

Terms of Reference for

COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

1 INTRODUCTION

The Coastal Zone Management Strategy (2001), which sets out the paths that the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) will take in managing the coastal environment over the following three years, calls for Coastal Advisory Committees (CAC) to be established throughout the coastal area of Belize. The committees are intended as partnerships between stakeholders and the CZMAI in the coastal management process.

The part of the Belizean marine environment of that contains the cayes has been divided by the CZMAI into nine coastal regions. This has been done to facilitate a participatory form of monitoring and resource management planning that aims to reflect the needs and concerns of both local and national interests. CACs for each of the eight coastal regions (except Ambergris Caye as explained below) are to be established with the participation of stakeholder groups, community, and government and will be responsible for the monitoring of the coastal zone in each region. This applies to the state of the natural environment and wildlife in the region, and activities that may impact them. The CACs are also intended to oversee the drafting and implementation of development guidelines for their particular region.

CACs will act both as a channel and a catalyst for the expression of the comments and observations on coastal issues of the Belizean society such that membership is proposed as representing a comprehensive range of interests: local municipalities (village, town and city), local and national NGOs, local and national producer's and user's associations, interested key individuals, and government officers. The Authority and Institute will undertake invitation for membership and official appointment. In order to encourage a sense of personal and collective responsibility, participation is based entirely on voluntarism. While all CACs will be expected to undertake substantial monitoring and management of the coastal zone, the internal structure, functioning and efficiency of the CACs, such as the frequency of meetings will, for the most part, be determined by the membership in recognition of the uniqueness and dynamics of each region.

2 THE COASTAL REGIONS

To facilitate effective, localized management and specialized focus on coastal issues, the coastal area of Belize has been divided into nine regions, based on geographic, social, economic and administrative considerations and on feasible means of communication and shared interests. The regions are intended only to cover the parts of the coastal environment that contain land, they are not intended to cover the

entirety of territorial waters. One committee is planned for each region (apart from Ambergris Caye, as explained below). The regions are:

- Northern. Ranges from Corozal Bay to the Belize District coast immediately west of Caye Caulker, including Savannah Caye and the other cayes lying between the mainland and Ambergris Caye.
- Ambergris Caye. Includes the entire island and its surrounding waters and cayes, such as Cangrejo Caye. As resource management on this caye rests with the Ambergris Caye Planning Committee, San Pedro Town Council and, possibly, the North Ambergris Caye Development Authority, no Coastal Advisory Committee is currently proposed for this region.
- Caye Caulker. Includes the southern and northern parts of the caye, as well as surrounding waters and the small caye to the immediate west.
- Belize City Cayes. Stretches from the Hick's Cayes in the north to the Belize / Stann Creek district boundary in the south. Eastwards, it includes the Drowned Cayes and the Barrier Reef, and westwards, all the cayes lying off the mainland coast, such as the Hen and Chickens.
- Turneffe Islands. The entire atoll and the surrounding waters.
- Lighthouse Reef: The entire atoll and surrounding waters.
- Dangriga / Tobacco Cayes. Centered on Dangriga, this region extends out to include Glover's Reef and runs from Southern Long Cayes in the north to Saddle Cayes in the south. It includes the northern part of the South Water Caye Marine Reserve.
- Placencia / Laughing Bird Caye. Extends from Riversdale in the north to the Stann Creek / Toledo district boundary in the south, and stretches east out to the Barrier Reef. It includes the southern part of the South Water Caye Marine Reserve, the Laughing Bird Caye National Park, and the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserves.
- Southern. Ranges from the Stann Creek / Toledo district boundary (Monkey River) to the Sarstoon River, including Port Honduras, the Sapodilla Cayes and the Ranguana Cayes.

3. THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

The coastal zone is one of the most active and economically important parts of the country. While it is difficult to determine the exact economic value of the area, it can be estimated as representing as much as one third of the national economy. It is central to the fishing, tourism and freight industries and is increasingly targeted as the preferred location for residence. It has a growing research and educational role, and is the location for potentially vital oil extraction. All these sectors have an array of associated activities and impacts ranging from accelerating investment, employment and land values, to the alteration and pollution of the physical environment.

