

**TOLEDO INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
(TIDE)**



CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

TROPICAL FOREST AND CONSERVATION ACT (TFCA) FUNDS

JANUARY – DECEMBER - 2017

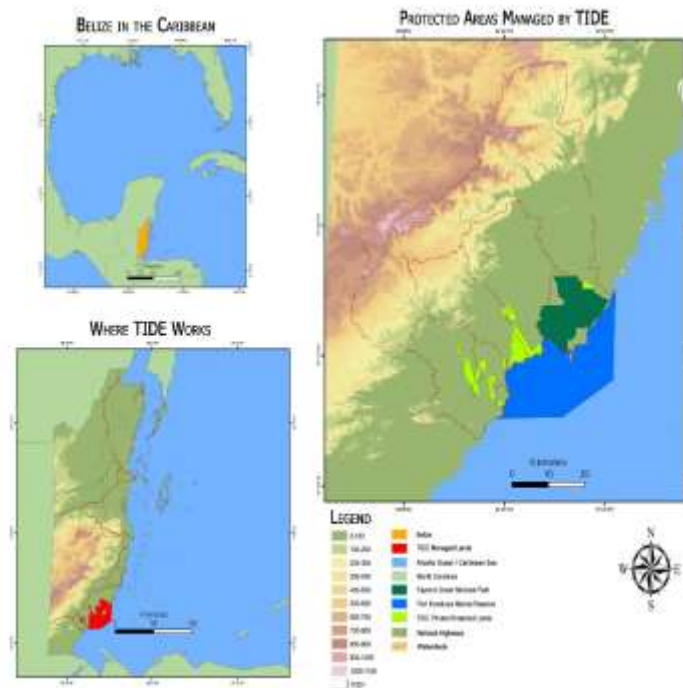
Submitted to the United States Congress

February 1 2018

Background

In the heart of the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor(MMMC)Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) is working with communities to promote sustainable use and management of the area's rich resources, from the peaks of the highest forest ridges to the coral reefs of the ocean floor.

TIDE co-manages the Port Honduras Marine Reserve with the Fisheries Department; the Payne's Creek National Park with the Forest Department and 20,488 acres of private lands under the Tropical Forest Conservation Agreement. TIDE's private lands are located in several segregated parcels along the banks of the Rio Grande and Deep River in Southern Belize.



In accordance with the overall goal of maintaining connectivity between the protected areas and minimizing the negative and harmful impacts on some existing protected areas by destructive practices on neighbouring private lands, it is important to maintain private lands for conservation. As such, TIDE has been actively acquiring lands particularly in the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor (MMMC) which is a high priority conservation action site extending from the crest of the Maya Mountains in southwestern Belize to the southern end of the Belize Barrier Reef System.

TIDE's Private Protected Lands continue to be financed through the Debt for Nature Swap and other friends and partners of TIDE and managed under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. Funds are used for the management of the lands, and park improvement as per the Forest Conservation Agreement between the signatories to the DNS.

Major Achievements in 2017

TIDE ranger team completed a series of three (3) training sessions with partner organizations in the MMMC. The training was on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART). SMART is a ground-breaking and innovative management tool designed to assist rangers on the ground to stop poachers and improve data for reporting and enforcement in protected areas. TIDE in partnership with Ya'axche Conservation Trust (YCT) and Belize Audubon Society (BAS) participated in the trainings. The session dealt with an introduction to the modules, refining data and creating reports templates to analyze data development.

Also, the staff participated in the first stage of the development of an enforcement protocol to improve joint enforcement activities in the MMMC. Assistance for the joint training was through a joint project focusing on a holistic approach to effective management of the protected areas system in southern Belize.

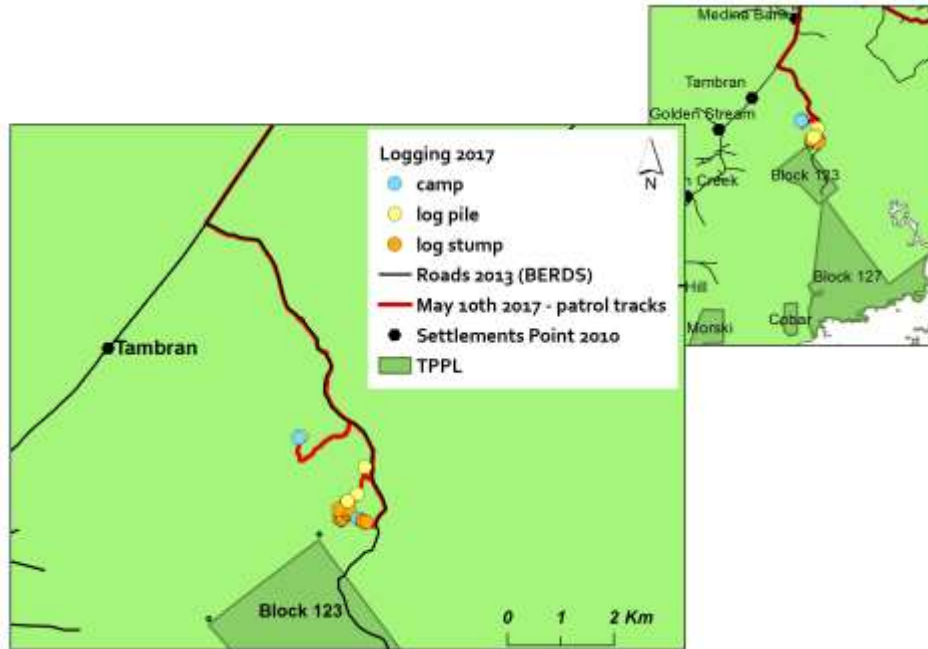
The expected outcome of the trainings will contribute to cohesion between the three organizations in protected areas management with improve reporting and communication between managing organizations and buffering communities.

Enforcement

TIDE rangers conducts an average of five (5) patrols weekly. These patrols include three (3) water base patrols and two (2) land base patrols. Water base patrols are conducted in the in the Rio Grande river and tributaries. Land base patrols are conducted on existing trails, boundary lines and coast.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

TIDE ACTIVITIES	COLLABORATING AGENCIES
Conduct meetings to discuss the integrated approach to Protected Areas Management within MMMC	Belize Audubon Society, Yaxche Conservation Trust, Forest Department
Enforcement, Regular patrols & Multi-agency patrols	Forestry Department Belize, Belize Police Department, Belize Defense Force, Belize Audubon Society, Yaxche Conservation Trust
SMART Training	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Belize Audubon Society, Ya'axche Conservation Trust
Fire Management Training	Darwin Initiative, communities, Forestry Department Belize, communities,
Community meeting	Communities
Crocodile Monitoring	Researcher Marisa Nelles and Forest Department
Ridge to Reef Program	International volunteers
Camera Trapping (Biodiversity Monitoring)	WCS, Forestry Department Belize



Land Base Patrols conducted by TIDE rangers to monitoring logging concessions buffering TIDE Private Protected Lands

Research and Monitoring



Camera Trapping Training - TIDE rangers trained in simple and cost-effective, field-based biodiversity monitoring system.



Samples of Downloaded data from camera traps

Ridge to Reef Program



TIDE Ranger providing education and work experience on conservation activities to international volunteers

Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)



TIDE rangers in joint training to adopt SMART technology in the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor.