



**TIDE's report to the DNS Oversight Committee: October 2008 to March 2009**

## Resource Protection

### INTEGRATED APPROACH TO RESOURCE PROTECTION.

- In addition to enforcement, TIDE DNS rangers cleared a total of 5 miles of boundary lines to clearly demarcate TIDE's protected lands during the reporting period; this also includes clearing of survey markers for 5 parcels. All lines and access routes are being monitored for encroachment by hunters.
- A total of 6 regulatory signs were constructed and placed along various reaches of the Rio Grande River where it borders several parcels of TIDE lands to inform hunters and fishers of the do's and don'ts of the Protected Areas.
- DNS Rangers demarcated the 66ft buffer along farms on the Rio Grande river to ensure riparian protection; Generally, farmers were supportive of the buffer zone protection and promised not to continue farming within these areas.
- DNS rangers conducted 77 land and sea, night and day patrols during this reporting period. 32 of these patrols were conducted either with BDF or Ya'axche rangers. As a result, 2 gill nets, 2 unlicensed firearms and 6 live rounds were confiscated. In addition, 1 person was arrested and charged for illegal night hunting.

**University of Belize, Toledo NRM students continue to volunteer at TIDE's Private Protected Areas to assist with resource protection:** A group of 5 UB Toledo students were very instrumental in determining the best patrol areas for DNS rangers. Based on wildlife abundance, ease of access to the lands and strategic locations, the group determined that the areas between Deep River and Middle River were critical. TIDE commends and thanks the University of Belize, Toledo Center for its continued support to TIDE and the wider conservation of the resources in Toledo District.

## Research and Monitoring

- Since Mid-2008 structured biodiversity monitoring has been occurring on DNS lands using 5 different transect lines each measuring 1000m long. Rangers currently monitor birds and mammals and plans are to start monitoring amphibians later this year.
- DNS rangers led the 2008 annual Christmas Bird Count that resulted in over 120 species of birds counted in the Rio Grande area where a large portion of TIDE lands are located. Total count for the Toledo District in 2008 was just over 200 species.
- DNS rangers continue to collect basic weather information including rainfall, temperature, pressure, wind speed and direction. This information is stored in spreadsheets to be used when needed for research purposes. Please see temperature and rainfall graphs



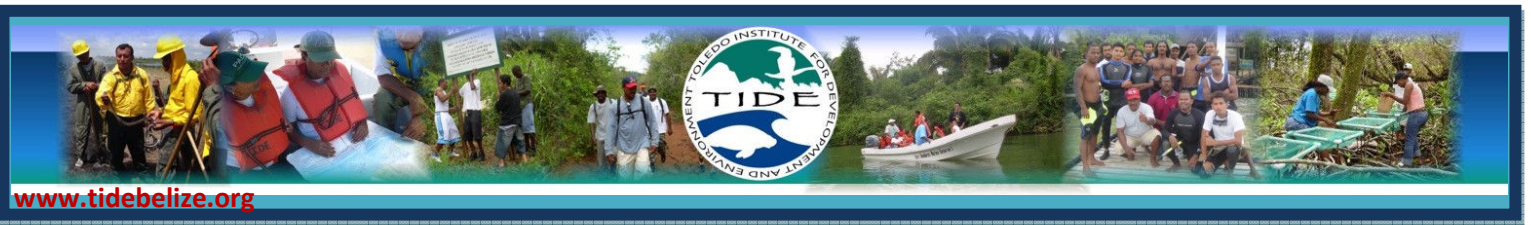
DNS rangers demarcating the 66ft buffer in an existing 'matambre' farm



DNS rangers and volunteers planting 2000 seedlings in nursery for riparian restoration along the Rio Grande River.



Visitors leaving DNS Rio Grande ranger Station after enjoying nature walks



## Environmental Education and Outreach

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- TIDE's Outreach coordinator and Private Protected Lands Manager conducted 5 meetings with the communities of San Marcus and Big Falls and 10 meetings with the village leaders. Meetings focused on riparian protection and reforestation. As a result, villagers started a small nursery of about 1000 trees that will be used to reforest the riparian zone that was cleared during *matambre* farming.
- DNS lands manager and outreach coordinator visited 6 households in Eldridge and Forest Home Villages to try to engage hunters in conservation and to share information; visits included the hunter that was arrested and charged for illegal night hunting.
- TIDE continues to engage volunteers and interns to assist with conservation. Two students from Independence High School spent two weeks on the DNS lands as rangers. They claimed that it was a wonderful experience and have increased their interest in environmental protection.
- TIDE Community Stewardship Program continued to build the capacity of users of the marine and terrestrial resources. 1 woman and 14 men were selected to serve as stewards and it is intended that these individuals will have a positive effect on the management of our protected areas.
- The TIDE's Freshwater Cup won the award for Social Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean for merging football and conservation. The 2009 competition features 8 senior and 9 Junior teams including 5 teams from communities that buffer the TIDE lands. This year the teams had to complete at least 90% of their environmental projects to qualify for the football competition.
- 2008 Miss Conservation Competition "Reefs at Risk" was a huge success, it involved 6 NGO's, was broadcasted live by national radio Love FM reaching out to the entire country and an audience of approximately 300 witnessed the event; six organizations from across the country participated; but in the end, the contestant representing TIDE won with her marine turtle presentation.