The area also has high intrinsic values as the habitat for a wide range of wildlife, a moderator to the national climate, a crucial natural barrier to tidal surges from hurricanes, and a vital source of national recreation. It also has a fundamental role in the history and patriotic consciousness of the country.

4. THE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES COASTAL PLANNING PROGRAMME

One of the primary methods of establishing a blueprint for consensual development in a coastal region is through the drafting of a set of coastal zone management Development Guidelines. Other means are through the publication of 'best practice' guides for activities like tourism development and waste

disposal, and policies such as the Cayes Development Policy. These are intended to address all aspects of development within a region; defining the location, volume and means of development throughout the area. Due to lack of information, and means of gathering information, the focus of the guidelines are confined to terrestrial matters and do not extend to activities in the marine environment.

Essentially, a set of guidelines is drafted for a region through extensive assessment of the region's current and past economic, social, physical and ecological features. This is then compared with various scenarios for the region's future development, developed within its particular developmental confines. Once the Guidelines have been drafted to a suitably comprehensive point, they are made available for revision and comment by any concerned individual or agency. After any necessary changes have been made, they are submitted to the Coastal Zone Advisory Council for approval. It is intended that, with Cabinet approval of the Coastal Zone Management Strategy (required through the Coastal Zone Management Act), the guidelines will be given Ministerial approval.

Development Guidelines are distributed to all parties concerned with the use, enjoyment, management and development of the coastal region, and although the primary responsibility for the actual drafting of the guidelines rests with the CZMAI, it is expected that the aforementioned parties will participate in this effort as well as in the regional approval, and effective implementation of the guidelines through consultation and involvement in the various CACs.

Coordination of guideline implementation also currently rests with the Coastal Zone Management Institute and Authority, augmented by the coordinative role of the Coastal Zone Advisory Council. There are considerable logistical constraints including insufficient contact with all interested parties, limited means of transport to some regions, etc. Consequently, comprehensive on-site monitoring of the implementation of the guidelines is intended as a central responsibility of the CACs, as is the identification of any need for a review or alteration of the guidelines. It is recommended that all development guidelines are comprehensively evaluated, reviewed and updated after five years.

The process of drafting, revision, approval and implementation of the Development Guidelines are:

- Initial drafting of proposed regional guidelines by CZMAI;
- Convening of CAC meetings for the review and re-drafting of guidelines for the relevant coastal region;
- Forwarding of written recommendations to CZMAI for consultation and ratification;
- Forwarding of written recommendations of the CAC to the Coastal Advisory Council for final approval;
- Approval of the draft Development Guidelines. The committee can refuse to accept the draft until all reasonable alterations have been made;
- Acceptance of approved guidelines;
- Monitoring of implementation and effectiveness of the approved Development Guidelines. The committee may request the CZMAI to assist in ensuring effective implementation;
- Advice and recommendations to the Council on important issues stemming from the implementation of the guidelines;
- Based on advice and recommendations of the CAC system review of all or part of the Development Guidelines;
- Comprehensive review of guidelines after five years.

While the CZMAI has the statutory mandate for coastal zone management, it does not have the powers to implement development guidelines; these lie with several other statutory agencies: the Land Utilization Authority, the Central Housing and Planning Authority, the National Emergency Management Organisation, and Public Utilities Commission (through the Water Industry Act). Exactly which agency has primacy in development planning and management in the coastal area, and how they interact, has not been fully established. Consequently, it will be crucial that all these agencies are kept fully involved in the regional Development Guideline process. As all these agencies are, or should be, represented on the Coastal Zone Advisory Council, there should be minimal scope for a lack of coordination, yet, as neither the Council nor the Authority and Institute have any statutory development management powers, formal 'ownership' of the guidelines by one or all of these agencies would assist effective implementation.

