their mission to support the government's national development objectives.



### APAMO Embraces A New Partnership With BTB

On February 2nd, 2022, APAMO (Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations) and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen cooperation in the sustainable development of Protected Areas (PAs) in Belize. This partnership aims to enhance marketing efforts, destination planning, training and certification, and data sharing. The MOU marks a historic collaboration not only for APAMO but for Conservation-Non-Governmental Organizations in Belize, as it actively involves the tourism sector in promoting and preserving PAs as sustainable tourism destinations.



### Strengthening APAMO'S Ranger Force

As a follow-up on the partnership between APAMO and the Belize Institute of Search and Rescue Training back in December 2021, both entities have united efforts towards operationalizing a comprehensive Ranger Training Programme. Launched in January 2022, the mission of this programme is to build an effective and robust Ranger force. As custodians of Protected Areas, it is critical for Rangers to develop, enhance and sustain the skills needed to save lives, especially in treacherous and remote conditions.



### APAMO Raising Awareness on Watershed

In March 2022, APAMO along with the Belize Audubon Society (BAS) sponsored the Sho family, in the La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge under the name "Audubon Green Guardians." The La Ruta Maya River Challenge has become a competitive sport, but it also serves as a unifying event for Belizeans, rallying them for a common cause. APAMO and BAS took this opportunity to sponsor this team and build awareness on the importance of protecting our watersheds. Their teamwork and determination to complete the race were truly inspiring. They achieved a commendable 19th place overall and 7th place in the Family Adventure category, completing the race in 20 hours, 58 minutes, and 28 seconds.





### APAMO Staff Joins Highway Clean-up

As a part of the International Day of Forest 2022, APAMO joined the Forest Department and other entities in a highway cleanup extending from the Belize Zoo to Guanacaste National Park! Keeping our highways clean is not only important because it ruins the “view”, but litter degrades the environment, it attracts vermin and it also endangers people & wildlife.



### ACRC Participated in the Capacity Building for PACT as a GCF National Direct Access Entity Workshop

Ms. Sheila Gomez, APAMO's Business Development Officer, participated in a 3-day Capacity Building Training organized by PACT under the GCF Readiness Project. The training aimed to enhance APAMO's capacity in the GCF, enabling them to utilize these tools and skills for future GCF projects while also strengthening ACRC's capacity. The training, facilitated by consultants from E. Co. LTD, covered topics such as Environment, Social and Gender Risk Identification, GCF Project Management, and Project Monitoring and Evaluation.



### Minister of State Hon. Oscar Mira, welcomes APAMO

Minister of State, Hon. Oscar Mira, welcomes APAMO Belmopan City- April 5, 2022- The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) Executive Director and Project Officer, were pleased to have met with the Minister of State, Hon. Oscar Mira for a brief courtesy call. This courtesy visit inaugurates the establishment of a productive working relationship between APAMO and the Minister of State with devoted support from both parties to achieve their mandates.



### Working Relationship with the Ministry of Sustainable Development

The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) met with the National Biodiversity Office (NBIO) to discuss the APAMO Green Climate Fund (GCF) Concept Note under the hospice of the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) as the Accredited Entity to the GCF and the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) as the National Designated Authority to the GCF.





### APAMO Environmental Youth Program

APAMO held its 1st Ever APAMO Environmental Youth Program in collaboration with the Steadfast Tourism and Conservation Association at the Billy Barquedier National Park. The passionate young participants had the opportunity to engage in the activities. The incorporation of fun games provided the young participants with a sense for environmental adventures that enhanced their environmental capacity.



### Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey

The APAMO Central Resource Centre (ACRC) team, in collaboration with the Mayflower Bocawina Environmental and Development Group - MBEDG and a Silk Grass community volunteer, completed a two-day activity conducting a Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey in the community of Silk Grass Village, Stann Creek. The objective of the Mayflower Bocawina Environmental and Development Group (MBEDG) was to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practice of the Silk Grass Village as they are one of the buffering communities of the Mayflower Bocawina National Park.



### APAMO/BISART Summer Camp

The Belize Institute of Search and Rescue Training (BISART) and the Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) hosted their first ever joint summer camp at Five Blues Lake National Park near Mile 32 on the Hummingbird Highway. The event was organized with the theme "In partnership, sowing the seeds to appreciate nature to make a better Belize" and youths from seven to fifteen years old participated in the camp. This summer camp first made public view in early July featured on the LOVE FM Morning Show. During their one-hour interview, BISART discussed their upcoming summer camp, and their partnership with APAMO. The activities included basic first aid, jungle skills, nature hike, bird watching, tent assembly, camp fire and wilderness navigation. BISART/APAMO intend to create this camp as a yearly event.

