About Belize Audubon Society's Community Outreach

BAS' community outreach work strives to empower local communities to take ownership of the natural resources they utilize through education and capacity building, to improve local knowledge and understanding of the value of nature-based livelihoods whilst involving stakeholders in the sustainable management of our shared natural resources.

Community outreach work is project-based, with projects in recent years including:

'Phase 1, Communication & Awareness Plan for CBWS' - In partnership with the Forest Department, 32 community leaders were engaged in focus group meetings. As a result, the shared information will be integrated to develop effective strategies to increase awareness on the importance of CBWS and green laws, and to improve participation and support within the community for conservation. The community leaders of the six buffer communities involved (Maya Center, Maya Mopan, Santa Rosa, San Roman, Red Bank and Santa Cruz) have demonstrated great receptivity and interest in strengthening communication, promising a successful of Phase 2.

'Improving Communication & Stakeholder Awareness' - Through community meetings & school visits on conservation roles of BAS & the Forest Department, 200 stakeholders from Santa Rosa, San Roman and Santa Cruz were engaged on Belize's Green Laws & Protected Areas.

'Strengthening relationship and improving collaboration with Maya Center Women's Group (MCWG)' - Jointly with the managing (Forest Department) and co-managing authorities (BAS), a series of meetings were launched with the MCWG to improve collaboration and communication efforts. A way forward was chartered with all partners for the sustainable management and benefit sharing of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS).

Additional projects that have been carried out within individual communities include:

Maya Centre projects:

- Wood burning stoves
- Tour guide training and capacity building

Maya Mopan project:

- Beekeeper project

Red Bank project:

- Empowering and capacity building for Scarlet Macaw Bed and Breakfast Group

San Roman project:

- Chicken Cooperative - Free-range chicken-rearing along with the sale of chicks and eggs

Santa Rosa project:

- Agro-processing and covered structure for villagers to grow organic veggetables