The coastal region development guidelines have a particular opportunity of being incorporated into the planning structure of the National Emergency Management Organization. The designation of Specially Vulnerable Areas through the Organization enables the drafting of 'precautionary plans' that may include strategies, policies and standards for development, standards for environmental impact assessments, and provisions designating any area as a "prohibited area for navigation or for the purpose of removing vegetation, sand, stones, shingle or gravel". The precautionary plan may also include strategies, policies and standards for development. Considering the facts that (a) all of the coastal area could be defined as a 'vulnerable area', (b) that the National Emergency Management Organization most probably does not have sufficient staff to draft precautionary plans, and (c) it probably does not have extensive experience or knowledge of coastal issues, there is a real possibility that the development guidelines could become, either partially or wholly, incorporated into the precautionary plans. The National Emergency Management Organization should be approached on this issue.

5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEES

The CACs will find themselves having to consider the need to balance between the diverse social and economic demands on the coastal area and the need to ensure the sustainability of its resources. They will, essentially, have a role in moderating between frequently competing and conflicting pressures, and will be required to recognize, understand and represent all of these pressures evenly while being sensitive to international, national, regional and highly localized interests. The CACs will have certain primary roles to play, though it is anticipated that these may be augmented or adapted as experience grows. The basic roles are proposed as follows:

- **Represent the communities and stakeholders that have a direct interest in the utilization and/or enjoyment of the terrestrial and marine environments of the coastal regions;**
Effective and efficient resource management is considered as dependent on shared responsibility among all the parties that have an interest in, or impact on, the coastal zone. There are numerous communities, whether on the cays or on the mainland, that are directly concerned in coastal matters such as fishing, tourism, recreation, or the need to prevent erosion and possible inundation. All should be able to have a channel for meaningful expression on coastal issues, as should all individual stakeholders, ranging from business persons and hoteliers, non-government and community based organizations, to educational institutions and producer's associations (see Section 6.1 below).

- **Inform and advise the CZMAI on the marine and terrestrial issues that the committees identify as impacting on the biological, physical, social and economic state of their region;**

The coastal zone is the focus of a wide-ranging variety of activities, many of them vital to the economic and social development of the country, set in a very sensitive environment. Furthermore, the area is also the focus of far-reaching natural occurrences such as changing weather patterns, habitat loss or gain, and coastal erosion or accretion.

- **To make recommendations to the CZMAI on means of improving the biological, physical, social and economic situation of their region;**

In recognition of the vital role the coastal zone plays in the economic, environmental and cultural development of the country, it is intended that the CACs will be in a prime position to offer recommendations to the CZMAI on opportunities for investment and development based on local knowledge. Recommendations could take the form of suggestions for investment in infrastructure related to the improvement or maintenance of the regions' amenities, funding for local groups and initiatives, or information on development prospects in the coastal regions.

- **To contribute to the approval of Development Guidelines for their respective coastal region;**

Planning is expected to result in a series of Development Guidelines for each of the coastal regions. These Guidelines are seen as offering a means to establish a consensus, over the immediate future, of how the resources of the region should be developed, and to what intensity they are developed. The Guidelines are intended to identify development opportunities for each caye in the coastal zone and specify how that development should take place in order to achieve the over-arching objective of economic growth that adds to, and does not detract from, the sensitive nature of the cayes. The CACs will play an essential role in this process through participation in the initial approval process.

- **Educate and advocate for the sustainable management of the coastal zone;**

The CACs will play an important role in informing the community and the various interest groups as well as sensitizing the government to the importance of the management of the coastal resources and the objective and content of the development guidelines that are intended to pursue these sustainable management goals of the region. To this end, CACs should liaise with other organizations such as NGOs, or educational institutions, whether local or national. This may assist in broadening the consultative base of the CACs, and help in the gathering of information, its analysis and dissemination. It would also greatly assist in promoting and sustaining Integrated Coastal Zone Management principles. In all cases, the CZMAI should be consulted.

- **Monitor and report to the CZMAI on the implementation and effectiveness of the Development Guidelines, and other policies and guidelines for coastal resource management for each coastal region;**

The establishment of CACs is part of the Authority and Institute's commitment to decentralized management and responsibility for coastal resources, as offering the opportunity for effective local participation in the monitoring of the performance of these guidelines and policies. (See Section 6.2 below).

