

Implementation of Belize's National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan

CBD Regional Capacity Building Workshop
Princess Hotel, Belize City
April 29, 2014



Overview

- Protected areas and Belize's national development
- Belize's National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan
- National Protected Areas System (NPAS)
- Linking protected areas to the economy
- Achieving Aichi Target 11 & PoWPA goals
- Conclusion

Protected areas and national development

- Belize's economy is natural resource based – fisheries, forestry, agriculture, tourism, etc.
- There is a need to give attention to conservation and sustainable use of Natural Capital.
- NPAS contributes to poverty alleviation, disaster mitigation and foster adaptation to climate change.



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National Protected Areas Policy

‘A comprehensive Protected Area Policy is drafted that ensures increased social and economic benefit while guaranteeing core protected area objectives’

- Developed in 2003 – 2005
- Endorsed in 2006 by GOB and re-affirmed in 2010

Policy sets out the guidelines for the development of the National Protected Area System:

- Comprehensive
- Integrated with national development plans
- Economic, social and ecological sustainability
- Maintain biodiversity values
- Transparent management

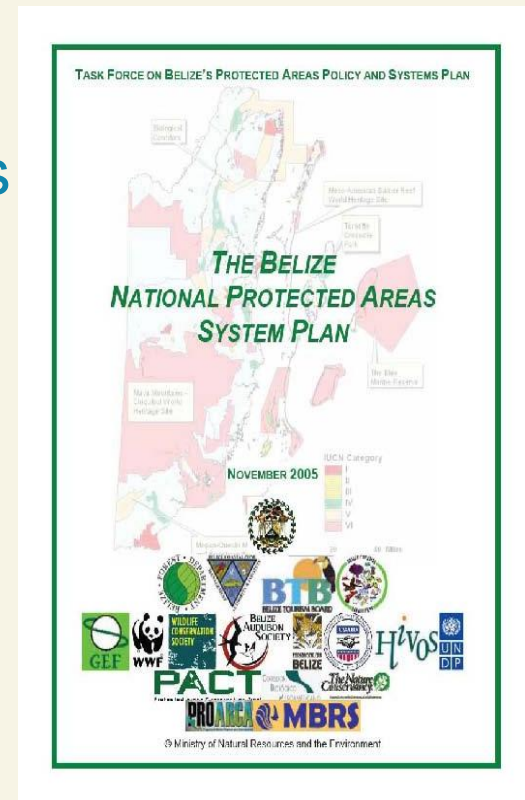


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National Protected Areas System Plan

Achieving the overall vision through 4 key objectives:

- ❖ An enabling administrative structure is established for policy implementation
- ❖ The national protected area system is functional
- ❖ The national protected area system is comprehensive
- ❖ The national protected area system is consolidated and simplified

