



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we reflect on 2025, we do so with gratitude and pride in the continued growth of TIDE’s conservation and community stewardship efforts across southern Belize. Throughout the year, the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) strengthened its management of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR), Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR), Payne’s Creek National Park (PCNP), and TIDE Private Protected Lands through research, enforcement, education, and community engagement initiatives.

Our conservation officer teams conducted hundreds of patrols across marine and terrestrial protected areas, working closely with the Belize Coast Guard, Belize Fisheries Department, Forest Department, and local stakeholders to reduce illegal activities and strengthen compliance with conservation regulations. In both PHMR and SCMR, enforcement teams confiscated illegal fishing gear, monitored fisheries activity, improved conservation officer infrastructure, and participated in ongoing capacity-building exercises designed to improve management effectiveness and operational readiness.



At the same time, TIDE continued to expand its science and monitoring programs. Staff contributed valuable data through sea turtle nest monitoring, Yellow-Headed Parrot monitoring, fish spawning aggregation monitoring, mangrove monitoring, bird banding, and avian tracking initiatives. At Payne’s Creek National Park, TIDE maintained its leadership role in integrated fire management by supporting wildfire response efforts and providing specialized fire management training for partners and land managers across Belize. Community stewardship remained central to our mission throughout the year. TIDE continued engaging students, fishers, and communities through environmental education, outreach campaigns, clean-up activities, field experiences, STEM initiatives, and conservation awareness programs designed to strengthen local stewardship of natural resources. 2025 also marked continued progress in sustainable tourism and financing initiatives, alongside improvements to operational infrastructure within the protected areas under our care.

These accomplishments were made possible through the dedication of TIDE’s staff, Board of Directors, community partners, donors, and supporters. Together, we continue working toward healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, and sustainable development for Toledo and Belize.

Leonardo Chavarria, Jr
Executive Director,
Toledo Institute for Development and
Environment (TIDE)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director2

About TIDE4

2025 Highlights4

Natural Resource Management: Resource Protection.....6

Restoration.....7

Payne’s Creek National Park (PCNP)8

TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL)9

Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR)10

Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR)11

Natural Resource Management: Research & Monitoring

Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring12

Yellow-Headed Parrot Monitoring14

Fish Spawning Aggregation Monitoring16

Bird Banding & Avian Monitoring18

Research Partnerships & Technical Collaborations20

Community Stewardship.....22

Education & Outreach23

Outreach to Fishers & Coastal Communities23

Community Clean-Up Campaigns24

School Visits & Environmental Education25

Financial Sustainability26

Financial Sustainability Director's Overview26

STEM Programs.....28

TIDE Conservation Festival 202530

Sharing successful models32

Institutional Strengthening

Staff Capacity33

Governance & Administration

Board of Directors34

2025 Financial Summary35

ABOUT TIDE

The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) is a community-based conservation organization established in 1997 in Punta Gorda, Toledo District, Belize. Founded by concerned community members in response to illegal fishing and the harvesting of the endangered West Indian Manatee, TIDE has grown into one of Belize's leading environmental organizations dedicated to the sustainable management of natural resources and the strengthening of community stewardship.

TIDE works within the Toledo ridge-to-reef landscape and seascape, managing and supporting the protection of critical marine and terrestrial ecosystems that sustain biodiversity, livelihoods, and community resilience.

Through co-management agreements with the Government of Belize, TIDE manages the Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR), Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR), and Payne's Creek National Park (PCNP), while also managing over 20,000 acres of TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL).

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

26 fisheries infractions detected and addressed

22 illegal fishing gears removed from protected waters

One major fisheries and immigration enforcement case resulting in over \$14,850 in fines.



98% increase in annual nesting activity from 44 nests (2020) to 87 nests (2025)

34,459 hatchlings produced

50% increase in hatching success from 56% (2020) to 72% (2025)

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VISION:

"Toledo's healthy ecosystems support biodiversity, and communities, whilst contributing to national sustainable development goals."

MISSION:

"To strengthen natural resource management and community stewardship within the Toledo landscape and seascape."



Jeremy Enriquez
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Vice Chairman



Nancy Gomez
Treasurer



Feliz Sho
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Director



Dr. Jay Coombs
Director



Alex Leonardo
Director

GOAL:

"Toledo has healthy, functioning ecosystem services supporting biodiversity and resilient communities."

RESOURCE PROTECTION



Surveillance drones assist conservation officers at Punta Ycacos

Protecting Toledo's natural resources remains at the core of TIDE's mission. Throughout 2025, TIDE's dedicated ranger teams continued to safeguard the Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR), Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR), Payne's Creek National Park (PCNP), and TIDE Private Protected Lands through strategic patrols, law enforcement, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement. Across marine and terrestrial protected areas, rangers conducted hundreds of patrols, removed illegal fishing gear, responded to emerging threats, and worked closely with national enforcement agencies to promote compliance with environmental regulations. These efforts helped protect critical habitats that support fisheries, biodiversity, climate resilience, and the livelihoods of communities throughout southern Belize.

Resource protection in 2025 extended beyond enforcement. TIDE invested in ranger training, infrastructure improvements, community outreach, and scientific monitoring to strengthen long-term management effectiveness. From safeguarding nesting sea turtles, yellow headed parrot nests and critical fish habitats to preventing illegal extraction and supporting sustainable resource use, TIDE's integrated approach continues to demonstrate that effective conservation is built on both strong protection and strong partnerships. Together, these efforts contribute to healthier ecosystems, stronger communities, and a more resilient future for Toledo and Belize.



In 2025, the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR) achieved a major leap forward in marine protection through the installation of a long-range thermal camera powered by an upgraded solar energy system. Operating 24/7, the camera allows rangers to detect suspicious vessels over vast areas of ocean and respond more quickly and strategically to potential threats.

This technology has significantly improved surveillance efficiency, reduced the need for extensive patrol coverage, and strengthened Belize's ability to protect its marine resources. Combined with strong ranger presence, boundary demarcation, and continued enforcement efforts, the thermal camera has become a cornerstone of SCMR's technologically driven approach.

RESTORATION

In 2025, TIDE celebrated the successful completion of the first phase of one of the most ambitious forest restoration initiatives in southern Belize. Supported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the project achieved its goal of restoring 70 hectares of degraded tropical forest within the TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL), strengthening biodiversity, improving ecosystem resilience, and enhancing the long-term provision of ecosystem services for communities and wildlife.

