



**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION
EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

Country Profile 2015

COUNTRY	Belize
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Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important questionnaire. The thorough and accurate information you provide will be used by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to:

1. fulfill the exchange of information requirements of the Cartagena Convention and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Prevention, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90),
2. determine your country's specific training and exercise expectations and needs,
3. determine the regional training and exercise needs within the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR),
4. inform the working group currently developing RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's new, 10-year strategic plan,
5. share with other organizations like UNEP, IMO and ITOFF.

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe has been serving the marine environmental training, communication and exercise needs of the Wider Caribbean Region for over 20 years. Completing the questionnaire below will ensure RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe meets your needs and expectations well into the future. Thank you.

Person responsible for this questionnaire

Last Name	Monsanto
First Name	Maxine
Title/Position	Acting Senior Environmental Officer
Telephone	(501) 822-2819
E-mail	envirodept@ffsd.gov.bz & doe.lawunit@ffsd.gov.bz

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1. Conventions and Agreements Ratified and/or Implemented

	Oil Spill Response			Prevention and Safety						Compensation						Other					
	OPRC 90	OPRC HNS	Cartagena Conv. Oil Spill Protocol	MARPOL 73/78, protocol 97 Annexes						CLC			Fund			HNS Conv	HNS Prot.	Anti fouling	Bunkers Conv.	Ballast water	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	'69	'76	'92	'76	'92	'03	'96	'10	'01	'01	'04	
Year of ratification			X 1999	X 2	X 2	X 2	X 2	X 2	X 2	X 2		d 19	X 19	X 19		X 19				X 2011	
Year of implementation			1999																		

Expect to Ratify (yes / no)																				
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1.1 What, if any, International Convention is your Country most likely to ratify next?

None at this time

1.2 Additional Comments

Presently, the focus is on 1) completion (updating) of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, 2) obtaining approval of the Plan at the national level and 3) implementation of the approved NCP to comply with the Oil Spill Protocol under the Cartagena Convention.

2. National Focal Points

2.1	MINISTRY OF LEAD AGENCY	Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development	POC: Minister of Forestry, Fisheries & Sustainable Development TEL: (501)822-0401 or (501)822-0810 CELL: FAX: 822-2394/2306 EMAIL: secretary_3@ffsd.gov.bz minister.secretary@ffsd.gov.bz
		Address: 2 nd Floor West Block, Independence Plaza City of Belmopan Cayo District Belize	
2.2	LEAD AGENCY	Department of Environment	POC: Chief Environmental Officer TEL: (501) 822-2819 CELL: FAX: (501) 822-2860 EMAIL: envirodept@ffsd.gov.bz & envirodept@btl.net & doe.ceo@ffsd.gov.bz
		Address: Market Square Belmopan, Cayo District Belize	
2.3 (a)	SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT	Belize Port Authority	POC: Port Commissioner TEL: (501)223-0752 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: bzportauth@btl.net
		Address: P.O. Box 633 120 North Front Street Belize City, Belize	

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2.3 (b)	SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT	Belize National Coast Guard (BNCG) Address: Belize Coast Guard Headquarters P.O. Box 1803 Belize City, Belize	POC: Commandant TEL: (501) 2225260 or 62 CELL: FAX: (501) 2225261 EMAIL: coastguard@bncg.gov.bz
2.3 (c)	SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT	National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) Address: NEMO Building Melhado Parade Belmopan City, Belize	POC: National Emergency Coordinator TEL:(501)8222054 CELL: FAX: 8222861 EMAIL: nemohqbmp@nemo.org.bz
2.3 (d)	SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT	Department of Environment (DOE) Address: Market Square Belmopan, Belize	POC: Chief Environmental Officer TEL: (501)822-2819 CELL: FAX: (501)822-2860 EMAIL: envirodept@ffsd.gov.bz and envirodept@btl.net and doe.ceo@ffsd.gov.bz
2.4 (a)	RESPONSE AGENCY	Belize National Coast Guard (BNCG) Address: Belize Coast Guard Headquarters P.O. Box 1803 Belize City, Belize	POC: Commandant TEL: (501) 2225260 or 62 CELL: FAX: (501) 2225261 EMAIL: coastguard@bncg.gov.bz
2.4 (b)	RESPONSE AGENCY	Department of Environment (DOE) Address: Market Square Belmopan, Belize	POC: Chief Environmental Officer TEL: (501)822-2819 CELL: FAX: (501)822-2860 EMAIL: envirodept@ffsd.gov.bz and envirodept@btl.net and doe.ceo@ffsd.gov.bz
2.5 (a)	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR MARPOL	Department of Environment (DOE) Address: Market Square Belmopan, Belize	POC: Chief Environmental Officer TEL: (501)822-2819 CELL: FAX: (501)822-2860 EMAIL: envirodept@ffsd.gov.bz and envirodept@btl.net and doe.ceo@ffsd.gov.bz