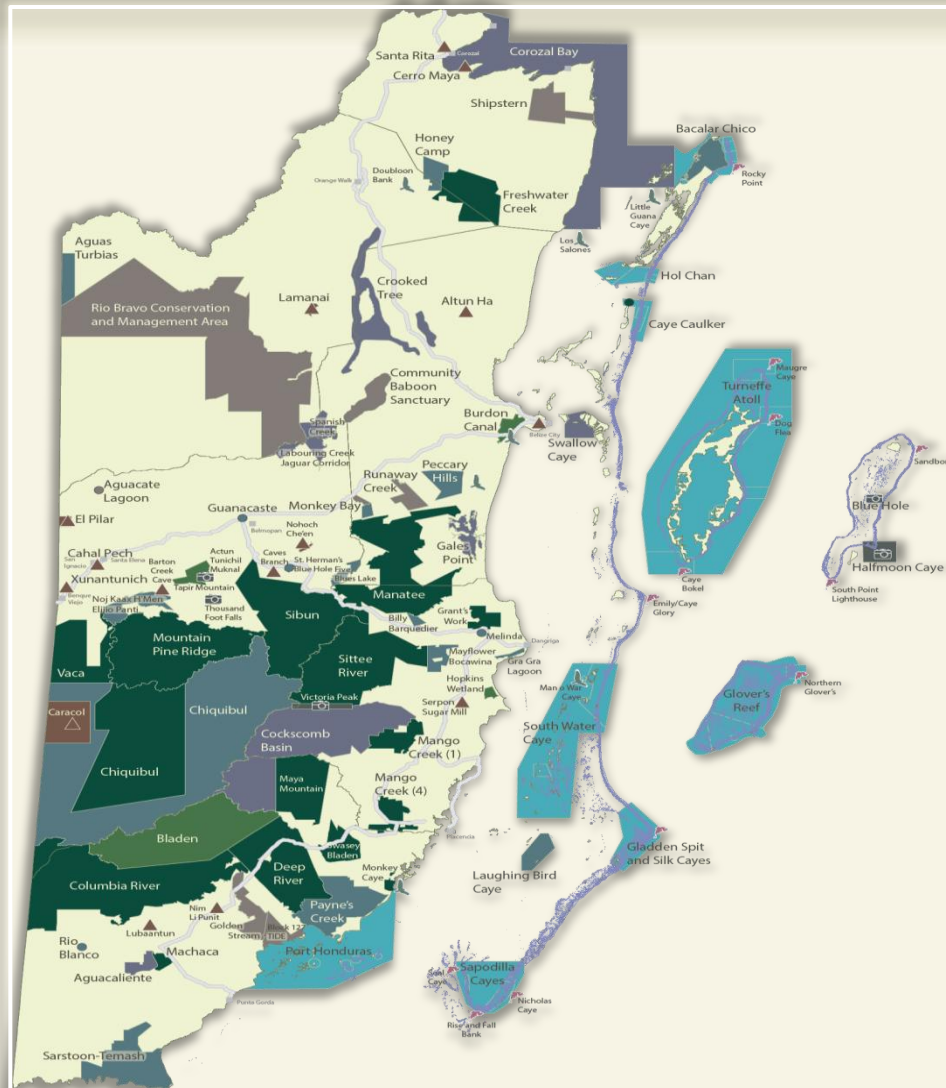


Achieving Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

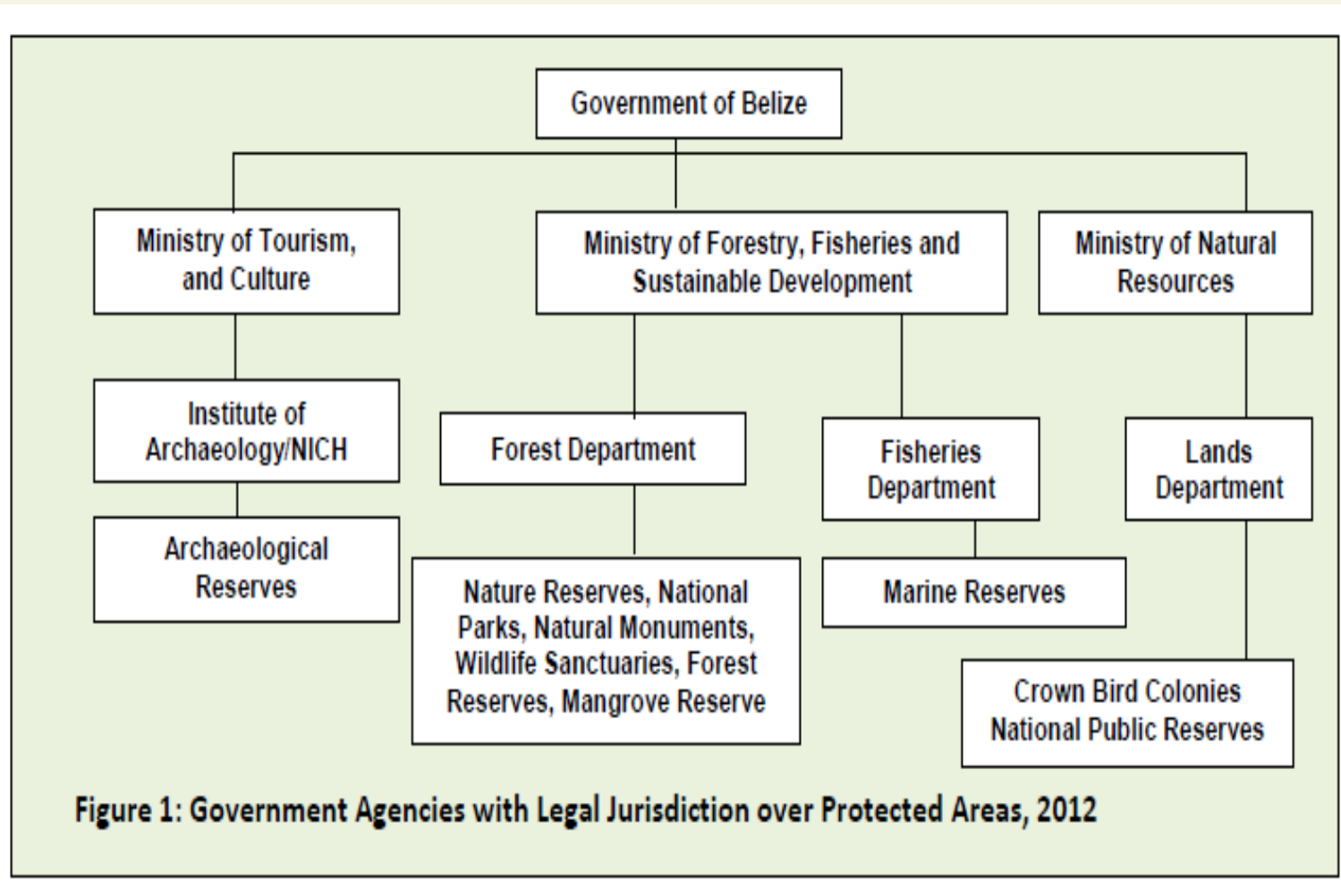


National Protected Areas System



M A P K E Y	Forest Reserves (17)
	Nature Reserves (4)
	National Parks (18)
	Private Reserves (8)
	Wildlife Sanctuaries (8)
	Marine Reserves (9)
	Natural Monuments (5)
	Archaeological Reserves (15)
	Bird Sanctuaries (7)
	Spawning Aggregation Reserves (12)

Protected Areas of Belize



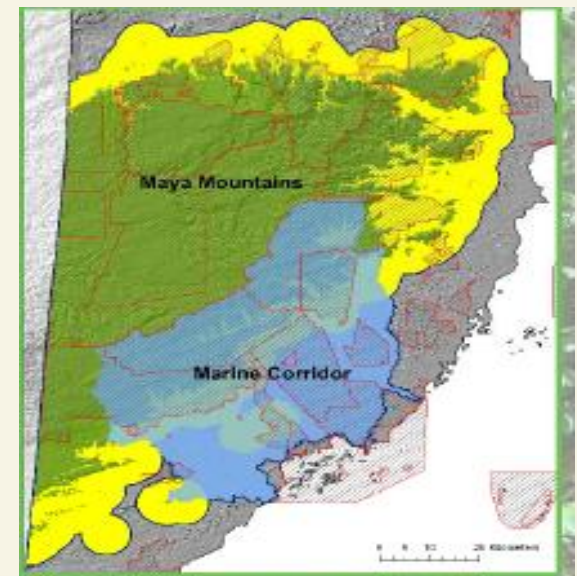
Linking protected areas to the economy

- Maya Mountain Massif and Marine Corridor Economic Valuation
- Coastal Capital-WRI
- Nation Replenishment Zone Expansion
- Managed Access Program
- Sustainable Forest Management
- NPAS Communications Strategy



