



# **Contribution of the Belize National Statistical System to National SDG Review & Reporting Systems**

**April 2, 2017**

# Background: Responsibility for SDG Monitoring and NSS

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In Belize, responsibility for monitoring SDGs and for coordinating the NSS lie with two distinct agencies:

- **The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU)**, within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change is charged with monitoring of and reporting on the SDGs for the country
- **The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB)** Act, 2006 designates the SIB as the coordinating agency of the Belize National Statistical System.

# The Sustainable Development Unit and SDGs

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Since 2014, UNDP and UNDESA have been providing assistance to the Government of Belize through the SDU to enhance national capacity for sustainable development planning, policy design and monitoring and reporting.

Efforts in 2017 continue to be focused on national capacity building and the development of national platforms necessary for the monitoring and reporting on the progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

# Coordination of Belize NSS

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The SIB is mandated by its legislation to:

- “Be the only authorized Institute which can **approve the official status of any data or other statistical information** published by any other public body”
- “Have authority, for the purpose of discharging its functions...to **approve the processes of data collection, compilation and analysis** by any public body”

# Coordination of Belize NSS

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- “**Monitor and coordinate the carrying out of tasks with statistical implications** imposed on other public bodies”
- “Coordinate the production of official statistics’ systems, including the necessary **methodologies**, with a view to ensuring timelines and **standardization** of information, efficiency and to meeting users’ requirements, as well as to provide appropriate **classifications and conformity with international requirements and standards**”

# SIB as Coordinator of the NSS

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- **Prior to 2015:** Little to no attempts by the SIB to take on role of NSS coordinator, due to limited human and financial resources
- **2015:** New strategic direction for SIB; Organization and coordination of NSS identified as one of its five key priority areas and funding actively sought
- **2016:** The SIB secured funding from the IDB for technical assistance in the form of a series of consultancies aimed at developing Belize's NSS in order to ensure the country's data needs are adequately met

# 2016 TASC Assessment

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- IDB-Funded self-assessment of the NSS facilitated by an external regional consultant
- **Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity** administered to SIB and most agencies comprising the NSS
- **Institutional Capacity of NSS scored 52.5** out of 100
  - Scored relatively higher with respect to statistical operations
  - Lower in area of formal coordination within the system

# SIB as Coordinator of the NSS

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## IDB Project components:

- Formalize the NSS, Establish a governance structure
- Establish a comprehensive list of national indicators to meet the data needs of the country (SDGs, national Growth & Sustainable Development indicators)
- Establish common concepts, definitions, methodologies, standards
- Assess statistical capacities within the system and establish a training program for persons working with statistics but with no formal training in this area
- Develop an Information Management System for national indicators



# Synchronizing the NSS with the SDU

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- Although the SIB's NSS Project was developed independently of the SDU's efforts to ensure the system is able to carry out the monitoring of the SDGs, there was considerable overlap between the two initiatives.
- Although the focus of the NSS Project is much broader than the SDGs alone:
  - The SDG indicators form a large subset of the proposed National Compendium of Indicators
  - The production of SDG indicators necessarily involves capacity building within and coordination of statistics producing agencies
  - The SDU's ability to meet the reporting requirements of the SDGs would be greatly enhanced by having a fully functional, coordinated, trained NSS

# Synchronizing the NSS with the SDU

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- Since the start of 2017, there has begun a coordination of efforts between the SIB's NSS initiative and the SDU's activities:
  - NSS Workshop being held April 4-5<sup>th</sup> in Belize City, to review and finalize the National Compendium of Indicators and formulate thematic working tables, with full participation of SDU and fully integrating SDG indicators
  - Participation of the SIB as a key partner and a member of the Inter-ministerial Review Committee that will provide strategic guidance to the production of the Voluntary National Review (July 2017) and will validate both the process of preparation and the report itself.

# 2017 and beyond

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SIB, as NSS Coordinator and with IDB funding, will take the lead in facilitating the necessary development of the NSS to support the SDU in the function of monitoring the SDGs:

- Development of training program along with University of Belize to provide in-service training for persons working in statistics in the NSS, to raise capacities across the board
- Development of Information Management System for housing and managing NSS data for national indicators, of which the SDGs are a major subset

# 2017 and beyond

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- Development and implementation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics for the entire NSS
- Facilitate continuous collaboration among the entire NSS to ensure that quality data needed for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, as well as for national decision making, is produced and provided by the system in a timely manner, in accordance with internationally agreed upon standards and methodologies.

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