

Government of Belize Consolidated Project Proposal

2023

Government Strategic Allocation (GSA)
Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (BFSF)





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Project Summary

Name of Organization applying:	Blue Bond & Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP)	
Project Title:	Establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources	
Project Location:	Belize	
Project Duration:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multi-year	
Project Implementation Period:	Start Date:	01/04/2022
	End Date:	30/11/2029
Is this project being Co-financed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please provide supporting information in Annex C</i>	
Does this project have a Co-Partner?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, please provide a Co-partner commitment letter in Annex C</i>	
Milestone(s)/Commitment(s) being fulfilled by project:	Milestones	Other Conservation Commitments
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Expand Biodiversity Protection Zones to 20.53%	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Designate Public Lands within Belize Barrier Reef Reserve Systems Mangrove Reserve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Belize initiates MSP process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue Carbon
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Expand biodiversity protection zones to 25% of the Ocean	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managed Access Program Evaluation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Implement ICZMP	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Complete biodiversity protection zones & MSP Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> World Heritage Sites



	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Submit at least 3 IUCN green list applications submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Management
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Approved Management Plans for Biodiversity Protection Zones	
Primary Project Contact:	Name of Official: Beverly Wade	
	Position: Director BBFP Unit	
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Secondary Project Contact:	Name of Official: Safira Vasquez	
	Position: Senior Technical Officer BBFP Unit	
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	Email Address: STO.bbfunit@opm.gov.bz	
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Date of submission:	04/01/2023	
Total GSA Requested Amount:	\$3,830,600 BZD	



1. Executive Summary

In November 2021, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Government of Belize (GOB) finalized the single largest debt conversion agreement through the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and the Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA). These agreements referred to as the Belize Blue Bond has enabled the country to reduce its debt burden and increase its long-term investment in Ocean conservation for 20 years and beyond with a commitment to protect up to 30% of Belize’s ocean, in addition to other conservation commitments, beneficial to the country’s economy and people.

In 2022 as stipulated by the BLA and CFA, a Conservation Fund was established known as the “Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future”. The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (BFSF) has two (2) funding mechanisms: (i) Government Strategic Allocation (GSA), and (ii) the Grant Awards Program (GAP). The GSA is earmarked for the Government and its agencies to support the achievement of the milestones and conservation commitments included in the CFA. The GSA is to be coordinated by a single government entity the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit for the development of the Government’s proposal to the BFSF.

The GSA submission for 2023 project proposal has been prepared alongside key agencies such as the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI), Belize Fisheries Department (FiD), Belize Forest Department (FD), Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU), and Belize Coast Guard (BCG).

The GSA proposal aims *to ensure the successful and timely delivery of the timebound Milestones and other conservation commitments for the Government of Belize with a focus on establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management, and enhanced monitoring of Belize’s coastal and marine resources.*

The proposal is comprised of six components. These components are:

- I. Strengthened Belize Fisheries Governance and Management Effectiveness in Belize’s Blue Space
- II. Electronic Observer Program for High Seas Fisheries
- III. Enhanced Enforcement and Protection of Belize’s Marine Resources
- IV. Strengthened National Capacity for the Delivery of Belize’s Marine Spatial Plan and Sustainable Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- V. Improved Monitoring, Reporting and Socialization of Mangroves and Reserves
- VI. Adaptive Management, Implementation and Socialization of Belize’s Blue Bond

The proposed projects within this GSA submission will be executed over n a 8-year time-period from 2022-2029 with a total budget of \$12,459,947.70 BZD, of which \$3,830,600 BZD is being requested for the BFSF 2023 funding cycle. It should be noted that this is inclusive of \$621,611BZD which was retroactively approved for 2022.



2. Project Document

2.1 Background

In January 2022, the Prime Minister established the Blue Bond & Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP) within the Office of the Prime Minister. The BBFP Unit has been charged with the principal objective to ensure that the Government of Belize (GoB) meets all commitments outlined in the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA) in collaboration with the Belize Blue Investment Company (BZBIC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The BBFP Unit is also charged with pursuing an innovative new financing model: Project for Finance Permanence (PfP) along with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to further assist Belize in meeting and sustaining their Nationally Determine Contributions (NDCs) and Conservation goals.

The Unit is authorized in accordance with applicable procedures to employ and engage personnel to provide requisite support for the fulfillment of obligations under the BLA and the CFA and the successful design of a PfP for Belize. The Unit will work closely with key Government agencies for the development and implementation of the various annual approved Government Strategic Allocation (GSA) proposals to the Belize Fund for A Sustainable Future (BFSF) to ensure the realization of the Milestones and other Conservation Commitments as outlined in the BLA and CFA.

2.2 Introduction

On November 4th, 2021, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Government of Belize (GoB) finalized the single largest debt conversion agreement known as the Blue Bond. This new Bond enabled the country to reduce its debt burden and increase its long-term investment in Ocean conservation for 20 years and beyond. The Blue Bond at its core has committed Belize to protecting up to 30% of its ocean, in addition to a range of other conservation commitments, which will benefit the country's economy and its people.