## Capacity Building

- TIDE rangers got an opportunity to work at different protected areas that TIDE manages to get a comprehensive knowledge and appreciation of the roles and responsibilities at each station.
- TIDE DNS rangers participated in an exchange program with Shipstern Nature Reserve rangers over a 2 month period. Three rangers from TIDE and Sx from SNR exchanged jobs for a 3 week period each. TIDE rangers learned how management of PA is done elsewhere. Shipstern rangers were involved in biodiversity monitoring, patrol on rivers, bird ID training, and community outreach.
- DNS Land Manager trained in Intermediate Fire Management.
- Four DNS rangers trained in-house on how to enter weather data into a computer-based spreadsheet.
- Two DNS rangers, who are also on village councillors sharpened their Leadership skills, along with 13 other rangers and community leaders.
- Three DNS rangers trained in Map and GPS reading for biodiversity data collection conducted by Ya'axche Conservation Trust.
- All four DNS rangers gained skills in mammals and birds Identification used to collect biodiversity information from 5 transects on TIDE Lands.



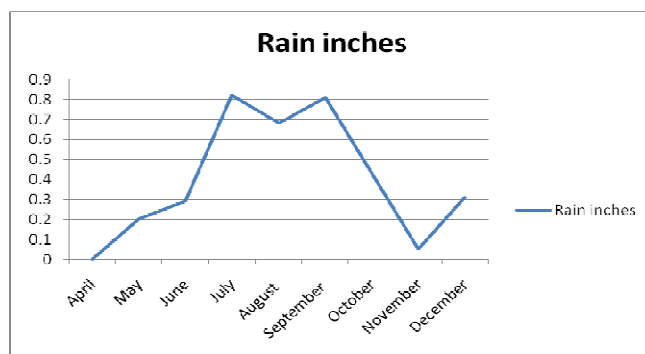
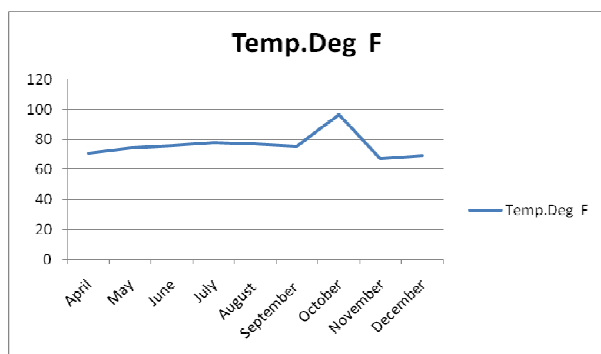
## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 to MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Toledo Institute for Development and Environment**  
**Tropical Forest Conservation Agreement Funding Budget Performance Report**  
**Period: October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009**  
**Currency: Belize Dollars**

Code	Budget Line Items	TOTAL BUDGET	BUDGET For Oct 08 - Mar 09	EXPENSES	BALANCE
5001	Park Management	\$102,088.24	\$51,044.12	\$53,826.00	\$48,262.24
5002	Transportation	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,914.09	\$6,085.91
5010	Maintenance & Upgrade	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,792.95	\$1,207.05
5011	Office Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,148.95	-\$148.95
3001	Equipment	\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	\$125.01	\$2,374.99
5022	Administration	\$49,353.60	\$24,676.80	\$9,789.38	\$39,564.22
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$170,941.84</b>	<b>\$85,470.92</b>	<b>\$73,596.38</b>	<b>\$97,345.46</b>

Endowment Fund as at March 31, 2009 (calculated on an accrual basis) **1,741,575.88**

Land Purchase Fund as at March 31, 2009 (calculated on an accrual basis) **558,332.24**



Temperature and rainfall recorded at DNS station approximately 1 mile up the Rio Grande River since April 2008.

**Conclusion** - TIDE continue to use the DNS funds as leverage to raise additional income to support management of the DNS lands. In addition, since January 2009 volunteers contributed over BZ \$15,000.00 worth of their time to assist TIDE with various programs such as the Community Stewardship, and revision of PHMR Management Plan among other things. The beginning of 2009 saw a revision of our budget considering the financial situation worldwide as we have started to feel the impact on fund-raising and as a result decreased our projections for 2009.