

TIDE Community Researcher Program

Informing management and training the next generation



Presented by James Lord, former development director
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TIDE Community Researcher Program

Presentation overview

1. Context – TIDE and Port Honduras Marine Reserve
2. Management challenges
3. What did we do?
4. How well did it work?
5. Where to find more info





Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat

Google earth

The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)

Belizean NGO

Founded: 1997

Budget: US\$1 million/year

Staff: 40 FTE

Exec director: Celia Mahung

Board: Nine Belizean civil
society,
community and
businesses reps



The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)



Vision:

“Toledo’s healthy ecosystems support biodiversity, communities and sustainable development.”

Mission:

“To engage stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources within the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor of southern Belize for the benefit of all.”

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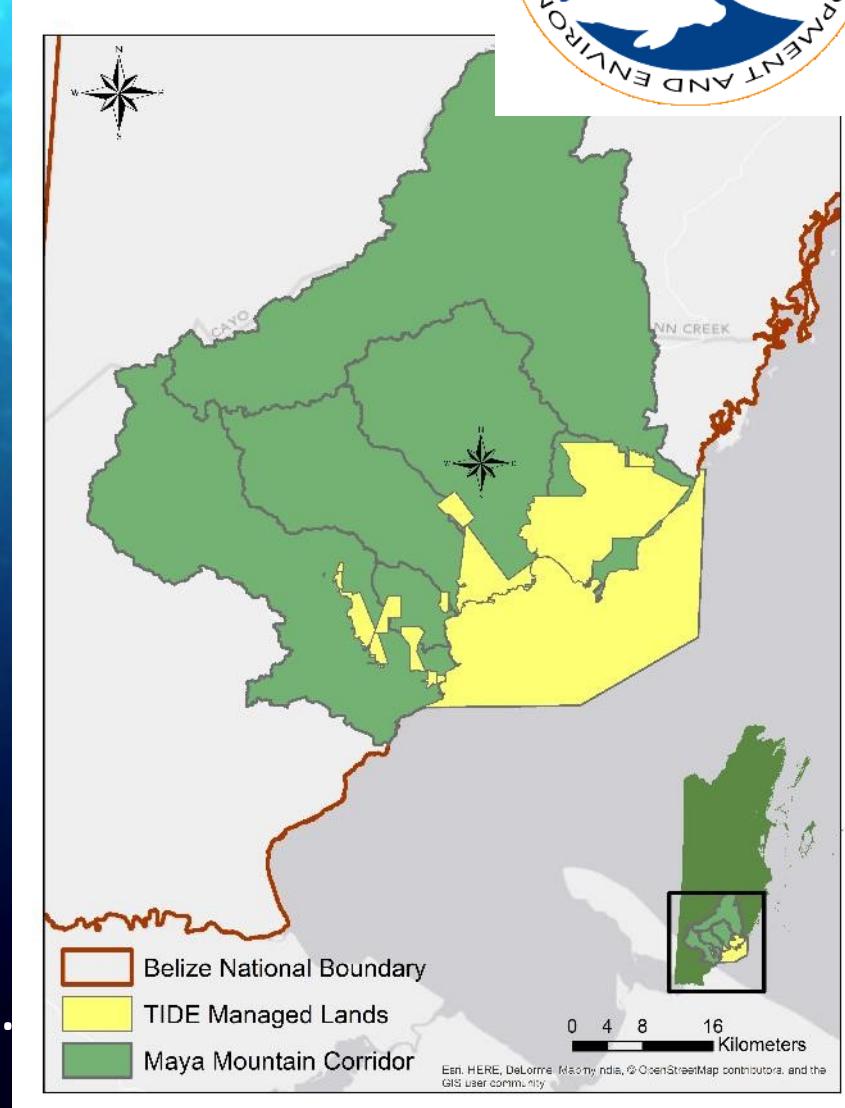
Geographical focus

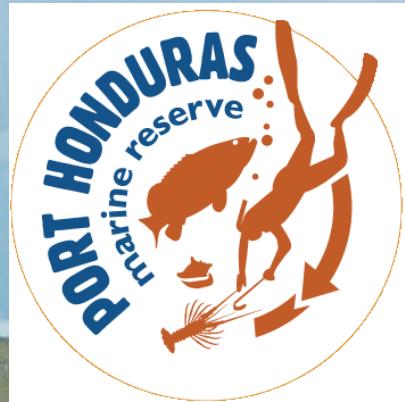
The Maya Mountain Marine Corridor. Six river basins.

Within this landscape:

TIDE co-manages coastal and marine protected areas.

TIDE works with communities to foster environmental stewardship.





TIDE Community Researcher Program

Port Honduras Marine Reserve

- Co-managed by Belize Fisheries Department and TIDE
- Management challenges in 2010:
 - Inadequate stakeholder support
 - Inadequate human resources to conduct research and enforcement



TIDE Community Researcher Program



What we did

1. Trained five local youths each year to SCUBA dive and conduct marine research
2. Employed the best performers as “TIDE Community Researchers”



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What we did

Advert for applicants...

