

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

# BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety



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## Foreword

The global Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) was launched in 2012 with the purpose of addressing the global challenge of funding biodiversity management, conservation and sustainable development. Tackling these issues requires identifying shortcomings and barriers to effective financing of management activities.

The BIOFIN Initiative in Belize was launched in 2016 with a unique modality, in which the Project was directly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Climate Change and Immigration of the Government of Belize, demonstrating the Government of Belize's commitment to increasing finance and investment for improved biodiversity and sustainable development in Belize.

The Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) is the first component of BIOFIN that is aimed at strengthening inter- and intra-ministerial synergies and improve collaboration through the analysis of the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sectoral and development policy, planning and budgeting. The PIR provides us with a mapping of the current finance policy and institutional landscape for biodiversity finance in Belize.

BIOFIN has supporting components that are tasked with identifying the areas that are in need of biodiversity finance as well as understanding how existing financing can be repurposed and promote the use of incentives that will steer sustainable biodiversity management towards sustainable development among public and private agencies.

We recognize that Belize's economy is underpinned by its rich natural resources. Tourism and agriculture, Belize's two largest sectors that together account for approximately 36% of Belize's GDP, are based on natural resources. Other sectors such as forestry, fisheries, mining and quarrying, and manufacturing are also major industries for Belize that are underpinned by our rich natural resources. The PIR has identified that Belize's sound policy and institutional framework can help to steer it in the right direction for biodiversity management with increased cross-sector collaboration, policy implementation, and very importantly continuous monitoring and evaluation.

The PIR is an important publication that will help to guide the assessment of current finance for biodiversity, finance gaps for biodiversity, as well as developing important finance solutions in Belize. I encourage all stakeholders to make the best use of the PIR publication as we collaboratively work towards improving finance for biodiversity management and sustainable development in Belize.

**Hon. Dr. Omar Figueroa**  
**Minister of State**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,  
the Environment, Sustainable Development,  
Climate Change and Immigration



This report is produced for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration of the Government of Belize and the United Nations Development Programme's Biodiversity Finance Initiative.



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The Biodiversity Finance (BIOFIN) Initiative provides an important guide for countries to mobilize resources towards improved biodiversity management. BIOFIN is being implemented at an opportune time for Belize as we seek to optimize and strengthen finance solutions such as the national trust for protected areas and national fund for environmental management.

The Government of Belize and its partners have done commendable work in setting up a strong policy and institutional framework to mobilize resources for biodiversity management and sustainable development – yet we realize that much more work remains to be done.

The Policy and Institutional Review of the BIOFIN Initiative in Belize is a result of collaboration and support among various entities and individuals. Towards this end, the Government of Belize is pleased to partner with the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environmental Facility to implement the BIOFIN initiative in Belize. We extend gratitude to the funders: the European Union and the Governments of Germany, Switzerland, Norway and

Flanders, and the United Nations Development Programme.

On behalf of the Ministry, I would like to express appreciation to all those who served as part of the Technical Working Group. We thank representatives of UNDP, MED, the Forest and Fisheries Department, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Finance, University of Belize's Environmental Research Institute, and the Association of Protected Areas Management Organization.

I look forward to your continued partnership and support as we develop the Biodiversity Expenditure Review, the Finance Needs Assessment, and the Biodiversity Finance Plan - ongoing components of the BIOFIN Initiative in Belize.

**Dr. Percival Cho**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Immigration

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADMOS	Agriculture Development Management and Operational Action
BELTRAIDE	Belize Trade and Investment Development
BER	Biodiversity Expenditure Review
BFP	Biodiversity Finance Plan
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BNCF	Belize Nature Conservation Foundation
BTB	Belize Tourism Board
CARICOM	Caribbean Communities
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CFR	Chiquibul Forest Reserve
CPR	Common Pool Resources
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CZMAI	Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Environmental Management Fund
EPA	Environmental Protection Act
ES	Ecosystem Service
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNA	Financial Needs Assessment
FSTV	Fort Street Tourism Village
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSDS	Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy
GSSCMR	Gladden Spit Silk Caye Marine Reserve
ha	hectares
ICZMP	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan
IDEF	Improving Service Delivery of Existing Finance
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MAFFESDI	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Sustainable Development, and Immigration
MAR	Mesoamerican Reef
MCCAP	Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project
MFR	Mobilizing Future Resources