One major component of the Belize Blue Bond was to establish the creation of a new independent Conservation Fund. The new Conservation Fund was established in early 2022 and is officially known as the "Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future". The Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future (BFSF) has two (2) funding programs: 1) Government Strategic Allocation (GSA), and 2) the Grant Awards Program (GAP). The Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP), established within the Office of the Prime Minister, has been charged as the single government entity responsible for the coordination of the GSA with close consultation with key Government agencies to ensure the realization of the Milestones and other Conservation Commitments as outlined in the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and the Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA).

In October 2022, the BBFP opened the call for GSA concepts amongst Government agencies. Six concepts were then further developed to form the Government's GSA submission which focuses on the development of a Marine Spatial Plan and the strengthening of governance structure, improved management and enhanced enforcement of Belize's coastal and marine resources. The key agencies along with the BBFP responsible for the delivery of this proposal includes the Belize Fisheries Department (FiD), Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute (CZMAI), Belize Forest Department (FD), Belize Coast Guard (BCG) and Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU).



The proposal is divided into six strategic components to ensure the fulfillment of the timebound Milestones and other conservation commitments. The components are as follows:

- I. Strengthened Belize Fisheries Governance and Management Effectiveness in Belize's Blue Space
- II. Electronic Observer Program for High Seas Fisheries
- III. Enhanced Enforcement and Protection of Belize's Marine Resources
- IV. Strengthened National Capacity for the Delivery of Belize's Marine Spatial Plan and Sustainable Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- V. Improved Monitoring, Reporting and Socialization of Mangroves and Reserves
- VI. Adaptive Management, Implementation and Socialization of Belize's Blue Bond

2.3 Justification

The GSA annual submission prepared by the Government of Belize is designed to ensure the successful and timely delivery of Belize's conservation commitments. Each GSA submission takes into consideration the timebound milestones and baselines needed for the realization of Belize's obligations under the BLA and CFA.

Component 1: Strengthened Belize's Fisheries Governance and Management Effectiveness in Belize's Blue Space

These milestones and commitments are paramount in supporting sustainable fisheries management and economic growth within Belize's blue space. The need for improved governance and management structures signals the challenges confronted by the sector and the opportunity to address them. A few of the main threats include the limited resources to effectively manage Belize's fisheries resources and its blue space, the need for strengthened governance for protected areas, the limited institutional capacity to execute necessary activities and operations, and non-compliance with fisheries regulations. This component seeks to address these challenges and create opportunities to strengthen the overall management effectiveness of the Department and marine reserves. The improved governance frameworks and enhanced institutional capacity will enable the government's ability to effectively monitor and ensure compliance of the fisheries laws which is vital to protecting Belize's valuable marine areas and fisheries. Non-compliance with fishing regulations can undermine management effectiveness and threatens fisheries sustainability. Fisheries compliance is aimed at the fair and correct application of the regulations and to enforce these rules where necessary. This will demand strategic and targeted engagements with fishers and other stakeholders. Informed patrols alongside a robust education and outreach programme that will foster a better understanding of the factors driving compliance and the identification of opportunities for collaborations and community stewardship.

Component 2: Electronic Observer Program for High Seas Fisheries

Belize has a distant water fishing fleet which, by its very nature, does not subscribe to traditional monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. As Belize undertakes the process of developing its Marine Spatial Plan, the expansion of fisheries in non-traditional areas, this will undoubtedly highlight deep sea areas in Belize's Exclusive Economic Zone with potential for fisheries development. As such, this component will assist Belize through the implementation of an electronic monitoring system to enhance its monitoring, control, and surveillance mechanism for the regulation of the fleet whilst creating a deterrence to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing amongst Belize's distant water fishing fleet. Additionally, the result of this component is expected to strengthen the governance framework for compliance with the requirements of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other relevant conservation and management regulations and measures.



Component 3: Enhanced Enforcement and Protection of Belize Marine Resources

The Belize Coast Guard (BCG) is challenged to patrol the vast area in our maritime spaces efficiently due to a lack of resources and budgetary constraints. The resources allocated to fulfill the BCG's mandate are insufficient and this causes gaps in the monitoring of our maritime spaces which makes them susceptible to illegal and unreported activities. The budget allocation for the last three (3) years has decreased, and the prices of fuel have increased. The instability in the economy and increased fuel prices has caused unprecedented effects on the organization. The BCG is highly dependent on fuel to conduct operations but diminishing budget allocation limits their capability to conduct operations effectively. The organization must prioritize on the most important tasks trying to maximize on available resources. The CFA commitments will bring another challenge that the BCG must be prepared to address. The expansion of biodiversity protection zones will require the BCG to enforce, monitor, deter and interdict individuals contravening these regulations related to the protection of Belize's marine resources. The successful delivery of these milestones will require that law enforcement operations to be carried out in a more effective and cost-efficient manner. The unmanned air system will be used as an innovative solution that will provide the BCG a cost-effective monitoring mechanism operated from the patrol bases.

Component 4: Strengthened National Capacity for the delivery of Belize's Marine Spatial Plan and Sustainable Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

The Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute (CZMAI), the designated Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) lead agency, will lead the delivery of this component through delivery of Milestones 3, and 6 related to the development of a Marine Spatial Plan, inclusive of the protection of up to 30% of Belize's ocean space through the designation of biodiversity protection zones (Milestones 1,4, 6 and 8). This component will also support the modernization of the legal and policy frameworks for sustainable Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Belize (Milestone 5). Currently, the CZMAI does not possess all the necessary capacity to deliver on these milestones and commitments. Therefore, there is the need for resources to be mobilized to support the acquisition of these capacities and be able to integrate them for the successful delivery of Belize's MSP.