Economic Valuation of the Maya Mountain Massif and Marine Corridor

Ecosystem Good or Service	Net Present Value
Coastal Tourism and Fisheries	US\$ 24 - 40 million
Tourism & Recreation	US\$ 14 - 30 million
Potable Water Quality	US\$ 0.3 - 2.3 million
Water Supply	US\$ 137 - 223 million
Timber Production	US\$ 31 - 416 million
Carbon Storage	US\$ 9 - 163 million
Xate Production	US\$ 26 - 84 million
Bayleaf Production	US\$ 4 - 8 million

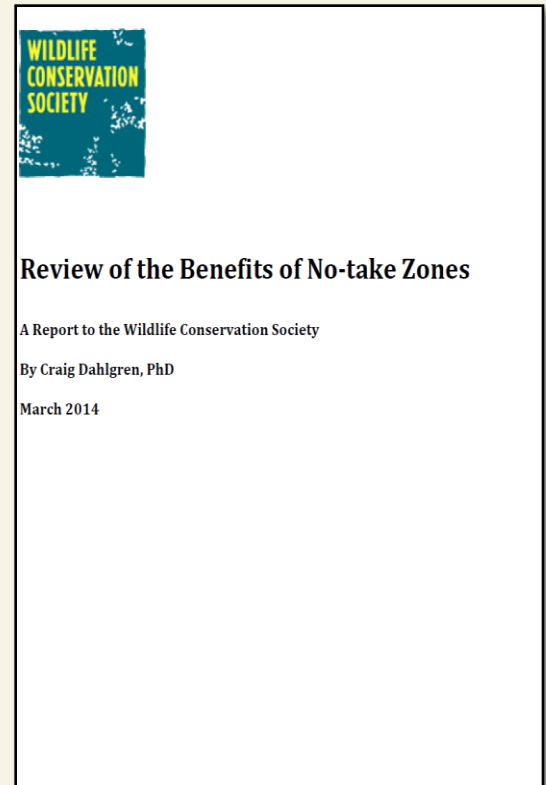


National Replenishment Zone Expansion in Belize

- Target: Expansion to 10% by December 2015
- 6 zones distributed throughout the country
- Targeting resilience to climate change
- Capturing irreplaceable ecosystems
- Expansion within existing MPAs
- Mostly in deep waters which are under-represented ecosystems

