

Improving Natural Resources Management in Belize through Mobilization of Biodiversity Data

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Background/Introduction



- 2012 survey revealed biodiversity data was being collected but not managed, analyzed, and used to inform policies, plans, management interventions
- Need for continuous national effort and system to properly manage data and improve capacity in data analysis
- **Aim:** compile and analyze existing bird datasets and disseminate results to decision makers and public
- UB ERI to coordinate mobilization of Belize's existing un-compiled bird data through eBird and GBIF network

Partners/Stakeholders

- Belize Audubon Society
- Belize Forest Department
- Black Rock Lodge
- Corozal Sustainable Future Initiative
- Foundation for Wildlife Conservation
- Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
- Ya'axché Conservation Trust



Outcomes

- Data Sharing Agreements developed
- Three capacity building workshops (DM, DA, Communications) conducted
- Compilation and digitization of point count data
- UB ERI became a GBIF publisher in early December 2017
- Banding datasets uploaded to GBIF (1,000 records)
- Database



Addressing Challenges

- Data quality issues with point count datasets
 - Development of data management standards
- Lack of sufficient data for analyses
- Lack of experts in Belize to lead certain capacity building workshops (DA)
 - Leveraged support from international experts, specifically from Cornell Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University



Moving forward with data mobilization

- Partners/stakeholders will continue to use eBird for mobilization of bird data
- UB ERI will continue to upload banding datasets directly to GBIF
- New opportunity with PACT & Ministry of Environment





Comments/Questions?