UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NATIONAL CAPACITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

Stock-Take

OF

BELIZE

Prepared by: Earl Green
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Acronyms

ACCC	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean
AIJ	Activities Implemented Jointly
AOSIS	Association of Small Island Developing States
BEL	Belize Electricity Limited
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
BSI	Belize Sugar Industries
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CZMAI	Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute
FNC	First National Communication
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GWP	Global Warming Potential
IDB	Inter American Development Bank
INCAE	Central American Institute for Business Administration (Intituto Centroamericano de Administración de Empresas)
IPCC	Inter-Government Panel on Climate Change
LIC	Land Information Centre
MBRS	Meso-American Barrier Reef Programme
MNREI	Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environment and Industry
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NEAC	National Environmental Appraisal Committee
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEMO	National Emergency Management Organization
NFP	National Focal Point
NICU	National Implementation Coordinating Unit
NMS	National Meteorological Service

PCU	Policy Coordination Unit
PfB	Programme for Belize
PMU	Project Management Unit
RBCMA	Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area
RPIU	Regional Project Implementation Unit
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Land Degradation)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USIJI	United States Initiative for Joint Implementation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Belize signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at in 1992 ratified the Convention in 1994.

A National Focal Point has been appointed and the National Meteorological Service (NMS) in the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) has been designated as the public service agency with the responsibility to advise the government on climate change matters.

Since the signing of the Convention, Belize has made limited progress in implementing the Convention. Belize completed the first national inventory of Green House Gases Emissions and Sinks, and later submitted its First National Communication to the Conference of the Parties. Vulnerability Assessments were conducted for the agricultural sector, and a Government of Belize Policy on Adaptation to Global Climate Change was drafted. Other key achievements include:

- Promotion of sustainable management, and cooperation in conservation and enhancement of GHG sinks through government's establishment of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

- Promotion and cooperation in the application and transfer of technology that control, reduce or prevent emissions through formulation of the renewable energy such as biomass, hydro, solar and wind energy.

- Formulate and implement national programmes containing measures to mitigate and adapt top climate change as in the National Hazard Mitigation Policy drafted by the National Environmental Management Organization.

Some capacity to implement the Convention has been developed at the individual and the institutional level. This has been achieved through the participation of staff of some of the participating institutions such as the National Meteorological Service, Forest Department, Fisheries Department, and Programme for Belize in regional and international meetings related to climate change.

At the systemic level, no national climate change programme incorporating resource mobilization exists to assist in establishing and maintaining the required National Systems. Building capacity at the systemic level also requires additional surveys and research activities which would have to be incorporated into national development plans. The relatively low level of awareness of the country's vulnerability to climate change and the potentially negative impacts of climate change are probably the most significant contributing factors to the absence of climate change issues in national planning documents.

Belize needs to create national strategies that would generate increased awareness and concern for impacts of climate change on every development sector. A priority programme to initiate and formulate such strategy is the implementation of a public education and outreach programme designed to address all the issues and engage stakeholders in the process. This would ensure that there is participation of all stakeholders, especially at the community level. All stakeholders have to be involved in and given the opportunity to contribute to the process of national development.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared as part of Belize's National Self Capacity Assessment exercise to determine its capacity to meet requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The GEF NCSA Operational Guidelines requires that a "Stock-take" be conducted since it serves as a foundation for the capacity assessment. According to the 2004 NCSA Resource Kit the stock-take "ensures that no issues are neglected, and so provides a reliable basis for priority setting and focusing". It creates an open non-controversial description of previous activities and provides a platform for dialogue and debate.

This report describes the status of Belize's implementation of the UNFCCC, the lessons learnt, capacity needs for Belize to improve its ability to implement the Convention, and those other obligations under the Articles of the Convention which still need to be addressed.

2. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The National Meteorological Service is the public service department that has the responsibility to advise the government on climate change matters. The Chief Meteorologist has been designated as the National Focal Point for the Convention in Belize. He has represented the country in national, regional, and international meetings related to climate change; and has served and continues to serve on a number of international committees in the capacity of the NFP.

However, there are other organizations in the country which have been involved in climate change programmes and projects for almost the same length of time as the NMS. These include the Programme for Belize (PfB), the non-government organization that manages the quarter million acre property known as the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA). PfB has been successful in negotiating to participate in the Carbon Sequestration programme under the United States Initiative for Joint Implementation, which partnership has been active since 1995.

The Forest Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) has participated in the Central American Forests and Climate Change project which sought to assess the potential of the country's forests to mitigate the effects of climate change. The department's efforts to sustain the forest base include the introduction of properly designed and applied forest management plans on national and private lands. Management plans are also required for protected areas in order to ensure that the ecosystems are not negatively impacted by development activity.

The Fisheries Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries also served as a Focal Point during the pilot phase of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change Project. The Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute provided technical assistance to the Fisheries Department to analyze the data and information acquired during the CPACC project.

The Department of the Environment (DOE) operates under the aegis of the Environmental Protection Act of 1992, and is mandated to ensure protection of the environment through the enforcement of the relevant laws and regulations. The DOE uses tools and mechanisms such

as the Environmental Impact Assessments/Studies, the Compliance Plans and the multi-disciplinary National Environmental Appraisal Committee to achieve its objectives and assist its work.

The Belize Enterprise for Sustained Technology (BEST) and Help for Progress (HFP) are two non-government organizations head-quartered in Belmopan. These two organizations foster capacity building by facilitating technology transfer to stakeholders and clients at the community level. Example of this is the introduction of Solar Box Cookers and the Lorena Stove to villagers in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts.

The NMS occasionally makes presentations to primary, secondary, and tertiary level schools on climate and weather related subjects. Teachers occasionally request resource materials to use in their work at school. This is not a planned, structured, or continuous activity.