Evidence of benefits:

- Up to BZ\$11.2 million for reef related tourism in Glover's Reef Atoll
- Bigger and more lobster, conch and fish- Glover's Reef, Laughing Bird Cave etc.



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How do we increase awareness?

National Branding Campaign



Consolidated approach to communication and awareness



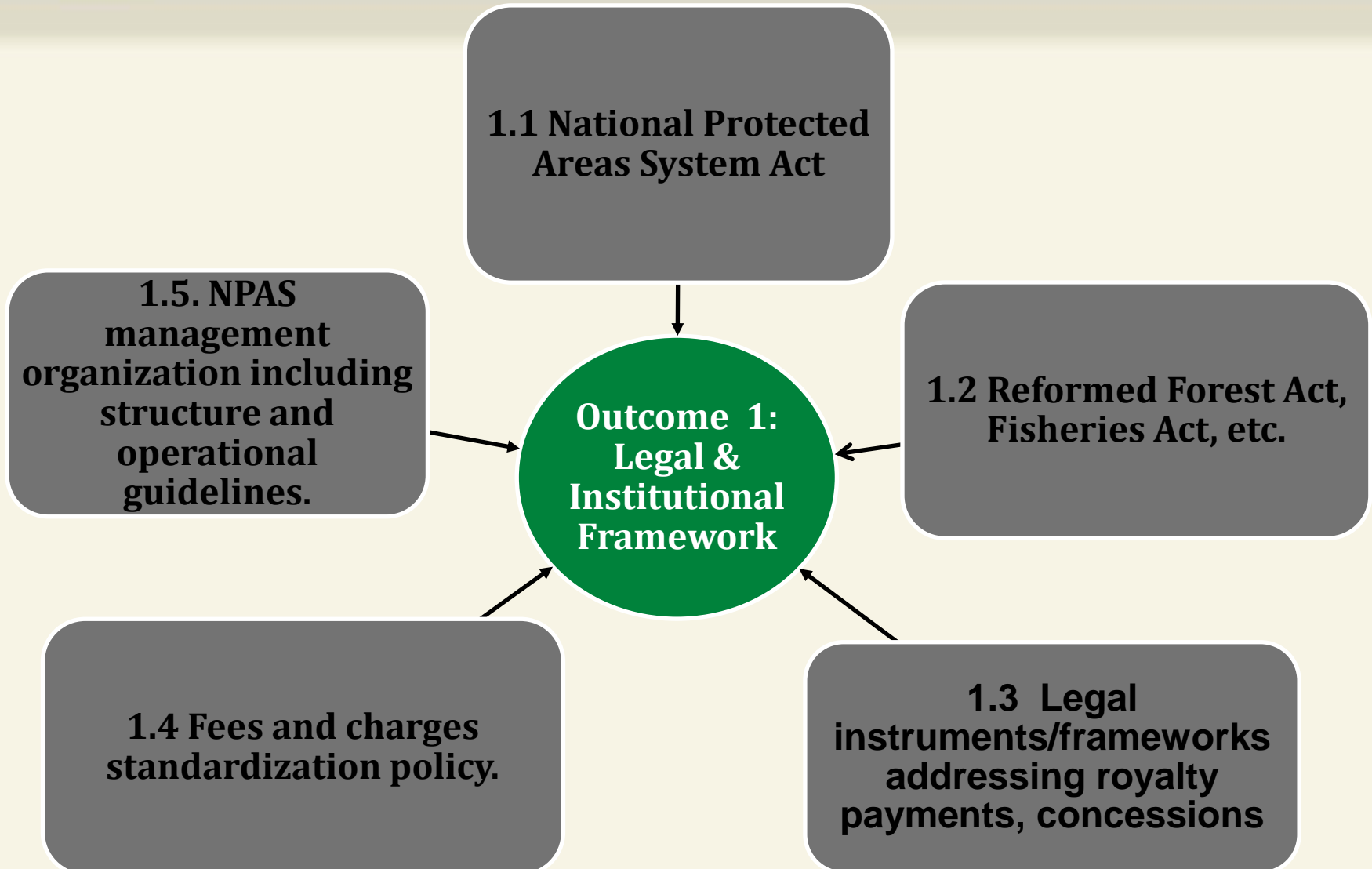
NATIONAL PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

Nature. Culture. Life.

