

BELIZE

PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION TRUST ACT
CHAPTER 218

REVISED EDITION 2000
SHOWING THE LAW AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2000

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 1980 - 1990.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws- Page

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS 3

PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION TRUST ACT 6

Amendments in force as at 31st December, 2000.



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PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION TRUST

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CHAPTER 218

PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION TRUST

15 of 1995.
Commencement.
[1. 6. 1996]
S.I. 76 of 1996.

[*2nd January, 1996*]

PART I

Preliminary

Short title and commencement.

1. This Act may be cited as the Protected Areas Conservation Trust Act and shall come into force on a day to be appointed by the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette*.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:-

"Board" means the Board of Directors established under section 4 of this Act;

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board of Directors;

"Council" means the Advisory Council established under section 18 of this Act;

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"cultural resources" means ancient monuments and antiquities as defined by the Ancient Monuments and Antiquities Act; CAP. 330.

"Minister" means the Minister for the time being responsible for Natural Resources;

"natural resources" means any part of the natural environment such as soil, water, minerals, flora, fauna, rocks;

"Trust" means the Protected Areas Conservation Trust established under section 3 of this Act;

"Trust Fund" means the Protected Areas Conservation Trust Fund established under section 20 of this Act.

PART II

Establishment of Trust and Board of Directors

Establishment of Trust.

3.-(1) There shall be established a body to be called the Protected Areas Conservation Trust which shall consist of a Board of directors established under section 4 below.

(2) The Trust shall be a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and shall be capable of acquiring, holding, and disposing of real and personal property, and of suing and being sued, and of doing and suffering all other things that bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

Directors of Trust.

4.-(1) There shall be a Board of directors of the Trust appointed by the Minister consisting of nine members as follows:

(a) two non-governmental representatives; one from a conservation non-governmental organization and the other from the tourism private sector;

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CAP. 88.

(b) one person representing the Village Councils established under the Village Councils Act;

(c) three Permanent Secretaries (or government representatives) representing Ministries charged with the responsibilities for the following:

(i) National Parks,
(ii) Wildlife,
(iii) Terrestrial Protected Areas,
(iv) Marine Protected Areas,
(v) Fisheries,
(vi) Tourism,
(vii) Environment,
(viii) Archaeology;

(d) one person to be elected by the other voting members of the Board;

(e) the Financial Secretary (or his representative,) who shall be an *ex officio* member and who shall have no voting rights;

(f) the Executive Director of the Trust who shall be an *ex officio* member and who shall have no voting rights.

(2) The Board shall have the executive control and management of the affairs of the Trust, and shall exercise and perform the functions, powers, and duties of the Trust on its behalf, and shall be responsible for its effective and efficient administration.

(3) The powers of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy in its membership.

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Appointment of directors of Trust.

5.-(1) The members of the Board under paragraphs *(a)* and *(b)* of subsection (1) of section 4 shall be selected by their respective non-governmental association or organization network. Only persons from recognized organizations shall be so selected. The members appointed under section 4 (1) *(c)* shall be selected by Cabinet.

(2) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board shall be elected from and by the voting Board members.

Term of office of directors.

6. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other members of the Board shall hold office for such period, not exceeding two years, as may be fixed at the time of their appointment, and shall be eligible for re-election.

Extraordinary vacancies.

7.-(1) A director may at any time resign his office by delivering a notice in writing to that effect to the Board.

(2) A director may at any time be removed from office for disability, neglect of duty or misconduct, proved to the satisfaction of the Minister and upon the recommendation of the body who selected or elected him.

(3) Where a director dies, resigns, or is removed from office, the vacancy occurring shall be called an extraordinary vacancy.

(4) On the occurrence of an extraordinary vacancy, the Board shall forthwith notify the person or body by whom the director vacating office was selected or elected, of the vacancy.

(5) An extraordinary vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the appointment or election of the director vacating office, and the person filling such vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the period which the member who has vacated his seat would have held office if he had not vacated his seat.

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Meetings of Board.

8.-(1) The first meeting of the Board shall be held as soon as practicable after all members have been appointed.

(2) Subsequent meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and places as the Board determines.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the Chairman shall at any time, whenever required in writing to do so by any three directors, call a special meeting of the Board.