- **Act as a forum for the discussion of coastal issues on a national scale;**

The nine coastal regions covering the coastal area of Belize will result in eight committees (Ambergris Caye being excepted) that will cover the entire extent of the inhabited / occupied coastal environment. This offers an opportunity for a national forum for the discussion of coastal issues similar to the

National Village Council Association's role in discussing mainland rural issues (see Section 6.4 below). However, CACs should refrain from publicising any matter related to committee procedures or any resolutions without first informing the CZMAI.

- **Explore the possibilities of grant funding and association with educational institutions, in liaison with the CZMAI, to assist in the carrying out of the roles described above.**

Most of the stakeholder groups, and communities derive economic benefits from the use and exploitation of the coastal resources and, as such, have a vested interest in the prudent management of the same. While the Coastal Zone can assist in the funding of logistical arrangements for meetings and activities of the CACs in the short run, the CACs are encouraged to seek funding to ensure the sustainability of their activities, and to establish linkages with other organizations to reduce costs and increase cost effectiveness (see Section 8 below).

6. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 MONITORING OF ACTIVITIES

One of the primary functions of the CACs is the monitoring of activities in their respective regions. This should apply only to activities that, either individually or through cumulative effect, are identified as having, or are likely to have, substantial impacts on the economic, social, physical or ecological characteristics of the region. Examples of such activities can be summarised as follows:

Primary activities and examples of associated activities and considerations:

- Fishing: *areas of catch, volume of catch, types of catch, levels of local employment, opportunities for expansion, fishermen's opinions & comments*
- Tourism: *resort & hotel development, tour operations, tour guiding, visitor numbers, destinations & attractions, marketing, opportunities for further development, waste disposal*
- Freight & transport: *water taxis, fuel storage, boating speeds, docking, jetties, land transport*
- Residence: *residential expansion or retraction, government & private sub-division, construction activities, utility supply, waste disposal*
- Extraction: *areas & types of extraction, means & volume of extraction*
- Research & education: *areas used for research & education, origin of users, volume of use, waste disposal, opportunities for expansion*

It must be emphasized that the CACs' objective in monitoring activities is to identify those that are having, or may have, a damaging effect on the economic, social, physical and ecological well being of the coastal region. However, the CZMAI will provide technical assistance in defining exactly how a monitored activity should be categorized, how its impact is to be 'measured,' recorded, analyzed and cross-referenced.

As individual cases are identified, the committees should observe and report. Also, as time passes, development trends may become discernable through the cumulative effect of individual activities. These will help inform policies and activities that can be considered for inclusion in the drafting of development guidelines.

6.2 MONITORING OF THE ENVIRONMENT

All the activities outlined above, as well as others that may occur, will have some form of impact on the physical and ecological environment of the regions. Consideration should also be given to any measurable effects of natural processes, including natural disasters, erosion and accretion, variations in habitats and species, and climate change. The committees should ensure that they are in a suitably informed position to effectively monitor and report on what those impacts are. As above, association with other organisations may assist in this. As is the case with the monitoring of activities, the CZMAI will have to provide technical assistance in establishing the criteria for, and the definitions of what is to be monitored and how.

6.3 MONITORING OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

In the coastal zone, there are several systems of resource management already in operation. These may be Governmental, quasi-governmental, voluntary or private. Examples may be:

- *marine reserves*: Fisheries Department, NGOs;
- *national parks, national monuments, wildlife sanctuaries, nature reserves*: Forest Department, Protected Areas Conservation Trust, NGOs;
- *forest reserves*: Forest Department, NGOs;
- *mangrove protection*: Forest Department, private development, Government developers;
- *gravel extraction and dredging*: Geology & Petroleum Department, private operators;
- *construction of coastal structures*: Physical Planning Section (Lands Dept), private developers & individuals, Government developers;
- *sub-division regulation*: Physical Planning Section (Lands Dept), private developers, Housing & Planning Department / Lands & Surveys Department;
- *environmental screening*: Department of the Environment, NGOs;
- *aquaculture or mariculture*: Fisheries Department, private operators;
- *housing*: Housing & Planning Department / Lands & Surveys Department, private developers;
- *hotel development*: Belize Tourist Board, Belize Trade and Investment Development Service, private developers;
- *tour operations*: Belize Tourist Board, private tour operators;
- *shipping*: Belize Port Authority, Belize Tourist Board, private operators;
- *disaster preparedness and planning*: National Emergency Management Organization.

