

BELIZE

FACTS & FIGURES

2nd Edition

POPULATION
DISTRICTS
GEOGRAPHY
ECOSYSTEMS
PROTECTED AREAS
HISTORY
GOVERNMENT
REAL ESTATE
INVESTMENTS
IMMIGRATION



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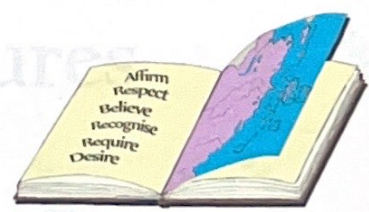
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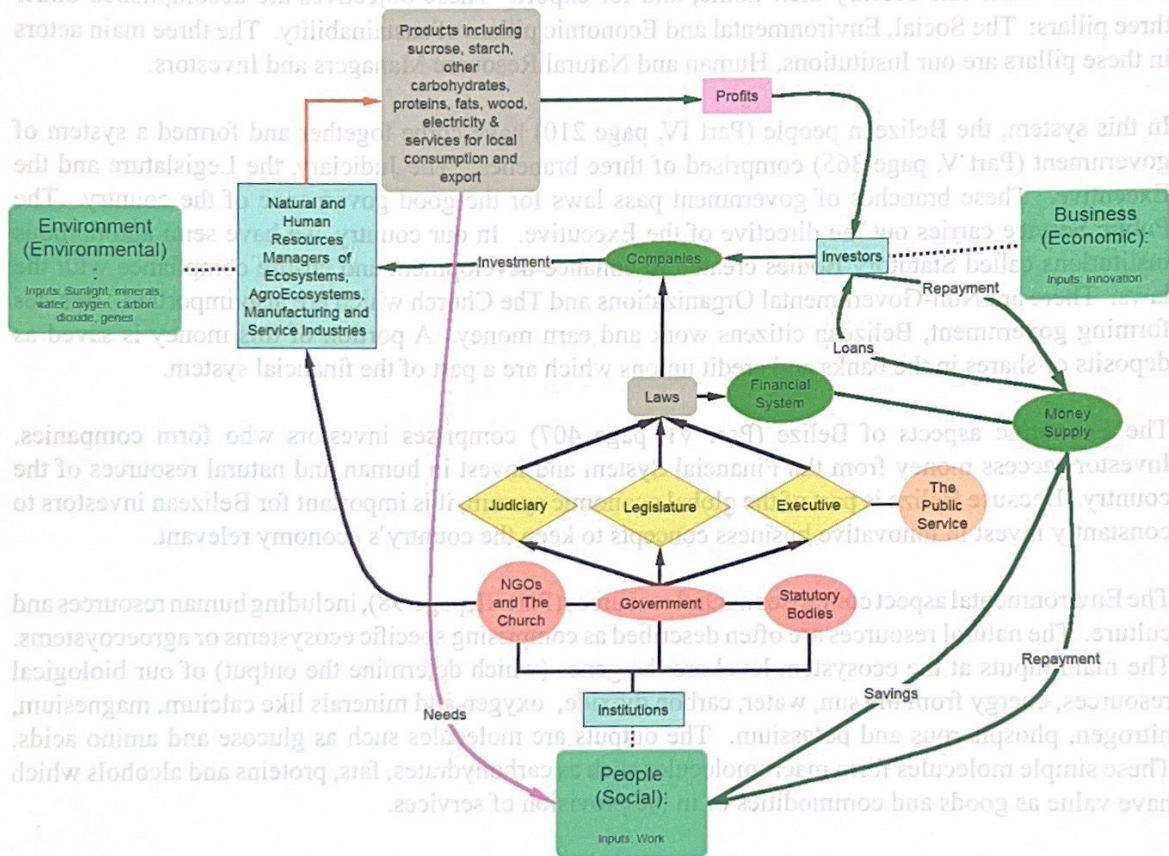
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Cover photo courtesy Ernie Alpuche featuring Nainani Valdez in a Belizean Mestizo traditional dress and Jalen Avila in a Creole Dabiki shirt.