(4) The Chairman of the Trust shall give to every director not less than seven days' notice in writing of every meeting of the Board and of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

(5) No business may be transacted at a special meeting of the Board unless it is specified in the notice required under subsection (4) of this section, or all the directors agree to its transaction at that meeting.

(6) At every meeting of the Board, five directors, of which at least four shall be voting members and one non-voting member, shall form a quorum.

(7) The Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Board.

(8) Where for any reason, the Chairman is unable to preside at any meeting of the Board:

(i) the Vice-Chairman shall preside if he is able to do so; and

(ii) if the Vice-Chairman is unable to preside, then the directors present shall elect one of their number to preside.

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(9) A *pro tem* Chairman shall have all the powers of the Chairman at that meeting, including the power of exercising a casting vote in addition to his original vote.

(10) No act done by a *pro tem* Chairman shall in any proceedings be questioned on the ground that the occasion for his so acting had not arisen or had ceased.

(11) Every question before a meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the directors present at the meeting.

(12) On every question before a meeting, the person presiding shall have a deliberative vote, and in the case of an equality of votes he shall also have a casting vote.

(13) A resolution signed or assented to by letter or telegram by every director shall have the same effect as a resolution duly passed at a meeting of the Board.

(14) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the Board may regulate its own proceedings as it thinks fit.

Board protected by Public Authorities Protection Act. CAP. 31.

9. The Board shall be entitled to the same protection under the Public Authorities Protection Act as if it were included in the definition of "public authority" given in section 2 of that Act, and the place at which the Board shall hold its meetings shall be deemed to be the "abode" of the Board within the meaning of the said Act.

Delegation of powers.

10.-(1) The Board may from time to time, in respect of any particular matter or class of matters, and in writing, delegate to any director or to the Executive Director of the Trust, any of its functions under this Act except this power of delegation and the following functions:

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(a) approving annual budgets or programme of activities;

(b) making regulations;

(c) carrying out activities which require off-budget expenditures.

(2) Subject to any general directions given to him by the Board, the person to whom any powers are so delegated may exercise those powers in the same manner and with the same effect as if they had been conferred on him directly by this Act and not by delegation.

(3) Every person purporting to act pursuant to a delegation under this section shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be presumed to be acting in accordance with the terms of the delegation.

(4) Every delegation under this section shall be revocable at will, and no such delegation shall prevent the exercise of any power by the Board.

Protection of directors.

11. No director shall be personally liable for any act or omission of the Trust, or of the Board, or of any director, or officer of the Trust, if the act or omission is made in good faith in the course of operations of the Trust, or of the Board.

Remuneration of directors.

12. The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be compensated for reasonable costs incurred for attending Board meetings or conducting other business of the Board.

Rules of the Trust.

13.-(1) The Board may from time to time make rules of the Trust, not inconsistent with this Act, for all or any of the following purposes:

(a) regulating the proceedings of the Board;

(b) providing for the custody of the property of the Trust, and the custody and use of the common seal of the Trust;

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(c) regulating the terms and conditions of employment of persons appointed under section 14;

(d) regulating the manner in which the Trust Fund shall be dealt with;

(e) providing for such other matters as may be necessary or expedient for the carrying out of the functions of the Trust.

(2) Notice in writing of every proposed resolution to make rules under this section or for the amendment or revocation of any rule so made (including a copy of the proposed rules, amendment, or revocation), shall be given to every director not less than twenty-one days before the meeting at which the proposal is to be moved, but an inadvertent failure to comply with this subsection shall not invalidate the making, amendment, or revocation of any rule at that meeting.

Appointment of Executive Director and other staff.

14.-(1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint and employ an Executive Director and such other officers and employees as may be necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Trust.

(2) The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Trust and, subject to the other provisions of this Act, shall be responsible to the Board for the efficient and economical administration of the affairs of the Trust.

(3) Subject to the rules of the Trust, the Board may from time to time enter into contracts with persons, on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, to provide such services or perform such work for the Trust as the Board may require.

(4) Subject to the rules of the Trust, there shall be paid to every person engaged on contract under subsection (4) of this section such remuneration as the Board may determine.

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(5) The Board shall supervise the Executive Director in the execution of his functions and responsibilities under this Act.

