

## **Implementation of the Project” Enhancing adaptation planning and increasing climate resilience in the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize”.**

## **Implementación del Proyecto “Mejora de la planificación de la adaptación y aumento de la resiliencia climática en la zona costera y el sector pesquero de Belice”.**

## **Mise en œuvre du projet “Améliorer la planification de l'adaptation et accroître la résilience climatique dans la zone côtière et le secteur de la pêche du Belize”**

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### **EXTENDED ABSTRACT**

The Government of Belize acknowledges the need to access international climate finance to increase the resilience of the coastal zone and fisheries sector by expanding the use of climate information services to ensure both management and fishers have the required information for decision making and adequate response. By identification of suitable technologies for adaptation and recommendations for promotion and adoption of these technologies, capacity building for better departmental coordination and other relevant institutions, fisheries groups, and organizations. And identification of pipeline programmes and projects for climate change adaptation. To increase the resilience of the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize to the projected impact of climate change, a readiness and preparatory support project finance by the Green Climate Fund for a total of 600,000 US dollars entitled “*Enhancing adaptation planning and increasing climate resilience in the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize*”, was implemented. The access entity was the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The lead authority for the project was Belize’s National Designated Authority to Green Climate Fund and lead focal point was the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation. The main beneficiaries included the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Belize Fisheries Department, The National Meteorological Service of Belize, Fisherfolks and Coastal Fishing Communities.

Several barriers identified included limited capacities, systems and knowledge of climate change impacts and solutions, inadequate fisheries and climate-related data and information and limited financial and human resources for implementation of adaptation actions, making it necessary for scaled up, intense actions in the sector. The results include the establishment of a stakeholder engagement mechanism. The formulation of a Gender Analysis, a Gender Strategy and Action Plan. A Climate Change Data and Information Gap Assessment. Institutional capacity building for more effective monitoring of coastal areas and fisheries for better tracking of ecosystem health and forecasting future climate change impacts. A Women in Fisheries Forum and a 2022 Blue Economy Climate Resilience Forum. A Climate Change Communication Strategy and Knowledge Management Plan was developed. A Climate Data and Information Gap Assessment, a Vulnerability and Livelihood Assessment and Sustainable Fisheries Operations, Practices and Technology Report. One of the main deliverables was a National Adaptation Plan for the Coastal Zone and Fisheries Sector complemented with a Priorities Project Pipeline Document and Concept Note for Submission to the GCF.

The rationale is for the Coastal Zone Management Authority and the Fisheries Department of Belize to improve the data and information systems related to climate change, develop a comprehensive adaptation plan, and prioritize adaptation options. Lessons learnt included the need for long-term financial support mechanisms to deliver sustainable adaptation options. The need to boost adaptive capacity with information and communication. And the commitment to a more sustainable management regime in the fisheries sector. Another need includes tailored training and ongoing capacity building for vulnerable stakeholder groups to be empowered.

The added readiness value is to increase resilience through improved climate data and information gathering, monitoring and dissemination, assessments of impacts of climate change on selected communities, mainstreaming of climate change considerations into the relevant plans and policies and strengthening of coastal and fisheries communities and organizations communication network for appropriate climate response. A baseline for building coastal resilience and have improved the adaptive capacity for fishing communities.

**KEYWORDS:** Climate Change, National Adaption Plan, Fisheries, Coastal Zone Management

**LITERATURE CITED**

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