

BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

Milestone 4 Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Discussions on the redesignation of the Cayman Crown Area

May 18th, 2024

Duration of meeting: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: TIDE Conference Room

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update on the delivery of Milestones 4 of the Blue Bond Agreement and the potential inclusion of the Cayman Crown Area.
2. Other Matters

Present:

Number of Stakeholders: 7
Belize Fisheries Department
Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Meeting Notes

Update on delivery of Milestone 4 - CZMAI

- The context of the Blue Bond Agreement was reviewed, noting the completion of Milestone 1, 2, and 3. With current efforts on working towards Milestone 4. Emphasizing CZMAI's involvement with Milestones 4, 5, 6 and 8.
- Milestone 4 Expansion of Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) to 25% of Belize's Ocean Space: to use a map approach to designate space identified by stakeholders.
 - o Several steps involved:
 - Analysis of future conditions,
 - Understanding current use of space to have a starting point,
 - Understanding areas of conflicts



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



- Analyze potential areas for BPZs based of previous works done by organizational research,
- Potential areas of interest to be endorsed by stakeholders.
- Delivery of Milestone 4:
 - Due November 4th, 2024
 - To focus only on medium BPZs, areas for general use zones.
 - Will not affect how people are using the zones, but with assist with management of the areas.
- Total ocean space under protection currently is:
 - Total ocean space = 33,706.99km²
 - Total ocean under protection = 6,845.60km² / 20.3%
 - Total current High Protection = 11.67%, approximately 3.7% remaining.
 - Remaining ocean space target = 1,565.819km²
- Areas under consideration for medium protection (general use zones) are: Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Banco Chincharro-Bacalar Chico Transboundary MPA, and S.I 180 of 2011 Shark fishing regulations.
- Areas under consideration for a mix of high and medium protection are: Central region Goff's Caye area and Placencia Lagoon.

Redesignation of the Cayman Crown Area - CZMAI

- The Cayman Crown area redesignation to be from Highly Protected to Fully Protected
 - Will not change the percentage towards the BPZ target.
 - Will not change how the space is currently being used.
 - Will contribute towards the People Centric Conservation Agenda.
 - Triple the full protection of the coral reef from 7 to 20% to identify the most advantageous places to increase coral reef protection.
 - Designate the reminder of Belize's 30-by-30 protection pledge in areas that will support the highest biodiversity outcomes.

Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve Stakeholder Consultation - TIDE

- Cayman Crown site description:
 - Offshore reef located in the Gulf of Honduras, partially within the Sapodilla Cayes marine Reserve (SCMR), Belize and Guatemala approximately 10 miles away from Hunting Caye.
 - Platform ref with depths of 50m, providing ideal conditions for FSAs.
 - Habitats: coral framework, coral framework with algae, and individual patch reefs (*Purkis, 2021*)
 - High ecological value and economic potential (60% live coral cover)
- Major Milestones:



- 2013, Guatemalan fishers reported a healthy reef lying between Belize and Guatemala, known as Cayman Crown/Corona
- Collaboration with national and regional partners to conduct research efforts: Healthy Reefs Initiative, Belize Fisheries Department and FUNDAECO (Guatemala).
- Characterization and monitoring of potential FSAs at Cayman Crown (during spawning season, Dec to Jun).
- Passing of SI 107 of 2020 -included in expansion of SCMR – Conservation Zone IV; aligned to EEZ.
- October 2022 – signed Memorandum of Understanding between the MBECA now MBDRM and TIDE for research & enforcement at Cayman Crown Area.
- October 2023 – signed Co-management Agreement of SCMR between MBECA now MBDRM and TIDE.
- Characterization & Monitoring of Cayman Crown from Feb. 2020 up to May 2022.
 - Data confirmed the presence of 3 multispecies aggregation sites: The Jewel Wall, West Bezel Fisher marker and Omoa Fisher marker.
 - Spawning evidence observed in black, Nassau & tiger groupers.
 - 38 fish species reported (commercial interest)
- The importance of the Cayman Crown reiterates the urgent need for preservation due to its high ecological value, rich biodiversity & importance for its biological connectivity to ensure sustainable fishing for future generations.

Open Discussion

- Stakeholders are fatigued from so much consultation and no effective end results.
- There is the need for several environmental agencies to be working together to all for better synergies and less duplication of efforts (Belize Fisheries Dept. Dept. Of Environment, CZMAI, and others)
- Concerns of individuals still being issued license to use gillnet.
- Revaluation of certain areas are needed in the terms of carrying capacity and number of activities being done.
- To reevaluate the rules and regulations being placed against lobster fishers and conch as there is too many pressures negatively affecting the industry.
- To monitor the illegal fishing being done by Guatemalans in Belizean waters, with the use of long lines and fish traps.
- To give back access to areas taken away in the Sapodilla Caye range.
- To monitor tourism activities in the area for illegal in the protected areas (Curse with the Chef Belize).
- CZMAI is providing technical support to the Belize Fisheries Department for the decision making based on feedback received from the local communities.
- Areas under BPZs considerations were previously identified by communities and NGOs working in the areas.
- The planning and use of space is guided by stakeholder input, to understand the overlaps between uses.