(6) The Board shall have the power to dismiss the Executive Director, and also to dismiss other staff upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.

Honorary Board.

15.-(1) The Board shall appoint a body to be called the "Honorary Board" which shall consist of not less than three and not more than five persons.

(2) The function of the Honorary Board shall be to:-

(a) enhance and portray the role of the Trust to members of the general public or particular groups;

(b) create and build a positive image of the Trust;

(c) make recommendations to the Board;

(d) assist in establishing a Trust Foundation;

(e) assist the Foundation established under section 32 to raise funds;

(f) perform any other duties which may be reasonably required of it under this Act and any regulations made thereunder.

(3) The Honorary Board may consist of persons such as the Governor-General, the Governor of the Central Bank and representatives of prominent and established national and international conservation organizations.

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PART III

Functions and Powers of Trust

Functions of the Trust.

16.-(1) The general functions of the Trust shall be to encourage and promote, for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future generations of the people of Belize, the provision, protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural resources of Belize.

(2) In particular, but without limiting the general functions described in subsection (1) of this section, the Trust may, where it deems necessary:-

(a) distribute from the Trust Fund such grants as it thinks fit to encourage, promote, and assist the undertaking by suitable persons and bodies of any research, studies or other activities relating to the nationwide effort to establish, operate, maintain and enhance protected areas, and other natural and cultural protected resources for the purposes of conservation, maintenance of biodiversity, protection of ecological processes and for recreational enjoyment;

(b) assist in the funding of activities which are eligible for funding under the Schedule to this Act; Schedule.

(c) perform any other functions which may be necessary for the effective functioning of the Trust Fund.

Powers of the Trusr.

17.-(1) The Trust shall have all the powers that are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions under this Act.

(2) In particular, but without limiting the generality of its powers under subsection (1) of this section, the Trust may in consultation with the Advisory Board, do all or any of the following things:

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(a) acquire by purchase, lease, exchange, bailment, gift, or otherwise, any interest in land or any other form of property;

(b) dispose of any of its property by sale, lease, exchange, or bailment;

(c) engage any person or body to undertake the management, alteration, development, improvement, repair, or maintenance of any of its property;

(d) publish reports, recommendations and other information relating to any functions of the Trust.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph *(b)* of subsection (2) of this section, where any land has been transferred to the Trust by way of gift, the Board shall not dispose of that land by way of sale or exchange unless it has first offered the land, on such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit, to the donor or to the beneficiaries of the donor's estate.

PART IV

Establishment of Advisory Councel

Establishment of Advisory Council.

18.-(1) There shall be appointed by the Minister an Advisory Council consisting of eleven members as follows:-

(a) five representatives from among the Ministries responsible for:-

(i) Terrestrial Protected Areas Conservation,
(ii) Natural Resources Management,
(iii) Marine Areas Protection,
(iv) Archaeological Protection,
(v) Environment,

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(vi) Economic Development,
(vii) Social Services,
(viii) Tourism,
(ix) Lands and survey,
(x) Fisheries,
(xi) Agriculture,
(xii) Education;

(b) one person representing the Town Councils established under the Town Councils Act; CAP. 87.

(c) one representing the Village Councils established under the Village Councils Act; CAP. 88.

(d) three representatives from non-governmental organizations, i.e. one from conservation organizations, one from a rural development organization, and one from the tourism private sector;

(e) one representative from the tertiary level institutions to be selected by the Board.

(2) The non-governmental members of the Council shall be nominated by their respective non-governmental association or organization network. Only persons from recognized organizations shall be so nominated.

(3) No member of the Board shall be eligible for appointment to the Council.

(4) The Council shall appoint one of their members to be the Chairman and another member to be the Vice-Chairman.

(5) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman and other members of the Advisory Council shall hold office for such period not exceeding two years as may

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be fixed at the time of their appointment, and shall be eligible for re-election.

(6) In the absence of the Chairman for any reason whatever, the Vice-Chairman shall act as the Chairman.

(7) Where for any reason, the Chairman or Vice Chairman is unable to preside at any meeting of the Council, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at that meeting.

(8) A *pro tem* Chairman elected under subsection (7) above shall have all the powers of the Chairman at that meeting, including the power of exercising a casting vote in addition to this original vote.