The stakeholders involved in this exercise therefore represent a wide cross section of the Belizean population.

3. STOCKTAKING REVIEW

One of the tasks of this consultancy was to conduct a Stocktaking Review of reports on climate change projects that have been completed or are underway in Belize. Many of the available reports make some limited references to climate change and its potential impacts on Belize. Although the awareness of this phenomenon is increasing through the academic and technical sectors, the degree of awareness is determined to be much lower at the stakeholder level. Statements made by academic and technical persons during participation at various workshops reveal their knowledge or awareness of climate change issues, while the village and small community representatives were less informed. The National Awareness Seminar for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in October 2004, was probably the first occasion that a member of the industrial agricultural sector publicly acknowledged the relation between climate conditions and land quality. This farmer from the Orange Walk District shared his observations and his conclusions after the experience of the last four to five years of harvests. He noted that several years of below-average rainfall, and prolonged periods of high temperatures, were having a negative impact on his crop production despite the additional investments in fertilizer and other resources.

Belize has completed its first inventory of greenhouse gases emissions and sinks, based on the reference year 1994, and subsequently submitted its First National Communication to the Conference of the Parties for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2002. The National Meteorological Service, office of the National Focal Point, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, later conducted and reported on three vulnerability studies on agricultural crops important to Belize.

A Government of Belize Policy on Adaptation to Global Climate Change has been drafted through the support of the CPACC project, but this has not yet been submitted to Cabinet.

Other related activities for which reports are available include Belize's participation in the pilot phase of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change Project managed by the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute; and the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area's **Carbon Sequestration Project** being managed by Programme for Belize. Belize was a participant a regional climate change project and this was reported by Consultant Allan Herrera in the 2002 **Forest and Climate Change in Central America** report. A report on an assessment of the **Vulnerability of the Belize Coastline to Sea-level rise** was drafted and published by Belize Centre for Environmental Studies Consultant Evan Cayetano in 1996.

A consultant Wayne Usher was contracted to lead a national consultation exercise on **National Climate Change Adaptation Issues in Belize** in 2002. His report, published later that year, discussed a number of Climate Change Adaptation Options measures for Belize and made recommendations for the drafting of a Climate Change Adaptation Policy for the country.

A list of these and other reports available is described at Appendix 1.

i. The First National Communication to the COP of the UNFCCC

The First National Communication to the COP of the UNFCCC was submitted in the standard format required under the Convention. It reported on the results of the first national inventory of emissions and sinks of greenhouse gases completed for Belize in 1998/1999. Sectors inventoried included Energy, Industrial Processes, Agriculture, Land Use, Land Use

Change and Forestry (LULUCF), and Waste. The FNC had indicated that Belize was a sink for greenhouse gases for the reference year 1994, but the error was recognized when the Inter-government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) staff reviewed the National Communication. While the natural vegetation cover of the country does give it the potential to absorb more Carbon Dioxide that it emits, the difference in the outcome was due to the emissions of methane and the Global Warming Potential (GWP) attributed to that greenhouse gas. The major sources of methane emissions identified in that first GHG inventory were the Waste, Agriculture, and Land Use Change and Forestry Sectors, with the Waste sector emitting more that twenty times the amount of the other two combined.

The First National Communication also described the first national committees that were established to implement the Convention. These included the Project Steering Committee, the Project Team, National GHG Inventory Team, and the Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation and Mitigation Options Team. It further described the results of the exercise conducted to determine Adaptation and Mitigation Options. Recommendations for Adaptation and Mitigation Options were offered for certain sectors such as the Coastal Zone, Water Resources, Agriculture and Food Security, Land Use Change and Forestry, Biodiversity, Energy, Transportation, Waste Management, and Disaster Preparedness

ii. Climate Change related Programmes and Projects.

The Programme for Belize (PfB) ***Carbon Sequestration Project*** Report highlights the contributions to the management of the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area derived as a result of that the PfB's participation in that programme known as the United States Initiative for Joint Implementation (USIJI). PfB has now completed the first ten-year period of a forty-year project in conjunction with the power producing companies in Wisconsin and other states. The research plots which are maintained under this project continue to yield statistical data and other information used in determining the volumes of carbon stored in different forest types within the tropical broadleaf and pine forests as the result of different management prescriptions.

In 2001, Pine Lumber Company, a private sector timber harvesting and manufacturing company, provided Terms of Reference to the Biomass Technology Group Consulting firm to conduct a ***Pre-feasibility study on energy generation from wood residue***. The study evaluated the generation of heat energy for lumber drying and electricity generation for

operation of the sawmill facilities. The objective of the study was to identify the most suitable small scale biomass fueled co-generation system to satisfy Pine Lumber Company's energy needs, and to determine the indicative technical and financial feasibility of applying such a system on site.

The Belize report on the ***Central American Regional Project on Forests and Climate Change*** was completed in 2002. This project, funded by the Netherlands, sought to access and strengthens the capacity of the forest sector to participate in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. The report concluded that there were some areas that fit the criteria for this flexible mechanism that could function as improved carbon sinks through the application of certain forest management techniques. A related regional project, which involves Belize, is the Meso-American Biological Corridors Project which has potential for individual land owners, communities, and the business sector to benefit from projects under the CDM.

