



**STATISTICAL  
INSTITUTE OF  
BELIZE**

**DA 12 Project  
Belize's Experience**



**DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

# BACKGROUND

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Environmental information, statistics and indicators, including those related to climate change and disaster risk management, to support science-based decision making has been and continues to be a major challenge.

Belize initiated its environment statistics program back in 1995/1996 yielding many successes but the program started to decline after 2010 to almost being nonexistent.

The program saw signs of revival with the transfer of the program to the Department of the Environment supported by the IDB Public Goods Project.

With climate change related disasters and effects increasing over the past decades, the world; and more so SIDS countries like us have struggled to cope with its economic, social and environmental impacts.

Collecting compiling and disseminating Climate change and disaster indicators is the only way we can better prepare, combat and rebound from the effects of climate change.

Public interest in environment statistics, including climate change and disaster risk management related ones, is increasingly becoming more acclaimed

# THE NEED OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION



Did you  
ever  
imagine a  
dead river  
in Belize?



EUTHROPHICATION OF THE NEW RIVER

## MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED

### 1. CHANGING CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

-Prolonged drought event from 2018 to 2020

San Narciso Lagoon 2019



Honey Camp Lagoon 2019



Prior to 2019



Prior to 2019





## Belize's Experience

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The selection of Belize couldn't come at a better time with current work that the SIB was doing with some of its NSS partners.

There was ongoing work on assessing the availability of statistics for the SDG (inventory taking initiative)

Belize had recently completed the ESSAT on behalf of the Department of Environment which provided the foundation.

A core set of environment statistics was defined based on data availability, in most cases it corresponded to national priority

# Belize's Experience

Virtual sessions were held with the ECLAC team to discuss how Belize carried out its ESSAT so that a better judgment can be made by ECLAC team. A Project Lead Team was established that defined 23 climate change related statistics for evaluation at national workshop.

In November of 2022, the country workshop was held with key climate change and environment data producers.

The country mission proved to be very useful and further strengthened the inter-agency collaboration that already exist in Belize.



Indicators Selected: 15 total

Drivers – 2 Vulnerability – 2

Impact – 4 Mitigation – 3

Adaptation - 4

## 5. Adaptation

●	134. Coverage of disaster shelte...	15
●	144. Proportion of important sit...	15
●	155. Water use per capita	16
●	156. Municipal waste collected ...	13



# Belize's Experience

Some outcomes of the DA 12 project for Belize include:

- The Department of Environment developed a set of priority indicators it wishes to report on in the near future.
- The Department of Environment has reactivated its **Environment Statistics Advisory Committee (ESAC)** comprised of 18 members (Government Agencies and Academia). The ESAC held it's first meeting in April 26, 2023. a review of its members and TOR were key items on the agenda.
- The ESAC will be providing technical support for the GEO Belize report the DOE is working on.
- Belize's interest in conducting the CISAT
- Belize is much interested in updating the ESSAT given that it was completed in 2018 and much has changed since then.



# CHALLENGES

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1. Human and financial resources
2. Timeliness of information
3. Comparability of information
4. Despite the existence of ESSAT, mapping of other national data requirements is necessary. Some national priority statistics and indicators may have been omitted
5. Lack of methodological sheets
6. More international support, technical, technological and financial, is necessary
7. Creating and maintaining the momentum
8. Environment statistics and information is very technical need to find ways on how to communicate information to all



**THANK YOU!**