Other Matters

- The consideration of alternative livelihood, the potential of seaweed farming in Punta Gorda.
 - o To consider having an industry, enclosure for the farm to have value added products being created, a processing plant, and training.
 - o Further discussion with TIDE and stakeholders is needed.
- Difficulties accessing funding from the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future due to paperwork.
 - o Training is needed to assist in accessing funds.
 - o Stakeholders are burnt out from the tedious process.

Final Decision

- Stakeholders present clearly stated, they have previously suggested and is reiterating that want the Cayman Crown Area to be a No Take Zone, to be placed under protection.

Notes submitted by:
MSP Coordinator of CZMAI





Agenda: Discussion of the redesignation of the Cayman Crown Area



Discussions on the redesignation of the Cayman Crown Area

Date: Saturday May 18th, 2024

Time: 8:00 am - 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Venue: TIDE Meeting Room

Objective: To provide an update on the delivery of Milestones 4 of the Blue Bond Agreement and the potential inclusion of the Cayman Crown Area.

Agenda

Field Trip:

8:00 am – 3:30 pm Site Visit to the Cayman Crown Area

Evening Session: Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

#	Time	Item
1	6:00pm – 6:10pm	Welcome and Introductions
2	6:10pm - 6:25pm	Provide update on the delivery of Milestone 4 - CZMAI
3	6:25pm – 6:40pm	Presentation by TIDE
4	6:40pm – 6:55pm	Discussion of proposal to redesignate the Cayman Crown Area to “Fully Protected” status.
5	6:55pm – 7:15pm	Feedback session
6	7:15pm – 7:35pm	Working Session: Defining boundaries
7	7:35pm – 7:55pm	Discussion and Question & Answer
8	7:55pm – 8:00pm	Closing of Meeting



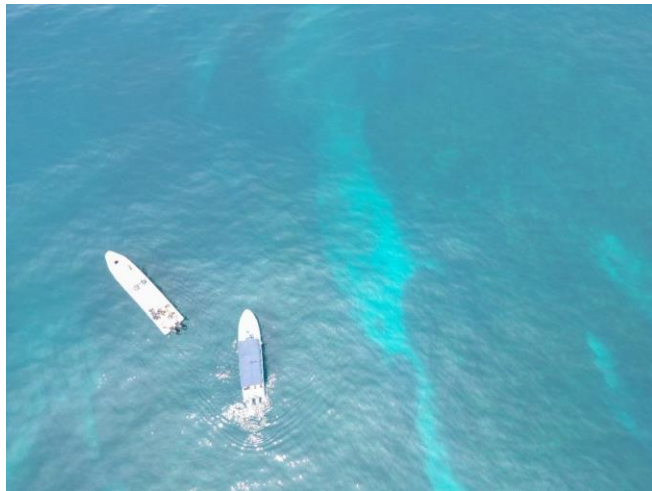
Hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute and The Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future.
Contact information bsop@coastalzonebelize.org (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739 <http://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org>



Hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute and The Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future.
Contact information bsop@coastalzonebelize.org (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739 <http://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org>

Cayman Crown Site Visit Images

Photo credit to TIDE and Belize Coast Guard



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



Hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute and The Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future.

Contact information bsop@coastalzonebelize.org (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739 <http://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org>

Cayman Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Images



Hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute and The Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future.

Contact information bsop@coastalzonebelize.org (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739 <http://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org>



Cayman Crown Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Participants sheet



THE BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN
 Milestone 4: Discussions on the redesignation of the Cayman Crown Area
 May 18th, 2024, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District
 TIDE Conference Room

Name	Community	Organization	Contact Info (Email/Phone #)	Gender		Do you provide consent for recording and using feedback and photos?	
				M	F	Yes	No
Asad Magaña	Hopewell, P.G. Town	T.I.D.E.	execdirector@tiledocare.org	✓		✓	
Leonard Chumera	Punta Gorda Town	TIDG	development@tidedocare.org	✓		✓	
Adriel Castaneda		Belize Fish Department	adriel.castaneda@fisheries.gov.bz	✓		✓	
DENNIS GARBITT	P.G.	GARBITS	614 3548	✓		✓	
Carlos Bardales	Cattle/Lindino	Will	669 3293	✓		✓	
Alex Leonardo	Wilson Road	Tour Guide	622-7771	✓		✓	
Caroline Oliver	P.G.	TIDE	6510312		✓	✓	
Erwin Noralez	P.G.	TIDE	6235545	✓		✓	
Victor Jacobs	P.G.	Fisherman/Tourist	61546415	✓		✓	
Paula Paula Williams	Punta Negra	Fisherwoman	6286649		✓	✓	
ADRIAN NORALEZ	PUNTA NEGRA	FISHERMAN	628-1026	✓		✓	



Hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute and The Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future.

Contact information bsop@coastalzonebelize.org (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739 <http://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org>



THE BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN
 Milestone 4: Discussions on the redesignation of the Cayman Crown Area
 May 18th, 2024, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo District
 TIDE Conference Room

Name	Community	Organization	Contact Info (Email/Phone #)	Gender		Do you provide consent for recording and using feedback and photos?	
				M	F	Yes	No
Janel McNair	CZMAI						
Delwin Guzman	CZMAI						
Sami Rosado	CZMAI						
Evaristo Aquino	TIDE						



Hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute and The Belize Fisheries Department in partnership with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future.

Contact information bsop@coastalzonebelize.org (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739 <http://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org>

DRAFT