The Barbados Programme of Action was the result of the United Nations Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Barbados in 1994. The BPOA listed climate change and sea-level rise as priority areas for action in the SIDS. The fact that most of the SIDS is signatories to the UNFCCC combined with their extreme vulnerability to the impacts of climate change justified their request for assistance from the Global Environmental Facility in the design and implementation of the ***Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) Project***. The objectives of the CPACC project were capacity building within the SIDS in the areas of monitoring and analyzing climate change and sea-level dynamics; institutional strengthening and human resource development; identify areas particularly vulnerable to the phenomena; develop integrated management and planning for the coastal and marine areas; and identify policy options and measures to initiate long term climate change adaptation programmes. Implementation of the project was at the regional level, with Belize participating along with Jamaica and Bahamas in the Coral-reef monitoring for Climate Change pilot component. The installation of stations to monitor sea-level changes was another activity involving Belize in the pilot phase. The Fisheries Department, in collaboration with the CZMAI, .was the agency responsible for the implementation of the CPACC project. This was followed-up with the Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean (ACCC). The project to Mainstream Adaptation to Climate Change

(MACC) is now being implemented through the CARICOM Climate Change Centre located in Belize.

iii. National Environmental Documentation

The ***National Environmental Action Plan*** was first drafted in 1992 and revised in 1999. The NEAP is aimed at providing an overview of the major environmental issues facing Belize, and at guiding the government in the prudent use and management of natural resources. It also identified possible areas of assistance that could be provided by donour agencies. The NEAP serves as a blueprint for the development and implementation of sustainable environmental policies by the Government of Belize and improvement of inter-sectoral coordination of the various environmental players. Its ultimate objective is a programme of policy reforms, institutional building, studies, and investments that will improve the state of the Belizean environment and to put the country on the path of sustainable development. It is one of the tools utilized by the Department of the Environment of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

The Draft report on ***Belize's Country Environmental Analysis: Towards Competitiveness and Sustainable Development*** was prepared in 2004. Its objective was to support the country's development agenda such that the crosscutting dimension of environmental management would contribute effectively to improve Belize's competitiveness and achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction. This study sought to examine the broad range on environmental issues in a new way – linking environmental challenges and opportunities with the specific competitiveness objectives the country is seeking to achieve. The strategy employed was to approach and analyze environmental variables within a broader crosscutting perspective permitting a better understanding of the nation's natural resource base in relation to development-positive outcomes in: economic growth, human development, business climate improvement, firms' business strategy and performance, sustainability of the nation, and institutional development and governance. It was intended to serve as an input for future development planning strategies.

Belize utilized the ***Belize National Assessment Report for the Ten-year review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action*** to describe the achievements and the problems encountered in certain sectors in the implementation of the BPOA. The development sectors addressed in this report included coastal and marine resources, land

resources and terrestrial biodiversity, energy, waste management and water resources, and tourism management. Reference was made to cross-sectoral areas in relation to capacity building, and the financing and investment needed for sustainable development. Some of the emerging issues affecting the effort for sustainable development were identified. The report described key constraints to implementation including insufficient resources from the international community to conduct objective vulnerability studies. Without these resources proper adaptation options cannot be formulated, or implemented. Another deficiency noted was the inadequate detail of the available maps regarding contours of one metre separation required to predict storm surge, and to determine vulnerability with greater accuracy and reliability. The report also stated that ground water is not sufficiently monitored to assess the risk of pollution and salt-water intrusion due to drought.

The National Report to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, published in July 2002, identified certain concerns affecting sustainable development in Belize. Principal developmental problems affecting terrestrial ecosystems included:-

- the lack of or inadequacy of land resource management capability
- inadequate land use planning
- incomplete application of forest management
- poor solid waste management
- inadequate biodiversity management and poverty.

Marine and aquatic ecosystems were also negatively impacted as a result of:-

- inadequate management of freshwater resources
- degradation and depletion of coastal and marine resources, and
- vulnerability to natural disasters.

The ***State of the Coastal Zone Report*** first published in 1995 described the conditions of five of the coastal and marine habitats, coral reefs, sea grasses, estuaries and wetlands, mangroves, and littoral forests. Information about other habitats such as beaches was observed to be lacking. The report also described the development activities that were causing mostly negative impacts within this zone. These reports have been published periodically by the CZMAI since then, with the latest in 2002. The CZMAI lead in the drafting of a Cayes Development Policy which has been under review for the last two to three

years. This policy had gone further than previous reports in proposing mechanisms for the integrated management of Belize's coastal zone, as well as criteria for development activities to proceed within the zone. The final version of the policy has been prepared and is awaiting submission to the Cabinet.

The revision of the ***Belize Country Environmental Profile*** was completed earlier in 2005. This document is much more comprehensive than the original document first published in 1983. During the almost two decades between publications, the Department of the Environment has benefited from three Symposia on the State of the Belize Environment involving participants from every sector of the country. This second edition describes new and revised legislation that has come into effect during the period and the institutional growth of the department. Ongoing initiatives and projects have produced data and additional information that contributed to this updated document.

iv. Countrywide (National) Planning Documents

Climate Change issues and plans have not yet been incorporated into the country's national development plans as described in the ***Medium Term Economic Development Strategy***. That document prepared for the period 2000 to 2002 did not mention climate change issues. It focused on the government's proposal to improve the natural and productive resources base to ensure long-term sustainable management and viability. The more recently drafted Medium Term Economic Strategy (2003-2005) had proposed a wide range of initiatives covering all sectors that are beyond the scope of this report to record completely. Some examples of the Proposed Initiatives are described. In regards to the macro-economic policy, the objective was to reduce government's fiscal deficit to 3.6 % of the Gross Domestic Product; there were proposed strategies for the Enhancement of Sectoral sources of growth for Meteorology; Telecommunications, Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives, and Manufacturing, among others. Strategies were also proposed for Tourism and Culture, and Labour, as the cross-cutting sectors like Natural Resources and the Environment, Housing, Health, Human Development, Education, Rural Development, Private Investment & Trade, and Local Government. General Administration, Human Development and the Impact of Hurricanes were also addressed. Since this report is being conducted during the period of the Strategic Plan and projects are being implemented, their impact on capacity building cannot be determined at this time.