Component 5: Improved Monitoring, Reporting and Socialization of Mangroves and Reserves

A major part of Belize's national strategies and international commitments for the Forest and Other Land Use sector are centered on reforestation and landscape restoration. This is highlighted in the National Landscape restoration Strategy (NLRs) for Belize 2022-2030 (to be presented to cabinet for approval) and the recently submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In 2019 Belize prioritized 130,000 hectares to be restored between 2020 and 2030. This target includes 50,000 hectares dedicated to forest restoration and 80,000 hectares for agro-landscape regeneration.

Belize's NDC commitment to mitigate and reduce GHG emissions under the Forestry and Other Land Use sector aims to avoid an estimated cumulative emissions total of 5,647 KtCO_{2e} between 2021 and 2030 (peaking at 1,080 KtCO_{2e} in avoided emissions in 2030). One of Belize's commitments for this sector is completing an in-situ assessment of the below-ground carbon stock of mangroves by 2022, leading to the application of relevant IPCC methodologies to assess the feasibility of including seagrass in a wetlands component, alongside a comprehensive assessment of mangrove-based carbon stock, in the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and other relevant reports by 2025 which will also create the necessary baselines needed to inform the blue carbon development framework as part of the realization of Belize's CFA Blue Carbon commitment .

Complimentary to the mangroves Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), the Forest Department under this component will increase stewardship of mangrove ecosystems, by the passing of knowledge and information to vulnerable communities and the wider public through the execution of a robust educational awareness campaign on the significance of mangrove forest protection and its associated regulations. While mangrove clearance (selective



trimming or alteration) is regulated today by the amended Forests (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations of 2018, permits issued by the Belize Forest Department alone cannot account for all mangrove loss in private lands. The issuance of private lands in reserves though constitutional, has posed a threat to the existing ecosystems when development begins, and mangrove forests are cleared to create beach fronts. To deter the continuation of this type of threat, the Government of Belize placed a permanent ban on the sale of public lands within the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (BBRRS). Actions such as strengthened enforcement and the socialization of the importance of healthy mangrove forests will protect the existing mangrove forests, and by extension, the entire coast of Belize from hurricanes and storm surges through ecosystem services provided by these ecosystems.

Implementation of this component will improve the ability of the Forest Department to monitor annual mangrove cover through high-resolution imagery as well as provide much-needed data through the expansion of the current network of permanent sample plots, addressing data needs/gaps for the monitoring of other activities within mangrove ecosystems for which there is no current monitoring system which would be key in ensuring that national priorities such as Belize's updated NDC and CFA commitments are met.

Component 6: Adaptive Management, Implementation and Socialization of Belize's Blue Bond

The Blue Bond & Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP) in January 2022 was established within the Office of the Prime Minister to ensure that the Government of Belize (GoB) meets all commitments outlined in the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA). The Blue BBFP is required to house the requisite staff and skill set to successfully interface with all levels of the implementation of the Agreements, relevant institutions and ensuring mainstreaming of the Government's policies and decisions as it relates to these obligations. This includes coordinating with key Government agencies for the development of the various Government Strategic Allocation (GSA) proposals along with the effective management, implementation and monitoring of the approved programmed activities geared towards the realization of the Milestones and other Conservation Commitments. The Unit is also mandated to provide the various reporting requirements and obligations to the Prime Minister on the delivery of the Agreements' obligations and also to other relevant institutions such as the BFSF.

The socialization of Belize Blue Bond is also critical for the successful implementation of the conservation aspects and the economic growth of Belize's blue space. The socialization of the Blue Bonds will influence the perception and participation of the public, private sector and all stakeholders for the successful implementation of the Blue Bond.



2.4 Project Goals and Objectives

The overarching goal of this proposal is to ensure the successful and timely delivery of the timebound Milestones and conservation commitments for the Government of Belize with a focus on establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management, and enhanced enforcement of Belize's coastal and marine resources.

COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENED FISHERIES GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE BELIZE'S BLUE SPACE

Goal: Strengthened fisheries governance and management regime to support Belize's national development goals and Blue Bond commitments

Objective: To enable the sustainable use of Belize's blue space through strengthened governance and management regimes that fosters sustainable and economic expansion.

COMPONENT 2: ELECTRONIC OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR HIGH SEAS FISHERIES

Goal: Implement Electronic Monitoring Systems onboard Belize Flagged vessels

Objective: To utilize an electronic monitoring system (EMS) to improve the collection of electronic observer data to meet the reporting requirement of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance of Belize's distant water fishing vessels.

COMPONENT 3: ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF BELIZE'S MARINE RESOURCES

Goals: Enhanced protection of Belize's Marine Resources through the strengthened capacity of the Belize Coast Guard

Objectives: The enhancement of the BCG operational capabilities through the utilization of Unmanned Air System to conduct long-range aerial patrols in our internal waters, territorial seas, and parts of our exclusive economic zone for fisheries enforcement and protection of Belize's marine resources.