MMM	Maya Mountain Massif
MMMC	Maya Mountain Marine Corridor
MPR	Mountain Pine Ridge
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCPSAP	National Climate Change Policy, Action and Action Plan
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEP	National Energy Policy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIWRP	National Integrated Water Resources Plan
NPAS	Belize National Protected Areas System
NPV	Net Present Value
NRV	Natural Resource Valuation
NSTMP	National Sustainable Tourism Master Plan
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Products
OAS	Organization of American States
PACT	Protected Area Conservation Trust
PFC	Preventing Future Costs
PHMR	Port Honduras Marine Reserve
PIE	Policy and Institutional Expert
PIR	Policy and Institutional Review
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RER	Realigning Existing Resources
SIB	Statistic Institute of Belize
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WTP	Willingness to Pay



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# Executive Summary



Macro-economic context of Belize

Belize's Biodiversity Goals

Economic Linkages to Biodiversity in Belize

Existing Biodiversity/Natural Resources Finance Solutions in Belize

Current Biodiversity Finance Solutions

Institutional Analysis

Conclusions and Recommendations

## Executive Summary

Biodiversity, the diversity of life on earth, provides a range of ecosystem services which underpins man's existence. However, humans have continued to place continued pressures on these ecosystems and impact their functions. Drivers such as population growth, technological development, and pollution continue to contribute to biodiversity loss. While these changes made to ecosystems have resulted in net gains to human well-being and economic development, the costs have been in the degradation of important ecosystems and the increased risks of non-linear changes (MEA, 2005). Intervention is required to reverse the degradation of ecosystem services and a shift towards sustainable development. To effectively achieve this mandate, efforts to raise new finance, improve efficiency of current finance, and improve service delivery will be required.

The Biodiversity Finance (BIOFIN) Initiative was launched in 2012 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from the European Union, and the Governments of Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Flanders to address the global challenge of funding biodiversity management, conservation, and sustainable development.

The BIOFIN Initiative, launched in Belize in September 2016 and implemented by the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest, Fisheries, the Environment and Sustainable Development, will help to identify the critical institutional and finance gaps in Belize as well as develop and implement a targeted resource mobilization strategy for biodiversity finance.

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BIOFIN will guide:

- 1) the analysis of the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sectoral and development policy, planning and budgeting – a Policy and Institutional Review (PIR);
- 2) the assessment of current spending, future finance needs and gaps for biodiversity management and ecosystem services – a Biodiversity Expenditure Review and Finance Needs assessment; and,
- 3) the development of a comprehensive resource mobilization plan for Belize.

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The PIR, the present work, employed a mixed methodology approach including desktop literature reviews, secondary data collection and analysis, stakeholders and focus group sessions, and participant and independent observations.

Outputs of the PIR:

- I. A review and summary of Belize's national development framework;
- II. Review of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- III. A review of prioritized biodiversity trends and fiscal policies associated with biodiversity;
- IV. A rapid assessment of current biodiversity finance in the public sector;
- V. A summary of existing biodiversity finance solutions; and,
- VI. An institutional analysis of current actors and prioritized stakeholders for BIOFIN.

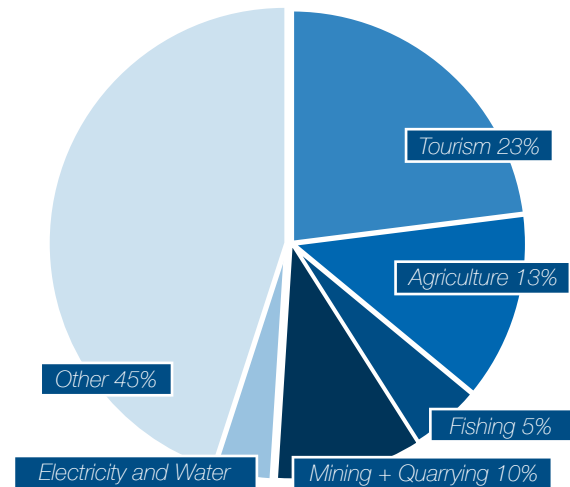
## Macro-economic Context of Belize

Belize's economy is natural resources based with agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism, mining and quarrying estimated to account for around 50% of the country's GDP (Figure 1). These sectors remain prioritized development sectors as well as prioritized export sectors (GSDS 2016, NES 2011).