The initiative was guided by a comprehensive ecological baseline assessment and restoration plan, with TIDE implementing the Applied Nucleation Reforestation Technique—an innovative approach that establishes clusters of native tree species with different ecological functions. These "islands" of vegetation accelerate natural forest regeneration, improve habitat quality, and increase resilience to climate-related disturbances while maximizing restoration efficiency.

A lasting legacy of the project is TIDE's Native Plant Nursery at TPPL near the Big Falls Retreat. Established to supply the restoration effort, the nursery now produces thousands of native seedlings each year and has become a permanent



TIDE Native Plant Nursery at Big Falls

resource for future reforestation and habitat restoration across the Toledo landscape. Supporting infrastructure, including a solar-powered office, storage facilities, and an irrigation system, has further strengthened TIDE's long-term restoration capacity. The completion of the planting marks an important milestone, but the benefits will continue to grow for decades. The restored forest will reconnect fragmented habitats, improve watershed protection, increase carbon storage, and provide healthier ecosystems for Belize's wildlife, demonstrating TIDE's long-term commitment to restoring and protecting the natural landscapes of southern Belize.



TIDE Restoration Team with a young quamwood tree



PAYNE'S CREEK NATIONAL PARK



Rehabilitated Yellow-headed parrots

In 2025, Payne's Creek National Park (PCNP) continued to play a vital role in safeguarding Belize's coastal and terrestrial ecosystems through targeted protection, fire management, and species conservation efforts.

Conservation officers conducted over 350 patrols, using SMART technology to record 956 field observations that help in identifying threats, guide enforcement activities, and support evidence-based management decisions.

PCNP also strengthened its leadership in wildland fire management. Staff responded to wildfire threats and delivered fire management training to 13 Ya'axché Conservation Trust staff and 25 BSI/ASR personnel, helping to build national capacity for wildfire prevention and response.

Species conservation remained a priority throughout the year. Conservation officers and research partners monitored 28 Yellow-headed parrot nests, rescued 13 at-risk chicks for rehabilitation, and installed 20 nest boxes to improve nesting opportunities for this endangered species. Together, these efforts demonstrate TIDE's commitment to protecting biodiversity, reducing environmental threats, and ensuring the long-term resilience of Payne's Creek National Park and the communities that depend on its natural resources.

PCNP AT A GLANCE

352 PATROLS CONDUCTED

Protecting one of Belize's most important coastal ecosystems through year-round surveillance.

10,386 KM COVERED

By land and water to detect threats, monitor activities, and safeguard natural resources.

1,097 PATROL HOURS

Dedicated Conservation officer presence across the park throughout 2025.

956 FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Recorded through SMART patrol monitoring to support informed management decisions.

1 WILDFIRE RESPONDED TO

Rapid response and ongoing fire management reduced impacts to critical habitats.

13 YELLOW-HEADED PARROT CHICKS RESCUED

Supporting the recovery of one of Belize's most threatened bird species.

20 NEST BOXES INSTALLED

Expanding safe nesting opportunities for Yellow-headed parrots.

28 PARROT NESTS ACTIVELY MONITORED

Protecting breeding success through targeted research and monitoring.

TIDE PRIVATE PROTECTED LANDS



The "beach" at TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL)

In 2025, TIDE's Private Protected Lands (TPPL) continued to serve as a critical component of the Southern Belize Biological Corridor, protecting more than 21,000 acres of tropical forest, riparian habitat, and wetlands that support biodiversity, watershed health, and climate resilience. TPPL conservation officers maintained a strong protection presence through regular land and river patrols, building on the extensive surveillance program that has become central to managing these remote properties. Previous patrol efforts have consistently detected and deterred illegal hunting, unauthorized entry, and unsustainable resource use, particularly along the Rio Grande and adjacent forested areas.

TPPL AT A GLANCE

408 Patrols Conducted

21,911 Acres Protected

70 ha Planted

25 Wood Thrushes Tagged

MoSI Monitoring Site

17 Illegal Activity Incidents

A major achievement in 2025 was the continued implementation of TIDE's forest restoration initiative. With support from IUCN and partners, restoration activities expanded across degraded areas within TPPL, contributing to long-term ecosystem recovery and improved habitat connectivity. The site also continued to support nationally significant bird monitoring programs, including MoSI bird banding and migratory species research, helping establish TPPL as one of Belize's most important monitoring locations for avian conservation. Together, these efforts demonstrate TIDE's commitment to protecting, restoring, and strengthening the ecological integrity of the Toledo landscape for future generations.



Bird Monitoring at TPPL early 2025



PORT HONDURAS MARINE RESERVE SAPODILLA CAYES MARINE RESERVE



The Magnificent Frigatebird - PHMR

Hunting Caye, SCMR

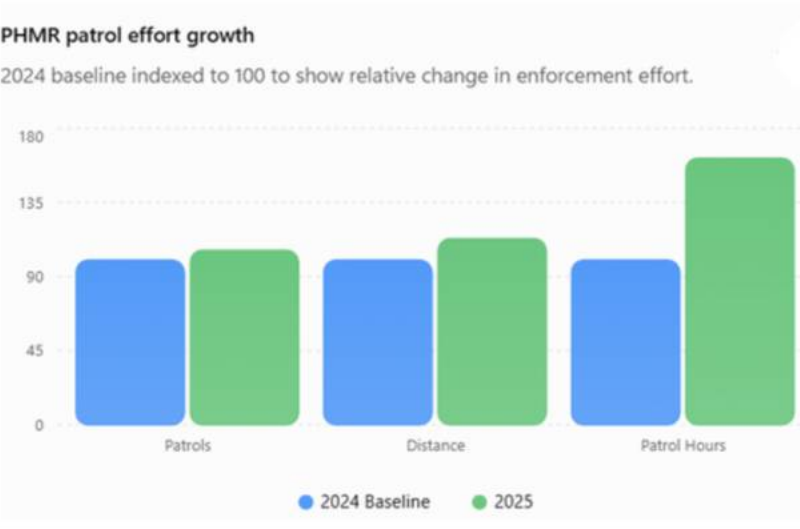
In 2025, TIDE continued to strengthen the protection and management of the Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR) through a robust enforcement and surveillance program. Conservation officers conducted 549 patrols, covering 16,714 kilometers and spending more than 1,430 hours on patrol throughout the year. These efforts - which were an increase on the previous year - helped deter illegal activities, improve compliance with fisheries regulations, and protect critical marine habitats within the reserve. Enforcement teams recorded fisheries infractions and confiscated 12 illegal fishing gears, including longlines and gillnets, reducing threats to marine biodiversity and sustainable fisheries.