# PROJECTS

PROJECT	DONOR
<b>Extraordinary Investment Budget</b> Strengthening Protected Areas Management through enhanced institutional governance and capacity.	<b>PACT</b> Protected Areas Conservation Trust <b>Dec 6, 2022 - Jan 12, 2024</b>
<b>Consultancy for Caribbean Natural Resources Institute</b> Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society's Access and Readiness to Climate Finance.	<b>GCF</b> Green Climate Fund <b>July 31, 2022 - July 31, 2023</b>
<b>PROJECT NAME</b> Enhancing the marketing efforts of Protected Areas.	<b>BTB</b> Belize Tourism Board <b>Feb 2, 2022 - Feb 2, 2023</b>



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
31ST DECEMBER 2021

All amounts expressed in Belize dollars

	Notes	2021	2020 (Restated)
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	2, 4	164,013	197,210
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted		17,543	30,387
Accounts receivable and prepayments	2, 5	16,000	500
		<u>197,556</u>	<u>228,097</u>
<b>Non-current assets:</b>			
Property and equipment	2, 6	63,720	81,664
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>261,276</u>	<u>309,761</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Accounts payable and accruals	2, 7	23,171	20,564
Deferred income	2, 8	164,013	197,210
		<u>187,184</u>	<u>217,774</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>187,184</u>	<u>217,774</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>74,092</u>	<u>91,987</u>
Fund balance (page 6)			
Fund balance	2	<u>74,092</u>	<u>91,987</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>		<u>74,092</u>	<u>91,987</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board

  
Chair of the Executive Council

  
Executive Director

Auditor's report pages 1 - 3

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

All amounts are expressed in Belize dollars.

	Notes	2021	2020 (Restated)
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant receipts	2, 9	318,617	467,040
Other income	2, 10	86,940	39,540
		<u>405,557</u>	<u>506,580</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, wages and stipends		165,676	213,094
Social security		7,283	8,655
Project development cost		17,906	38,492
Capacity building training		8,795	-
Protected areas advocacy and policy		3,287	-
Strategic Development plan		24,305	-
Other administrative costs		169,290	153,953
Depreciation		26,910	23,956
		<u>423,452</u>	<u>438,150</u>
<b>NET (LOSS) / INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<u>(17,895)</u>	<u>68,430</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

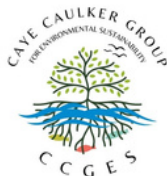
The year 2022 was defined by the remarkable resilience and unwavering commitment displayed by the National Protected Areas System in effectively managing our precious natural landscapes. Furthermore, it is with great appreciation that we acknowledge the pivotal roles and invaluable contributions made by APAMO. As APAMO expands its network and influence, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed Partners and Donors for their unwavering support.

We commend our dedicated members for their extraordinary efforts in not only safeguarding their respective Protected Areas but also securing the future of our invaluable natural assets. As APAMO continues to evolve and create new opportunities to enhance effective management, we express our admiration for all our stakeholders and eagerly anticipate the continuation of our fruitful partnerships.

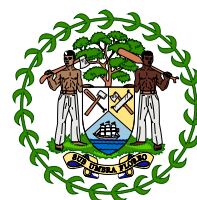
# The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas



## OUR MEMBERS



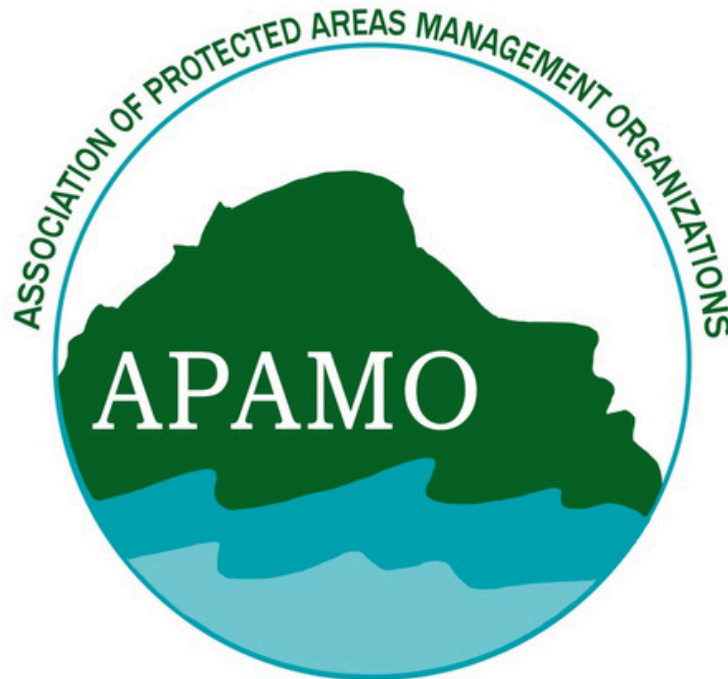
## PARTNERS



**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**  
Ministry of Finance, Economic  
Development, and Investment



**GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**  
Ministry of Sustainable  
Development Climate Change &  
Disaster Risk Management



The Voice of Belize's Protected Areas

For more information on APAMO activities:

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Email: [info@apamobelize.org](mailto:info@apamobelize.org)

Telephone: +501 611-1694

Website: [www.apamobelize.org](http://www.apamobelize.org)

APAMO Belize

