



# The Rising TIDE

28 September 2009

## Independence Day Float

September 25, 2009



abide by laws and regulations. Last week one of the rangers said to me, *'We can't afford to let our guard down during the holidays as that is when illegal fishers believe that we are celebrating so they come over to take everything we protect for years.'* I was touched by this statement as this young ranger was willing to give up his family, friends and the day's celebration to be a steward of his country. It's people like these that are an inspiration to me and their fellow rangers. I truly believe that the TIDE rangers are true Belizean patriots and I am certain that we need more employees like these all over Belize. Hats off to the TIDE Team!

## TIDE Community Stewards visit Guatemala

September 25, 2009

*The TIDE Community Stewards are on an exchange visit to Guatemala with key TIDE staff. One of the staff members accompanying the group is Danny Hun, Financial Administrator of TIDE. Danny used his iPod to provide us a report. We look forward to more reports on this interesting and educational trip:*

I am just sending you highlights from day one of our trip to Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. It has been an exciting so far. We had the privilege to visit Las Eacobas which is a protected area about 30 minutes out of Puerto Barrios. We met with Susi Ramirez a local manger of the area and the community-based management initiative. One thing the surprise everyone was the young guides. There was young girl who is sixteen and informed us that she have been working here for ten years which indicate that she has been a part of this from the age of six. They had some very creative trails and very easy to hike. Some of us took a dip into the ice cold water. The importance of the area is that the river supplies fresh drinking water to the entire barrios. About 90% of drinking water is supplied by this one water shed. It is fun with these guys – Carlos being the conservationist that he is wants to pick up all the nets that he see in on the shoreline and the guys keep teasing him that he is not at Port Honduras Marine Reserve.

## The TIDE Team and Independence Day Celebrations

September 23, 2009



As the TIDE team joins in the September celebrations, I reflect on a major role that we play in creating awareness of the importance of our natural resources and actually being on the ground to ensure that existing laws and regulations are kept by users of the resources. While our

administration team, a few field staff and many volunteers worked diligently to showcase ways to re-use materials we normally send to the dumping site, and to highlight the negative impact of gill net use in the 'float' competition, I could not forget our field staff who continued to be on guard particularly in the Port Honduras Marine Reserve to ensure that fishers

## TIDE Marine Manager, Seleem Chan, selected for CSI for Coral Reefs Workshop

September 18, 2009



TIDE Marine Manager, Seleem Chan, has been informed that he has been selected to participate in a specialized training: CSI for Coral Reefs Workshop-Belize. The acceptance letter read as follows:

*“We received positive and enthusiastic response from over 30 people for the 15 available spots, and we gave each application due consideration. In the end, we based our selection on agency representation (natural resource management agencies, academia and NGO), country representation, diving experience, and relevant working experience in resource management.”*

Information from the website includes:

Regardless of region, most coral reef ecosystems are under various levels of anthropogenic impact. In areas where a management plan is in place with regulations outlined to protect the marine environment, management authorities are often limited in resources to enforce those regulations.

The capacity of resource managers to respond to short-term human impact incidences is often limited in terms of training, time and financial means. Training for field investigators in investigative, forensic and rapid ecological assessment techniques is required, to ensure accurate assessment and data collection and maximise prosecution, mitigation, or negotiation success.

CSI: The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) created a committee on Coral Reef Enforcement and Natural Resource Investigation to facilitate the development of standards and protocols that respond to this need. Under initial start up funds from the US Department of State and NOAA, a toolkit and training programme has been developed for standardised coral reef enforcement and natural resource investigations, which can be adapted for use in any major coral reef region and applied to a wide variety of events. Regional training workshops are being conducted in regions around the world, focusing on the toolkit components, to train coral reef resource managers and enforcement personnel in enhanced resource protection and management capabilities to respond to natural resource impact events.

## TIDE Staff conducts training in buffer communities of Cockscomb Basin Nature Preserve

September 15, 2009



During the weekend of 11 through 13 September 2009, Mario Muschamp provided training in fire management to buffer communities of Cockscomb Basin Wildlife

Sanctuary This training contributed to the building a cadre of wildland firefighters in Belize as part of the implementation of the national fire Policy/Strategy which is recommending that communities become more involved and be empowered to help with fire management in the fire dependent ecosystems of Belize.

Mario is the TIDE Manager of the Payne’s Creek National Park. He is a lifelong resident of Monkey River Village and currently serves as chair of the Village Council. Mario is also one of the few fire management experts in Belize.

## Kenly Williams – TIDE Ranger

September 9, 2009

*Part of a series featuring members of the TIDE staff and their interviews with Ezra Schraven, an intern who spent the first five months of 2009 with TIDE.*

**Name:** Kenly Williams Also known as: Life

**What languages do you speak?**

Spanish, Creole, English **How long have you been working with TIDE?** About one year. **What is your position?** Ranger at the Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR). **This entails...** Carrying out marine site fieldwork. Patrolling, maintenance of the base, meeting and greeting tourists. In short, protecting natural resources for future generations. **In the time you have been working with TIDE, what has been the most memorable?** We had to rescue a vessel. It was the 21st of March. A group of about 7 men and a woman had been fishing and drinking. They all sat on one side of their 23 foot skiff and it tipped over. One of them had a marine radio and they called out for help. We came to the rescue. They were clinging on to the skiff as we arrived, we all laughed – they looked like a bunch of pelicans. The men were all right, the woman was a bit traumatized. Some of them lost their wallets, keys, shoes, clothes. Pretty much the only thing left in the boat was a bottle of whisky.

