

# Belize Audubon Society



# Mission Statement

“The Belize Audubon Society is a non-governmental membership organization dedicated to the sustainable management of our natural resources through leadership and strategic partnerships with stakeholders in order to create a balance between people and the environment.”

# History of BAS

- Established in 1969 as an arm of the Florida Audubon Society (oldest & largest conservation NGO in Belize).
- The Society had assumed independence in 1973 and began to lobby for PA establishment while promoting IUCN classification (Munro, 1981). The organization was aware that under these classifications these areas could gain international support and recognition.
- BAS became the first environmental NGO in Belize and the only one that managed large tracts of public PAs.
- BAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with GOB in 1996 to manage 150,000 acres within six PAs established under the National 14 Park System Act (NPSA) (1981). The organization is responsible for the finance, development, and operation of these areas.
- First conservation NGO to become registered under the NGO Act of Belize 2000

# Organizational Structure

- Several levels of management comprise BAS.

## Group    Function

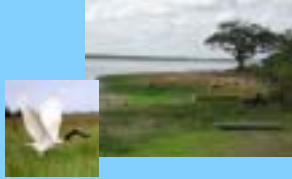
<b>Board of Trustees.....</b>	manage endowment fund
<b>Members (Belizean).....</b>	elect Board of Directors
<b>Board of Directors.....</b>	govern BAS, oversee Executive Director
<b>Executive Director.....</b>	heads BAS' operations
<b>Volunteers.....</b>	contribute valuable time and energy

# Programs at BAS

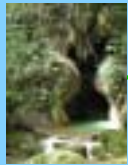
- **BAS has 4 main programme areas:**
- **Protected Areas Management**
- **Environmental Advocacy**
- **Environmental Education.**
- **Research**



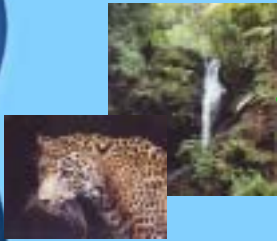
# Protected Areas



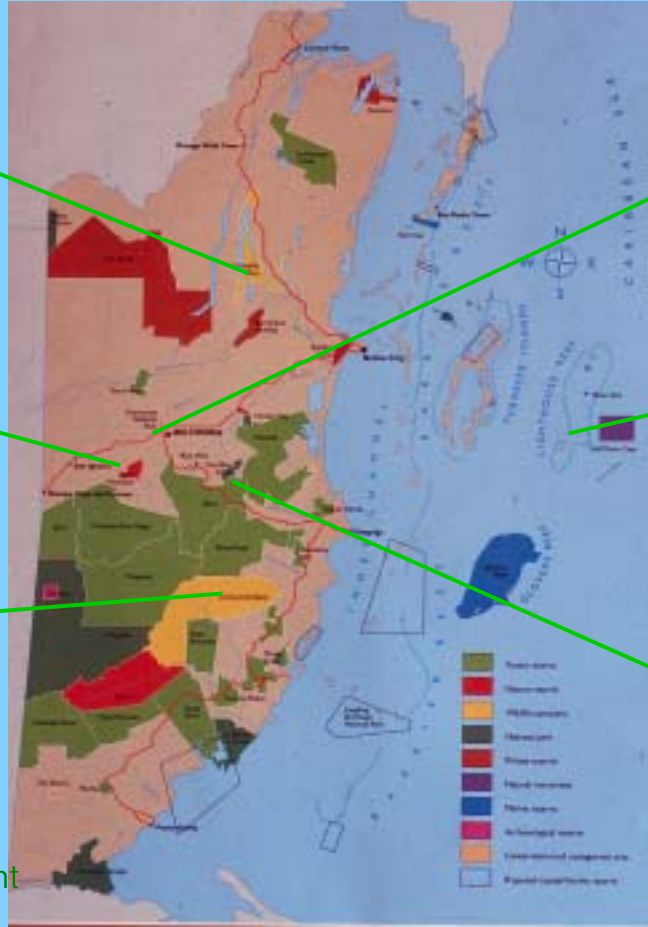
Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary  
(Ramsar site)



Tapir  
Mountain  
Nature  
Reserve



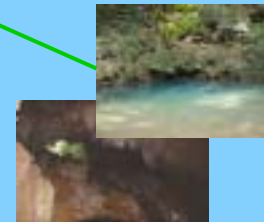
Cockscomb Basin Wildlife  
Sanctuary (Jaguar reserve)  
& Victoria Peak Natural Monument



Guanacaste National Park



Half Moon Caye &  
Blue Hole Natural Monuments  
(World Heritage Sites)



Blue Hole  
National Park

**The Belize Audubon Society manages 8 protected areas on behalf of the Government of Belize. These 162,000 acres cover the majority of ecosystems within Belize.**



# Advocacy

- Goal: to ensure continued long-term security of BAS managed protected areas and buffer communities.
- to influence Government to make changes in order to promote more environmentally responsible management of Belize's natural resources.



# Environmental Education

- The programme has 2 elements – communities and children.
- Children hold the key to the future of Belize, thus the reason we are currently focusing heavily on educating the children from the buffer zone communities; and other schools or group institutions.
- BAS utilizes the different protected areas managed as education centers. Therefore, BAS has been trying to integrate its other efforts with PAM to maximize the resources allocated to this task.





- Key species initially are:
  - Jabiru
  - Black Catbird
  - Ocelated Turkey
  - Keel-billed Motmot
  - Water and sea birds as noted in the water bird risk assessment
  - Neotropical migrants need to be looked at pending new criteria

# Areas

- Halfmoon Cay
- Gallon Jug Estate-Rio Bravo Conservation Management Area
- Maya Mountains/Chiquibul
- Crooked Tree RAMSAR site, important water bird and migratory area.

# **IBA start-up in Belize**

- **Data Compilation**
  - **BBIS**
  - **Christmas**
  - **Tour-guides, bird enthusiasts**

A sunset scene over a field of tall grass. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a line of trees. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and purple. The foreground is dominated by the dark, silhouetted tops of tall grasses.

**The End  
Thanks**