Networking in Biodiversity Research & Monitoring

The Belize Audubon Society sits on several committees which represent biodiversity research and monitoring across Belize within marine and terrestrial protected areas.

Partners in these networks represent:

→ the Government of Belize - Fisheries and Forest Departments

→ the University of Belize-Environmental Research Institute (and other academia)

→ a host of Non-Governmental Organizations:

- Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association
- Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
- Southern Environmental Association
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- ECOMAR
- MarAlliance
- Panthera Belize
- Ya'axche Conservation Trust
- Belize Bird Rescue

The BR&M staff also participates in community outreach activities to share information with members of communities buffering or benefiting from the protected areas. In addition, the staff collaborates with the Environmental Education Unit to conduct presentations for Career Days, ESRI GIS Day and classroom sessions.

BELIZE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Why support the Belize Audubon Society

and our Biodiversity Research & Monitoring Program?

- BAS has over 50 years of conservation & protected areas management experience in Belize.
- BAS is committed to the protection and conservation of seven (7) national protected areas for all generations.
- Biodiversity monitoring is an important component of conservation-oriented science for natural resources management.
- Monitoring allows us to keep track of conservation targets for each protected area thus informing conservation actions by protected areas managers.

Connect with us Online!

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The Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program

Our natural ecosystems are beyond valuable, and we've got the science to back it up!

BELIZE AUDUBON SOCIETY

What is it?

The Biodiversty Research and Monitoring (BR&M) Program, incorporates the science that validates the ecological value of each site and informs decision making for protected areas management.



How is the data used?

Biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring are conservation tools used to inform protected areas management. Information from the biodiversity reports are also shared with policy makers, donors and other NGO partners.

Where we work

Belize Audubon Society co-manages seven (7) national terrestrial and marine protected areas totaling over 180,000 acres. The BR&M staff work in all seven sites as well as other key biodiversity areas across Belize.





Key Priorities for Monitoring

Marine

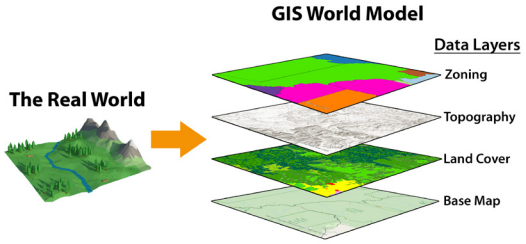
- → Queen Conch Abundance
- → Caribbean Spiny Lobster Catch Effort
- → Marine Turtles
- → Nassau Grouper spawning aggregations
- → Coral Reef Health
- → Coral Bleaching and Diseases
- → Water Quality
- → Mangrove and Seagrass Ecosystems
- → Sea Birds

Terrestrial

- → Forest birds (migrant and resident songbirds)
- → Waterbirds
- → Water Quality
- → Mammals (jaguar, puma, paca)
- → Morelet's and American Crocodiles
- → Broadleaf and Savanna Forest Ecosystems

The use of GIS in research & monitoring

An important tool for monitoring biodiversity is a geographic information system (GIS), which accommodates large varieties of spatial data. A GIS is a conceptual framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing spatial and geographic data. Although GIS can produce statistics, graphs and reports, the map is the main output from a GIS.





At BAS we use GIS for both the Marine and Terrestrial components of the BR&M Program:

Marine

GIS is used in marine monitoring to depict locations of sampling sites for conch, lobster, spawning aggregations, etc. It is also used to create habitat maps of the protected areas showing distribution of seagrass, coral reef and landmass.

Terrestrial

GIS is used in terrestrial monitoring to depict locations of study sites for jaguars, bird counts, and water quality, etc. It is also used to create ecosystem maps of the protected areas showing distribution of wetlands, broadleaf forest, land clearings and waterways.