In this context, the Government of Belize has developed a sound roadmap to guide the long and medium-term development in Belize i.e. the Horizon 2030 and Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) 2016-2019, respectively. The Horizon 2030 and GSDS have identified environmental sustainability as the cornerstone of Belize's development.

Development strategies will seek to, among others, incorporate sustainably into development planning, promote green energy, improve protected areas management, and implement the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (GSDS 2016).

**Sectoral Contributions to GDP**



**Figure 1: Sectoral Contributions to GDP**

## Belize's Biodiversity Goals

The NBSAP presents a set of key biodiversity and environmental goals for Belize for the years 2016 – 2020. The NBSAP provides important policy and strategic actions for biodiversity management in the medium-term aiming at mainstreaming biodiversity, reducing direct and indirect pressures on ecosystems, protecting functional ecosystems, and enabling the equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity.

Given the financial and human resources challenges, it was determined that targets and actions in the NBSAP must be prioritized. Of the 20 targets outlined in the NBSAP, seven of these actions were determined to be of the most priority (Table 1). The seven prioritized targets then become the central focus for achieving the cross-scale and cross-level biodiversity and environmental management targets for Belize.

**Table 1: Prioritized Biodiversity Actions for Belize**

	NBSAP TARGET	TARGETS
1	E3	By 2020, Belize's NBSAP is being implemented effectively, monitored and evaluated, and is achieving the desired outcomes
2	D1, C1	By 2025, key ecosystem services are sustainably managed and resilient to threats
3	E2	By 2020, accurate and current data on Belize's natural resources and environmental services informs relevant national development decisions
4	B4	By 2020, Belize is restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems to maintain and improve the status of ecosystems and ecosystem services
5	B5	By 2025, there is a 20% reduction in terrestrial impacts and illegal fishing from transboundary incursions
6	C3	Between 2018 and 2030, no species will become functionally extinct in Belize
7	A2	By 2020 Belize has promoted and implemented a national harmonized system of environmental standards that foster environmental responsibility and sustainability

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016 -2020)

## Economic Linkages to Biodiversity in Belize

The PIR identified key biodiversity trends and their economic linkages in Belize. Key economic sectors in Belize include tourism, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forest, energy, and mining and quarrying (Table 2). Of these sectors, tourism, agriculture, and fisheries and aquaculture account for more than 41% of GDP and 30% of the labor force in 2015 (SIB 2016).

Some areas of concerns exist for biodiversity; including: large scale agricultural expansion, fisheries and aquaculture growth, deforestation, climate change, overharvesting, protected areas encroachment, and transboundary incursions as a result of the dependence of these sectors.

On the other hand, efforts have been implemented to conserve and protect biodiversity as the cornerstone of Belize's economic development. Efforts, for instance, to promote sustainable forest management, eco-tourism, and the implementation of a rights-based managed access program in the fisheries sector are noteworthy actions as a result of the economic linkages to biodiversity in Belize

