

## Information on National CHM

### BELIZE

(Updated on 2013-09-24 by Ms. Leandra Cho-Ricketts)

National CHM	
Web address (URL)	The old one <a href="http://www.chm.org.bz">http://www.chm.org.bz</a> no longer works
Title	N/A
Brief description	N/A
Responsible organization	N/A
Webmaster name	N/A
Webmaster email	N/A
Content management system (CMS)	N/A
Database system	N/A
Search engine	N/A
Available human resources for maintenance and development	The University of Belize through the ERI has a database administrator and two database assistants to develop and maintain the CHM
Other comments	Belize is currently reviving the CHM and working towards establishing a fully functional CHM

Other national websites on biodiversity		
Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
<a href="http://www.biodiversity.bz">http://www.biodiversity.bz</a> Biodiversity & Environmental Resource Data System of Belize	BERDS merges a wide array of useful data (e.g. documents, people, organizations, projects, specimen collections, datasets) with an integrated, comprehensive and accurate GIS mapping service to form a powerful data visualization and investigation toolset for national research and monitoring efforts.	Belize Tropical Forest Studies
<a href="http://www.eriub.org/publications/eri-reports-publications.html">http://www.eriub.org/publications/eri-reports-publications.html</a> Environmental Research Institute/ Publications	Two links on scientific reports from ERI and link to repository of reports and journal papers	Environmental Research Institute (ERI), University of Belize
<a href="http://biological-diversity.info">http://biological-diversity.info</a> Biodiversity in Belize	Contains general biodiversity info on Belize and a link to BERDS along with some reports on various monitoring activities	Belize Tropical Forest Studies

Major national organizations involved in biodiversity		
Acronym	Full name	Role
ERI-UB	Environmental Research Institute, University of Belize	Proposed CHM National Focal Point and CHM manager; currently manages a national research publication repository and national monitoring databases and is developing the national biodiversity monitoring program
	Belize Forest Department	CBD Focal Point, Government Agency responsible for terrestrial protected areas, forest management and wildlife management
	Belize Fisheries Department	Government Agency responsible for fisheries and marine protected areas
DoE	Department of the Environment	Implement EIA process to regulate development and enforce Environmental Protection Act to protect biodiversity
PACT	Protected Areas Conservation Trust	National conservation fund that funds protected areas, biodiversity and conservation projects

Comments on national situation
<p>CHM has been dormant since 2004 due to a lack of human resources dedicated or assigned to maintaining the website and uploading information. The original CHM website (<a href="http://www.chm.org.bz">www.chm.org.bz</a>) does not work. In addition, a proper CHM strategy was not developed to ensure full coordination with other government agencies responsible for various aspects of biodiversity, and academia and NGOs that are involved in biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>In 2005 the National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan (NPASP) was developed to bring together all of Belize's protected areas (&gt;100 PAs). Under objective 3 of the System Plan the maintenance of the CHM was identified as crucial in supporting management of the protected area system. In 2007 the NPASP work plan was developed for a 5-year period. The work plan identified that the University of Belize through the ERI would be the organization responsible for administration of the CHM. It listed several activities and steps to be completed by 2013 in realizing a functional CHM. These are yet to be finalized primarily due to implementation delays in the plan, formalizing arrangements with government and access to funding.</p> <p>Since late 2012, the ERI began discussions with the Forest Department (CBD NFP) to formalize agreements for ERI to become the CHM NFP and to lead the revision of the 1998 NBSAP, through funding support by GEF. Included in this revision will be a definition of the CHM Strategy for Belize.</p> <p>The steps outlined in the NPASP for the implementation of the CHM are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare work plan for this Action, detailing the sub-processes required for more focused attention and action;</li> <li>Formalize the University of Belize as the CHM Administrator;</li> <li>Develop and implement a business plan/financial sustainability strategy for the CHM;</li> <li>Build institutional capacity of the CHM administrator;</li> <li>Administration and operation of the CHM – define/resolve staffing issues; and</li> <li>Engage and formalize node agencies into the CHM.</li> </ol> <p>Immediate targets are to formalize arrangements for ERI to become the CHM NFP with the government and to advance with development of a CHM Strategy and a National CHM website.</p>

**Strategic Vision**

The Belize National CHM provides the most up-to-date and relevant information on biodiversity for Belize utilizing the network of biodiversity practitioners to access biodiversity information that is directly applied to the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Belize. The Belize National CHM also provides regular status and progress updates on Belize's performance on meeting its obligations to the CBD and is an actively functioning portal to the Central CHM of the CBD.

**Roadmap**

Priority	Objective	Activity	Responsible	Requirements
1	Formalize the University of Belize as the CHM Administrator	Ministry of Forest, Fisheries and Sustainable Development appoints the ERI as the CHM NFP	FD, ERI, CEO of Ministry	DR, OK
1	Develop a work plan for implementation of the Belize National CHM	Create a 2-year work plan to establish the National CHM	ERI	OK
2	Develop and implement a strategy for the CHM focused on its sustainability	Formulate the CHM strategy that outlines the structure and operationalization of the National CHM	ERI, FD	OK
2	Build institutional capacity of the CHM administrator (ERI)	Hire 1 student database assistant; Provide training to ERI database team (especially student assistants) in website management, database design and metadata management	ERI, FD	ARR, CR
3	Administration and operation of the CHM	Administer and manage the National CHM to ensure regular updates and maintenance	ERI	OK, ARR
3	Engage and formalize node agencies into the CHM	Establish data sharing agreements with node agencies including government agencies, private sector and NGOs	ERI	OK

**Notes:**

- Priority: 1=urgent, 2=high, 3=medium, 4=low; 5=very low
- Objective: challenge, issue, problem to resolve
- Responsible: organization or person in charge
- Requirements: Code + text
  - OK: Can be done with existing resources
  - DR: Decision required
  - CR: Collaboration required
  - ARR: Additional resources required (support, cooperation)

**Comments on roadmap**

Priority 1 Objectives should be achieved by March 2014 at the time of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Report. Within the next year the priority 2 objectives will be achieved based on the availability of funding and technical support for training. Achievement of priority 3 objectives will be based on continued funding support to the ERI through its database programs and the implementation of its sustainability strategy.

**Cooperation opportunities / Type of support needed**

Training opportunities for ERI Database staff in website management and interfacing. This can be through technical cooperation/support through the CBD Secretariat and other regional CHMs such as Jamaica. Technical support and training can be explored with CONABIO in Mexico that the University has just started making contacts with.

Orientation of ERI technical staff that will act as the CHM content manager on CBD and CHM matters by the Forest Department and/or through attending any other regional workshops.

Funding support for workshops, training opportunities and scholarship/stipend support for student data assistants in setting up the CHM. This will be explored through the funds allocated to Belize for the NBSAP and national report and other potential GEF support.

***Thank you!***