Beyond enforcement, PHMR staff supported the development of the land and assets donated to TIDE by Steven Page at Punta Ycacos. Staff also participated in management effectiveness assessments, and received training in drone operations, leadership, and sea turtle monitoring. Conservation officers also contributed to community outreach and inter-agency collaboration, strengthening stewardship of the reserve among resource users. Collectively, these efforts enhanced TIDE's capacity to safeguard PHMR's ecosystems while supporting the livelihoods that depend on healthy marine resources.

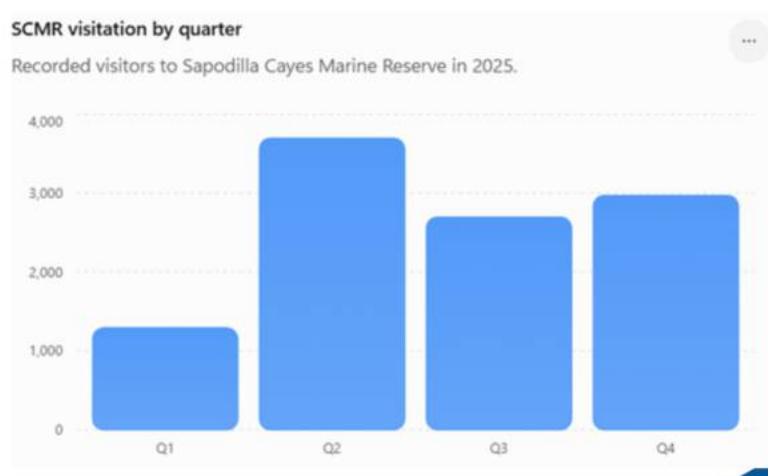
In 2025, the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR) team continued to strengthen the protection and management of one of Belize's most important marine ecosystems. Conservation officers conducted 332 patrols, covering 13,028 kilometers and spending 868 hours on active surveillance across the reserve. These efforts resulted in the detection of 23 infractions, the issuance of five verbal warnings, and the removal of 11 pieces of illegal fishing gear, helping to safeguard critical habitats and fisheries resources. SCMR also experienced another successful year

for sustainable tourism. The reserve welcomed 10,649 visitors throughout 2025, generating important revenue to support conservation activities while providing visitors with opportunities to experience the reserve's world-renowned coral reefs, marine biodiversity, and natural beauty. Visitation remained strong throughout the year, reflecting SCMR's growing reputation as a premier ecotourism destination in Belize. Beyond enforcement and tourism, the reserve continued to support conservation education, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative management initiatives with government agencies, local communities, fishers, and tourism partners. Together, these achievements demonstrate SCMR's commitment to protecting marine biodiversity, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and ensuring the long-term resilience of Belize's southern marine environment.

PHMR Patrol Data 2024 Vs. 2025			
Metric	2024	2025	Change
Patrols	520	549	5.60%
Distance (km)	14,823	16,714	12.80%
Patrol Hours	882	1,433	62.50%



SCMR Vital Statistics 2025	
Indicator	2025 Total
Patrols	332
Distance covered	13,028 km
Patrol hours	868 hrs
Fuel used	4,209 gallons
Infractions	23
Verbal warnings	5
Illegal gear removed	11
Arrest-related infractions	5
Recorded visitors	10,649



RESEARCH AND MONITORING



SEA TURTLE NEST MONITORING

TIDE's Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring Program has monitored nesting beaches between Punta Ycacos and Monkey River since 2020. Over the six-year period, monitoring recorded 390 nests, approximately 49,818 eggs, and an estimated 34,459 hatchlings, demonstrating the continued importance of southern Belize's coastline as critical nesting habitat. Nesting activity has generally increased over time, with 2025 producing one of the strongest nesting seasons on record.

The 2025 nesting season was among the most productive recorded by TIDE, with 87 hawksbill turtle nests documented, producing an estimated 11,708 eggs and 8,417 hatchlings. Nesting activity rebounded strongly following a temporary decline in 2024 and nearly matched the record season observed in 2023.

Hatching success remained high at 72%, continuing a positive trend that has seen hatching success improve from 56% in 2020 to over 70% in recent years. Throughout the monitoring period, TIDE staff documented threats including natural predation, storms, root intrusion, beach erosion, and tidal inundation. Despite these pressures, most nests successfully produced hatchlings, suggesting that regular ranger presence, systematic monitoring, and active nest protection measures have contributed to improved reproductive success. The results highlight the growing conservation value of the Punta Ycacos–Monkey River coastline as a critical nesting area for hawksbill sea turtles and demonstrate the effectiveness of TIDE's long-term monitoring and stewardship.

Hawksbill turtle data 2020 - 2025

Year	Nests Recorded	Eggs in Nest	Hatchlings	Hatching
2020	44	4,806	2,694	56%
2021	54	7,079	4,689	66%
2022	59	8,364	5,777	69%
2023	88	10,841	7,732	71%
2024	58	7,020	5,150	73%
2025	87	11,708	8,417	72%
Total	390	49,818	34,459	69% avg.