COMPONENT 4: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE DELIVERY OF BELIZE'S MARINE SPATIAL PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Goals:

1. Strengthen Belize's national capacity for the development and implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan
2. Modernize, strengthen, and formally adopt the legal, policy, and institutional framework for Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Belize



Objective: To support the development and implementation of a Marine Spatial Plan and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

COMPONENT 5: IMPROVING MONITORING, REPORTING AND SOCIALIZATION OF MANGROVES AND RESERVES

Goals:

1. Improve long-term monitoring and reporting of mangrove cover and ongoing restoration activities.
2. Compliance of newly designated mangrove reserves and regulations

Objectives: To improve the monitoring and reporting of mangrove cover and ongoing restoration activities while supporting the compliance of newly designated mangrove reserves and regulations.

COMPONENT 6. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND SOCIALIZATION OF BELIZE'S BLUE BOND

Goal: To successfully implement the commitments outlined within the BLA and CFA and to facilitate the necessary interface and coordination with the design of the PFP.

Objectives:

1. To deliver the conservation commitments/targets as outlined in the CFA.
2. To establish a coordinated approach for Government agencies to access of the Strategic Government Allocation under the Conservation Fund and deliver on the various commitments and targets.
3. To provide oversight for the successful delivery of commitments/targets and develop required reports.
4. To develop the necessary coordination mechanism and support for the design of the PFP.



2.5 Project Description

The 2023 GSA proposal focuses on establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management, and enhanced enforcement of Belize’s coastal and marine resources. This proposal will ensure the successful and timely delivery of timebound milestones and conservation commitments under the Blue Loan Agreement and Conservation Fund Agreement.

The proposal is comprised of six components to be implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister alongside responsible Government partner agencies. These components with accompanying responsible partners are highlighted below:

No.	Component Title	Responsible Partner
1	Strengthened Belize Fisheries Governance and Management Effectiveness in Belize’s Blue Space	Belize Fisheries Department (FiD)
2	Electronic Observer Program for High Seas Fisheries	Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit (BHSFU)
3	Enhanced Enforcement and Protection of Belize’s Marine Resources	Belize Coast Guard (BCG)
4	Strengthened National Capacity for the Delivery of Belize’s Marine Spatial Plan and Sustainable Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI)
5	Improved Monitoring, Reporting and Socialization of Mangroves and Reserves	Belize Forest Department (FD)
6	Adaptive Management, Implementation and Socialization of Belize’s Blue Bond	Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit, OPM (BBFP)

The proposed projects within this GSA submission will be executed over n a 8-year time-period from 2022-2029 with a total budget of \$12,459,947.70 BZD, of which \$3,830,600 BZD is being requested for the BFSF 2023 funding cycle. It should be noted that this is inclusive of \$621,611 BZD which was retroactively approved for 2022.



2.6 Targeted Milestones and Commitments

The Milestones and other Conservation commitments being targeted in this GSA proposal are as follows:

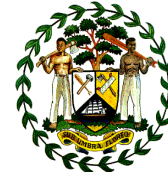
Milestones

1. Expansion of Biodiversity Protection Zones (11.6 % for an overall total of 20.5%)
2. Designation of Mangrove Reserves
3. Initiation of the MSP Process
4. Expansion of Biodiversity Protection Zones (4.5 % for an overall total of 25%)
5. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (revised CZM Act and ICZMP)
6. Expansion of Biodiversity Protection Zones (5 % or as indicated in the MSP for an overall total of up to 30%)
7. IUCN Green List
8. Biodiversity Protection Zones Management Plans

Conservation Commitments

- B) Fisheries Governance Framework
- C) National Regulatory Framework for Blue Carbon Development
- D) Managed Access Program Evaluation
- F) World Heritage Sites

Several components of this proposal support one or more of the above targeted Milestones and Commitments. Annex 1 establishes the linkages between the milestone and conservation commitments that the various components of this proposal will target.



3. Project Results Framework

This project will achieve the successful and timely delivery of milestones (1-8) and conservation commitments (B, C, D and F) under the Blue Loan Agreement and Conservation Fund Agreement.

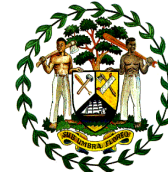
Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENED FISHERIES GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE BELIZE'S BLUE SPACE					
Project Objective 1 To enable the sustainable use of Belize's blue space through strengthened governance and management regimes that fosters sustainable and economic expansion.	Output 1.1 Increased Biodiversity Protection Zones	~ 13.5 % of Belize's ocean space designated as biodiversity protection zones	Increased number of monitoring and compliance patrols in MPAs Fisheries sector integrated into MSP process Up to 30% Biodiversity protection zones achieved and enacted	Demarcation buoys and signage installed Monitoring & Enforcement reports Number of fisheries officers trained in GIS; GIS hardware and software installed and operational; GIS maps Enacted legislation with legal description of proposed expansion	Weather conditions may delay the deployment of demarcation buoys and signage Current legal description of biodiversity protection zones is amended to address gaps and discrepancies identified (Milestone 1).

Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
Project Objective 1	Output 1.2 Manage Access Program Evaluation		Manage access program effectiveness improved	Manage Access program evaluation report with recommendations	Recommendations from manage access program is implementable Fisheries management and co-management is strengthened
Project Objective 1	Output 1.3 Strengthened Fisheries Governance and MPA management		National sustainable fisheries guidelines endorsed; Fishing gears mapped and registered, and unauthorized fishing gears and materials for all major fisheries (lobster, fin fish, shark) phased out. NPOA-IUU for Belize domestic fisheries enforced Fisheries enforcement strategy developed endorsed Number of fisheries officers trained	National guidelines for sustainable fisheries NPOA-IUU for Belize domestic fisheries Fisheries enforcement strategy developed Fisheries enforcement training modules	Compliance by fishers for mapping, registration and removal of fishing gears. Conformity with international best practices for the elimination of destructive fishing gears and unauthorized materials. Resources for implementation becomes available Government accepts and endorses the national fisheries enforcement strategy Adequate resources are available for Fisheries Officers to utilize enforcement training in the field

Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
			<p>Fisheries Resource Act amended</p> <p>IUCN application submitted</p> <p>Fisheries biological monitoring program established</p>	<p>Regulations developed to support the Fisheries Resources Act</p> <p>IUCN application completed</p> <p>Baseline datasets for each sector. Stock assessment and monitoring reports;</p> <p>A central in-house database developed for all licensing, biological data, enforcement, catch data, monitoring data, etc.</p>	<p>Amendments endorsed by the Government</p> <p>At least 3 MPAs are listed on ICU Green List</p> <p>Datasets are used to inform decision making</p> <p>Central database is updated to time and is informative and accessible to data users</p>
COMPONENT 2: ELECTRONIC OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR HIGH SEAS FISHERIES					
Project Objective 2 To utilize an electronic monitoring system (EMS) to improve the collection of electronic observer data to meet the reporting requirement of	Output 2.1 Electronic Monitoring System for High Seas Fisheries	On board human observer coverage	EMS units reporting on management platform	EMS installed onboard all Belize flagged fishing vessels (that fish beyond national jurisdiction)	<p>Owners and operators confirm to receipt of notice and is cooperative to install EMS onboard.</p> <p>EMS testing will be successful for easy roll out.</p> <p>EMS increases monitoring capabilities in distant waters;</p>



Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance of Belize's distant water fishing vessels.					increased compliance by operators.
Project Objective 2	Output 2.2 EMS Capacity Building of BHSFU		Number of BHSFU staff trained	Training for BHSFU staff on the use of EMS management platform	BHSFU capable to effectively manage EMS platform.
COMPONENT 3: ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF BELIZE'S MARINE RESOURCES					
Project Objective 3 The enhancement of the BCG operational capabilities through the utilization of Unmanned Air System to conduct long-range aerial patrols in our internal waters, territorial seas, and parts of our exclusive economic zone for fisheries enforcement and	Output 3.1 Established Aerial Monitoring Capabilities	10 patrols conducted per month	Increased number of monitoring operations in Biodiversity protection zones	Statistical data acquired and Patrol Reports	The amount of illegal harvest of marine species/ resources will be reduced. Decreased carbon footprint for BCG operations
		Total Area of operations	Increased area of operation to include Exclusive Economic Zone.	Patrol Reports	The BCG will acquire platforms that will facilitate the operation of drones in the Exclusive Economic Zone.
		Total Inaccessible	Increase in drone operations in	Patrol Reports	Operating surface assets close to shoals in interdiction operations increases the risk of



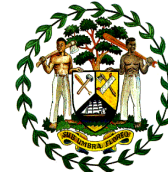
Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
protection of Belize’s marine resources.		areas using surface assets	mangroves, shoal areas		getting lower units damaged; the operation of drones can compliment such operations within these areas.
COMPONENT 4: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE DELIVERY OF BELIZE’S MARINE SPATIAL PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT					
Project Objective 4 To support the development and implementation of a Marine Spatial Plan and Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Output 4.1 Completed Marine Spatial Plan		Recommendations from MSP process for the expansion of Biodiversity Protection Zones up to 30% of Belize’s Ocean Space MSP Governance Framework Established MSP Process Launched	Spatial data layers, maps with accompanying technical report; SIs with legal description of BPZ MSP Core Team, Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups Meeting Minutes/Reports; #decisions/resolutions from MSP SC, Executive Committee GOB Official Press Release	Current legal description of biodiversity protection zones is amended to address gaps and discrepancies identified (Milestone 1). Composition and membership of various components of the governance framework will remain for the duration of the MSP development process and phases
		Technical gap in CZMAI capacity to fulfill the delivery of MSP;	CZMAI Technical and operational capacity increased through hiring of 8 key	Terms of References; Contracts	Government will be able to meet the targeted deadline

Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
		No operational resources available to discharge MSP related duties	positions delivery of the MSP		Staff contracts will be renewed for the entire duration of the project with sustainability following
		“Informed Management” marine zoning scheme as per Belize ICZM Plan 2016	Level of Stakeholder Engagement/buy-in	Implementation of the MSP communication Plan	Stakeholders and public understand the MSP process and its benefits to its users and all Belizeans
			Approved MSP spatial zones, maps, Policy, Implementation Plan and Regulations are implemented and enforced	Spatial data layers, and maps; Copy of MSP policy document, implementation plan and budget; Copy of Regulations for enforcement of MSP Zones.	MSP will effectively deliver on the needs for forging a sustainable blue economy in Belize
Project Objective 4	Output 4.2 Revised CZM Act, Regulations and CZM Plan	CZM Act 1998, CZM Amendment Act 2015, CZMA Regulations 2009, Legal	Legal/Policy Working Group Established	Meeting Minutes/ resolutions	Composition and membership sustained for the duration of the process
			Updated legislative and policy framework for coastal zone management, including marine	Government Gazette; Copies of legislation; Copy of CZM (Amendment) Act 2024; Copies of CZM Regulations, 2024	Legislative review process will be comprehensive, robust and ‘forward-thinking’

Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
		Review & Draft Proposed Amendments 2018 Belize ICZM Plan approved September 2016; External evaluation of the implementation progress of the Belize ICZM Plan during 2016-2020	spatial planning, is established Updated policy and planning framework of sustainable ICZM in Belize	Copy of plan document; Government gazette	Stakeholder inputs and participation into the updating process will be effective
COMPONENT 5: IMPROVING MONITORING, REPORTING AND SOCIALIZATION OF MANGROVES AND RESERVES					
Project Objective 5 To improve the monitoring and reporting of mangrove cover and ongoing restoration activities while supporting the compliance of	Output 5.1 Expansion of National Forest Monitoring Database	2017 mangrove land use cover map 4 mangrove plots established	Annually produced Mangrove Land Use Cover Map Five sample plots established per year	Mangrove Land use cover map	Information and data management systems contribute to improve the current Forest Sector Green House Gas Inventory.

Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
newly designated mangrove reserves and regulations			(for a total of 25 Mangrove sample plots across Belize) Soils Lab established	Field Sheets and data entry for established mangrove plots; Above ground and below ground biomass data Data collection and analysis of data on Soil Carbon and Below Ground Biomass (BGB)	Extreme weather events may inhibit the establishment of plots in any one given year. Enhancement/ strengthening of the standardized and integrated national database (FORMNET) with additional 25 mangrove sample plots. National and international reporting of Greenhouse Gas Inventory estimates for the Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector improved. Belize improves from the current tier 1 (default) estimates to tier 2-3 (National) estimates used to inform GHG emissions and removals.
Project Objective 5	Output 5.2 Effective Management of Mangrove Reserves within the BBRS	0% Fisheries Officers based at marine reserve stations are trained in Mangrove Regulations	80% of personnel based at marine reserve stations to be trained in Mangrove Regulations	Workshop roll call/attendance registration	Continuous training opportunity for new staff.

Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
		<p>Zero patrols being conducted with mangrove conservation focus.</p> <p>Zero private land holder partnerships</p> <p>1 community with interest in mangrove preservation</p>	<p>At least 12 patrols conducted in designated areas annually.</p> <p>At least 10 private land holders trained in green development and mangrove restoration techniques</p> <p>At least 10 communities to be targeted for educational and public awareness campaigns</p>	<p>Patrol logbook/fuel-use book.</p> <p>Workshop report with accompanying attendance registration</p> <p>Public Education and awareness campaign plan and resulting reports</p>	<p>Fuel shortage by FiD for routine patrols.</p> <p>Voluntary restoration of coastal areas parallel to private lands</p> <p>Meetings with community leaders to foster buy-in by communities.</p>
COMPONENT 6. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND SOCIALIZATION OF BELIZE’S BLUE BOND					
<p>Project Objective 6 To successfully implement the commitments outlined within the BLA and CFA and to facilitate the necessary interface and coordination with the design of the PFP.</p>	<p>Output 6.1 Adaptive Management and Implementation</p>	<p>Unit established in early 2022 with no assigned staff</p> <p>No mechanism nor frameworks exist</p>	<p>Number of Capacity established within the BBFP</p> <p>Coordinated mechanism for proposal, budget development, and execution for CFA</p>	<p>Terms of References. Contracts</p> <p>Effective management, implementation, and monitoring of approved GSA;</p>	<p>National capacity exists to meet the needs of the BBFP.</p> <p>Coordination mechanism will be established and supported by Government agencies.</p>



Objective	Output/ Expected Result	Baseline	Performance Indicator	Source of Verification	Risk and Assumption
		Programmed activities and plans by Government agencies prior to Nov 2021	<p>Government Strategic Allocation</p> <p>CFA milestones and conservation commitments delivery</p> <p>Technical support and oversight provided to the marine spatial plan process and roadmap for Belize's PfP design</p>	<p>Annual GSA submission to the BFSF</p> <p>Annual Conservation Reports and Milestone Reports</p> <p>BBFP participation in meetings, committees and sub-committees (meeting minutes/ reports)</p>	<p>High level support from the GOB for the fulfillment of these obligations.</p> <p>MSP and PfP are being developed simultaneously utilizing the same human capacities from within agencies. There are shared relevant agencies between both processes. Strong coordination between both process leads will be necessary to avoid conflicts and fatigue of stakeholders.</p>
Project Objective 6	Output 6.2 Belize Blue Bond Communication Plan	None	Level of stakeholder engagement	Belize Blue Bond Communication Strategy and Plan	Socialization of the Blue Bonds will influence the perception and participation of the public, private sector, and all stakeholders for its successful implementation.



4. Project Sustainability

COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENED FISHERIES GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE BELIZE'S BLUE SPACE

Activities being proposed for implementation focuses on increasing the percentage of biodiversity protection zones, increasing community and stakeholder engagement and awareness on related activities, improving fisheries governance, increasing monitoring and compliance, and conduct assessments of Belize's fisheries resources.

