



Managing Conflicting Uses Of Coastal Resources

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Belize Experience

- Belize is blessed to be the custodian of a diverse coastal resources, including -----
Cayes/ Islands - mangroves - sea grass - fish stocks
and most importantly the Largest Living Coral Barrier Reef ecosystem.
- However, as Belize develops economically, the opposing interests between Foreign Investment and Protection of our Natural Resource Base, has lead to conflicts.
- Types of developments/ investments that have been attracted to Belize's Coastal areas include:
 - Tourism (resorts, hotels) - Real Estate / Residential subdivisions
 - Fisheries and aquaculture - marine transport, and - oil exploration.
- In order to Properly address Coastal Resource Management, it must be recognized that impacts to the coastal / marine environment also comes from Land Based Sources (LBS); ie. developments on land such as Agriculture, Cattle Rearing, and Settlements, all have impacts on the coastal areas.
- How to manage these conflicts?

It takes a brew of many key ingredients: political will, technical /capacity development, planning, strategy, and coordination, and most importantly sustainability / business planning.



Belize Experience

Belize has been fortunate that there has been the consistent leadership and support from the Ministry of the Environment, who has maintained environmental resource management / sustainable development at the forefront / high level of policy decision-making. There have been the development of key initiatives that has supported these policies, such as:

Horizon 2030;

National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan;

National Medium Term Development Strategies;

National Action Plan on Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution,
Coastal Zone Management Strategy and Plan,

Special Development Areas, and most importantly the many

National Environmental Policy and Strategies from 1993 to current;



- Complementing these policy initiatives are supporting entities to execute these policy instruments. Some include the
 - National Human Development Advisory Council;
 - National Climate Change Committee;
 - National Protected Areas Committee;
 - Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute,
 - Natural Resources & Environmental Policy Sub-Committee; and most importantly the
 - National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC).
- NEAC is the technical entity operating since 1996 and responsible for the review and approval of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) process, critical in Development and Investment decision-making.



IN CONCLUSION

We cannot properly manage **conflicts** in Coastal Resources Use, if there is:

- no **Political Will** (due to high environmental consciousness from the people),
- strong policies** for protecting these (especially the Belize Barrier Reef) in a sustainable manner,
- Capacities built** within Public and Private Institutions to understand and implement these policies, and
- A **sustained execution** of these policies through a strong institution.

Thanks You