Hatchlings crawl to the sea at SCMR

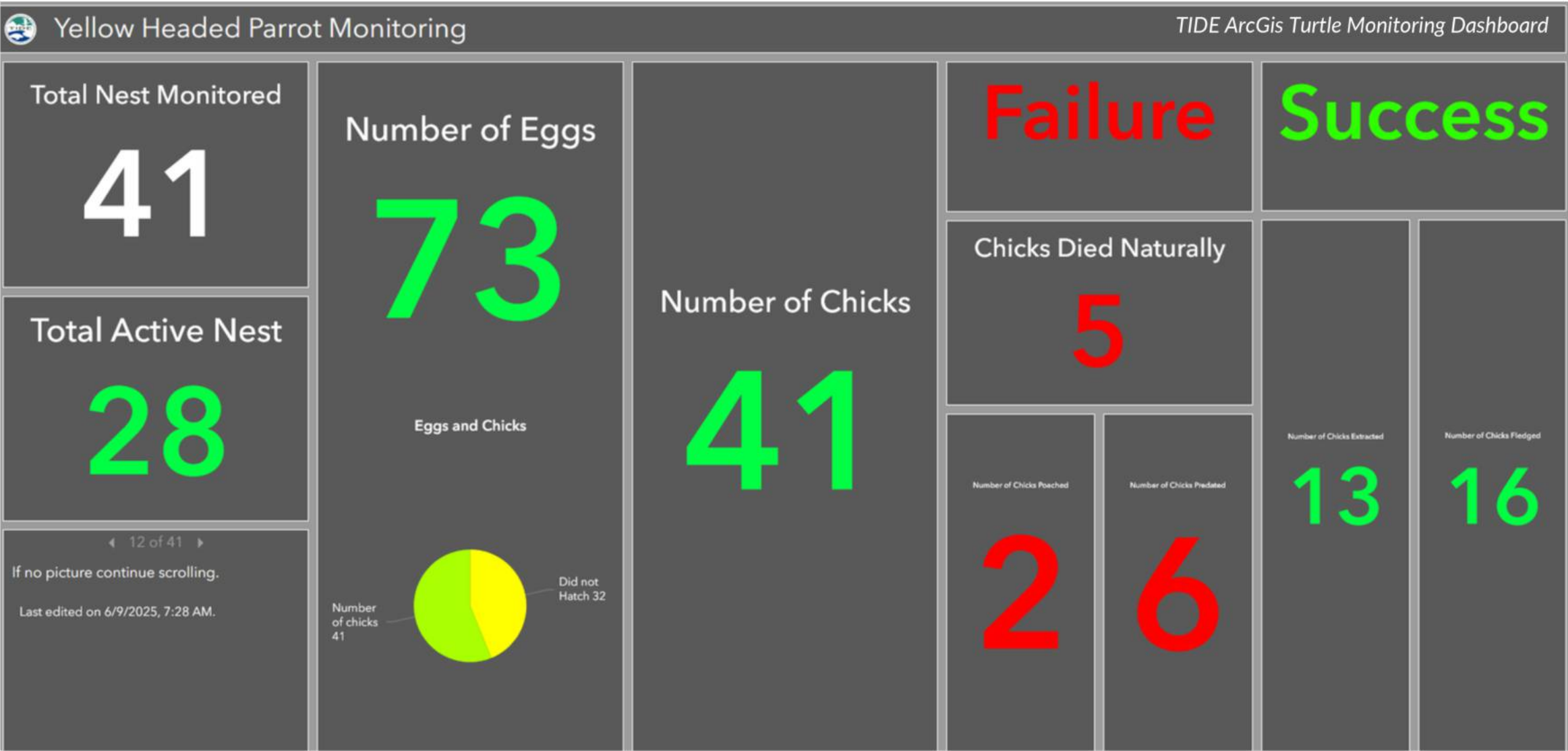


Excavated nest at PCNP



YELLOW-HEADED PARROT MONITORING

The Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona oratrix*) remains one of Belize’s most threatened bird species, and TIDE continued to play a leading role in its conservation throughout 2025. Working within Payne’s Creek National Park and surrounding habitats, TIDE staff and partners monitored active nesting sites, protected breeding areas, and supported rehabilitation efforts aimed at improving the survival of this endangered species. During the year, rangers monitored 28 active Yellow-headed Parrot nests and assisted with the rescue and rehabilitation of 13 parrot chicks that were vulnerable to predation, habitat loss, or other threats. To further enhance nesting opportunities, the team installed 20 nest boxes in strategic locations within suitable habitat. These artificial nesting structures help address the shortage of natural nesting cavities and support the long-term recovery of local parrot populations. The conservation program was implemented through collaboration with national and international partners. The Belize Bird Rescue (BBR) is a key partner in TIDE’s Yellow-headed Parrot conservation program. Chicks that are orphaned, injured, or at risk from predation or poaching are carefully removed from vulnerable nests by trained personnel and transferred to BBR for specialist care. There, they receive veterinary treatment and are hand-reared until they are strong enough for release. Once ready, the parrots are returned to Payne’s Creek National Park, where TIDE oversees their soft



release and continued monitoring, giving them the best possible chance of surviving and breeding in the wild. Monitoring data collected throughout the nesting season improves understanding of population trends, breeding success, and habitat needs, helping guide conservation management. Yellow-headed Parrots face ongoing threats from habitat loss, nest poaching, and climate change. Through nest monitoring, habitat protection, chick rehabilitation, and community engagement, TIDE is helping secure the future of one of Belize’s most iconic

bird species. The achievements of 2025 reinforce Payne’s Creek National Park’s importance as a refuge for Yellow-headed Parrots and demonstrate the value of sustained conservation efforts to protect and recover wild populations.

FISH SPAWNING AGGREGATION (FSA) MONITORING



Fish Spawning Aggregations (FSAs) are among the most important marine events for sustaining healthy fish populations and supporting fisheries throughout Belize. During 2025, TIDE continued monitoring key aggregation sites within the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve, focusing primarily on Nicholas Caye and Rise and Fall Bank, two sites known for their importance to commercially valuable grouper and snapper species. Monitoring conducted between January and May documented significant aggregations of both Nassau Grouper and Dog Snapper. At Nicholas Caye, the maximum count recorded was 156 Nassau Groupers in January, followed by 88 Nassau Groupers in February. Monitoring at Rise and Fall Bank recorded 22 Dog Snappers in March, while a spawning event observed in April documented 113 Dog Snappers actively aggregating.

By May, counts had increased substantially, with a maximum of 350 Dog Snappers recorded at Rise and Fall Bank. Researchers also observed clear indicators of spawning activity, including colour changes, bicolour patterns, and schooling behaviour associated with reproduction. Preliminary monitoring during the start of the 2025–2026 season in December recorded aggregations of approximately 200 snappers, along with Nassau and Tiger Grouper exhibiting spawning-related behaviour. These monitoring efforts contribute to a growing body of scientific information that supports fisheries management, informs conservation planning, and strengthens protection of critical spawning habitats. By safeguarding these aggregation sites, TIDE is helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of commercially important fish species and the livelihoods of fishing communities that depend on them.

FSA HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- 🐟 156 Nassau Groupers recorded at Nicholas Caye (January)
- 🐟 350 Dog Snappers recorded at Rise and Fall Bank (May)
- 🐟 4 Known FSA Sites monitored in SCMR
- 🐟 27 Commercial Fish Species documented during recent monitoring seasons
- 🐟 Spawning Behaviour Observed for Nassau Grouper, Tiger Grouper, and Dog Snapper populations
- 🐟 200+ Snappers recorded during the start of the 2025–2026 aggregation season

AVIAN MONITORING AND MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

Birds don't want to leave after being banded at TPPL

Logging bird data at TPPL, early 2025

In 2025, TIDE continued to strengthen its avian monitoring efforts within the TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL), contributing valuable data to both national and international bird conservation initiatives. Through participation in the Monitoring Over Survival and Reproduction (MoSI) program, TIDE monitored migratory and resident bird populations at its Rio Grande monitoring site, one of Belize's most important long-term bird monitoring locations. The program provides critical information on bird abundance, survival rates, habitat use, and the impacts of environmental change on migratory species.