(9) Any vacancy occurring in the Council shall be filled in the same manner as the appointment or election of the member vacating office.

(10) The quorum for any meeting of the Council shall be six members. The decision of the majority present at any meeting shall be the decision of the Council.

(11) The Council shall maintain proper records of its proceedings.

Functions of the Council.

19.-(1) The functions of the Council shall be to:

(a) advise the Board on technical, administrative and other matters;

(b) coordinate the preparation of the National Strategic Trust Plan under section 34;

(c) advise the Board on any other matter with a view to enabling the Board to perform its functions and to administer the Trust in a most efficient and effective manner;

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(d) perform any other duties as may be assigned to it by this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

(2) In this Part, "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Advisory Council established under this Part.

PART V

Financial Provisions, Accounts and Reports

Establishment of Trust Fund.

20.-(1) There is hereby established a fund to be known as the Protected Areas Conservation Trust Fund, which shall be the fund of the Trust.

(2) The Trust Fund shall be a dedicated Fund which shall be separate from any general funds of the Government .

(3) The Trust Fund shall be exclusively dedicated to the conservation and management for sustainable use of the cultural and natural resources of Belize.

(4) The Trust Fund shall be a supplement and not a replacement for Government funds of recurrent or capital allocations which are needed for the standard operations and functions of its departments and divisions responsible for providing, managing and maintaining protected areas and resources.

Revenues of Trust Fund.

21. The revenues of the Trust Fund shall consist of the following money:

(a) revenues derived from a conservation fee imposed under section 33;

(b) twenty *per centum* of all concession fees, recreation-related licence fees, cruise ship passenger fees, and permit fees collected in conjunction with the public protected areas of Belize;

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(c) all income derived from the investment of money by or on behalf of the Trust under this Act;

(d) all income derived from the administration of property held by or on behalf of the Trust;

(e) any money paid to the Trust in the form of an annuity or with an express direction by the donor that it is to be applied as income;

(f) all other money not forming part of the Endowment Fund established under section 30;

(g) any other money lawfully contributed, donated, or bequeathed to the Trust or received by the Trust from any other source.

Trust Fund account.

22.-(1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister of Finance, open and maintain at such bank or banks as it may from time to time determine, accounts for the funds of the Trust.

(2) The Central Bank of Belize shall be the trustee of the Trust Fund and shall be its fiduciary manager.

(3) All money forming part of the Trust Fund shall, as soon as practicable after it is received by any proper officer of the Trust, be paid into the Trust Fund account.

(4) No money shall be paid out of the Trust Fund account except with the authority, and in accordance with any general or special directions, of the Board.

(5) The Trust Fund account may only be operated on by cheque or other negotiable instrument (not being a promissory note or bill) signed by a director or other officer of the Trust who is authorized by the Board to sign

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cheques drawn on the account, and countersigned by any other director or officer of the Trust who is authorized by the Board to sign such cheques.

Powers of investment.

23.-(1) The Trust may make investments only after consultation with and upon the recommendation of a professional financial management institution or firm selected by the Board.

(2) Any director of the Board who has an interest in any project submitted for approval to the Board shall not vote on that project.

Disbursement of the Trust Fund.

24.-(1) Moneys from the Trust Fund may be awarded to recipients based upon merit through a competitive proposal process to achieve the goals and objectives of the Trust and provided that the recipients meet the criteria required by the Board.

(2) The Board may request that any proposal requiring multiple year or recurrent funding shall be supported by a precise statement of the organizational and programmatic goals of the potential recipient.

Moneys of the Trust Fund.

25.-(1) Moneys of the Trust Fund may be used to cover administrative, management and operational costs of the Trust Fund and such moneys shall be subject to an annual maximum which shall be determined by the Board.

(2) The total distribution of moneys from the Trust Fund shall not exceed the amount on deposit as held in the Trust Fund.

Return of unexpended money.

26. Any Trust moneys which have been allocated on a given project and which have not been expended on such project shall be returned to the Trust Fund for reallocation or reinvestment.

Evaluation of administrative operations.

27. The Board shall arrange for an annual evaluation of the Trust's administrative operations and such evaluation shall coincide with its annual audit.

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Further evaluation of Trust operations.

