



Introduction

Belize submitted its 1st forest reference level (FRL) in 2020 and moved to the implementation phase. Next year, in 2021, Belize submitted the REDD+ results against the FRL as an annex included in its 1st Biennial Update Report. In 2022, Belize successfully completed the technical analysis process of the REDD+ results and reported a total emission reduction of 5,602,563 tons of CO₂. This article describes Belize's REDD+ success story to date.

Belize provided the information in this article to the secretariat, as a snapshot of REDD+ implementation in the country for the celebration of the 10-years anniversary of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

REDD+ history in Belize

Overall process

REDD+ in Belize began with the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in 2013, followed by the signing of the Country Participation Agreement with the World Bank in 2014. In 2017, an agreement was reached that resulted in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Grant totaling USD 3.8 million.

Key milestones of REDD+ in Belize have been the development of the National REDD+ strategy, National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), Forest Reference Level (FRL) and Safeguard Information Summary.

Capacity building

Belize focused on capacity building during the readiness phase. Belize strategically prioritized capacity building and the development of national expertise. This approach resulted in improved data collection and analysis, directly benefiting national efforts to monitor progress toward the country's efforts in the sector and

enhancing reporting commitments to the UNFCCC.



Figure 1 Photo of a discussion 1 (provided by Belize government)



Figure 2 Photo of a discussion 2 (provided by Belize government)

The capacity building efforts in Belize focused on key areas such as the greenhouse gas inventory, land-use and land-use change assessments (activity data collection), emission factor development and compliance with UNFCCC requirements for REDD+. These initiatives played a key role in enhancing the skills and knowledge of personnel, ultimately leading to the establishment of a national Measurement, Reporting, and Verification program under the Belize Forest Department. This institutionalization guarantees the continuity of the process and strengthens Belize's capacity to effectively monitor and report activities within the sector.

Main challenges

Lack of experience

At the time Belize started REDD+ preparation, there were few cases where REDD+ was successfully implemented. Therefore, a lack of know-how and capacities was one of the challenges, in particular a capacity related to TACCC¹ principles.

Involvement of stakeholders

It was also challenging to get a wide variety of stakeholders involved in REDD+ in Belize. Online sessions were one way to address the challenge. For the purpose of communicating

with indigenous people, Belize established the Indigenous Peoples Desk, which served as a liaison for REDD+ projects and provided an avenue for reporting grievances caused by these projects.

Another conundrum was the reliance on external consultants to understand national circumstances.

Support received

Coalition for Rainforest Nations contributed to the development of REDD+ in Belize, including the development of the FRL, the collection of activity data and the understanding of the UNFCCC process and the REDD+ framework.



Figure 3 Photo of field survey 1 (provided by Belize government)



Figure 4 Photo of field survey 2 (provided by Belize government)

¹ Transparency, Accuracy, Completeness, Comparability, Consistency.

Links to other reports

Development of national capacity through REDD+ improved not only the availability of data and information used for other reports, but also the capacity to analyze them. As a result, national entities were able to gain a better understanding of their national circumstances and resources, as well as take full ownership of processes for making other reports, which were primarily dependent upon consultants.

As part of Belize's National Determined Contribution², REDD+ is a key area. Also, REDD+ provided an opportunity to understand national circumstances that will facilitate the achievement of the country's climate goals.

The benefits of REDD+ contributed to forest conservation efforts. It is evident that the completion of the technical analysis process for the REDD+ results was a concrete step to accelerate mitigation actions within the forest sector. However, securing sufficient finance and technical support is still the main challenge for increasing REDD+ ambition in Belize.

For more information, see [Belize's country page](#) on the REDD+ Web Platform.

² Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Belize%20Updated%20NDC.pdf>.