

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Belize

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- Organization and Number of Staff: Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) | 350
- Funding by: MoECST
- Cooperating Organizations/Individuals: Nothing to report.
- GLOBE participating Schools: 7 Secondary Schools: Belize High School, Saint Catherine Academy, King's College, Excelsior High School, Gwen Lizarraga High School, Stann Creek Ecumenical College, Maud Williams High School
- GLOBE Protocol Areas: Cloud Observations
- Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year: Two

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Program Implementation, International Cooperation in GLOBE Network, and Activities over Past Year (categorized by GLOBE Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Goals):

MoECST's GLOBE activities 2022:

June 2022- MoECST opens discussion with the United States Embassy in Belize to sign on to the GLOBE program.

September 6th, 2022- Science and Technology unit of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology organized a virtual session to promote GLOBE program.

Belize signs on to GLOBE on **September 8th, 2022.**

October 6th, 2022- Country Coordinators met with Ms Belize [2022-2023] Ashley Lightburn. The objective of this meeting was to discuss ways Ms Lightburn can collaborate with the Ministry in promoting Science and Technology programs as part of her promoting STEM education platform. GLOBE was a focus of the discussion.

October 6th, 2022- Country Coordinators organized a virtual session to guide teachers through sign up procedures.

- Education

The MoECST plan is for the first implementation year in Belize be at the high school level. In 2022 Belize commenced the process of reforming its national curriculum, shifting both Primary [Elementary] and Secondary schools to a competency based curriculum. With this shift came the introduction of a new course entitled Science and Technology, in which both are merged to form one course at both levels of the education system in Belize. MoECST's decision to sign on to GLOBE aligns with the objectives of this exercise as we felt the GLOBE Observer program will serve as a tool for this shift in pedagogy.

- Science and Technology

In 2021 the MoECST launched its Belize Education Sector strategic plan 2021-2025. In referring to the role Science and Technology will play in this new plan; the MoECST recognizes that the innovative use of technology is essential to the goal of achieving a modern, effective education system and is therefore integrated into all domains of the BESPlan. Gaining access to a Science web based program like GLOBE provides for our students and teachers access at no additional cost to them, increasing our objective of making a high quality science education more accessible for all.

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- Community
Due to the short implementation period between signing in September and this report, this is yet too early to report on.

- Communications
The country coordinators have the full support of the MoECST senior management to use official MoECST channels to promote the GLOBE program among schools in Belize. Our main channels of communications have been:
Facebook- mostly used in promoting the signing of the agreement;
Whatsapp- in which the country coordinators used existing chat groups to invite schools to live web sessions;
Microsoft Teams & Zoom- used to host live sessions to promote GLOBE, field Q&A sessions, share GLOBE guidelines documents, and demonstrate sign up procedures.

MoECST recently launched an online school portal called the www.501academy.edu.bz and it is our intention to build a promotional page for the Belize GLOBE community in this portal as an added means for engaging teachers and students. The intention of this page is not to duplicate efforts already made, however simply to keep the Belize community engaged through highlighting participating activities in the country and then directing them to the official GLOBE website.

The country coordinators are currently working on developing a campaign strategy that will involve both audio and video content for social media promotion as well as physical visits to schools to encourage them to sign on.

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2022-2023 Plans

Finalize and implement a work plan with specific activities. This work plan will focus around the following key activities:

- Developing a partnership with one other Government Ministry, preferably one involved in environmental work.
- Developing a partnership with one NGO in the environmental research and protection sector.
- Develop a GLOBE specific communication strategy for Belize.
- Increase the number of schools participating.
- Visually documenting GLOBE activities in Belize.
- Promote GLOBE teacher training to be recognized locally as professional development for science teachers.