28.-(1) Every three years, a more comprehensive evaluation of the administration and operations of the Trust, along with a field audit of projects supported by the Trust shall be conducted.

(2) Such evaluation shall be carried out by an independent evaluating team of not more than five professionals from relevant technical fields.

(3) The evaluating team shall be appointed by the Minister of Finance.

(4) Any person who is in any way associated with the Trust either as a member of the Board of Advisory Council, or as a direct or indirect beneficiary shall not be appointed to the evaluating team.

(5) A report of the evaluation carried out under this section shall be submitted to the Minister, the Board, the Council and the Honorary Board within six months of completion of such evaluation.

How Trust moneys to be expended.

29. Subject to section 25 of this Act, moneys of the Trust Fund shall be expended only to meet the objects and purposes authorized by this Act and to repay principal and interest on loans.

Endowment Fund.

30.-(1) The Board shall establish an Endowment Fund in conjunction with the Trust Fund.

(2) The Endowment Fund shall receive no less than five *per centum* of the total revenue derived from the Trust Fund during each fiscal year.

(3) Only interest from the Endowment Fund shall be expended.

(4) The Endowment Fund shall be drawn on only in emergencies, contingencies and for such purposes as the Board may determine and only upon unanimous agreement of the full Board.

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(5) The Board shall determine the management and investment of the Endowment Fund.

Accounts.

31.-(1) The Board shall keep full and correct accounts of all money received and expended by the Trust.

(2) An annual audit of accounts shall be carried out by an independent auditing firm to be appointed by the Board.

(3) The completed annual audit report shall be submitted to the Board within one month of the anniversary date of inscription of the Trust Fund.

(4) The Board shall prepare a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Trust as at the end of each financial year and forward the same to the Central Bank of Belize as the trustee of the Trust Fund.

(5) At the beginning of each financial year, the Board shall prepare a budget which shall be divided into two components:

(i) the programme budget which will include an estimated amount for project grants, loans, endowment contributions; and

(ii) the operational budget which will include monitoring and evaluation, financial and investment assistance, and general operations.

Establishment of Foundation.

32. The Board shall establish a Protected Areas Conservation Trust Foundation in conjunction with the Trust to receive gifts and donations which cannot be received directly by the Trust Fund, and to raise funds to promote conservation and management, for the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources of Belize.

Collection of conservation fee.

33.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, there shall be levied and collected from every non-Belizean person departing from any air, land or sea border point, a fee equivalent to seven dollars and fifty cents in Belizean currency.

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(2) The fee mentioned in subsection (1) above shall not be payable by:-

(a) persons exempt from payment of departure tax;

(b) a member of the crew of an aircraft departing Belize;

(c) a member of the diplomatic or consular corps;

(d) military personnel;

(e) officials of international organizations;

(f) officials of other Governments visiting Belize at the invitation of the Government of Belize;

(g) visitors who are *bona fide* residents of border towns and villages;

(h) anyone who has paid a conservation fee within the previous thirty days.

(3) The conservation fee payable under subsection (1) above shall be collected as follows:

(a) in the case of a person departing from Belize by air; by the airline or its agent concerned responsible for the carriage of that person;

(b) in the case of persons departing from Belize by cruise ship; by the captain of the cruise ship bringing that person to Belize;

(c) in the case of persons departing by road; by the immigration officer in charge at the respective border point.

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(4) The conservation fee collected under this section shall be paid to the Executive Director of the Trust to the credit of the Trust Fund established under section 20 of this Act.

(5) Where an airline or its agent or the captain of a cruise ship, as the case may be, fails to collect or to pay the conservation fee levied under this section to the Executive Director of the Trust, such airline and its agent or the captain of the cruise ship, as the case may be, shall:

(a) be liable to pay such sum, which may be recovered as a civil debt; and

(b) be guilty of an offence and be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

(6) The Minister may, after consultation with the Minister of Finance, by Order published in the *Gazette*, vary from time to time the conservation fee payable under this section.

(7) Every Order made under subsection (6) above shall, as soon as may be after the making thereof, be laid before the House of Representatives and shall be subject to negative resolution.

(8) The conservation fee levied under this section shall be in addition to the departure tax levied under the Departure Tax Act. CAP. 50.