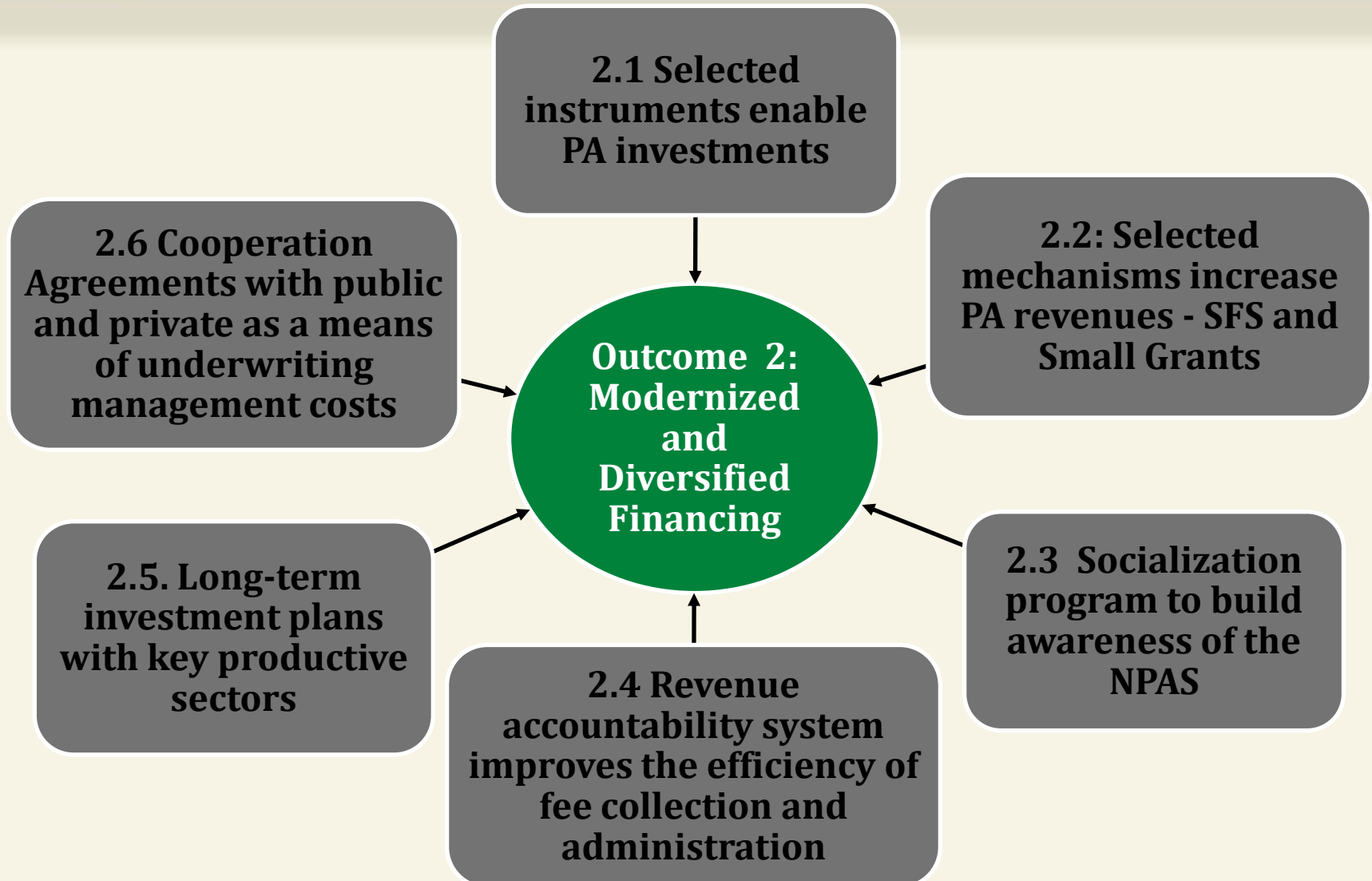
*National Protected Areas Secretariat
Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development*



