



Strengthening protection systems of the Maya Golden Landscape through strategic interventions and increased community support

Type of priority area

Terrestrial Protected Area

Key Biodiversity Area

Privately Protected Area

Primary objective

Effectiveness of Management

Governance

Target groups

Local Communities

Indigenous People

Youth

Women

Main activity focus

Enforcement

Legal Framework/ Regulation
Illegal Activities

Protected Areas Management/
Governance Effectiveness

Capacity building/ awareness
raising/ education

Co-management

Landscape-based approach

Survey/Data knowledge
management

Monitoring/ Patrol equipment
management



Duration
01.11.2023 – 31.10.2024

Type of grant & budget
Small Technical Grant | 50 000€

Location
Belize, Central
America/Caribbean

Protected & Conserved Areas
Bladen Nature Reserve, Maya Mountain North
Forest Reserve, Golden Stream Corridor
Preserve

WDPA ID
12241 | 28850 | 301941

BIOPAMA RRIS Link
[ht https://rris.biopama.org/pa/12241](https://rris.biopama.org/pa/12241)
<https://rris.biopama.org/pa/28850>
<https://rris.biopama.org/pa/301941>

Project Lead
Ya'axché Conservation Trust

Project Partners
N/A

Description of the project

1.1.1 Maintain existing boundary lines and open newly demarcated lines (signage at regular intervals, ATV to access boundaries, GPS Survey Kit)

1.1.2 Increase patrol coverage, including hotspot areas, across the three PAs of MGL (equipment, uniform, boots, hammocks)

1.1.3 Sign formal agreement with Belize Defence Force, delineating clear areas for collaboration.

1.2.1 Conduct targeted capacity building trainings for protected areas staff (intelligence gathering training, specialized wilderness training, drone use training, GIS training and mapping for conservation, access to GIS Pro (subscription), and Green Laws training)

2.1.1 Develop and implement a gender sensitive MGL protected areas campaign for stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, on the importance of protected areas, ecosystem services provided, regulations of PA and processes to access resources in protected areas (outreach to 5 communities, 5 primary school and 2 high schools, promotional/informational materials (caps, tote bags, stickers, brochure, folder, mugs).





Diagnostic Tools Used

METT-4



The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

- ✓ Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations.



Priority Need Addressed

- ✓ Strengthening protection systems of the priority protected areas in the Maya Golden Landscape.
- ✓ Procurement of essential monitoring and patrol equipment.
- ✓ Strengthen inter-agency enforcement of protected areas rules and regulations.
- ✓ Increasing capacity through targeted training.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

Realizing that protected areas management is people centred, this project aims to change the perception that protected areas are unnecessary and mere land areas locked away from the public. While working toward changing this perception, the project will change the current levels of awareness of rules and regulations related to protected areas by providing education and outreach campaigns on the subject and improving management presence in key hotspots where illegal activities occur within the protected areas. The goal here is for an eventual transition from enforcement to compliance of rules and regulations. Ensuring clear delineation of boundary lines by physically opening the lines and installing signs will assist greatly in creating the awareness necessary for an eventual status of compliance with rules and regulations. To achieve compliance the project will improve and build the capacity of the enforcement & compliance teams, providing enhanced protection for select protected areas in the Maya Golden Landscape.

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The project *Strengthening protection systems of the Maya Golden Landscape through strategic interventions and increased community support* is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.