v. Other Capacity Issues:

The ***Formulation of a National Energy Plan (Sector Diagnostic & Policy Recommendation) Project*** sought to review the technical specifics of the sector and to conduct an analysis of the context for renewable energies in Belize. The exercise, completed in September 2003 described some key findings pertaining to the sector. These are summarized below:

- The current energy mix at 71% imports, 29% indigenous meant that energy security should be significant issues for policy makers;
- Belize does not have a formally stated energy sector strategy nor policy, although an argument could be made that there is an implicit one;
- The current electricity mix with more than 50 percent imported from Mexico was not sustainable;
- The use of renewable energies is technically, environmentally, and economically feasible, and was highly recommended;
- There are barriers to the use of renewable energy technologies and to the development and implementation of a formal energy policy;
- Policy makers cannot afford to disregard regional and international agreements and the significance of existing and future commitments (particularly in trade) to the development of the energy sector; and
- Belize needed to take immediate and decisive action if it is to comfortably meet electricity and energy demand forecasts without increasing its vulnerability and/or compromising its future development. ***(Public Utilities Commission, Energy Sector Diagnostic 2003)***.

Vulnerability and Management of the Coastal Zone

The coastal zone of Belize is particularly vulnerable since

- it has a long coastline that is low-lying according to Article 4.8 (b) of the UNFCCC.
- there are more than 1000 small offshore cayes or islands (Article 4.8. (a) of the UNFCCC.

- the second longest barrier reef in the world supports fragile ecosystems (Article 4.8.(g)),
- it is prone to natural disasters (hurricanes) (Article 4.8.(d)), and
- between sixty and seventy percent of the population reside within this zone.

The original capital city, two of the major district towns, two major tourist destination towns, and several smaller communities all lay within the coastal zone. Major infrastructural and economic development continues to occur within this zone.

Through policies and legislation the responsibility for management of the coastal zone was vested in a number of government agencies. The first demonstrated attempt at integrated management of the Coastal Zone came with the establishment on the Coastal Zone Management Unit within the Fisheries Department in 1990. That unit developed a definition of the coastal zone to include the shoreline, coastal alluvial plains, coastal watersheds, lagoons, estuaries the cayes, atolls, the sub-tidal area within the twelve mile territorial limit and the 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone. The CZMU was established in order to achieve sustainable and integrated management of the coastal zone. The CZMU received institutional strengthening support under the UNDP/GEF Coastal Zone Management Project, which also aimed to help to develop national management plans for the coastal zone, and to encourage policies promoting sustainable use and conservation of the coastal resources. The CZMU evolved into the CZMAI, an autonomous body with its own resources engaged in the management of the coastal zone.

The CZMAI had been established through legislation so as to continue the process of achieving integrated management of Belize's Coastal Zone. This statutory body had been funded by the GEF and had been operated by a full cadre of trained staff. It provided support to the Ministries of Natural Resources, the Environment and Industry, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives for the management of coastal resources.

Shortly after the closure of the CPACC project, the CZMAI became dormant. No financial resources had been secured for the continued functioning of the CZMAI immediately after the project ended. Medium term measures have been introduced within the last twelve months by vesting the CZMAI with the responsibility of managing Goff's Caye, one of the

major tourist destinations just off the coast of Belize City. The trained staff that the CZMAI had employed has been dispersed, leaving a three-person staff complement at this time. The capacity of the present staff can best be described as extremely limited in the relevant field of coastal zone management. The CZMAI technician has completed training in GIS at the post-graduate level, giving the Authority some additional capacity.

Water Resources Management

Water Resources Management is presently being addressed by the Pro Tem Water Commission. The Commission comprises members from government, private sector and civil society. The Water Resources legislation, which focuses on the water supply sector, was passed in 2001. More remains to be done such as preparation of regulations for the national management of water resources. A draft policy and complementary regulations for integrated water resources management, prepared in 1994 and 1997 respectively, are currently being reviewed by the Pro Tem Water Commission. The Public Utilities Commission also regulates the industry through the monitoring and approval of tariff rates. Another constraint to proper management is the lack of cohesion caused by placing responsibility for management of water in different municipal and village units throughout the country.

Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change

A number of studies have been conducted to prepare for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in certain development sectors. The report on National Climate Change Adaptation Issues in Belize highlights several areas requiring attention. Some of the issues include the impact on biological diversity, changes to the hydrological cycle, increased energy consumption, the impact on the aquaculture industry that has developed almost entirely within the coastal zone, major impact on the entire coastal zone itself, and on water resources. The report further prioritized the issues, then recommended some mitigation and adaptation options for each of the sectors addressed in the exercise.

The Government of Belize Policy on Adaptation to Global Climate Change Policy has been drafted, with the support of the CPACC project. The draft policy gave the mandate to the relevant government agencies to “prepare adaptation policy options for their sectors”. It established a framework for action within the agriculture, coastal zone, education, energy,

environment, fisheries, forestry, health, housing, information, tourism, transportation, and the water resources sectors. Provisions were made for Planning and Management Mechanisms, and Accountability. Although the policy had not been submitted to and approved by Cabinet, some of the activities have been initiated. Examples are the Inventory of Coastal Zone Resources described in the periodic State of the Coastal Zone reports; Energy Sector Diagnostic report prepared by the Public Utilities Commission: monitoring of the nation's reefs and fisheries habitats by the Fisheries Department; Assessment of Belize's Forest to Mitigate the impacts of climate change; and appointment of the Pro Tem Water Commission to address water resources issues in Belize. Many other requirements of the policy have not yet been initiated.