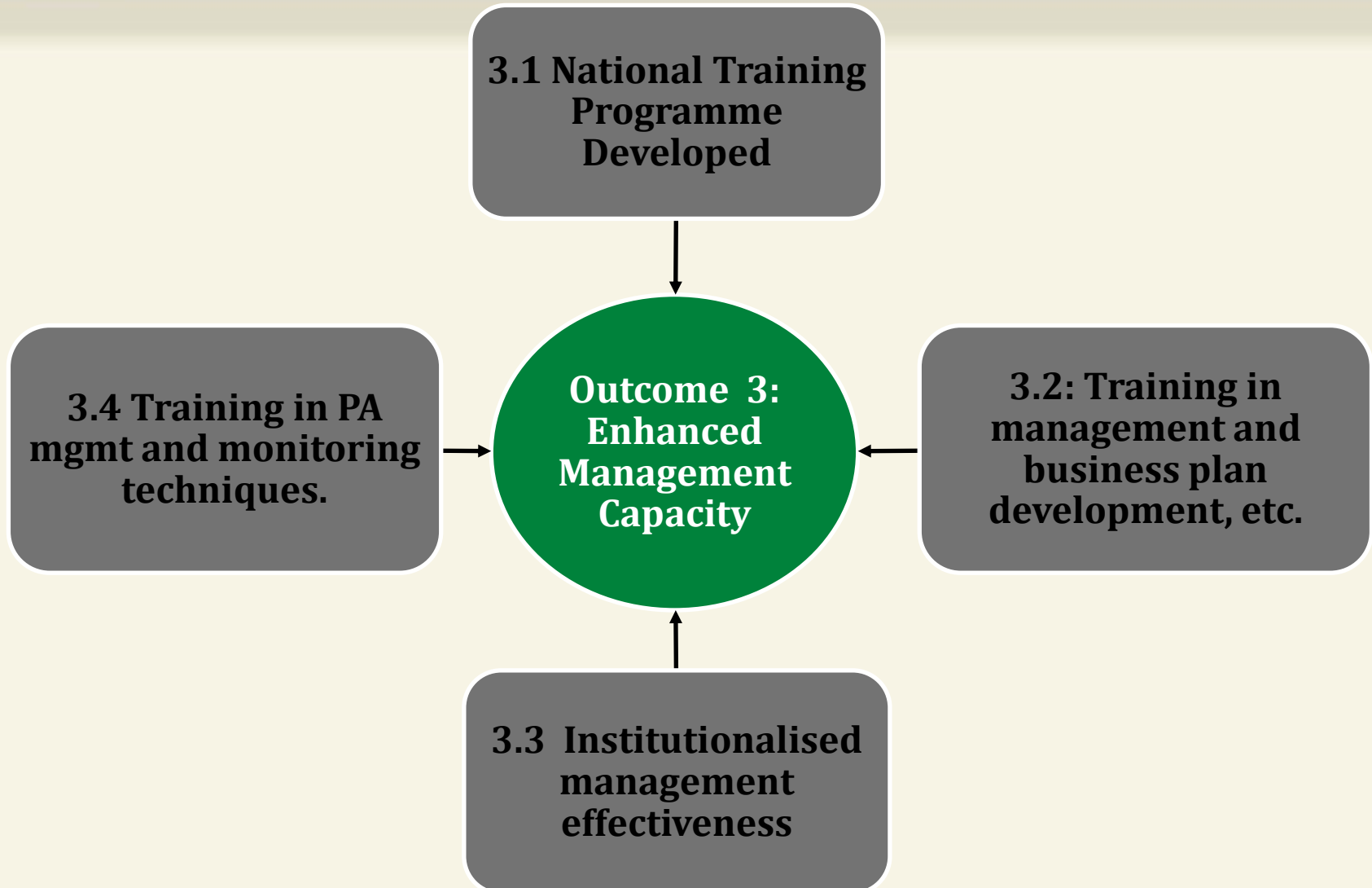
Strengthening the NPAS



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Strengthening the NPAS



Other Achievements

- National Protected Areas Secretariat and a National Protected Areas Technical Committee established in 2010
- Government-endorsed Co-management Agreement in 2012
- National Biodiversity Monitoring Program
- Management tools developed under the NPASP

Conclusion

- Varied levels of success in implementing NPASP (almost 10 years)
- Challenges: lack of robust M & E framework and integration with national development plans
- Updating NPASP to address challenges
- Ongoing activities to strengthen the NPAS
- Sustained communication efforts on the benefits and importance of the NPAS

THANK YOU



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ProtectedAreas.gov.bz

***National Protected Areas Secretariat
Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development***

