

BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

Milestone 4: Biodiversity Protection Zones

Belize Fisheries Department & Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

January 11th, 2024

Duration of meeting: 2:00 pm – 2:40 pm

Location: Belize Fisheries Department Conference Room

Meeting Notes

Meeting Objectives:

1. Biodiversity Protection Zone
2. Membership of the core team
3. Starting point and meeting development
4. Next steps

Present:

Belize Fisheries Department
Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Notes:

Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a small core team for the discussion of the biodiversity protection zone (BPZ), to have the composition of Belize Fisheries Department (BFD), Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute (CZMAI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). • Seek possible extension on deadline to 2025/2026. • PCCA will be put in action in 2026 if there is any remaining percentage for the BPZ. • Potential areas to place as BPZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Placencia Peninsula Lagoon - Goff's Caye - Bacalar Chico (to calculate areas with Banco Chinchorro, Bacalar Chico extending it to the trench near turneffe) - General use zone in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) - Supporting data for the deep sea MAP as a transboundary MPA - Two (2) miles around all atolls that prohibits fishing of certain species (medium protection, document provided by BFD) • Use of analysis to assist with capacity. • To have two (2) rounds of public consultations • Meet with key stakeholder to have by the end of February a draft proposal (group comprised of BAS, BFD, CZMAI, Blue Bond, and TNC) • Large community meeting will be founded by BFD. • Small local meeting will be founded by CZMAI.
Next Steps	

- Start stakeholder engagement, doing a phased approach for:
 - Placencia Lagoon
 - Lighthouse Reef
 - Goff's Caye
- Potential designated areas
- Review Goff's Caye Proposal and management plan that was done by Praxi5 to note the main fishers in the area.
- Arrange a meeting with CONANP to understand their deep see protection, on deep sea treaty for Banco Chinchorro (project was done with a regional fund for triangular partnership project which would develop a transboundary MPA)
- The need for a Project Assistant to assist with facilitation, documentation, and logistics for the process.
- The need for a Data Analyst

Meetings:

- Arrange meeting with Ian Gillet between January 16-18 to discuss the updates to the shapefiles made and that CZMAI has the latest copy of the MPA geodatabase.
- Arrange meeting with Belize Audubon Society (BAS), on January 22nd, to understand their planning areas for lighthouse reef.
- Arrange meeting with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) January 24th in the afternoon and Southern Environmental Association (SEA), to understand drafted management plans for Placencia Lagon.
- Arrange a meeting with Mar Alliance on January 23rd, to fill in gaps on deep sea.

To do:

- To send BFD, BSOP presentation template from CZMAI
- Potential area (2 Mile radius around atolls, and also extend the Banco Chinchurro MPA) calculations by Wednesday January 17th, 2024, from CZMAI.
- CZMAI will request the shapefiles developed for the Goff's Caye Management Plan report
- CZMAI to arrange meetings with WWF, BAS, and Mar Alliance.
- BFD to arrange meeting with Ian Gillet

Timeline

- January
- 16-18 meeting with Ian Gillett
- 17 calculations from CZMAI
- 22 meeting with BAS
- 23 meeting with Mar-alliance
- 24 meeting with WWF
- February
- Ending primary idea, draft proposal

Notes prepared and submitted by:
MSP Coordinator of CZMAI