It will be advantageous for the CACs to be knowledgeable of the legislation, policies, programmes and procedures used by these agencies. The CZMAI will ensure that each committee is supplied with copies of relevant legislation. Close liaison with Government, NGO and private management agencies operating within the respective region will be very instrumental in ensuring effective representation of the committees' interest.

6.4 THE COMMITTEES' ROLE AS A FORUM ON NATIONAL COASTAL ISSUES

Allowance should be made for the regional CACs to engage in discussion and consultations that could constitute a very influential forum for discussion on a wide range of coastal issues of regional and national interest. This approach complements similar initiatives such as the National Village Council's Association, and the Mayors' Association that focus on issues such as development infrastructure, resource management, and administrative procedures. There are numerous development management

matters specific to the coastal zone that can be more effectively addressed on a collective national scale than through individual regional representations. Examples include pollution, shipping, tourism, fishing, wildlife and habitat protection, and mineral extraction.

7 COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

7.1 MEMBERSHIP

All nine coastal regions have occasionally widely differing geographic, economic and social characteristics, and it is anticipated that this may result in significant variances in the number of agencies or persons being either interested or relevant to committee membership in each region. Consequently, in order to establish a degree of standardization, it is recommended that membership of each committee should consist of no less than ten and no more than twenty persons.

Membership is proposed as being drawn from the following:

- municipal councils (city, town and village councils);
- local non-government and community based organizations;
- local education institutions;
- relevant national non-government organizations;
- local producer's associations and major employers;
- relevant national producer's associations;
- relevant government departments.

Several of the regions include, either wholly or partly, marine reserves, national parks, national monuments, wildlife sanctuaries or forest reserves. Some of these areas have management committees. The CACs should also include representative membership from these organisations. Committee membership should be reviewed after two years as a part of a comprehensive review of the operation of the entire CAC system as discussed in Section 6 below. A more comprehensive list of possibly relevant agencies and persons is set out in Appendix A.

7.2 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE/PROCEDURES

In order to be effective, all committees should be, or become, familiar with the international and national interests in the coastal zone, as well as the local interests, the natural characteristics and all relevant development issues in their respective regions. Knowledge of government and municipal administrative and development management procedures would also be an advantage.

Typically, it is anticipated that a committee will meet at least once every two months, though it is recognized that more frequent meetings may be appropriate according to circumstances.

A CAC should have a conventional structure, as follows:

- a chairperson
- a vice chairperson
- a secretary
- a treasurer / fund manager

Each committee will elect these respective posts at its initial meeting, which will be facilitated by the CZMAI. Election will be based on majority votes and the elected executives will serve for a period of two years, though it may be re-considered should the CAC make adequate representation to the Council. In this case, a new election will be held. The CACs may invite in non-voting participation by resource persons, as they consider necessary.

Given the nature of issues to be dealt with by the CACs, voting on issues, whether concerning matters of committee procedure or resolution on regional coastal issues, should be considered a last resort. Optimally, decisions should be based on consensus and only where all methods have been explored and have failed should voting be used and should then be based on majority vote of the CAC members present. In the event of a tie, the chairperson, or, if appropriate, the vice-chairperson, will cast the deciding vote.

Meetings should be held at locations that offer all members optimal means of attendance. Rotating locations may be appropriate but, in each case, the location of each subsequent meeting will be contingent on the acceptance of the majority. A quorum shall consist of the chairperson, or vice chairperson, the secretary, and at least one half of the membership.

The secretary will take minutes on all matters that are discussed at each meeting, including a full list of all attendants. Copies of minutes should be delivered to each member of the committee and to the CZMAI at least one week before the next meeting. The secretary will also be responsible for maintaining the CAC files.

The CACs will be required to submit quarterly reports to the Council on the proceeding of the committees, highlighting issues that require its attention, and any recommendations that the committee may make on matters within their respective regions. The reports should be in a standardised format as proposed by the CZMAI.

8. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CZMAI

In recognition of the role, technical capabilities, and functions that the CZMAI has in the management of the coastal region of the country, the need to decentralize authority and responsibility in an endeavor to create partnerships and facilitate local involvement, and the accompanying need to adopt an integrated, holistic approach to the management of the coastal zone, the CZMAI has a vital role to play in the support and maintenance of the system of the CACs if it is to be effective and sustainable. Roles and functions of the CZMAI include:

- **Establishment of CACs**

The CZMAI, as the over-arching management body, should be responsible for the establishment of the process of appointment of committee members. Eventually, the CZMAI should distribute letters of appointment, together with terms of reference to relevant stakeholder groups and governmental agencies who respond by giving the name of their representative. It should be accepted that there might be some initial (or eventual) errors or misinterpretation in committee membership and/or appreciation of their role. It is therefore suggested that the initial invitation is considered a 'dry run' with the recognition that membership could be altered after the first or subsequent meetings.

Removal, re-appointment or new appointment of members should be done only through the CZMAI.

- **Participate as a member of the CAC**

The experience, contribution, technical capacity, and access to resources that the CZMAI currently possesses in the area of coastal zone planning and management deem it a natural and important member of the CAC.

- **Drafting, revision, and approval of regional development guidelines**

While CACs will participate in the process of drafting and revision of the guidelines, the initial proposal will be generated by the CZMAI, and will include the maps and technical specifications, information and data that might not be readily available to other members of the CAC.

- **Coordinate the implementation of Guidelines**

In collaboration with the CAC and the Council, the CZMAI will coordinate the implementation of guidelines, therefore the Authority and Institute will either identify the staff, or find the means to contract a consultancy, to be responsible for the support of and liaison among the committees to ensure an integrated, standardized approach to the implementation of guidelines among the nine regions. It will facilitate encounters between two or more CACs on an as need basis and will support an annual meeting among all the CACs to encourage the sharing of ideas and experiences and to facilitate their process of integration.

- **Provide information and data to the CACs**

The Authority and Institute has the technical ability to supply sufficient information to commence operation, and to receive, collate and analyse feedback and, therefore, takes the responsibility to provide as much information on the coastal zone, and the relevant region, as may be available. The Authority and Institute will also be responsible for ensuring that each committee establishes a standardized system for the collection, assessment, storing, reporting and dissemination of information. This latter role will be of critical importance in ensuring the committees have a consistent performance and a tangible and balanced effect. It will also ensure that CACs have access to all the relevant coastal and environmental legislation. Apart from the Development Guidelines, the CZMAI is also responsible for the preparation of guidelines and policies on a number of other coastal issues, such as best practice in tourism and recreation, waste disposal and the Cayes Development Policy.

- **Provide Training and technical support**

The Authority and Institute will also take responsibility for the training of committee membership in skills that will assist in their performance, such as conflict resolution, leadership, the principles of integrated coastal zone management, and administrative procedures. It will provide the CACs with the technical support to define and establish measurement criteria to facilitate the monitoring of activities.

- **Sensitize and inform the public, governmental and international organizations as to the existence and roles and functions of the system of the CACs**

The CZMAI should launch a publicity campaign, particularly among the interested NGO, CBO and producer's associations, in order to sensitise the community on the intentions and objectives of the coastal advisory committee system.

- **Act as liaison between Government and CACs for the benefit of the CACs**

Although some governmental agencies participate on the CACs, situations will arise where a CAC will have to be in direct contact with the various ministries and government departments at other levels. Even the Cabinet will have to be consulted on certain issues of importance to the effectiveness of the CAC. The CZMAI will act as the buffer/liaison on behalf of the CAC in an effort to facilitate and expedite the process of consultation with government.

