

# CHANNELING FINANCE TO ENHANCE ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION and climate resilience in Belize

**Lead Organisation:** The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) **Location:** Belize

**Focus:** Adaptation/Cross-cutting [www.pactbelize.org](http://www.pactbelize.org)



## Overview

The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) is a statutory body focusing on the effective conservation of Belize's natural and cultural resources. Established by the national government in 1996, PACT supports management of the country's protected areas system through strategic partnership and high impact investments. It is the country's first Accredited Entity to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a designation it was granted in October 2018, and serves as a national implementing entity for the Adaptation Fund and other multilateral and international funding sources related to the sustainable management of Belize's natural resources, climate change, and other environmental issues.

To support its role, PACT applied for and received funding to establish its planning framework for engagement with the GCF, mobilise climate action among national stakeholders, and strengthen its capacity to identify, design, and implement climate projects to meet GCF requirements. Additionally, in December 2021, PACT received the endorsement of

the Adaptation Fund Board for a Project Concept Note titled 'Building Community Resilience via Transformative Adaptation'. The endorsement comes with the approval of US\$50,000 in project preparation support for the Trust to develop the full project proposal valued at US\$5 million, for an Enhanced Direct Access Grant which will be applied as an on-granting mechanism for climate finance in country. The project will be executed by the PACT to support sub-projects for climate adaptation activities in Belize, in particular, protection and restoration of vital ecosystems and ecosystem services for the benefit of local communities that are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

In becoming Belize's first National Accredited Entity, PACT aims to act as a critical channel for getting climate financing into the country for projects that support Belize's national climate and development objectives, including channeling funding toward national civil society partners. PACT works very closely with Belize's National Designated Authority (NDA) and is also granted a fiduciary role for critical national and international partners such as the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, the German Development Bank, the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) and the Belize Nature Conservation Foundation. Given its conservation mandate, a key focus of the organisation includes supporting national civil society organisations (CSOs) working on ecosystem-based adaptation projects.

## KEY RESULTS

- In October 2018, PACT became the first national direct access entity accredited to the GCF in Belize, with a focus on engagement of community level stakeholders and civil society organisations.
- Over US\$7 million has been leveraged by PACT through the GCF and Adaptation Fund to support capacity building for protected areas management and ecosystem-based adaptation and community resilience initiatives up to 2021.
- As of April 2022, PACT has secured a second GCF Readiness Grant to support the accreditation application of Belize's NDA and Belize Social Investment Fund and its GCF pipeline includes two additional readiness projects and four concept notes targeting approximately US\$34 million.
- Additionally, PACT is working on a project pipeline for the Adaptation Fund, targeting US\$14 million.



## Innovations and Lessons

PACT itself strengthened its own abilities – and those of national CSOs – to access international climate financing through training. It submitted a Readiness and Preparatory Support proposal to the GCF for post-accreditation support which, among other things, sought funding to ‘train seventeen PACT technical staff and its network of thirty-three national stakeholders on the GCF climate rationale, project funding process, and established policies and procedures for environmental and social safeguards (ESS) and gender mainstreaming’. Extending this training opportunity to other national stakeholders reflects PACT’s commitment to building up local CSO partners, and their role as a convener and coordinator of CSOs in the country. With capacities in place, PACT can now work with local partners to build up a pipeline of CSO-led projects for submission to the major climate funds.

Strategic alignment of PACT’s activities to Belize’s development plans and priorities is another factor in its success. For example, the organisation’s GCF Portfolio is designed to contribute to key national development objectives, including through Horizon 2030: the Belize National Development Framework; the Belize Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy; Belize’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC); and Belize’s National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.

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