A key focus of monitoring efforts has been the Wood Thrush, a globally declining migratory songbird that depends on Belize's forests during the non-breeding season. During 2025, researchers successfully captured and tagged 25



Tropical royal flycatcher

AVIAN MONITORING AT A GLANCE



25 Wood Thrushes Tagged
MOTUS Wildlife Tracking Program Active
1 Long-Term MoSI Monitoring Site
Monitoring of Resident & Migratory Species
Contributing to International Bird Conservation Research
Long-Term Data Collection Supporting Habitat Management



Wood Thrushes as part of the MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System, helping scientists better understand migration routes, habitat connectivity, and survival across international boundaries.

These data contribute to broader conservation efforts throughout the species' migratory range. TIDE also continued investing in staff capacity to ensure high-quality monitoring. Previous training through the North American Banding Council and collaborations with the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute have strengthened the organization's ability to collect, manage, and analyze avian monitoring data.

By maintaining long-term bird monitoring programs, TIDE is helping to track ecosystem health, guide habitat management decisions, and support the conservation of migratory species that connect Belize to ecosystems across the Americas.

In January 2025, TIDE welcomed Ms. Abidas Ash of the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute (UB-ERI) to the TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL) for a three-day field visit focused on bird banding and data collection under the Monitoring Over Survival and Reproduction (MoSI) program. Working alongside TIDE's ranger team, Ms. Ash supported the collection of valuable data on migratory and resident bird species while providing technical guidance to strengthen the team's monitoring capacity.

The visit highlighted the importance of collaboration between conservation practitioners and researchers in advancing long-term biodiversity monitoring. Throughout the field sessions, TIDE Rangers and Ms. Ash exchanged knowledge and experiences, reinforcing the strong partnership between TIDE and UB-ERI.

Reflecting on the visit, Ms. Ash described the experience as an opportunity to witness firsthand the growth and progress of TIDE's monitoring program while contributing to its continued development.

One of the highlights of the expedition was the observation of a Black-crowned Antshrike, a species rarely encountered outside southern Belize. The sighting underscored the exceptional biodiversity found within the TPPL and the importance of protecting these habitats for both resident and migratory birds.

The visit also showcased TPPL's value as a premier location for bird research and nature-based experiences. Surrounded by rich forest ecosystems and abundant wildlife, the site continues to provide critical habitat for birds while serving as an important platform for conservation science, training, and collaboration.



Black-crowned Antshrike

"The TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL) is now the second most diverse of Belize's five MoSI monitoring sites."

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION SCIENCE



Ms. Abidas Ash, UB-ERI checks banding accuracy with TPPL rangers Jan' 2025

Collaboration remains central to TIDE's approach to research and monitoring. In 2025, TIDE continued to work closely with national and international partners to expand scientific knowledge, strengthen monitoring programs, and improve the management of Belize's protected areas. These partnerships provide access to technical expertise, specialized equipment, training opportunities, and innovative research methods that would otherwise be difficult to achieve independently.

A key partnership continued with MarAlliance, supporting research within the Port Honduras Marine Reserve. Collaborative projects focused on mangrove habitats and their role in supporting juvenile fish populations through the use of Remote Underwater Video (RUV) systems, fyke nets, and passive acoustic monitoring equipment. These studies are helping researchers better understand fish recruitment patterns and the ecological importance of mangrove ecosystems to Belize's fisheries.

MarAlliance also partnered with TIDE on emerging initiatives such as environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, which uses genetic material collected from the environment to assess biodiversity and detect species that may otherwise go unnoticed. These efforts place TIDE at the forefront of innovative marine monitoring approaches in Belize.

TIDE continued strengthening its partnership with the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute (UB-ERI) through collaborative bird monitoring, staff training, and research exchanges. Scientists and students worked alongside TIDE staff on avian monitoring initiatives, including the Monitoring Over Survival and Reproduction (MoSI) program and migratory bird studies within the TIDE Private Protected Lands. Additional collaborations with organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Healthy Reefs Initiative (HRI), the Belize Fisheries Department, and other members of the Belize Marine

Protected Areas Network supported coral reef monitoring, mangrove restoration, fisheries research, and the standardization of national monitoring protocols. Together, these partnerships demonstrate the value of collaboration in advancing conservation science and ensuring that management decisions are guided by the best available evidence for the benefit of Belize's biodiversity and communities.



TPPL Head Conservation Officer at Belize Birding Festival 2025

Research in Action

Two TIDE staff were invited to serve as panelists/presenters at the 2025 Belize Bird Festival held in Punta Gorda. TIDE staff shared experiences from the MoSI bird monitoring programme, Yellow-headed parrot conservation, and long-term avian research. The invitation recognized TIDE's growing technical expertise and its contribution to bird conservation in Belize.



Deploying fyke nets in PHMR with MarAlliance



WWF's Mangrove Site Assessment Training July 25



TRIGOH Meeting in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala - Oct' 25

Regional Collaboration Through TRIGOH

In 2025, TIDE strengthened regional conservation through the TRIGOH (Tri-National Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras) partnership, collaborating with organizations in Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras to protect the shared marine environment. Staff participated in knowledge exchanges, shared best

practices in protected area management and community engagement, and hosted regional partners within the Port Honduras and Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserves. The partnership also advanced planning for the Gulf of Honduras Cup 2026, reinforcing the importance of cross-border cooperation in conserving the Gulf's shared natural resources.

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

Students at Julian Cho Technical High School Career Day

TIDE recognizes that lasting conservation success depends on the active participation and support of the people who live, work, and depend on the natural resources of southern Belize. Through its Community Stewardship Program, TIDE works to foster environmental awareness, strengthen local capacity, and create opportunities that promote both community well-being and sustainable natural resource management.

Throughout 2025, TIDE engaged students, fishers, community groups, women's organizations, and local leaders through environmental education, outreach activities, livelihood initiatives, and youth development programs. These efforts helped build stronger connections between communities and the protected areas that support their livelihoods, while encouraging responsible stewardship of

Belize's marine and terrestrial resources.