The installation of demarcation buoys and signage at South Water Caye Marine Reserve will help to ensure fishers' and other users are aware of the boundaries of the expanded protected areas resulting in compliance with its designation. The buoys and signage to be installed in the protected area jurisdiction will be maintained by protected areas' authorities and the fishers operating in those areas. Funds to maintain these installations will be provided from the yearly operational budgets of the Belize Fisheries Department.

The strengthening of capacity will be an on-going undertaking given the dynamic and revolving nature of the marine environment and the need to continuously update the management approach on adaptation in the sector. Added capacity building opportunities and funding will emerge from pipeline projects (IDB & Taiwan) which will complement and support the mainstreaming of information into the wider marine spatial planning process.

Community/Stakeholder engagement will be executed by the Belize Fisheries Department and integrated into its annual budget with financial support from other funding sources.

To ensure effectiveness of fisheries governance, a revision will be done every 5 years. Funds to conduct such activities will be sourced through other funding mechanisms.

The mapping and registration exercise to record and register fishing gear and other equipment used for specific fisheries will commence with funds under the 2023 GSA, nonetheless; registration will continue in subsequent years. Funds will be provided from the annual budget of the Belize Fisheries Department.

COMPONENT 2: ELECTRONIC OBSERVER PROGRAM FOR HIGH SEAS FISHERIES

The electronic monitoring system (EMS) being considered for implementation includes a vessel monitoring system (VMS) component. VMS service constitutes a part of the annual recurrent expenditure for the BHSFU and therefore, the budgetary allocations for VMS will be redesignated for the new EMS/VMS. Since vessels routinely install new VMS equipment as a pre-condition for licensing, the new EMS/VMS equipment will be designated as the new requirement for licensing and these costs will be borne by the vessel owners.

Upon the completion of the project, the current VMS service will be discontinued, and replaced in its entirety by the EMS/VMS subscription acquired under this project.



COMPONENT 3: ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF BELIZE'S MARINE RESOURCES

The Unmanned Air System project is a more cost effective and sustainable approach to conduct law enforcement, and monitoring operations as most of the cost is consumed by the acquisition of the drones. Once the drones have been acquired through the GSA, their operation and maintenance cost are minimal and will be the full responsibility of the BCG. Using the BCG's annual budget, the organization will sustain the operations, deployment, and maintenance of the drones. In its budget, the BCG has funds allocated for maintenance and operation of equipment which can be used for these drones. Likewise, Coast Guard members will be identified to operate and maintain these drones and will not require hiring of new staff. These members will be deployed with the drones to the Forward Operating Bases from where they will launch and recover these assets.

COMPONENT 4: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE DELIVERY OF BELIZE'S MARINE SPATIAL PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Under this component, the CZMAI's capacity will be strengthened and the necessary enabling conditions (i.e. modernized legislation and policy framework, technical skills, etc.) will be created to better deliver its mandate beyond the delivery of this project. In order for continuity of the marine conservation actions to be sustained beyond the life of the project and in perpetuity, CZMAI will need secure sustainable financing either via the establishment of a marine conservation endowment fund or the finance permanence mechanisms or other funding mechanisms as per its norm.

COMPONENT 5: IMPROVING MONITORING, REPORTING AND SOCIALIZATION OF MANGROVES AND RESERVES

The Forest Department has the mandate of measuring and tracking greenhouse gas emissions and removals from the forestry and other land use (FOLU) sector of Belize and has recently formalized the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) Unit which is charged with executing this mandate. The work done by the unit is intended for long-term measurement and monitoring of GHG within the sector. This component is expected to build the unit's capacity and assist in the procurement of much needed resources to expand on the annual existing and future workplans of the unit. Once capacity has been strengthened and resources obtained, the unit will then be able to fully execute its mandates.

The collaboration between the Forest Department, Fisheries Department and co-management partners is long-standing and will be further strengthened with training provided for these personnel. Officers trained in the mangrove regulations can continue their compliance monitoring during their routine patrols of the marine reserves now with the understanding of the expectations within the regulations as it relates to the management of mangroves. Site inspections and joint patrols will be routinely carried out, after the lifespan of this project, supported by the recurrent funds of the regulatory bodies: Forest and Fisheries Departments.

By the end of the project when objectives are completed, the FD will have a stable relationship with target communities, a standard method/ approach for public awareness, prepared and refined key messages, games, activities, and a demonstrative model on the importance on mangrove ecosystems that can be used for years to come.

5. Risk Analysis

ID	Description	Risk Type	Probability & Impact level	Countermeasure(s)/Mitigation actions
1	Contractor delays and sourcing of materials	Operational; Financial	Low	Timely advertisements and distribution of contract details; reserve materials as soon as project is approved.
2	Extreme weather event delays deployment, can impede fieldwork progress, or lead to loss of resources, materials, etc.	Environmental	Medium	Monitor weather systems and reports for poor or extreme weather conditions to better schedule field activities. Designate appropriate time periods in the year to prioritize field work (dry season).
3	Non-operational hardware and software.	Technological	Low	Ensure that purchases have warranty and are maintained periodically.
4	Lack of stakeholders' participation due to being away from office or conflict in schedule	Operational	Medium	Provide advance notice to stakeholder partners for meetings/calls by sending constant reminders to ensure continuous communication and coordination. Ensure coordination with other related national activities to avoid clashes and stakeholder fatigue.
5	Delay in acquisition of suitable consultant due to a variety on on-going projects.	Operational; Socio-economical	High	Timely advertisements and circulation of contract details on various platforms.
6	Limited data and other biological information available and collected.	Environmental; Operational	Medium	Establish MOUs with partners for data sharing in order to inform the baseline for the monitoring programs.
7	Potential deletion of vessels that do not want to be subject to electronic observer requirement.	Economic, legal	Low	The notice will highlight the benefits of the electronic observer program to the vessel owners adequate time will be provided for the transition to EMS to ensure that owners are able to access the financing needed.

