



FOREST DEPARTMENT

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Belmopan, 21 December 2011

Claudia Paguaga
CBD Life Web Initiative
Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 Saint-Jacques, Suite 800, Montréal, Québec, H2Y1N9, Canada

Dear Ms Paguaga,

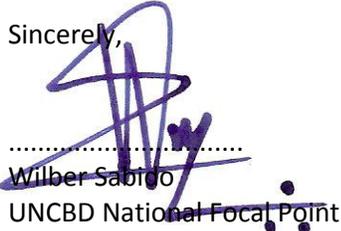
The Government of Belize (GOB) is pleased to endorse the submission of the Expression of Interest **“Strengthening Belize’s national protected areas system by integrating landscape and seascape management approaches, ecosystem based adaptation for climate change and improving social and ecosystem resilience to climate change”** to Life Web. This project will complement the ongoing national efforts to fulfil our commitments under the various Rio Conventions, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The project is an important complement to the national initiatives such as the recently completed project to support country action on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) **“Sustainable finance for the implementation of the Belize’s national protected areas system plan, cost of the system and economic valuation”** has articulated for the first time a robust and sustainable financial strategy and plan for Belize’s PA system as well as assessed the economic contribution of ecosystem goods and services from our protected areas. Furthermore, the ongoing GEF project **“Strengthening national capacities for the operationalization, consolidation, and sustainability of Belize’s Protected Areas System”** have resulted in the implementation of key PoWPA activities that will, at its completion, result in the establishment of a national protected areas authority to ensure effective management of Belize’s national PA system.

We are confident that the current proposal to the LifeWeb Initiative will greatly assist our efforts to continue the work we have started.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



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Wilber Sabido
UNCBD National Focal Point

Cc: Mrs. Beverly Castillo, Chief Executive Office, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
NPAS Secretariat
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