

U.S. Department of the Interior International Technical Assistance Program

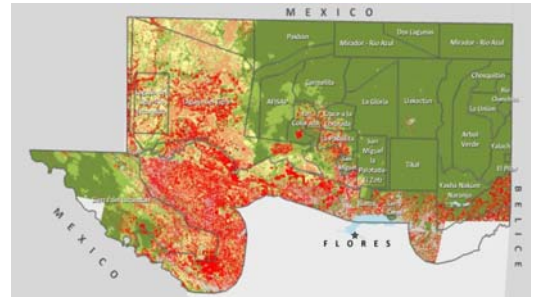
Success in Natural and Cultural Resource Conservation



DOI STRENGTHENING OF GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE MAYA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) encompasses 20% of Guatemala's land mass and:

- Is part the largest tract of tropical forest north of the Amazon,
- Is home to a wide array of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna,
- Has the world's greatest concentration of ancient Maya archaeological cities, and
- Offers tremendous long-term economic opportunities to local communities and the country as a whole, a potential which has only been minimally realized to date.



Due to its remote location and weak governance, the MBR is under severe threat by illegal activities, including drug trafficking, illegal logging and ranching, illegal human settlements, wildlife poaching and archaeological looting. Despite these threats, it is estimated that up to 80% of the MBR is currently in relatively good condition, as measured through a comprehensive set of indicators (see Data Base below).

Within the past year, the Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) has expanded its technical assistance to the Government of Guatemala (GOG), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities on a variety of topics, as listed below. With such a unique heritage at stake and a strong united front for its protection at the local level, DOI stands committed to continue supporting these efforts.

GOVERNANCE

Governance Data Base

- Helped to design and develop this database, which includes 27 physical, social, and economic indicators
- Used to measure GOG MBR Governance effectiveness
- Used to communicate trends to local, national and international stakeholders



Standardized Field Patrol

- Helped design and validate a *Field Patrol Data Form*; To date, 600+ forms completed
- Used to standardize data collection for Governance Database
- Used to strengthen any legal cases that have been and continue to be brought forward
- GOG now requires its use for all patrols in the MBR
- Based on findings, initiating the development of standardized *Field Operations Manuals and Protocols*

Field Patrols

- Helped train community patrol representatives on use of *Field Patrol Data Form*
- Supported 45 patrol field operations in strategic locations

GOG Interagency Control Posts

- Capacity building and small equipment provision



JUDICIAL PROCESS

Environmental Justice Forum (EJF)

- Helped to establish and operate EJF to promote GOG interagency collaboration and coordination for case development and prosecutions

Emblematic Environmental Cases

- Assisting GOG prosecutors on emblematic case development
- Using experience to initiate creation of *Case Development Process Standards*



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MBR Multi-Sector Roundtable

- Helped to establish and strengthen this public-private forum to promote information sharing, consensus-building, decision-making, and influencing GOG priority-setting for MBR planning and management
- Roundtable has successfully persevered and thrived across 3 Presidential Administrations
- Roundtable has been showcased as model in 10+ countries in Latin America and Africa (via State Department)

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

Tourism Development - DOI has provided technical assistance on:

- Drafting of “Public Use Plan” for Mirador-Rio Azul National Park
- Analysis of “Public Access Options” from gateway community Carmelita to El Mirador archaeological site
- Tourism infrastructure designs
- Interpretive Panels for tourist education and orientation
- Training and accreditation of Community Tourism Guides



Community Conservation Incentive Agreement (CCA)

- Supported Feasibility Study for Carmelita

MBR Endowment Fund

- Supported analysis of mechanism options



ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

- Strengthen the protection of strategic archaeological sites through field presence at the El Perú, La Corona, & El Mirador sites
- Leveraged matching funds from Guatemalan private sector via the NGO PACUNAM

DOI GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

DOI has coordinated and collaborated closely with other USG Agencies (USAID, State Department, Department of Defense) in addition to the Governments of the United Kingdom and Germany

DOI IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

DOI relies on the in-country leadership and expertise of its Implementing Partners (right) to successfully guide its capacity building efforts