**Table 2: Biodiversity and Economic Linkages in Belize**

Sector	Contribution to GDP	Employment	Biodiversity Trends	Guiding Policies	Opportunities
<b>Tourism</b>	23% of GDP - \$437M	17,000 persons	Development of the tourism industry has contributed to land cover change, pollution, mangrove clearing, and agricultural expansion, among others.  Eco-tourism growth has contributed to maintaining integrity of biodiversity in Belize	National Tourism Policy  Sustainable Tourism Master Plan	Green certification, greening of fiscal incentives, green bonds, scaling up contributions to environmental funds, green investments etc.
<b>Agriculture</b>	13% of GDP - \$245.7M	23,000 persons	38% increase in acreage under production between '00 -'10.  Move towards climate-smart agriculture and sustainable production in recent years	Agriculture Development Management and Operational Strategy (ADMOS)  The National Food and Agriculture Policy	Green certification, greening of subsidies, climate smart agriculture, sustainable production, greening of fiscal incentives
<b>Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>	5% of GDP - \$84.1M	3500 persons	Decline in fish catch (on avg. from 2.9kg per day to 2.0kg/day); Implementation of managed access fisheries program	Fisheries Act Fisheries Resources Bill (DRAFT)	Alternative and sustainable livelihoods, blue bonds, managed access  Passage of the Fisheries Resource Bill
<b>Forest</b>	0.29% of GDP - \$5.3M	884 persons	Production increased from 0.9 to 2.0 million cubic feet between '05 - '15.  Implementation of sustainable forest management, improved protected areas management	Forest Policy Forest Act	Promotion of green certification, tax easements for private protected land holdings, and development of a non-timber forest products (NTFP) sector.
<b>Energy</b>	7.2% of GDP - \$136M	813 persons	Increase land clearing for access to drilling sites in crude oil production;  Declining crude oil production	National Energy Policy	Scaling up of DFC's Green Energy Program
<b>Mining &amp; Quarrying</b>	.52% of GDP - \$10M	296 persons	Increase in river material extraction from approx. 0.5M to .5M cubic yards, land clearing for access;	Mines and Minerals Act	Increasing charge fees;
<b>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016 -2020)</b>					

# Existing Biodiversity / Natural Resources Finance Solutions in Belize

A rapid mapping of current biodiversity revenues from available public and private sources were carried out. Revenue sources include fees and royalties paid to government departments, taxes, fines, grants, and donations from non-governmental organizations as well as user-fees. The objective of this review is to provide a rapid scan of entities and programs which can be part of the biodiversity expenditure review (BER).

The mapping exercise found that approximately BZ\$52.4, BZ\$52.2, BZ\$46.8, BZ\$48.8M and \$42.5M were collected from biodiversity related sources in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, respectively. A substantial portion of the revenues assessed were collected by the Customs

Department in the form of Environmental Tax, between BZ \$25.6 and \$29.2 million from 2013-2016. Of note is the significant decline in revenues of the Geology and Petroleum Department as a result of declining crude oil production.

The current landscape for biodiversity finance indicates that there is a mix of public, private, and civil society involved in biodiversity finance. The scan also reveals that a significant portion of taxes being collected as environmental or biodiversity related taxes is not purposed into biodiversity conservation and environmental management.

## Current Biodiversity Finance Solutions

A rapid analysis of existing biodiversity finance solutions<sup>1</sup> in Belize was carried out under the PIR guided by the BIOFIN global methodology. The assessment identified, among other things, the name of the solution, the type of solution i.e. whether the solution can be categorized as an environmental trust fund, debt for nature swap, or overseas development assistance, the objective of the finance solution, a brief description of each solution, financial data, and legal and policy framework. Existing biodiversity finance solutions provide an overview of possible points of entry for strengthening or scaling-up finance for biodiversity conservation in Belize. The review can serve as an important point of departure for developing Belize's Biodiversity Finance and Resource Mobilization Plan.

The Rapid mapping of existing finance solutions revealed that an important mix of finance solutions already exists in Belize. These solutions include national environmental funds, corporate social responsibility and public private partnerships, debt-for-nature swaps, green taxes, and official development assistance. A selected number of current biodiversity finance solutions are presented in Table 4.

