



BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

Milestone 4 Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Discussions on Lighthouse Reef, Lighthouse Reef Advisory Committee

June 26th, 2024

Duration of meeting: 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Location: Belize Audubon Society 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 Lighthouse Reef Atoll Area.

Present:

Number of Stakeholders present: 14

Deep Sea Fisher, Belize City

Fisherman, Chunox Village

Maralliance

Amigos Del Mar

Turneffe Resort

Frenchie’s Diving

Belize Fisheries Department

National Biodiversity Officer

Belize Audubon Society

Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



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
 - Analyze potential areas for BPZs based on previous works done by organizational research,
 - Potential areas of interest to be endorsed by stakeholders.
 - o 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 will 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 Chinchorro-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.
- Medium use zones, general use zones



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



Open Discussion

- Stakeholders inquired about the status on the already designated national monuments in the area of Half Moon Caye and Blue Hole, requesting they remain as is.
- Expressed their concerns about not having any more no take zones and no phased approach.
- Stakeholders inquired about the allowable activities within the special management zone and general use zone.

Final Decision

- Stakeholders is in agreement of the proposed Medium Biodiversity Protection zones for the light house Reef Atoll.

Notes submitted by:

MSP Coordinator of CZMAI

DRAFT



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future





Agenda: Discussion of the redesignation of the Lighthouse Reef Area

AGENDA

Lighthouse Reef Advisory Committee (LHAC)



With the financial support of the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the BIOPAMA Programme

Wednesday, 26th June 2024

**Belize Audubon Society
Belize City**

9:00 am to 11:30am

- 1) Meeting called to order
- 2) Welcome
- 3) Review of last minutes

5) Matters Arising:

- Site update (tourism/maintenance)
- Enforcement
- Update on Management/Tourism plan within LHRA
- BAS Research and Monitoring Update
- Updates from Maralliance
- Presentation by CZMAI

4) Other Matters

5) Adjournment

LUNCH



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

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

Lighthouse Reef Advisory Committee Meeting Images





DRAFT



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



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

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