ID	Description	Risk Type	Probability & Impact level	Countermeasure(s)/Mitigation actions
8	Supply chain/installation bottleneck	Economic, technological	Low	Sufficient notice will be given to service provider to prepare for the demand on their supplies and services.
9	Change in drone price	Economical	High	Have more than one option supplier available within the same price range. Ensure that all procurement documents and approvals have a quick turnaround to ensure that procurement occurs quickly to avoid market price changes.
10	Delay in delivery of drone	Economical	Low	Ensure clause on delivery time is inserted and highlighted to product provider.
11	Fuel insufficiency	Organizational	Medium	For start up, ensure fuel is budgeted for within this proposal to support compliance monitoring of mangrove reserves.



6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will be monitored through the following M& E activities.

Project start:

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure as well as other relevant stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first-year annual work plan. The Inception Workshop should address a number of key issues including:

1. Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities.
2. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines.
3. Based on the project results framework, finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and recheck assumptions and risks.
4. Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan should be agreed and scheduled.
5. Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations.
6. Plan and schedule the BB CEO Executive Committee meetings as they will function as the Board of the approved GSA programs. Roles and responsibilities of all project organisation structures should be clarified, and meetings planned.

An Inception Workshop report will be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Quarterly:

Progress made shall be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis utilizing reporting formats provided by the BFSF.

Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated. Risks become high when the impact and probability are high.

Annually:

Annual Project Implementation Reports (APIR) shall be prepared to monitor progress made since project start and will be as a means of justification for the subsequent annual disbursement in support of subsequent activities planned beyond the 2023 project fund cycle. Reporting requirements will be determined by the BFSF and shall be aligned to annual conservation reports as outlined from the BLA and CFA.

End of Project:

During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

Learning and knowledge sharing:



Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums as to be highlighted in the Blue Bond Communication Strategy and Plan.

The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned.

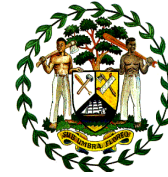
The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects.



7. Budget/Cost Overview

Budget below represents the total GSA request per year by components. For a more comprehensive budget representation kindly see Annex 2: Comprehensive Budget

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total by Component
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	
COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENED FISHERIES GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE BELIZE'S BLUE SPACE		\$ 700,000.00	\$ 1,315,000.00	\$ 1,025,000.00					\$ 3,040,000.00
COMPONENT 2: ELECTRONIC OBSERVER PROGAM FOR HIGH SEAS FISHERIES		\$ 400,000.00	\$ 408,989.00	\$ 342,576.20					\$ 1,151,565.20
COMPONENT 3: ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION OF BELIZE'S MARINE RESOURCES		\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00						\$ 1,000,000.00



COMPONENT 4: STRENGTHENED NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE DELIVERY OF BELIZE'S MARINE SPATIAL PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 540,000.00	\$ 782,500.00	\$ 547,500.00	\$ 297,500.00	\$ 287,500.00	\$ 287,500.00	\$ 297,500.00	\$ 3,200,000.00
COMPONENT 5: IMPROVING MONITORING, REPORTING AND SOCIALIZATION OF MANGROVES AND RESERVES		\$ 318,989.00	\$ 471,387.00	\$ 969,263.00	\$ 715,290.00	\$ 381,842.50			\$ 2,856,771.50
COMPONENT 6. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND SOCIALIZATION OF BELIZE'S BLUE BOND	\$ 461,611.00	\$ 750,000.00							\$ 1,211,611.00
GSA Yearly Total	\$ 621,611.00	\$ 3,208,989.00	\$ 3,477,876.00	\$ 2,884,339.20	\$ 1,012,790.00	\$ 669,342.50	\$ 287,500.00	\$ 297,500.00	\$ 12,459,947.70
GSA 2022 - 2023 Request Total		\$ 3,830,600.00							

Funds being requested by the BFSF will be complimented and co-financed by the annual budget allocation provided by the Government of Belize for the agencies approved annual budgets.

Co-financing will also be provided by WWF in support to Component 5 – Activity 5.2 Effective Management of Mangrove Reserves within the BBRS.



8. Annexes

Annex 1: Targeted Milestones and Commitments (Components)

Annex 2: Comprehensive Budget

Annex 3: Project Work Plan

Annex 4: Terms of Reference (TOR)/Job Description

- 1) *Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Process Lead*
- 2) *Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Coordinator*
- 3) *Consultancy to Conduct a Legal Review and Update of the CZM Act and Regulations*
- 4) *Project Assistant for the “Expansion of the National Forest Monitoring Database of Belize”*

Annex 5: Letter of Endorsement (WWF)

Annex 6: Other relevant information

- 1) *SATLINK: Seatube Electronic Monitoring Offer*
- 2) *SATLINK Electronic Monitoring Solutions*