From conservation education in schools and environmental clubs to scholarship support, fisher engagement, and income diversification projects, TIDE continued to invest in people as an essential part of its conservation strategy. By empowering communities with knowledge, skills, and opportunities, TIDE is helping to cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders while strengthening local resilience and sustainable development.

Through collaboration, education, and shared responsibility, the Community Stewardship Program continues to demonstrate that effective conservation is most successful when communities are active partners in protecting the natural heritage of Toledo and Belize.

Forum

PHMR & SCMR

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Fishtraps - Management - Regulations
Partnerships - Gulf of Honduras Cup

Fisher Forum flyer for PHMR and SCMR

Engaging fishers and coastal communities remains a cornerstone of TIDE's conservation approach. Throughout 2025, TIDE worked closely with resource users, community leaders, and families living around the Port Honduras Marine Reserve and Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve to strengthen understanding of marine conservation, fisheries management, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Through meetings, consultations, community visits, and awareness campaigns, TIDE provided opportunities for fishers to learn about protected area regulations, Fish Spawning Aggregation (FSA) sites, Fish Replenishment Zones (FRZs), and emerging conservation initiatives. These engagements encouraged open dialogue between resource users and conservation practitioners, helping to build trust, improve compliance, and ensure that local perspectives are incorporated into management decisions.



Fishers provide feedback for monitoring and evaluation of TIDE's protected area management

TIDE also continued supporting coastal communities through livelihood diversification initiatives designed to reduce pressure on marine resources while creating new economic opportunities.

By maintaining strong relationships with coastal communities, TIDE is helping to foster a shared commitment to protecting the marine ecosystems that sustain local livelihoods. These efforts reinforce the understanding that healthy fisheries, thriving reefs, and resilient coastal communities are interconnected, and that long-term conservation success depends on collaboration between protected area managers and the people who depend on these resources every day.



15 women from Monkey River Village learn soap making



TIDE support open water dive training for 15 youths - 2025

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS



Community members from San Marcos take to their open kayaks to clean the Rio Grande

TIDE continued to promote environmental stewardship through 28 community clean-up activities across southern Belize in 2025. These events brought together students, community members, local organizations, and volunteers to remove litter from beaches, rivers, public spaces, and other environmentally sensitive areas. Beyond improving the appearance of communities, clean-up activities helped reduce the amount of waste entering rivers, mangroves, and the marine environment, where plastics and other debris can threaten wildlife and damage critical habitats. Participants also learned about responsible waste management, recycling, and the connection between healthy ecosystems and healthy communities. Community clean-ups provided opportunities for people of all ages to take direct action in protecting

the natural resources that support livelihoods, tourism, fisheries, and recreation. Through hands-on participation, volunteers developed a greater appreciation for the importance of keeping coastal and inland environments free from pollution. These activities reflect TIDE's commitment to building a culture of conservation and shared responsibility. By working together to address environmental challenges at the local level, communities are helping to create cleaner, healthier, and more resilient environments for current and future generations.

TIDE is encouraged and inspired by the commitment of the Toledo Environmental Clubs, who regularly organize and conduct their own clean up activities within their own communities.



Trio Environmental Strikers clean up in Trio



Julian Cho Technical High School students clean in Punta Gorda

SCHOOL VISITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In 2025, TIDE continued investing in the next generation of environmental stewards through school visits, hands-on learning experiences, and youth engagement programs across Toledo. More than 200 children from six communities participated in TIDE's annual Summer Camp, where they explored ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and practical stewardship activities through interactive lessons, field exercises, and community cleanups. Students also visited TIDE's Native Plant Nursery, gaining firsthand experience in restoration and native plant propagation.

Environmental education efforts extended into local schools through the Saltwater Cup initiative



TPPL Head Conservation Officer presents to students

and nursery-based learning programs. During the year, 169 primary school students from three schools participated in educational visits focused on ecosystem restoration, while 161 students from participating Saltwater Cup schools engaged in nursery activities designed to connect classroom learning with conservation action. A total of 12 schools are now participating in the broader restoration education program. By combining classroom engagement, field experiences, and practical conservation activities, TIDE continues to inspire young people to understand, appreciate, and actively contribute to the protection of Toledo's natural resources.



Primary school students visiting TIDE's Native Plant Nursery

TIDE Scholarship Program

During the 2025-2026 school year, 45 secondary school students (16 males and 29 females) received TIDE book scholarships. Students attended seven high schools across Belize and pursued studies in Arts, Business, Hospitality Management, Industrial Technology, Science, and Tourism. Scholarships are awarded for the full four years of secondary education, provided students maintain passing grades and complete community service, helping to support the next generation of educated and engaged community leaders.



TIDE Scholarship Graduate Aug' 25

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



Large student groups head to PHMR for fun and learning

Financial Sustainability Director's Overview

In 2025, TIDE's Financial Sustainability Program shifted its focus. Instead of just growing operations and improving visitor experiences, the team worked on building systems, educational products and tourism offerings to support future growth and long-term sustainability.

During the year, the department focused on creating structured educational programs, improving tourism products, building partnerships and developing professional marketing materials. The goal was to make TIDE a top provider of conservation-based tourism and hands-on learning in Belize.

One major achievement was finishing the Structured STEM Education Tourism Initiative.



TIDE Tours partners
EF visit Punta Ycacos

2025 FLASH SUMMARY

In 2025, TIDE's Financial Sustainability Program focused on building a strong foundation for future growth in educational tourism, conservation financing and sustainable business.

The team completed the Structured STEM Education Tourism Initiative, expanded TIDE Tours' offerings, developed new marketing materials and built strategic partnerships. These efforts have helped TIDE grow its presence in tourism and educational travel, while creating steady revenue to support conservation and community projects in southern Belize.

This project turned years of conservation work and educational experience into a set of ready-to-use educational products. TIDE Tours also expanded its tourism options, giving visitors more ways to experience the unique nature and culture of southern Belize.

These efforts are an important step in diversifying TIDE's income and building stronger links between conservation, tourism, education and community development.

Business Operations

In 2025, the department worked to strengthen and grow TIDE Tours' range of tourism products. TIDE Tours partnered with the Belize Tourism Board to review and improve its tourism offerings, growing from nine tours to thirteen registered experiences.

