

BELIZE FACTS AND FIGURES

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SECTION: THE NATION AND ITS RESOURCES BELIZE'S GEOPOLITICAL POSITION/RIVERS

Rivers

There are eighteen major rivers in Belize. The location and flow of these result from the geographical features of the land and the amount of precipitation in the area. In the north where the land is flat and the rainfall is lower, there are only three major river systems. These are the Rio Hondo, Boots River and the New River which flow sluggishly in a north-easterly direction.

In the central and southern areas of the country, where there is more rainfall and more mountainous terrain, there are eighteen major rivers. The most northerly of these is the Belize Old River while the most southerly is the Sarstoon. These rivers flow in an easterly direction from headwaters in the Maya Mountains to estuaries in the Caribbean Sea.

Because of rain, most communities in Belize have access to a supply of water from the natural environment but these waters may not be potable at source. Belize City, Dangriga and Belmopan have water works which access and treat waters from major rivers. Other communities like Benque Viejo Town, San Ignacio, Corozal Town, Orange Walk Town and Punta Gorda get their supply from underground.

The 18 major rivers of Belize are:

1. Rio Hondo
2. Boots River
3. New River
4. Macal River
5. Belize River
6. Sibun River
7. Manatee River
8. North Stann Creek River
9. Sittee River
10. South Stann Creek River
11. Swasey Branch
12. Bladen Branch
13. Deep River
14. Golden Stream
15. Rio Grande
16. Moho River
17. Temash River
18. Sarstoon River

