The Government of Belize signed in 1999 a co-management agreement with Belize Audubon Society [BAS] for the conservation of the 7 protected areas including HMCNM and GBHNM. BAS is a local charitable NGO.

The co-management agreement aims to:

- Maintain presence around known hotspots for illegal activity, and arrest and prosecute those involved in illegal activities within the park.
- Maintain presence and control of tourism activities.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 15 voluntary members - President, 2 Vice-Presidents, 2 Secretaries, and 8 Directors. The members are elected from the BAS' general membership.

Half Moon Caye Natural Monument and the Great Blue Hole Natural Monument are two of the seven marine protected areas in the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site under the UNESCO.

**Quick Facts**

Co-management between the Government of Belize and Belize Audubon Society

- **Co-management Establishment**: Active for 20 years [since 1999]
- **Area**:
  - 39 km² [HMCNM]
  - 4 km² [GBHNM]
- **IUCN Category**: III [Natural Monument]
- **Financial Status**: Close to Financial Sustainability

**Revenue Mechanisms**

Majority of the operational fund of BAS comes from entrance/user fees. In 2019, the entrance fee ranges from US$10-60. In 2016, the collection of fees, through strong collaboration with tourism stakeholders, generated US$750,000 [85% of the total income of US$880,000].

Belize has seen an increasing trend on tourist visits since 2010. In 2016, HMCNM and the GBHNM received 21,500 visitors. Other incomes include grant support and fees from accommodation and equipment rental. 60% of the 2016 income was used for the protected area management while 21% was for the administration of the NGO.

**Success Descriptors**

In 2018, The Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site was removed from the list of “In Danger” after almost a decade of effort. It is considered as a true victory for nature protection in Belize.

BAS collaborates with different government agencies to ensure proper surveillance and monitoring. It resulted to 14 persons charged for various offenses.

Regular biodiversity and research monitoring [turtle, conch, Nassau grouper] are being conducted to ensure a healthy ecosystems.

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