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<sup>1</sup> Tools or mechanisms used to raise or leverage funding



**Table 3: Select Existing Biodiversity / Natural Resources Related Income in Belize**

Organization/Agency	Solution	Annual Income (2013/14) BZ\$	Annual Income (2014/15) BZ\$	Annual Income (2014/15) BZ\$	Annual Income (2016/17) \$BZ
<b>PACT</b>	Conservation Fee	4,517,551	5,383,878	5,576,559	4,923,033
<b>Coastal Zone Management Authority</b>	Licence & Visitor Fee	121,006	227,186	356,997	409,668
<b>Belize Audubon</b>	Visitor Fee	1,350,768	1,395,480	1,206,047	1,204,670
<b>TIDE</b>	Visitor Fee, Grants	2,174,385	2,100,00	1,928,000	1,792,718
<b>Customs Department</b>	Environmental Tax	25,611,334	28,960,355	31,254,253	29,249,959
<b>Fisheries Department</b>	Visitor Fees	475,357	472,276	437,326	484,083
<b>BECOL</b>	Donation	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
<b>Mining Unit</b>	Mining Fee	288,642	312,645	280,513	320,461
<b>Lands Department</b>	Rental Fee	1,092,142	1,619,408	1,686,703	1,659,893
<b>Geology &amp; Petroleum Department</b>	Royalties	15,493,994	10,732,808	4,884,039	\$2,000,000
<b>Forest Department</b>	Royalties	964,598	564,632	721,190	578, 748
<b>Dept. of Environment</b>	EIA Processing and Monitoring Fees	459,213	441,740	406,130	452,783
<b>Total</b>		<b>52,488,990</b>	<b>52,235,408</b>	<b>48,762,757</b>	<b>42,522,268</b>