Agricultural Vulnerability

Vulnerability studies were conducted on three of the basic food crops, corn, red kidney beans and black eye peas in 1995 under the United States Country Studies Programme. A crop simulation model "Decision Support System for Agrotechnology Transfer (DSSAT3) was used to create scenarios of a 1 to 2 degree Celsius increase in temperatures with 20 % increase or reduction in precipitation in order to measure the impact on the yield of the three selected crops. The model projected a reduction of yield between 14 % to 19 % for beans, 10 % to 14 % reduction for rice, and 17 % to 22 % reduction for maize. The higher temperatures increased the growing period for the crops which lowered their yield. The changes in precipitation did not affect the growing season, but reduced the yield of all three crops. This study did not incorporate the effects of carbon dioxide fertilization on yield, which would offset some losses.

Report on the systems for climate observations.

The National Meteorological Service has accumulated well over thirty-five years of climate data that is retained in their files. This provides a capability for the development of early warning systems for drought. Monitoring of climate data, utilizing automated and manual systems, occurs all year round at a number of locations over the country. The NMS provides daily weather reports accompanied by three- or five-day forecasts prepared by one of the media houses and then distributed nationally by the other media organizations.

National registry on the climate

Reports emanating from climate change projects have been deposited at the offices of the NMS and the National Library Service. Others are maintained by the institutions which implemented the projects.

Commitments and Implementation of the UNFCCC

The status of implementation of the relevant Articles of the Convention is summarized below:-

Table 1: Summary of implementation of the Articles of the UNFCCC

Commitment under the Convention	Status
Art 4.1(a) To develop, periodically update, publish and make available to the COP greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories	*Belize developed, published and submitted its first inventory of greenhouse gases in 2002.*
Art 4.1(b) To formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national and regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and to adapt to climate change	*A draft national adaptation policy has been developed, but has not been presented to policymakers for its consideration. .* *A National Hazard Mitigation Policy has been developed by NEMO with the assistance of CDERA.*
Art 4.1(c) To promote and cooperate in the development, application, diffusion, and transfer of technologies that control, reduce or prevent emissions of GHGs	*The policy of Belize is to promote the use of renewable energy particularly biomass, hydropower, solar energy and wind. It encourages energy efficiency in the power and transportation sectors. It is also seeking to increase its participation in carbon sequestration.*
Art 4.1(d) To promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement of sinks of GHGs	*The Forest Department is implementing government's policy to conserve, manage and preserve its national forest resources through establishment of national parks and reserves.*
Art 4.1(e) To cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change, develop integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas affected by drought and floods	*Belize has established a Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute to implement integrated coastal zone management. It has established a Pro Tempore Water Commission to develop integrated water resource management. Human and financial resources are required to develop these plans. The Ministry of Agriculture implements integrated agriculture practices. No plans exist for the protection and rehabilitation of areas affected by droughts or floods.*

Art 4.1(f) To take climate change considerations into account in the relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods such as impact assessments, to minimize adverse effects of the economy, public health and on the quality of the environment of projects or measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change	*Through the regional Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean (ACCC) project, guidelines to integrate climate change in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process have been developed and are now being included in the process.*
Art 4.1(g) To promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system and intended to further the understanding and reduce or eliminate the remaining uncertainties related to climate change and the economic and social consequences of response strategies	• *Belize participates in international programmes to monitor the climate system.* • *No programmes exist to detect climate trends or to study the socio-economic impacts of climate change or impacts of response measures.* • *While the capacity probably exists to undertake the socio-economic studies, no institution has been identified to undertake them and they will probably only be undertaken if funded through a project.*
Art 4.1(h) To promote and cooperate in the full, open and prompt exchange of relevant scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information related to the climate system and climate change, and to the economic and social consequences of various response strategies	*The National Meteorological Service does engage in the free and unrestricted exchange of meteorological data subject to the conditions of Resolution 40 of the WMO. Socio-economic and legal information is shared openly on request.*
Art 4.1(i) To promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encourage the widest participation in this process including that of non-governmental organizations,	*Public awareness, education and information sharing primarily targets schools that visit the National Meteorological Service. These could be several thousand students each year. The Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) project has a component that should assist Belize in developing a national programme.*
Art 4.1 (j) To communicate to the COP information related to implementation of the Convention	*Belize submitted its First National Communication to the COP in 2002. A project development exercise is presently underway to develop a proposal for funding to undertake the next national Communication.*
Article 5 is an elaboration of Art 4.1(g)	
Art 5(a) To support and further develop international and intergovernmental programmes and networks or organizations aimed at defining, conducting, assessing and financing research, data collection and systematic observation	*Belize supports several international and sub-regional institutions that undertake programmes in climate monitoring, research, and resource mobilization. These include the WMO, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), Caribbean Institute for meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Caribbean Community*

	Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), etc.
Art 5(b) To support international and intergovernmental efforts to strengthen systematic observation and national scientific and technical research capacities and capabilities and to promote access to and exchange of data and analyses obtained from areas beyond national jurisdiction	*Belize supports several international and sub-regional institutions that undertake programmes in climate monitoring, research, and resource mobilization. These include the WMO, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), Caribbean Institute for meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), etc.*
Article 6 is an elaboration of Art 4.1(i)	
Art 6(a)(i) To promote and facilitate at the national, sub-regional and regional levels the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects	*This is being developed in collaboration with the MACC project.*
Art 6(a)(ii) To promote and facilitate at the national, sub-regional and regional levels public access to information on climate change and its effects	*The National Meteorological Service's Website has a climate change section. Further work will be developed with the MACC.*
Art 6(a)(iii) To promote and facilitate at the national, sub-regional and regional levels public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses	*This is being developed in collaboration with the MACC project.*
Art 6(a)(iv) To promote and facilitate at the national, sub-regional and regional levels training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel	*Belize supports the CIMH, the WMO Regional Training Centre and the University of the West Indies which provide training in climate and climate change related subjects. Several Belizeans have received training there and further training is encouraged. However, lack of fellowships limit training opportunities.*
Art 6(b)(i) To cooperate in and promote at the international level the development and exchange of educational and public awareness material on climate change and its effects	*Belize has seconded staff for the CCCCC, the sub-regional agency designated to coordinate the region's response to climate change.*
Art 7.6 To participate effectively in the annual COPs	*Belize attempts to participate effectively in climate change negotiations. However, lack of financial resources limits the size of the delegation and occasionally frequency of attendance. Climate change negotiation experience is limited to one person. Funding is required to increase the size of the delegation and hence the country's capacity in this area.*
Art 9.1 To participate effectively in sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)	*Belize attempts to participate effectively in climate change negotiations. However, lack of financial resources limits the size of the delegation and occasionally frequency of attendance. Climate change negotiation experience is limited to one person.*

	Funding is required to increase the size of the delegation and hence the country's capacity in this area.
Art 10.1 To participate effectively in sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI),	*Belize attempts to participate effectively in climate change negotiations. However, lack of financial resources limits the size of the delegation and occasionally frequency of attendance. Climate change negotiation experience is limited to one person. Funding is required to increase the size of the delegation and hence the country's capacity in this area.*
Article 12 elaborates Art 4.1	
Art 12.1(a) To communicate to the COP, GHG inventories	*This was done in Belize's First National Communication in 2002*
Art 12.1(b) To communicate to the COP, steps taken or envisioned to implement the Convention	*This was done in Belize's First National Communication in 2002*
Art 12.1(c) To communicate to the COP, any information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention suitable for inclusion in the Communication including material relevant for the calculation of global emission trends	*This was done in Belize's First National Communication in 2002. Belize is presently implementing a project which should enable it to calculate emission trends.*
Art 12.4 To propose projects for financing, including specific technologies, materials, equipment or practices that would be needed to implement such projects along with an estimate of incremental costs for mitigating climate change as well as an estimate of the consequent benefits	*Belize requires the funding and specialized training to undertake objective vulnerability studies in all its important socio-economic sectors and develop projects in the areas identified to adapt to the impacts of climate change.*
Art 12.5 To make its initial national communication within three years of entry into force of the Convention for Belize or of the availability of financial resources, and to make subsequent communications as determined by the COP	*Belize submitted its First National Communication in 2002. It is presently developing a project proposal to fund preparation of its Second National Communication.*
Art 12.7 To request technical and financial support to prepare its national communication and propose projects.	*Belize needs to expand its capacity to identify its needs and to develop project proposals in climate change.*
Art 12.1(a) To communicate to the COP, GHG inventories	*This was done in Belize's First National Communication in 2002*

4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 Previous Capacity Development Efforts

Some effort at capacity developed within the framework of the Convention has been initiated within the National Meteorological Service and Programme for Belize. Institutional and individual capacity has been gained by the organization and these members of their staff who actively participated in the projects. These two organizations have maintained their capacity that was acquired by continuing to be involved in climate change programmes/projects and due to the fact that the personnel involved in the projects are still with their employ. The NFP and the NMS developed the capacity to be involved in climate change negotiations at the international level.

The Forest Department gained some capacity during the implementation of the Central American Forest and Climate Change Project but has not retained much within the institution since most of the work had been done by independent local and international consultants or staff members who are no longer associated with the department.

The Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute's (CZMAI) capacity was developed in the research field through its participation in the four-year Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change Project. As a participant in the pilot phase of the coral reef monitoring project, staff of the CZMAI gained skill and experience in monitoring and analysis of data derived from research activity related to the impact of climate change on the marine environment. Although the CZMAI is operating at a reduced level, the capacity gained is no longer within that institution, the capacity is retained in the country since those persons trained under the CPACC project are presently employed in other national organizations.

4.2 Lessons Learnt

While capacity to negotiate has been gained, the fact that this capacity is concentrated in one individual is not advantageous to the country. Similar skills need to be developed by other persons in other institutions.

The low level of dissemination of climate change data and information has been a major constraint to real national cross-sectoral participation in the development of policies and strategies top address the climate change issues facing Belize. The main reason is the failure to promulgate a national public education and outreach programme for climate change.

Information and experiences in Clean Development Mechanism projects implemented in Belize is not widely known or shared so private sector involvement is not encouraged or fostered.

4.3 Convention Requirements not yet achieved.

Most of the obligations under the Articles of the Convention have been met to some degree. Constraints for the implementation of the others are either the lack of the resource persons, financial resources, or unawareness of the importance of the need to address the issue. The absence of a national climate change programme means that there is not framework within which implementation could be coordinated effectively and the appropriate projects could be formulated and submitted for funding. The same applies to the public education and outreach programme.

Those Conventions requirements for which there has been either no action, or initiated activity needs to be finalized are summarized in the table below.

Table 2: Convention requirements not yet addressed

Article	Requirement
4.1.(e)	The development of integrated coastal zone management plans have been initiated, and a draft Water Resources Act has been formulated, but similar efforts for agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas affected by drought and floods have not been addressed.
4.1.(g)	No programmes exist to detect climate trends or to study the socio-economic impacts of climate change or impacts of response measures.
6.a.(i)	Implementation of a national public education and outreach programme for climate change had not previously been initiated, but will shortly be addressed through collaboration with the MACC project.
7.6; 9.1;	Belize's participation in the COPs and sessions of the Subsidiary bodies is limited by the donour allocations

10.1	which usually funds one person only. GOB has not made any financial provisions in support of such participation.
12.4	Belize has been unable to propose projects for financing, including specific technologies, materials, equipment or practices that would be needed to implement such projects along with an estimate of incremental costs for mitigating climate change as well as an estimate of the consequent benefits
12.7	Belize has just accessed the Enabling Activity in order to start the preparation of the Second National Communication.

