



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



Marine Spatial Planning

Stakeholder Engagement Field Report

Meeting Session: 1	Date: March 29 th , 2023
Location: ITVET Dining Room, Belize City	Time: 6:30pm- 7:15pm
Number of participants: 6 in person, 7 virtual	Language: English
Report submitted by: Janel McNab, MSP Coordinator, CZMAI	

Phase 1- Objectives of these targeted meetings are to:

1. Socialize the MSP launch (set expectations)
2. Present a timeline of activities
3. Explain what an MSP is and why is Belize doing one
4. Share where stakeholders can access information/updates on the MSP process
5. Receive stakeholder’s feedback on how they see themselves involved in the process
6. Receive stakeholder’s feedback on preferred methods of engagement for the MSP process

1. Organizer and Collaborators:

The meeting was organized with broad public attendance, featuring a diverse group of stakeholders including representatives from Fisheries, concerned citizens, and members from the Environmental Protection sector. The collaboration aimed to address pertinent issues related to Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan.

2. Main Outcomes/Findings:

- The meeting successfully identified key outcomes and findings that are crucial for future initiatives:
- Increased Awareness: Enhanced awareness among stakeholders about current marine and coastal management practices.
- Identified Key Zones: Agreement on major use zones that require targeted management efforts.
- Consensus on Collaboration: A strong consensus on the need for continued and enhanced collaboration between various stakeholders to address environmental challenges effectively.

3. Concerns/Challenges:

Few concerns and challenges were highlighted during the meeting:

- There is a need to adjust the engagement approach with stakeholders to ensure more effective participation and involvement.
- The current methods of outreach are insufficient. Recommendations were made to incorporate more diverse methods to reach a broader audience, including the use of local media (radio and TV stations) and direct engagement with community leaders.
- Miscommunication was identified as a significant barrier, leading to misunderstandings and a lack of cohesive action. Improving communication strategies is essential to enhance understanding and collaboration among stakeholders.

4. **Collaboration:**

- The meeting underscored the importance of collaboration among all parties involved:
- Stakeholder Engagement: Continued engagement with stakeholders from Fisheries, citizens, and Environmental Protection sectors is crucial.
- Interagency Coordination: Stronger interagency coordination is needed to streamline efforts and resources towards common goals.
- Community Involvement: Increased involvement of community leaders and local organizations to ensure grassroots support and effective implementation of policies.

5. **Follow-Up Actions by TNC/CZMAI:**

Follow-up actions were identified to ensure the momentum of the meeting is maintained:

- Sector-Specific Meetings: The Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) will organize sector-specific meetings to delve deeper into the issues pertaining to major use zones. These meetings will be carried out with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
- Enhanced Communication Plans: Development and implementation of improved communication plans to address and mitigate misunderstandings.
- Broader Outreach Initiatives: Implementation of outreach initiatives that include local media and direct engagement with community leaders to ensure a wider reach and better stakeholder involvement.

6. **Key Takeaways and Next Steps:**

Key Takeaways:

- There is a critical need for better engagement and communication strategies to involve a broader range of stakeholders.
- Identifying and focusing on major use zones will help in more targeted and effective management.
- Collaboration among various sectors and community involvement is essential for successful marine and coastal management.

Next Steps:

- Planning and scheduling of sector-specific meetings by CZMAI with TNC's assistance.
- Development of a comprehensive communication strategy to address the highlighted concerns.
- Launching outreach programs through local media and direct contact with community leaders.