TIDE's Mission: To engage stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources within the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor of southern Belize for the benefit of all.

Become

A Community Researcher

GAIN SKILLS FOR A LIFETIME

Applications due 8 May 2015

Training the next generation of Belizean conservationists

BENEFITS

- ❖ SCUBA diving (PADI Open Water Diver)
- ❖ Professional environmental research and monitoring fieldwork training
- ❖ Terrestrial and marine ecology training
- ❖ Hands-on experience in conservation and resource management
- ❖ Resume building
- ❖ Meet new people
- ❖ Getting paid to do conservation!

TO QUALIFY

- ❖ Be dedicated and enthusiastic
- ❖ Be between the ages of 17*-25
- ❖ Have an interest in the environment
- ❖ Be a resident of Toledo
- ❖ Have the ability to swim
- ❖ Have the desire to learn

*must be 18 by September 2015

The training will take place over a two-week period this June



Find out more about research and monitoring at TIDE: <http://tidebelize.org/page/research-and-monitoring>

Interested? Applications are available at the TIDE office or online at:

<http://tidebelize.org/programs/community-development/community-researchers>

TOLEDO INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

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www.facebook.com/TIDEBZ

Questions? Contact
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How well did it work?

1. Built local capacity
 - 20 young people trained
 - Improved TIDE research



Community Researcher Graduates



2012



2013



2014



2015



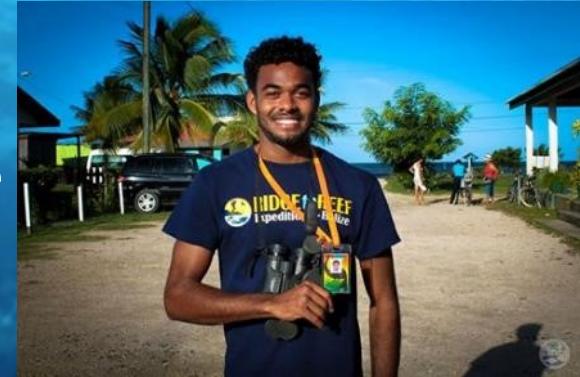
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How well did it work?

1. Built local capacity

Led to employment as tour guides, marine biologists, a SCUBA instructor, a coast guard, and... TIDE community researchers!

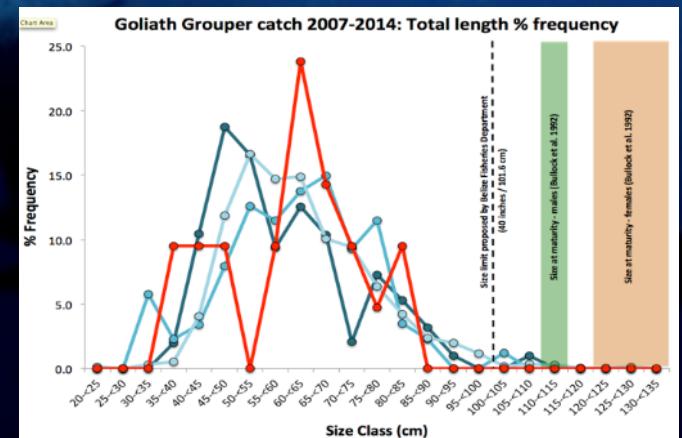


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How well did it work?

2. Research is informing policy recommendations to Fisheries Department
 - Goliath grouper size limit
 - Conch size limit



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How well did it
work?



TIDE Community Researchers



Belize Coast Guard



Belize Fisheries Department



Port Honduras Fishers

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How well did it work?

3. Fostered environmental stewardship



“It makes you appreciate the environment more. It makes you see what’s really happening. You see what is affecting the seagrass and the benefits that seagrass brings in terms of the nursery and controlling sedimentation. Knowing that makes you want to cherish it.” Allana Barillas

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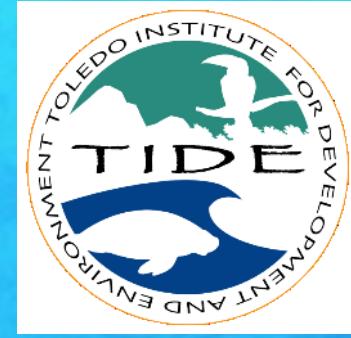
How well did it work?

3. Fostered environmental stewardship



"Becoming a community researcher can actually change your life... I come from a fishing family. My family loves to see me working in this kind of field. They ask me about the abundance of conch and lobster in the sea. I tell them... they are more abundant in the replenishment zones and they are reproducing there." Willie Caal.

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"It's really cool to see someone like Willie have their horizons broadened, getting invited to visit friends in Texas who he met through TIDE, going on national TV... He is becoming an expert in his own right. These are not just kids doing a side job but young conservationists embarking on a career. They have been bitten by the bug!" James Foley, TIDE science director.

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For more information:

- TIDE has prepared a “how-to” guide and video:

<http://climateandreefs.org/case-studies/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYcFTYIPoJY>

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TIDE Community Researcher Program



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