

Education and Outreach

Through its Education and Outreach Program SEA has been carrying out projects in all of its 9 stakeholder communities. The staff members of SEA deliver regular presentations on the biodiversity and importance of the reef and coast, conduct summer camps for children of the communities. SEA's Education and Outreach staff also work closely with Fishermen and tour guides in addressing economic alternatives and supplemental income generating means.



SEA also provides secondary education opportunities for students from the stakeholder communities through the Scholarship Program. At least one student per community school is awarded a scholarship each school year. SEA has also provided training to community members in more sustainable livelihood practices such as SCUBA diving to Dive Master-level certification, fly-fishing, and whale-shark tour guiding.



Photo By: Annelise Hagan

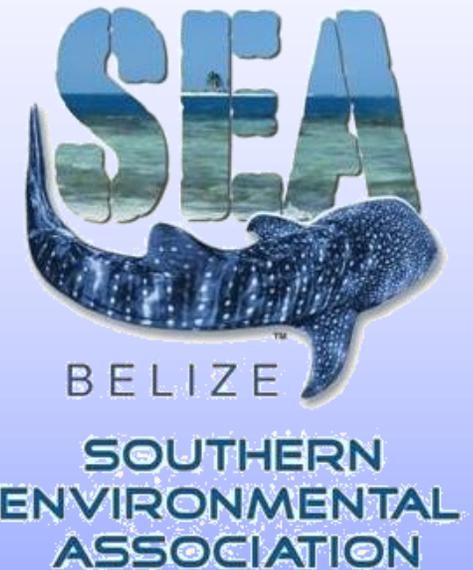
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

If you would like to assist the Southern Environmental Association in its efforts and help to maintain the pristine beauty of our coastal waters, please contact our offices at:

National Office:
Placencia Village
Stann Creek District
Belize, Central America
Phone: 501-523-3377
Fax: 501-523-3395
Email: info@seabelize.org
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WHO WE ARE

SEA is a newly created non-governmental organization, developed when two longstanding conservation organizations, Friends of Nature (FoN) and the Toledo Association for Sustainable Tourism and Empowerment (TASTE) merged to ensure improved community involvement in the conservation and co-management of the natural resources in Southern Belize.

Mission: is to continuously work towards improving stewardship and the environmental integrity of key marine areas in southern Belize through effective, collaborative protected areas management, community involvement, and strategic partnerships for the benefit of all stakeholders.

SEA co-manages three important marine protected areas in Southern Belize: Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve and the Laughing Bird Caye National Park. Both Laughing Bird Caye National Park and Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve form a part of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System declared by UNESCO in 1996 as a world heritage



Photo by: Annelise Hagan

SEA serves village communities that line the coast of southern Belize, including: Hopkins, Sittee River, Seine Bight, Placencia, Independence, Monkey River, Punta Negra, Punta Gorda and Sarteneja. The organization currently has a staff consisting of administrative, education and outreach, science and enforcement personnel. SEA's board of directors consists of community leaders and key stakeholder representatives from Tourism, Business and other sectors.

WHAT WE DO

Under a co-management agreement with the Government of Belize, SEA assumes control of site management (including visitation), enforcement, scientific monitoring, research and is authorized to patrol within and between parks in the Southern Barrier Reef Complex. SEA works closely with the local stakeholder committees who participate in formulating policy that enhance the management of the parks.

For the past 18 years, in some form or another, SEA has been working with community members to improve the management of their marine resources. SEA takes a practical, hands on approach to conservation and management of the Southern Barrier Reef Complex.

Our Programs



Photo by: Annelise Hagan

Protected Areas Management

Through management of our three Protected Areas, SEA works closely with stakeholders to ensure effective and sustainable management of important natural resources. Our protected areas management aims to protect certain species, rare habitats, nursing grounds for important species and to protect entire ecosystems.

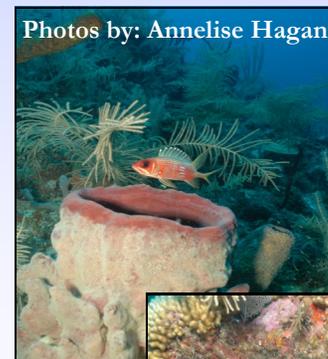
These protected areas are one among other management tools that contribute to the improved health, integrity and productivity of our marine ecosystems, and as such, are carefully monitored. SEA's trained and equipped rangers monitor these protected areas by conducting regular patrols in an effort to carry out their enforcement duties. These duties include enforcing specific limits on human activities for the purpose of protecting our natural resources

SCIENCE

SEA has worked closely with a wide range of partners to make certain that a system is in place to monitor and manage marine resources in a way that will sustain natural resources and the economic and cultural activities that depend on them.

SEA has designed a comprehensive monitoring program and is constantly coordinating with other regional and international organizations to monitor and manage marine resources in a standardized manner that will facilitate best decision-making practices by stakeholders. SEA's science team conducts regular monitoring of a wide range of ecosystems and species including: coral reefs, coral reef fish, spawning aggregations, commercial fisheries, sea turtles, sea grass, water quality and more.

As SEA continues to look towards the future the science team is looking to develop a series of research priorities for the marine protected areas it manages. These research priorities should help to guide not only SEA research projects but future outside research projects as well. SEA is working to be a leader in linking science and management by working closely with scientists to ensure the accurate and effective use of biological data in management decisions.



Photos by: Annelise Hagan