**Table 4: Select Existing Finance Solutions in Belize**

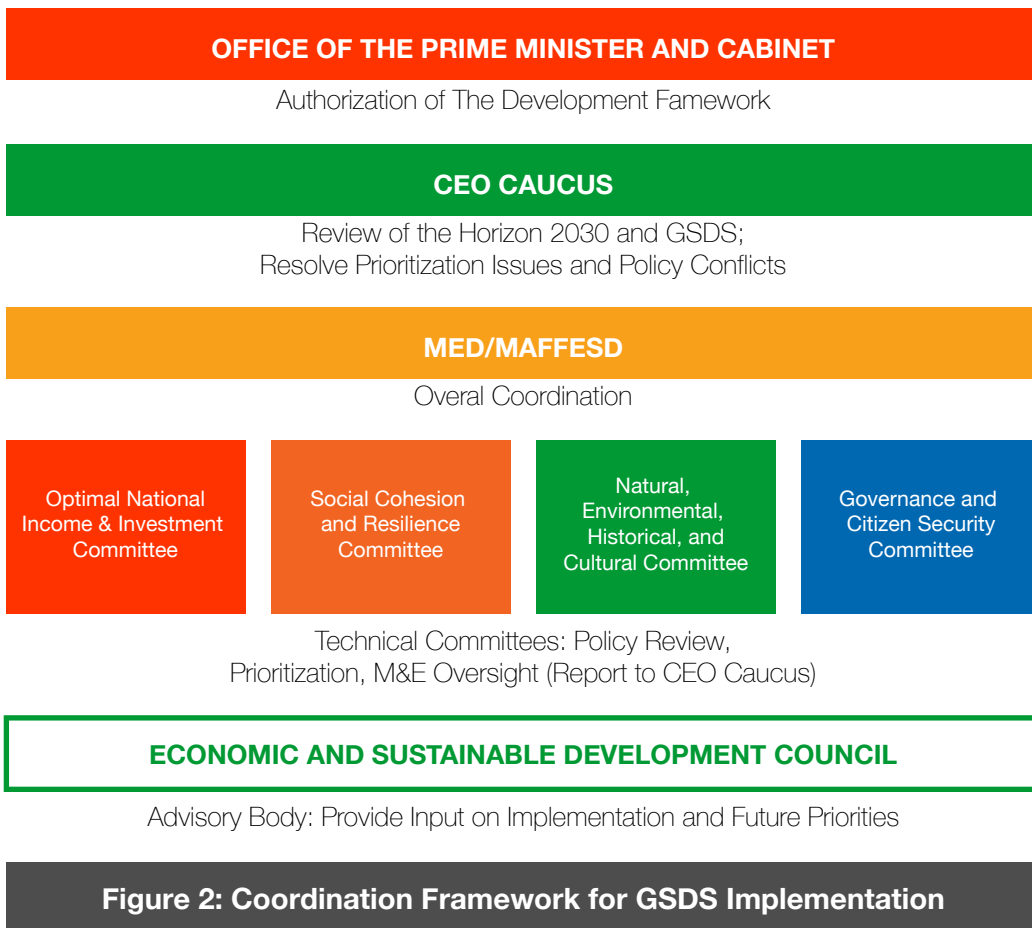
Name	Solution	Result	Description	Description	Responsible Party	Recipients	Financial Data (USD)
<b>Protected Areas Conservation Trust</b>	ETF <sup>2</sup>	Generate, deliver better	The PACT was established in 1996 with the aim of providing a dedicated source of financing to support protected areas management in Belize.	Tourists Fee	PACT Board of Directors	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	\$1.5 M
<b>Environmental Monitoring Fund</b>	CSR <sup>3</sup>	Deliver Better, Avoid future expenditures	established to provide financial support to the Department of Environment to carry out its mandate	Belize Natural Energy Ltd.	PACT Board of Directors	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	\$337,812
<b>Belize Marine Fund</b>	ETFT	Generate, deliver better	The was created through a US\$ 10M endowment challenge grant from the Oak Foundation.	OAK Foundation	PACT Board of Directors	Entities promoting conservation efforts	\$10. M
<b>Belize Nature Conservation Foundation (BNCF)</b>	ETF DNS <sup>4</sup>	Generate, deliver better, realign expenditures	The BNCF was the product of a Debt for Nature Swap with the United States Government and local NGOs. This agreement required the US Government, with funds from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), to retire US\$ 9M in debt from the Government of Belize.	OAK Foundation	PACT Board of Directors	PA Managers	\$9. M
<b>MARFUND</b>	ETF	Generate, deliver better, realign expenditures	MARFUND was established in 2004 to support ecoregional planning and coordination in management of the Mesoamerican Reef.	Multiple Donors including TNC, WWF, OAK, The Summit Foundation	MARFUND Board of Directors (PACT is responsible entity in Belize)	Marine PA Managers	\$8.2M
<b>German Government (GIZ and KfW)</b>	ODA <sup>5</sup>	Deliver better, avoid future expenditures	The GIZ is supporting efforts of the Caribbean states, including Belize, to adapt to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable use of natural resources and renewable energy, promote natural resource conservation (including forest management)	Multiple Donors including TNC, WWF, OAK, The Summit Foundation	GIZ KfW	Multiple recipients	\$2.8M
<b>GEF</b>	ODA	Deliver Better, Avoid future expenditures, Generate	The Global Environmental Facility provides funding for projects in areas of protected areas management, sustainable landscapes and seascapes, sustainable forest, and sustainable land management among others.	Multiple Donors including TNC, WWF, OAK, The Summit Foundation	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	GOB, NGOs, CBO	\$14.6M
<b>OAK Foundation (non-MARFUND)</b>	ODA	Deliver Better, Avoid future expenditures, Generate	OAK Foundation funds projects that seeks to conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods	Multiple Donors including TNC, WWF, OAK, The Summit Foundation	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	GOB, NGOs, CBO	\$2.8M
<b>BECOL Donation</b>	CSR	Deliver better	The Belize Electricity Company Limited provides an annual donation to the Friends for Conservation and Development to support the management of one of Belize's largest PA the Chiquibul Forest Reserve and National Park	Belize Electric Company Ltd.	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	Friends for Conservation and Development	US\$25,000.
<b>Environmental Tax</b>	Green Taxes	Generate Revenues	The Environmental Tax of 3% is charged on vehicles with 4 or more cylinders	Vehicle Owners	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	Government of Belize	\$30. M
<b>New England Biolabs</b>	ODA	Deliver better, avoid future expenditures	Fund community based conservation of landscapes and seascapes through protected areas management, ecological restoration, and improving community livelihoods	Vehicle Owners	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	NGOs in Belize	\$39, 500.
<b>Coca Cola Company</b>	CSR	Deliver better, avoid future expenditures	The Coca Cola company contributes funding for the management of the Belize River Watershed – the major source of water for the company.	Coca-Cola Company	UNDP Country Office – Resident Rep.	UB- ERI	\$30,000