PART VI

Miscellaneous

National Strategic Plan.

34.-(1) The Council shall prepare a National Strategic Protected Areas Conservation Trust Plan (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan") once in every five

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years, with the assistance of appropriate professional and technical planners who may be contracted by the Board on the recommendation of the Council.

(2) The Department responsible for the management of protected areas under the National Parks System Act shall provide technical and administrative support to the Council in the preparation of the Plan.

CAP. 215.

(3) The Plan shall outline policies and strategic directions to achieve the Trust's objectives.

(4) The Plan shall be endorsed by the Board and submitted for Cabinet approval.

(5) The initial Plan shall be adjusted to a time-frame which will coincide with the five year Macro Economic Development Plan of Belize.

(6) All projects which are funded by the Board shall be in accordance with the objectives of the Plan.

Activities to be funded by Trust Fund.

35.-(1) A recipient of Trust moneys may include an individual, organization, governmental or non-governmental agency, community or institution which is involved in the conservation and management, for sustainable use, of Belize's natural and cultural resources.

(2) The Board shall, after consultation with the Council, establish the criteria which shall determine which activities shall qualify for funding by the Trust Fund.

(3) The activities which are eligible for funding, as well as those which do not qualify for funding, shall be as set out in the Schedule of this Act.

Schedule.

Regulations.

36.-(1) The Board may make regulations for the better carrying out of, or giving effect to, the provisions of this Act.

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(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing, regulations made under subsection (1) above may provide for:-

(a) establishing a ceiling on total funds to be used under section 25;

(b) the management, administration and function of the Trust Fund;

(c) appropriate training and orientation programmes for any members of the Board or Council where necessary;

(d) the functions and activities of the Foundation established under section 32 of this Act.

(3) Regulations made under this section shall be laid before the National Assembly as soon as may be after the making thereof and shall be subject to negative resolution.

Amendment of Schedule.

37. The Board may from time to time, by Order published in the *Gazette*, amend the Schedule to this Act.

Exemption from income tax, etc.

38.-(1) The Trust shall be exempt from the payment of income tax and property tax.

(2) All instruments executed by or on behalf of the Trust shall be exempt from stamp duty.

Orders to be made by S.I.

39. The power to make an Order under this Act shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.

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SCHEDULE
[Sections 16 (2) *(a)*, 35 (3) and 37]

Activities which qualify for Trust funding

1. Training, including-

   (a) in-service or extended, formal or informal training for professional, technical, non-professional and non-technical staff from public agencies, conservation and development organizations and other non-government bodies;

   (b) development of in-country professional and technical training capability in areas of interest to the trust, for example, training at University College of Belize.

2. Environmental education and awareness activities, using:

   (a) television and radio programmes,

   (b) posters and leaflets,

   (c) newsletters,

   (d) other media.

3. Policy studies and consultations, and policy fora, for example:-

   (a) protected area management, and policies,

   (b) environmental policies,

   (c) policy conference and workshops.

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4. Research, including:-

   (a) resource inventories and assessments,

   (b) other scientific investigations,

   (c) socio-economic and demographic studies,

   (d) eco-tourism market research and visitor expenditure and opinion surveys,

   (e) protected area visitor use surveys.

5. Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plans, such as;

   (a) strategic resource management planning,

   (b) protected area management plans,

   (c) design of monitoring programs.

6. Institutional support, such as:-

   (a) organizational development for public sector agencies, conservation, development and their non-governmental organizations,

   (b) infrastructure, capital equipment and non-recurrent expenses for public sector agencies and non-governmental organizations,

   (c) budgetary or recurrent expenses for non-governmental organizations.

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7. Evaluation of Resource Management Activities, such as:-

(a) projects funded by the trust,

(b) trust operations.

8. Conservation or eco-tourism ventures that qualify for funding through a revolving fund or other mechanism, for example:-

(a) getting a tour guide operation started,

(b) assistance to private reserves.

9. Financial advice to the Trust Board in investment of Trust Funds.

10. Technical assistance, in all relevant areas above.

Activities not to be funded

Activities which are not eligible for Trust funding include:-

1. salaries for established staff of Government of Belize agencies,

2. core or permanent staff of non-government organizations,

3. recurrent expenses of Government of Belize agencies.

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