2026 Outlook:

Looking forward, the Financial Sustainability Department will focus on putting the educational products and tourism experiences created in 2025 into action. Key priorities include:

- Launching structured STEM education programs.
- Expanding partnerships with universities and educational travel providers.
- Increasing visitation to TIDE's protected areas and Toledo.
- Strengthening destination marketing efforts for Toledo and its diverse tourism product.
- Enhancing visitor infrastructure and experiences.
- Expanding conservation-based tourism opportunities.
- Increasing unrestricted revenue generation.
- Strengthening long-term financial sustainability.

With a stronger set of products, better marketing tools, and a complete educational tourism plan, TIDE is ready to grow its impact in 2026 and keep supporting conservation and community development in southern Belize.

Tour operations help many local people, such as tour guides, boat captains, drivers, restaurants, hotels, community groups, cultural experts and vendors. As TIDE grows its educational tourism, more chances open up for local businesses and entrepreneurs to join the growing visitor economy.

By developing structured educational travel programs, TIDE expects to increase how long visitors stay, boost local spending and bring lasting economic benefits to communities in the Toledo District.

Capacity Building

Throughout 2025, the department kept investing in staff training and building the organization's capacity.



Meet the FSD Team

These new and updated tours highlight the variety of landscapes, wildlife, conservation work and cultural experiences in southern Belize.

The expanded tour options now include marine conservation, birding, ecological restoration, wildlife watching, cultural experiences, river trips and educational travel. The team also improved existing day tours to make them more engaging, educational and memorable for visitors.

The department kept supporting educational groups, private tours, donor visits and travel programs with partners, while getting ready for future growth in tourism and educational travel.

Economic Impact

TIDE's tourism and education programs continue to bring both direct and indirect economic benefits to communities across southern Belize.

Staff training covered tourism operations, educational programs, visitor engagement, marketing, partnership building, and program management. Team members also worked with consultants and partners on the STEM project, gaining hands-on experience in curriculum design, educational product development, and tourism planning. These efforts have made TIDE better able to offer high-quality educational and tourism experiences, and have prepared the organization for future growth.

Environmental Impact

Conservation is still the main focus of TIDE's tourism and education programs. Every tourism and educational experience is

designed to encourage environmental care and give visitors chances to join in conservation work, ecological restoration, biodiversity monitoring, and learning about the environment. Money earned from these programs goes directly to managing protected areas, supporting scientific research, conservation monitoring, environmental outreach and community stewardship in TIDE's protected areas.

STEM Education Development

A major achievement for the department in 2025 was successfully completing the Structured STEM Education Tourism Initiative. The project aimed to turn TIDE's protected areas into living classrooms, letting students take part in hands-on learning about conservation challenges. Using sites like Port Honduras Marine Reserve, Sapodilla

Cayes Marine Reserve, Payne's Creek National Park, and TIDE Private Protected Lands, the program gives students a chance to study marine ecology, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, fisheries management, ecological restoration and environmental monitoring. This year, the department finished a market assessment, created modular STEM curricula, set learning goals, and produced a professional STEM marketing catalogue. These resources lay the groundwork for an educational tourism model that can serve schools, universities, research groups, and educational travel organizations. This initiative will see TIDE become a leader in conservation-based education tourism and creates a steady way to generate revenue for conservation and community development.

Marketing and Product Development

To help TIDE grow in the future, the department invested heavily in marketing and developing destinations. The team created professional photos and videos to highlight TIDE's protected areas, conservation work, tourism experiences, and community partnerships. These visuals help TIDE market itself and promote southern Belize as a top spot for learning, conservation travel, and sustainable tourism. The department also developed new tour descriptions, educational materials, promotional tools, and marketing content to help recruit visitors and keep them engaged. These investments give TIDE a solid base for future marketing and building new partnerships.

STEM PROGRAMS



FIVE PROGRAMS. ONE MISSION:
IMMERSIVE LEARNING THAT INSPIRES STEWARDSHIP, CONNECTION, AND ACTION.

Ridge to Reef

TIDE's STEM programs are built on real conservation work, engaging students in hands-on field research that contributes directly to TIDE's integrated terrestrial and marine science program. Across TIDE's four protected areas—the Port Honduras Marine Reserve (PHMR), Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR), Payne's Creek National Park (PCNP), and TIDE Private Protected Lands (TPPL)—students work alongside rangers and researchers to collect data that supports protected area management and long-term conservation planning. On land, participants assist with bird monitoring, forest restoration, wildlife surveys,

Yellow-headed Parrot conservation, and sea turtle nest monitoring. In the marine reserves, they contribute to mangrove assessments, fisheries monitoring, coral reef surveys, marine biodiversity studies, and climate resilience research. All activities follow established scientific protocols, ensuring the data collected has genuine conservation value. By transforming its protected areas into living classrooms, TIDE can provide students with authentic field experience while generating meaningful scientific data. This ridge-to-reef approach demonstrates how education, research, and conservation can work together to benefit both people and nature.



FSD Destination Marketing: TIDE connects visitors to authentic local experiences



TIDE CONSERVATION FESTIVAL 2025

"Restoring Healthy Ecosystems Through Action"

In 2025, Toledo's only conservation festival saw its biggest turnout yet, with the theme "Restoring Healthy Ecosystems Through Action." The event took place in Punta Gorda Town and brought together conservation partners, businesses, community members, and visitors from all over Belize for a weekend focused on environmental stewardship and sustainable development. The weekend began with the annual Seafood Gala, where 132 guests attended. Supporters and partners celebrated TIDE's conservation achievements and helped raise funds for the organization.

On the second day five youths from all over Toledo competed in our annual Youth Conservation Competition.

The festival ended with Fish Fest 2025, which drew over 2,000 paid visitors, the highest attendance in its history. With 36 vendor booths, starting with a bike race, the event offered a lively marketplace of local food, crafts, products, services, and conservation exhibits, making it one of the biggest community gatherings in southern Belize.

The festival's impact reached beyond the event itself. More visitors meant more business for local hotels, restaurants, transportation providers, tour guides, boat captains, vendors, cooks, and artisans. This shows how conservation events can help support local jobs and economic growth. Sponsors, donors, volunteers, and community partners made the festival's success possible. Their support helped create a memorable event that encouraged more people to get involved in conservation and highlighted the economic and social value of healthy ecosystems. This record-breaking festival showed that conservation and community development work well together, making the TIDE Conservation Festival a key event for the Toledo District.



TIDE Fish Fest 2025



Youth Conservation Competition 2025

IVAL 2025



RMP staff return from "The Source"

SHARING SUCCESSFUL MODELS

In 2025, TIDE built on its regional conservation partnerships by organizing two international learning exchanges. These events encouraged peer-to-peer learning and helped participants share best practices for managing protected areas.