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2.5 (b)	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR MARPOL	Belize Port Authority Address: P.O. Box 633 120 North Front Street Belize City, Belize	POC: Port Commissioner TEL: (501)223-0752 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: bzportauth@btl.net
2.6	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR BALLASTWATER	Belize Port Authority Address: P.O. Box 633 120 North Front Street Belize City, Belize	POC: Port Commissioner TEL: (501)223-0752 CELL: FAX: EMAIL: bzportauth@btl.net

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3. Risk Assessment

3.1	What is your Countries greatest risk for an oil spill?	Marine transportation of crude oil and refined product inside/along the Belize Barrier Reef
3.2	Date of last oil spill risk assessment?	None has ever been conducted.
3.3	Topics covered?	
3.4	Geographic area?	
3.5	What area is considered a priority?	
3.6	Additional comments / Difficulties encountered?	

4. Sensitivity Maps

4.1	Sensitivity Maps exist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (go to 4.5)
4.2	Date of map or last update?	
4.3	Geographic area covered?	
4.4	Format used: paper or electronic?	
4.5	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	Belize is in the process of developing a Sensitivity Map, major issue is access to current/updated data, especially of the coastline, and the proprietary rights of the data that is presently available does not belong to GOB.
4.6	Will you share with RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe data layers for your sensitivity maps if any?	Yes, when the information becomes available

5. National Contingency Plan

5.1a	National Contingency Plan exists?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – Status of Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> To be developed Details: ...Draft was developed in 2008, but not approved and is presently being updated.				
5.1b	Is there a National Contingency Plan for HNS incidents? (& if so, is this an extension of the oil spill contingency plan or a separate document?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – Status of Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of the NCP <input type="checkbox"/> Separate document <input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> To be developed Details: ...No plan is expected in the foreseeable future. Priority has been given to completing and approving an Oil Spill NCP				
5.2	Date Plan was developed or updated?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">NCP</th> <th style="width: 50%;">NCP for HNS incidents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Draft developed in 2008 – presently being updated</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NCP	NCP for HNS incidents	Draft developed in 2008 – presently being updated	
NCP	NCP for HNS incidents					
Draft developed in 2008 – presently being updated						
5.3	Date approved?	None				
5.4	Is the Plan in electronic format?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
5.5	Date of the last evaluation with the assessment tool, the “Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™)”	2014				
5.6	What is the National policy on dispersant use and in-situ burning?	Dispersant Use- Not Allowed In-Situ Burning- no policy exists				
5.7	Agreements with other organizations for response? (Please provide details)	None exist				
5.8	Does the country have regulations for managing waste? (Please provide details)	Yes – Environmental Protection Act, Chapter 328 of the Laws of Belize and Subsidiary Legislation				
5.9	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	The updating of draft NCP is being conducted internal through the Department of Environment. However several of the components (sensitivity mapping, policies for dispersant use, in-situ burning, waste management, risk assessments, legal framework) require technical guidance and assistance since as the				

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		<p>institutional/technical capacity to complete these tasks is minimal to non-existent in country.</p> <p>The overall framework of Belize's emergency response systems, especially as it relates to an oil spill incident, is spread across multiple agencies and development of a national plan requires coordination which takes time.</p>
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6. Exercises / Training / Incidents

6.1	What is the national agency in charge of personnel training?	None
6.2	Does a national center exist to train personnel?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
6.3	Date of last national exercise?	
6.4	Has there been any experience of ship-source Oil pollution related incidents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes On 10 December 2013, a tug boat – M/V Victoria Hunt hit a sunken barge within the Big Creek Channel and ruptured its hull. This resulted in approximately 50,000 gallons of diesel being spilled in the marine environment near Big Creek Port which was contained and cleaned up. <input type="checkbox"/> No
6.5	Has there been any experience of ship-source HNS related incidents?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
6.6	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	Without an approved national plan, national exercises in oil spill response has been limited. However, site specific exercises have been conducted by the private sector (Puma (importer) & Belize Natural Energy (BNE)) at least once a year at their depot locations.

7. Regional Cooperation

7.1	What are the bilateral or multilateral agreements for the country?	Cartagena Convention
7.2	What are the opportunities in developing a regional exercise in the country?	Unknown
7.3	Is there a mechanism in place to facilitate the clearance of equipment through Customs in an emergency situation? What is the process?	None exists
7.4	Additional comments?	

8. Equipment

8.1	Does your country	
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	maintain a list of oil spill cleanup equipment and materials?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (go to 8.4)
8.2	Is this equipment list in electronic format?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
8.3	What equipment is available for Oil pollution incident response? (a general indication of the types and amounts of response equipment and materials available from both government agencies and private companies within the country).	Minimal Equipment is available in country and is mostly owned by the private companies to respond to small scale spills at their facilities, a list has yet to be developed. Government of Belize presently has minimal equipment to respond to a Tier 2 spill in the marine environment
8.4	What equipment is available for HNS incident response? (a general indication of the types and amounts of response equipment and materials available from both government agencies and private companies within the country).	None
8.5	Are there agreements in place to facilitate additional support (i.e. aerial support, medical support, manpower, communications) (possibilities for deploying dispersants with planes or helicopters)?	None
8.6	Additional comments?	The list of oil spill equipment both available from the government and private companies is presently being developed as part of the update of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS
Expectations

Introduction

The objective of this part is to identify a country's needed support from various regional and international organizations (activities, manuals, guidelines, etc). This will allow RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to update their strategic plan to meet the country's expectations and to further develop the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan. While RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe will consider all proposed

recommendations, there may be cases where certain expectations will not be met due to financial constraints and/or other commitments.

9. Technical Support

9.1	With respect to the activities developed by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, list three activities that are needed in order to improve your country's pollution response posture.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical Assistance & guidance in development of Sensitivity Maps 2. Technical Assistance & guidance in conducting risk assessments 3. Technical Assistance & guidance in updating the NCP 4. Technical Assistance in conducting a national real-time simulation exercise once NCP is approved.
9.2	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response preparedness (title & author)?	Draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan developed in 2008
9.3	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response (title & author)?	None. Research is conducted on-line
9.4	How does your country stay informed of the latest response guidelines or obtain updates to the technical manuals (seminars, internet, and personal relationships)?	Internet
9.5	How does your country access these updates (mail order, internet, seminars)?	Internet

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9.6	<p>Which of these topics would your country need more guidance on?</p> <p><i>Note: Please be specific and add more comments if necessary.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity Maps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response Techniques (<i>conventional / alternative</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Contingency Plan <input type="checkbox"/> MARPOL (<i>specify Annex</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ballast Water Management <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-fouling Systems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Research & Development <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ...
9.7	Why did you choose these topics?	The topics chosen are the components of the NCP which need to be completed to finalize Belize' Oil Spill Plan, and also require capacity building in country to move towards compliance and ratification of specific conventions.	
9.8	How would you like these topics to be presented (technically, practically, theoretically, etc.)?	Theoretical & Practical Presentations	
9.9	What are your expectations from the international technical groups?	To build/ improve the capacity in country of the focal points, lead agencies and responders to address & implement the various IMO Conventions.	
9.10	Additional comments?		

10. Expectations

10.1	<p>During an actual oil spill situation, what are your response expectations at each of the below levels (i.e. initial intervention, organization, coordination, equipment, waste management, compensation, etc.)?</p>	
	TIER 1	All aspects of spill response are to be handled by the responsible party (owner of oil / private sector) for the spill. Department of Environment is only to provide guidance and monitoring during this event.

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	TIER 2	Response is to be managed both by the responsible party and the government. Compensation is to be made by the responsible party
	TIER 3	Response to be managed by the government with external assistance. At this time no MOU exists with external organizations or regional groups to assist in a Tier 3 response.
10.2	What are your expectations in regards to bilateral or multilateral agreements?	No Expectations as no agreements regarding regional response has be made. The government requests/ seeks assistance & guidance in developing and establishing regional agreements for a Tier 3 response.
10.3	What are your expectations in regards to the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan?	Minimal as Belize is not a signatory to the OPRC. Additionally, Belize would fall within the Central America OPRC.
10.4	Additional comments?	