The Ethos of Belize



The relationship between the social, economic and environmental pillars of Belize linked by money, governance and management.

- Money
- Governance
- Management
- Goods and Services



The Ethos¹ of Belize

Belize is a country that needs and endeavors for equal opportunity and participation among its citizens in order to produce high quality goods and services - while protecting the environment, for the benefit of all who make this country their home, and for export. These objectives are accomplished under three pillars: The Social, Environmental and Economic pillars of sustainability. The three main actors in these pillars are our Institutions, Human and Natural Resource Managers and Investors.

In this system, the Belizean people (Part IV, page 210) have come together and formed a system of government (Part V, page 365) comprised of three branches: The Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive. These branches of government pass laws for the good governance of the country. The Public Service carries out the directive of the Executive. In our country, we have semi autonomous institutions called Statutory Bodies created to enhance development and ensure compliance with the laws. There are Non-Governmental Organizations and The Church which are also important. Besides forming government, Belizean citizens work and earn money. A portion of this money is saved as deposits or shares in the banks and credit unions which are a part of the financial system.

The Economic aspects of Belize (Part VI, page 407) comprises investors who form companies. Investors access money from the Financial System and invest in human and natural resources of the country. Because Belize is part of the global economic system, it is important for Belizean investors to constantly invest in innovative business concepts to keep the country's economy relevant.

The Environmental aspect comprises natural resources (Part III, page 98), including human resources and culture. The natural resources are often described as comprising specific ecosystems or agroecosystems. The main inputs at the ecosystem level are the genes (which determine the output) of our biological resources, energy from the sun, water, carbon dioxide, oxygen and minerals like calcium, magnesium, nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. The outputs are molecules such as glucose and amino acids. These simple molecules form macromolecules such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins and alcohols which have value as goods and commodities or in the provision of services.

Humans can enhance or negatively affect the environmental systems. Scientists are very important to understand and optimize the outputs from the ecosystems and agroecosystems of Belize.

Investment is important in Belize because the outputs which the ecosystems and agroecosystems produce are goods and services needed within Belize and on the international market. These goods and services include food, building material and energy for Belize and the international market. When these goods are sold, profits are generated for the investors who are required to pay back loans (with interest), which they borrow from banks in the financial system. The banks repay the workers who save their money in their accounts with interest from profitable lending.

¹ Ethos: a Greek word meaning "character" that is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation, or ideology.

Because of the supply of trained talent in Belize, the processes outlined above are often slow. Other Central American countries are accelerating their development so, it is important for Belize to be very bold and proactive. The goal is for Belize to maintain a vibrant economy that provides stability and opportunity for the advancement of its people. To achieve this objective, the country needs to make decisions based on good will, high morals and science, and not on patronage (See Glossary). Belize needs to hasten its processes, avoid unnecessary procrastination and make officials and leaders accountable where there is self interest or corruption within the system.

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Jewels

Nicholas, Hunting, Lime and Ragged
For these I know
We will be harried
Jewels in a crown complete
Our ancestors to us bequeath

And with all our neighbours, friends and foes
We wish to live in peace and love
But if not
To only thee we bow
Great and loving God
Of heaven above

Frantz Smith, 2014

Based on the book of Daniel (3:18)

Nicholas, Hunting, Lime and Ragged are Belize's southernmost cayes.

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atolls and the open sea. Belize is also blessed with upland forests, upland savannas, low land forests, pine forests, lowland savannas, wetlands, lagoons and mangrove swamps.

Visitors to the mainland often remark that "Belize is very green," when viewed either from the air or from ground level. The country has 18 major rivers that provide one of the highest availability of freshwater resources per capita in the world.

In the marine areas, the seascape takes on various hues of blue, turquoise, aquamarine and deep blue. However, a number of the coastal ecosystems including mangroves and savannas are vulnerable to conversion into marshes and wetlands due to the sea level rise associated with climate change.

Many Belizeans are still custodians of the genes of the original settlers who first colonized the Americas.

The name Belize is said to be derived from *Nalcox*, which became *Bellix* then *Belize*. All currency cited in this book are in Belize Dollars unless indicated otherwise.