9. FUNCTIONS OF THE COASTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Coastal Zone Management Act makes provision for the appointment of a Coastal Advisory Council that convenes members from government and quasi-government institutions, non-government organizations and the private sector. Specifically, the Council facilitates and encourages the sharing of information among the various partners on coastal zone matters. As such, the Council provides an important opportunity for the vetting, coordination and integration of the regional development guidelines and their process of approval and implementation. It will contribute to the system of CACs as follows:

- **On the basis of recommendations from the CACs and CZMAI, approve the proposed development guidelines for the nine regions;**
- **In the process of monitoring, review reports and make recommendations for the improvement of the guidelines and functioning of the CACs;**
- **Follow-up on advice and recommendations of the CACs to ensure the effective implementation of the guidelines.**

10. FUNDING OF THE CACs

The question remains over how CACs are to be financed, or reimbursed for expenses. As it is unlikely that they could be viably based on any new or existing tax or permit revenue, it is probable that they may be voluntary. This may weaken their viability and may allow for the eventual entry of special interests, exclusivity and unaccountability. This eventuality validates the committee reviewal procedure and the ability of the CZMAI to maintain the right to alter membership as necessity dictates.

Opportunities may arise for the funding of some committees through 'adoption' by a non-government organization, producer's association or other agency included in the membership. Such an outcome may be taken as a reflection of the potential beneficial effect of a committee (where the committee and the other agency share essential terms of reference), or taken as an attempt to turn a committee to an agency's interests. Any such move must first be sanctioned by the CZMAI and be closely monitored.

In the absence of regular funding, it is recommended that allowance should be made for each committee to individually seek means of funding, though it should be recognized that this may lead to disparity among the committees; some may become strong, some may cease to function. As above, this should only be done in close liaison with, and with full approval from, the Authority and Institute.

11. REVIEW CAC SYSTEM

The CACs represent an innovative approach to voluntary, decentralized, participatory development management and can present an opportunity for an extension of participatory responsibilities and rights, and a model for other agencies. On the other hand, they may be seen as a threat to the authority of elected representative bodies or the various producer's associations, may be unable to carry out their proposed roles, may collapse into personal or inter-agency conflict, or may become exclusive elites. As a result, the system of the CACs will require periodic monitoring and it is recommended that a comprehensive review of the entire CAC system be conducted after a two-year period. This process should be led by the CZMAI with the active involvement of the Council and the CACs. Ideally, a disinterested individual or non-government organization should undertake the review.

11.1 PROPOSED INDICATORS FOR EVALUATION OF THE CAC SYSTEM

Indicators for the review of the CAC system will include both quantitative and qualitative types. Below is a proposed list of indicators that may be used.

Quantitative

1. Frequency of meetings
2. Percentage of membership present at meetings
3. Percentage of meetings postponed for a lack of quorum
4. Number of motions proposed
5. Number of decisions made based on mutual agreement
6. Number of decisions made by voting
7. Number of pamphlets, public announcements, brochures, educational material distributed
8. Number of task groups established
9. Number of training workshops organized for CACs
10. Number of participants at training workshops

Qualitative

11. Information data available to the CACs
12. Recommendations submitted to Council for revision of guidelines by CACs
12. Recommendations submitted to Council for facilitation of implementation of guidelines
13. Follow-up of recommendations and advice by the council
14. Changes/improvements resulting from follow-up by the Council
15. Resources mobilized for of funding of CACs meetings/activities outside of CZMAI
16. Knowledge of the participating organizations of the role/decisions of the CACs
17. Public impression of the role/effectiveness of the CACs

APPENDIX A

RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Each coastal region has its own particular physical, social and economic characteristics that should be reflected the composition of the membership. Consequently close attention should be taken to ensure an appropriate balance of interests in each region. Care should also be taken to make sure that no one agency or interest dominates any committee to the detriment of other valid interests.

Consideration for institutional representation throughout all CACs is recommended from the following nationally based organizations:

Association of National Development Agencies
 Belize Alliance of Conservation NGOs
 Belize Audubon Society
 Belize Barrier Reef Committee
 Belize Business Bureau / Belize Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 Belize Defence Force, Maritime Wing
 Belize Fishermen's Cooperative Association
 Belize Trade and Investment Development Service
 Belize Port Authority
 Belize Tour Guide Association (local representatives)
 Belize Tour Operators Association
 Belize Tourism Board
 Belize Tourism Industry Association (local branches)
 CZMAI
 Department of the Environment
 Fisheries Department (District Officers)
 Forest Department (District Officers)
 Housing & Planning Department
 Institute of Marine Studies
 National Emergency Management Organisation (District Officers)
 National Garifuna Council
 National Creole Council
 National Manatee Working Group
 Ministry of Rural Development (District Officers)
 Physical Planning Section, Lands & Survey Department (and / or District Lands Officers)
 Toledo Maya Cultural Council (TMCC)

The following list identifies each individual coastal advisory committee, the relevant communities, and some of the stakeholders. This list should not be considered complete; additions and deletions may be required.