4.4 Required Priority Actions

The National Consultation Workshop of the 5th and 6th May 2005 in Belize City was held to share the preliminary findings of the Stock-Exercise and the Thematic Assessment. The participants were involved in the process of prioritizing the actions needed to further the implementation of the Convention. Earlier efforts have been initiated to implement the Articles of the convention. Table 3 is an expansion of table 2 above and was developed during the National Consultant Workshop since it was determined that these areas needed attention. The methodology outlined in the 2004 Resource Kit was utilized to develop the prioritization matrix table, developed with the input of the workshop participants.

Table 3: Recommended Prioritization Matrix
A unique value is established for each of the issues requiring attention.

SCALE: Is the issue of local, national, regional, or global significance?
Local = 5, National = 3, Regional=2, Global = 1.

IMPORTANCE: How important is this issue for Belize?
Low = 5, Medium = 3, High = 1.

ABILITY TO ADDRESS the ISSUE: Assess Belize's Capacity to address this issue.
Low = 5, Medium = 3, High = 1.

PRIORITY RANKING: Relative ranking of the problem(s) being faced by the country.

1 = most severe, 2= second most severe problem, 5 = least severe problem.

Article	Issue/Need	Scale	Importance	Ability to address	Rank
4.1(b)	Use the workgroup to review the draft policy. Place it on website(s) for access.	5/3	3	1	2
	Conduct vulnerability studies to determine what mitigation actions could be undertaken.	5/3	1	1	2
4.1(e)	Improve water resources management; control the un-regulated use of water.	5/3/2	1	3	2
	Conduct public awareness/ education campaign.	5/3	1	3	1
	Identify vulnerable areas and determine alternative solutions.	5/3	1	3	1
4.1(g)	NMS should improve monitoring capability,	3	1	3	2
	and direct research in the area of concern.	3	3	3	3
	The MACC project should be accessed to facilitate the required Case Studies.	5/3	3	1	2
	Develop a directory of resource persons (CCCCC).	5/3/2/1	3	5	3
5(b)	Review institutional arrangements for possible improvement.	3	1	1	3
	Activate the relevant technical committee to provide support to the NFP.	3	1	1	1
6(a)(iv)	Evaluate the technical committees to determine their potential to benefit from training to support the NFP.	5/3	1	3	2
	Establish inter- and intra- agency relations.	3	3	1	2
7.6	Tap into other funding agencies for assistance.	5/3	3	1	1
	Lobby for national NGO participation	5/3	1	1	2
9.1	Identify persons with the potential to contribute in these scientific and technical sessions and facilitate their participation.	3/2/1	1	3	2
10.1	Identify persons with the potential to	3/2/1	1	3	2

	contribute in these scientific and technical sessions and facilitate their` participation.				
12.4	Areas requiring attention should be identified through stakeholder consultation, prioritized, and drafted into project proposals submitted to donour `agencies for funding.	5/3	1	1	1
12.7	An exercise similar to this one would help to reveal the gaps and new priorities.	3	3	3	2

APPENDIX 1: UNFCCC STOCK-TAKE REFERENCES

	Reference Materials related to Climate Change		Format				
Number	**Document**	**Source**	**Paper**	**Diskette**	**CD**	**Other**	**Remarks**
1	1995. State of the Coastal Zone Report, Coastal Zone Management Programme, Government of Belize.	Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute	*				
2	1997. Taking Stock: National Human Development Report	Ministry of National Development	*				
3	1999. State of the Coast Report, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.	CZMAI	*				
4	2000. State of the Coastal Report, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.	CZMAI	*				
5	2001/02. State of the Coast Report, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute.	CZMAI	*				
6	2002. Final Report of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) Project. Unit for Sustainable development of the OAS and CPACC regional Implementation Unit, Washington D.C. - Barbados.	CCCCC	*				
7	2002. Government of Belize Medium Term Economic Strategy	Ministry of National Development	*				
8	August 2003. National Emergency Management Organization, National Hazard Management Plan for Belize	National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)	*				
9	Biomass Technology Group, 2001. Energy generation from wood residues at Pine Lumber Company, Belize. Pre-feasibility study.	Pine Lumber Company	*				
10	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change – Coral	NMS				*	

	Reef Monitoring						
11	Cayetano, E., June 1996. Belize Coastal/Marine Resource Study: An Assessment of the Vulnerability of Belize's Coastline to Sea-Level rise. BCES, Regional Committee for Water Resources, Central American Commission on Environment and Development, United States Climate Change Project, Central American Climate Change Project, Belize City.	National Meteorological Service	*				
12	Central American Climate Change Project – Water	NMS	*				
13	Coastal Zone to Climate Change	NMS	*				
14	Cross –sectoral Adaptation Assessment- Biodiversity	NMS	*				
15	Cross Sectoral Issues _ Water Resources Management	NMS	*				
16	Department of Environment 1999. National Environmental Appraisal Plan, Revised Edition.	DOE			*		
17	Department Of Environment, 2005. Country Environmental Profile, Revised Edition.	DOE			*		
18	Disaster Preparedness and Adaptation	NMS	*				
19	DOE 2000. Belize Country Programme for Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances.	DOE			*		
20	Frutus, R., and F. Tzul, 1999. Mitigation – Adaptation: Agricultural Sector. Climate Change Project Belize.	NMS	*				
21	Gibson, J., and Eugene Ariola 1999. Coastal Zone adaptation to Climate Change. UNDF/GEF Climate Change Project, CZMAI, Belize City.	CZMAI	*				
22	Gischler, E., and Wolfgang Oschmann, etc. Historical Climaye Variation in Belize as recorded in Scleractinian Coral Skeletons.	Fisheries Department	*				
23	Government of Belize Policy on Adaptation to Global Climate Change, 2001. National Meteorological Service, Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change project, Belize City,	CPACC				*	Accessed via e-mail