In May, TIDE welcomed a group from Roatán Marine Park in Honduras for a five-day exchange. The visit focused on topics like organizational sustainability, conservation funding, community involvement, and nonprofit management. Participants met with TIDE staff and leaders to learn about TIDE's Financial Sustainability Program, grant management, community stewardship, and financial systems for NGOs. The group also toured local businesses and community projects in Toledo, giving everyone a chance to share ideas about sustainable development and conservation-based livelihoods. In August, TIDE hosted the MPACoconnect Learning Exchange Visit in Belize.

This event brought together marine protected area managers and practitioners from the U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands. The exchange covered topics like financial sustainability, working with stakeholders, community outreach, and fisheries enforcement. TIDE highlighted its work at the Port Honduras Marine Reserve and shared what it has learned about connecting conservation results with community benefits. Participants took part in technical discussions and field visits to help improve management and encourage collaboration among marine protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region. These exchanges helped confirm TIDE's role as a regional leader in conservation. They also showed how sharing successful models, experiences, and new ideas can make protected area management stronger across the Caribbean and Mesoamerican Reef region.



Cross-cultural learning across the Caribbean

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



Turtle Monitoring Training

STAFF CAPACITY

TIDE continued to invest in its greatest asset—its people—through a diverse range of professional development opportunities in 2025. Across the organization, staff strengthened their leadership, technical, and operational skills to enhance the management of TIDE's protected areas and conservation programmes.

Early in the year, six staff members completed Supervisory Management Level I and II training delivered by the Belize Institute for Service, Excellence, Leadership and Research (BISER), building skills in leadership, emotional intelligence, staff performance, and team management. Protected area managers also participated in Green List and Management Effectiveness evaluations, strengthening TIDE's commitment to international standards for protected area management.

Technical capacity also expanded throughout the year. Staff attended a seven-day Mangrove

Training of Trainers program led by WWF, participated in national workshops on coral reef restoration and fisheries monitoring, and received training in the Mangrove Restoration Tracking Tool to improve restoration planning and reporting. Rangers from both PHMR and SCMR also completed updated sea turtle monitoring training, supporting the implementation of standardized monitoring protocols across TIDE's marine protected areas. TIDE also continued investing in the next generation of conservation practitioners. Nine Community Researchers and one ranger completed SCUBA and underwater marine monitoring training, while a further 15 youths received SCUBA certification through the Access to Opportunities programme, creating new pathways into conservation careers. Together, these initiatives ensure TIDE's staff and partners remain equipped with the knowledge, skills, and leadership needed to deliver science-based conservation across southern Belize.



TIDE Conservation Officer trains in scuba diving



Staff and Fishers participate in the Toledo Interoffice Football Competition



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors Visit SCMR

Throughout 2025, the TIDE Board of Directors provided strategic direction and governance oversight, guiding the organization in advancing its mission to conserve biodiversity while promoting sustainable livelihoods for the communities that border the protected areas under its management.

Major accomplishments in 2025 included:

- Provided strategic oversight for the implementation of TIDE's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, ensuring alignment with organizational priorities and long-term conservation goals.
- Strengthened governance through effective policy oversight, financial stewardship, and risk management, promoting transparency and accountability across the organization.
- Supported initiatives to enhance TIDE's financial sustainability by advancing conservation enterprises, trengthening partnerships, and diversifying funding

opportunities.

- Guided TIDE's leadership in regional conservation efforts, including collaboration through the Tri-national Alliance for the Conservation of the Gulf of Honduras (TRIGOH) and the completion of an Integrated Management Plan for the Gulf of Honduras.

- Enhanced Board effectiveness through participation in governance and leadership development focused on climate resilience, conservation finance, and organizational sustainability. This session was facilitated by Ms. Celia Mahung, TIDE's former Executive Director. TIDE's Board remains committed to providing strong governance, ensuring organizational resilience, and supporting continued leadership in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Belize.



Board of Directors on retreat at Spice Farm



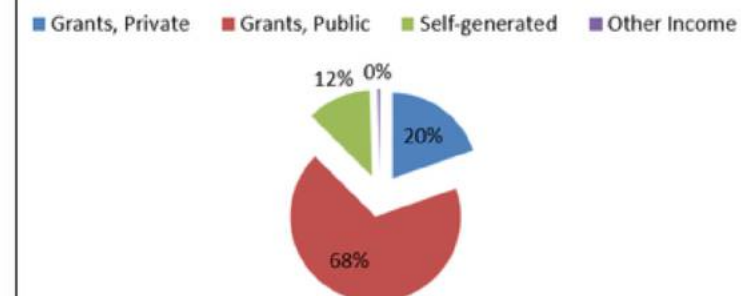
Board of Directors on retreat at Spice Farm

FINANCES

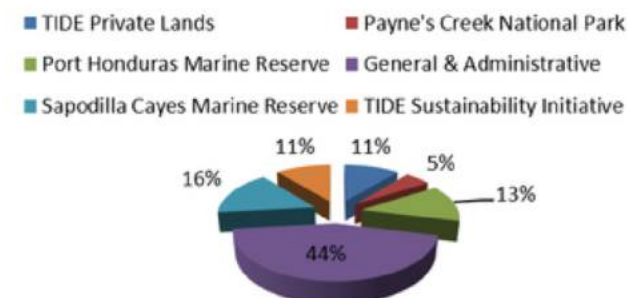
Income Overview

TIDE generated BZ\$2.35 million in income during 2025. Public grants provided 67.8% of funding, followed by 19.6% from private grants. Self-generated income—including tourism, protected area fees, and education programmes—contributed 12.1%, highlighting TIDE's continued progress toward financial sustainability. The remaining 0.4% came from other income sources, maintaining a balanced portfolio that supports conservation across southern Belize.

TIDE 2025 Income Breakdown



TIDE 2025 Expenses by Functional Areas



Expense Overview

TIDE invested BZ\$2.77 million in conservation and protected area management during 2025. General and administrative costs represented 44% of expenditure, supporting programs across the organization. Investments were directed to SCMR (16%), PHMR (13%), TPPL (11%), the TIDE Sustainability Initiative (11%), and PCNP (5%), demonstrating TIDE's continued commitment to conserving southern Belize's natural resources.



Female staff appreciation day 2025



TIDE ANNUAL REPORT 2025



TIDE

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