# Institutional Analysis

The institutional analysis served to i) identify the key institutions and institutional arrangements relative to biodiversity finance in Belize; and, ii) to identify and prioritize key stakeholders, capacities and capacity gaps necessary to support biodiversity finance in Belize.

The scan of the institutional framework for biodiversity finance in Belize found that public sector institutions largely operate based on individual institutional mandates guided by specific legislations and policies. Such individual mandates pose a challenge to the implementation of actions requiring inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration in biodiversity management

and sustainable development. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment and Sustainable Development, for instance, implement several policies that require collaboration. However, no institutional framework currently exists to facilitate this coordination. Furthermore, individual government departments, such as the Forest and Fisheries Departments bear multifaceted mandates of ecosystems management, sustainable resource use, monitoring and enforcement. This dualistic role of public service agencies must be addressed in order to facilitate focused and targeted approach to biodiversity conservation and environmental management.



2 Environment Trust Fund  
3 Corporate Social Responsibility

4 Debt for Nature Swap  
5 Official Development Assistance

At the national level, coordination mechanisms such as the institutional framework for the implementation of the GSDS (2016 -2020) – Belize’s medium-term development framework – have aided to bridge the gaps and improve cross-scale and cross-level linkages (Figure 2).

Similarly, the establishment of a sounding board – the Technical Working Group – at project levels has aided, but not eliminated all gaps, in improving inter-ministerial participation in such efforts towards biodiversity finance. For biodiversity finance to be successful, it will require improved cross-level and cross-scale coordination between public, private, and civil society organizations.

The BIOFIN Initiative in Belize recognized the critical importance of stakeholders at the onset.

The Institutional Analysis served to identify the stakeholders that are critical to the BIOFIN process during the implementation of the various subcomponents (Figure 3). In addition to identifying and prioritizing the stakeholders, the analysis also identified some capacity needs or biodiversity management in Belize. A sample of stakeholder prioritization is provided below.

BIOFIN in Belize is led by the MFFESD in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. The Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Finance have also been key partners during the implementation of BIOFIN. These partners, among others, would need to be continuously engaged, particularly the Ministry of Finance.



**Figure 3: Power/Interest Matrix of Select Stakeholders in Biodiversity Finance**

A number of institutional and capacity needs exists for biodiversity management within both the public and private sectors. This includes: among others,

- The ability for the MFFESD to mainstream biodiversity considerations within national economic and other development priorities given Belize is a natural resource based economy;
- The advocacy ability to bring the Ministry of Finance into the mainstream to lead biodiversity finance in Belize;
- Strengthening cross-scale and cross-level linkages between private sectors and public-sector agencies in moving towards biodiversity finance;
- Ability to strengthen the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation framework of the GSDS and the National Statistical System to guide results-based management in the public sector in Belize.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The PIR serves as the first step of the ongoing BIOFIN process in Belize that will include a biodiversity expenditure review, finance needs assessment, and the development of a biodiversity finance plan. The BIOFIN Project, and specifically the PIR, has provided an important snapshot into the current policy, institutional, and finance landscape for biodiversity finance in Belize. The introduction and implementation of the Project, in and of itself, has raised the profile of biodiversity finance in Belize.

Overall, a sound policy and institutional framework exists in Belize to support biodiversity finance. The long-term and medium-term development frameworks, Horizon 2030 and GSDS, recognizes the environment is the basis of all economic activity and that economic development must be underpinned by the principles of sustainability. The seven prioritized targets of the NBSAP will be a key point of departure towards a focused approach to biodiversity use and management in Belize.