Northern: Relevant communities: Corozal, Consejo, Ranchito, Copperbank, Chunux, Progreso, Sarteneja, Bomba, Maskall, San Pedro, Chetumal (Mexico).

Stakeholders: BTIA Corozal Branch, Corozal Commercial Free Zone, Bacalar Chico National Park & Marine Reserve, Northern Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Corozal Junior College, Shipstern Nature Reserve, Belize Land Consultants Ltd., Bacalar Chico Advisory Committee,

Ambergris Caye: Relevant communities: San Pedro, Caye Caulker, Bomba, Corozal, Sarteneja.

Stakeholders: Ambergris Caye Planning Committee, Hol Chan Trust Fund Committee, Bacalar Chico Advisory Committee

Caye Caulker: Relevant communities: Caye Caulker, San Pedro, Belize City.

Stakeholders: BTIA Caye Caulker Branch, Caye Caulker Lots Committee, FAMRACC, Siwa-Ban Foundation, Northern Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Caye Caulker Business Association, Caye Caulker Planning Committee, Caye Caulker Park Development Committee, Caye Caulker Tour Guide Association, Caye Caulker Water Taxi Association,

Belize City Cayes: Relevant communities: Belize City, Ladyville, St George's Caye, Gales Point, Mullins River.

Stakeholders: National Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Northern Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Belize Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Bella Vista Development Company, Moho Financial Group, Spanish Bay Resort, BTIA Belize City Branch, Belize Tour Guide Association, Friends of Swallow Caye,

Turneffe Isles: Relevant communities: Belize City, Sarteneja, Caye Caulker, San Pedro.

Stakeholders: National Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Northern Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Belize Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Turneffe Flats, Turneffe Island, Blackbird Caye, Institute of Marine Studies,

Lighthouse Reef: Communities: Belize City, Sarteneja, Copperbank, Caye Caulker, San Pedro.

Stakeholders: Lighthouse Reef Advisory Committee, Land Owners Group, Belize Port Authority, National Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Northern Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Belize Audubon Society,

Dangriga / Tobacco Caye:

Communities: Dangriga, Mullins River, Hopkins, Silk Grass, Sittee, Tobacco Caye, South Water Caye.

Stakeholders: BTIA Dangriga Branch, Belize Port Authority, Friends of Gra Gra, National Garifuna Council,

Placencia / Laughing Bird Caye:

Communities: Independence, Placencia, Seine Bight, Riversdale, Maya Beach, Monkey River.

Stakeholders: BTIA Placencia Branch, Placencia Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Belize National Tour Operators Association Placencia Branch, Placencia Producers Association, Banana Enterprises Ltd (Big Creek Port), Laughing Bird Caye Advisory Committee, Gladden Spit Advisory Committee, National Garifuna Council,

Southern:

Communities: Monkey River, Placencia, Independence, Punta Negra, Punta Gorda, Cattlelanding, Forest Home, Barranco, Crique Sarco, Sarstun (Guatemala), Livingstone (Guatemala).

Stakeholders: Toledo Institute for Development and Environment, Toledo Association for Sustainable Tourism and Empowerment, Sarstun Temash Institute for Indigenous Management, National Garifuna Council, Kekchi Council of Belize, East Indian Cultural Council, Creole Council of Belize, Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, Southern Fishermen's Cooperative Association, BTIA Toledo Branch, Port Honduras Stakeholders, University of Belize Toledo Campus, Toledo Eco-tourism Association, Sapodilla Cayes Advisory Committee, Port Honduras Advisory Committee, TRIGOH

FLOW CHART INDICATING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