	Belize..						
24	Herrera, A., 2002. Forests and Climate Change in Central America: An Assessment of the Forest Sector to Mitigate Climate Change. Belize City.	Personal			*		
25	Jose May, 1998. Belize Climate Change Project – Energy Sector report.	NMS	*				
26	July 2002. Belize First National Communication on the UNFCCC	NMS	*	*	*		
27	July 2002. National Report to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environment and Industry	Policy Coordination Unit/MNR	*				Uploaded on the MNREI Website
28	Mitigation & Adaptation – Energy	NMS	*				
29	Mitigation & Adaptation – Hydrology/Water Resources	NMS	*				
30	Mitigation & Adaptation – Transport	NMS	*				
31	Mitigation & Adaptation Assessment – Agriculture	NMS	*				
32	Mitigation & Adaptation Assessment - LULUCF	NMS	*				
33	Mitigation Measures – Waste	NMS	*				
34	National Climate Change Adaptation Issues- Belize.	NMS	*				
35	National Climate Change Issues	NMS	*				
36	National Greenhouse Gas Emissions	NMS	*				
37	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory – Actual Data	NMS	*				
38	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory – Agriculture sector report	NMS	*				
39	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory – LULUCF sector report	NMS	*				
40	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Synthesis Report	NMS	*				
41	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tables	NMS		*			
42	National Human Development Report	NMS	*				
43	NEMO 2003. National Hazard Management Plan for Belize.	National Emergency	*				

	Volume 1.	Management Organization					
44	NEMO 2004. Belize National Hazard Mitigation Policy.	CCCCC	*				
45	Pratt, L., Luis Rivera, and Mauricio Blandino, 2004. Belize Country Environmental Analysis: Towards Competitiveness and Sustainable Development. Working Draft for Internal Review.	Policy Coordination Unit, MNRE.	*				
46	Programme For Belize report	NMS	*				
47	R. Stephens, 1998. Belize Climate Change Project – Industrial Sector report.	NMS	*				
48	RPIU 2002. Final Report of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change Project, April 1997 to December 2001. Barbados.	CCCCC	*				
49	September 2003. Belize National Assessment Report for the Ten year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action. Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environment, Commerce and Industry, Belize.	PCU/MNR	*		*		Uploaded on the MNREI Website
50	The Fairness of Forests – Rio Bravo Carbon Sequestration	National Meteorological Service	*				
51	The Potential of the Meso-American Biological Corridors in the Clean Development Mechanism	NMS	*	*	*		Spanish language
52	United States Initiative for Joint Implementation Activities Reports	NMS	*				
53	Usher. W., 2003. National Climate Change Issues in Belize. Belize City.	NMS	*				
54	Vulnerability of Coastline to Sea-level rise	NMS	*				
55	Water Resources – Vulnerability Assessment	NMS	*				

APPENDIX 2: Terms of Reference for the National Consultant

The Terms of Reference for a Consultancy on Belize's Capacity to Implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change requires the National Consultant to:-

a. Collate and compile reports on activities and projects carried out in regards to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

b. Carry out a stocktaking review of:

   i. Relevant convention reports and national communications, in particular the First National Communication to the Conference of the Parties (COP);

   ii. Climate change related programs and projects, including the Carbon Sequestration Pilot Project, Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) Project, Central American Climate Change Project, and the Forest and Climate Change in Central America Project, Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project, etc;

   iii. National environmental documentation, including the Belize's National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), the Belize Report to the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio-1992), the Belize Report to the WCSD (Johannesburg-2002), Belize Report to the Barbados Plan of Action-SIDS (2004), the Belize Report to the World Congress on Protected Areas, the National Protected Areas System Plan; Belize Environmental Profile by World Bank; Country Environmental Analysis-IDB, etc;

   iv. General countrywide planning documents, such as the: Public Sector Investment Program, the Medium Term Economic Strategy Paper, and the Poverty Alleviation Strategy and Action Plan; National Human Development Report, etc;

   v. Existing reports with analysis of capacity issues in Belize, including energy policy, NEMO documents and reports, PUC documents and evaluation reports; other UNDP/GEF and GOB climate change-related reports, other existing GEF projects (Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Belize Barrier Reef Complex), the Report on Effectiveness of Management Systems for Marine Resources, and the Belize Audubon Society Environmental Agenda 2002 and Beyond and others;

The National Consultant is also expected to

c. Participate in a situational analysis aimed at:
   i. identifying national priorities, capacity constraints at the individual, institutional and systemic levels;
   ii. identifying needs as well as gaps in information and needs; and
   iii. identifying bottlenecks with reference to the thematic area**;**

d. Participate in the categorizing opportunities in terms of a) creating new capacity, b) mobilizing or redeploying existing capacity, and c) enhancing existing capacities;

e. Identifying and recommending necessary corrective actions;

f. Assist the Project Manager in the organization of the workshop to share the findings of the thematic assessment;

g. Liaise with relevant members of the IMPSC and report to the IMPSC on the progress of the work on an as needed basis as well as with other thematic assessment consultant(s); and

h. Participate in the preparation of the final report on the climate change thematic assessment, including the results of the workshop and the prioritization of issues, which should be addressed in an action plan.

Note: Points “c” through “h” will be done in collaboration with the Lead Consultant.