Some key points of entry for biodiversity finance in the national development frameworks include the government's commitments to move towards programme-based budgeting and performance reporting, as well as, efforts towards tax reforms, the establishment of a public-private partnership policy, and improved donor/national coordination mechanisms. Some of the concerns for biodiversity include policy objectives that drive biodiversity loss. Efforts such as sustainable forest management, managed access fisheries program, and "green" certification provides important footing for avoiding future expenditures, delivering better services, and generating financing towards increasing the effectiveness of investments biodiversity and sustainable development in Belize.

## Recommendations

Recommendations	Actions	NBSAP Targets
1	7 Prioritized NBSAP targets serve as the central strategies and actions for addressing biodiversity and environmental targets to the year 2020.	E3
2	Review and validate the Biodiversity Finance Needs Assessment which entails the costing of the implementation of the NBSAP. Coordinated Implementation of the Biodiversity Finance Plan/ Resource Mobilization Strategy	E3
2	Tracking of biodiversity and environmental management investments and impact.	E2
3	Review, validate, and approve current biodiversity expenditure review; Design and Implement a tool to track real time spending and impact on biodiversity related targets;	E2
3	Improve cross-sector and cross-level coordination in implementation of NBSAP	E3
4	Formalize the Technical Working Group of BIOFIN as entity with oversight for implementation of 7 prioritized actions and associated activities of NBSAP.	E3
4	Separate dualistic mandate of public entities, such as the Departments of Fisheries and Forestry, responsible for ecosystems management on the one hand and sustainable resource use, monitoring, and enforcement on the other.	B1
4	Legislative and institutional changes to the Forest and Fisheries Act and associated legislations to separate biodiversity and ecosystems management mandates from sustainable resource use, monitoring, and enforcement. Repurposing of personnel in a newly established entity with the mandate of biodiversity and ecosystems management including forestry and fisheries. One of the agency's specific mandates should be the implementation of the NBSAP.	B1
5	Improve local and international donor coordination and investment mechanisms	E1
5	Assess the current donor investment context in Belize; Track investments against 7 prioritized NBSAP Goals and identify funding gaps; Develop a strategy to attract donor investments against funding gaps;	E1
6	Improve current financing mechanisms for biodiversity and environmental management in Belize;	E1
6	Assess opportunities for the optimization of national financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and environmental management; Implementation of Biodiversity and Environmental Resource Mobilization Strategy to mobilize financial and material resources to implement biodiversity and environmental targets; zv Develop new finance instruments e.g. bonds, equity to accelerate achievement of biodiversity targets;	E1
7	Improved coordination and collaboration for biodiversity and conservation financing between MFFESD and Ministry of Finance	B1, E1
7	Establishment of a joint Green Finance Task Force with personnel of the Ministry of Finance and the MFFESD with a focus on environmental and conservation finance.	B1, E1

## Recommendations

Recommendations	Actions	NBSAP Targets	
8	<p>Improve coordination between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the MFFESD towards improved coordination and implementation of Forest and Fisheries Act, National Land Use Planning Framework, the National Environmental Policy and National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan among others.</p>	<p>Establishment of a Policy Unit within the MFFESD to guide policy development, implementation, and monitoring at the Ministry level as compared to Department level;</p> <p>Policy Unit of MFFESD and Policy Unit of the Ministry of Natural Resources develop joint Plan of Action to coordinate the implementation of inter-ministerial legislations, policies, and strategies.</p>	B1, B3
9	<p>Increase Incentives for biodiversity considerations in primary and secondary economic sectors in Belize</p>	<p>MFFESD engages Ministry of Tourism to create national green certification programs for the tourism and forestry sectors in Belize</p> <p>MFFESD engages Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen compliance with international green certification programs in agriculture and fisheries industry including Fairtrade and organic certification</p>	A2, B3
10	<p>Tax incentives/easements for private conservation of threatened/Red Listed Species in Belize;</p>	<p>MFFESD develops and recommends incentives (easements) to the Ministry of Finance for private entities engaged in the protection of critically endangered or threatened species in Belize. Recommendation would be to provide for reduced or waived land taxes.</p>	A2, B3

