

National CHM - Belize

Early Efforts

- Clearing-house was setup through a project funded by GEF in late 90s under the Forest Department
- CHM was comprised of a central node at the Forest Department with several nodes in different agencies and NGOs who provided information and data to the CHM
- Lack of human resources resulted in the central clearing house mechanism going dormant in about 2004
- In 2005 country developed and adopted a National Protected Area System Plan (NPASP) that highlighted the need to have a well established CHM.
- This was tasked to the national University, University of Belize
- In 2009 the NPASP received funding for implementation
- Also had the establishment of the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) at the University of Belize

Current Efforts

- ERI started working towards the CHM by establishing an online, readily accessible research database
- Belize environmental and biodiversity research repository
- http://eriub.org/index.php?Itemid=100&option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper
- Biodiversity database hosted and managed privately
- <http://www.biodiversity.bz>
- In discussions with manager of BERDS to transfer this database to the university
- National databases for biodiversity data:
 - In use: forest data, fish spawning, coral bleaching
 - Under creation: sea turtles, wildlife sighting
 - Soon to be developed: biodiversity monitoring database for national biodiversity indicators

Future plans

- In discussions with Forest Department to transfer the CHM national focal point to the University
- Plans to create a central hub website for the National CHM that ties in Repository, BERDS and other databases
- Also will include status reports and monitoring summaries coming out of the National Biodiversity Monitoring Program and updates on the NBSAP when revised
- The University will host and maintain CHM through the ERI database team which includes student assistants and interns in the IT programs.
- Need to identify potential funding sources to get National CHM online.