

Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) in numbers

Belize

September 2026

The OCPP programme provided tailored support in Belize to help manage the marine environment more sustainably. This included strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools and, creating educational resources for coastal communities.

Seeking long-term change to Belize's marine environment

The overarching intended impact for the OCPP was to deliver activities which supported partner countries to effectively manage human activities that place pressure on the marine environment and ensure that all of their citizens can benefit from its long-term sustainable use.

The OCPP identified the following areas in which the programme could deliver change in the way these issues were addressed in Belize through the generation and use of scientific knowledge to better inform policymaking and action:

- **Marine knowledge and capacity:** providing expertise towards sustainable marine ecosystem science and better marine environment monitoring.
- **Policies and guidelines:** supporting the creation of evidence-informed policies, frameworks and plans for sustainable marine ecosystem management, governance and budgeting.
- **Education and awareness:** piloting models and approaches towards community engagement and raising awareness on marine-related topics.
- **Networks and partnerships:** supported cross-learning and innovation through networks and partnerships.

The programme is supporting a number of stakeholders to achieve these objectives.

These included:

- **Government ministries** involved in marine governance, climate, and economic development:
- **Specialised government agencies and authorities** working on marine and environmental management.

OCPP in Belize demonstrated consideration of **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** in the delivery of their work in the following areas:

- Input into the national Marine Litter Monitoring Plan
- Support to the Waste Producers and Management Association
- Developing Belize's national pollution capacity

Funding for OCPP was provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). OCPP was delivered by three British government Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs): the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

More information on OCPP can be found at:

[DevTracker Programme GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP Documents](#)

The data shown covers OCPP activities between 2023–2026 only.



Key achievements in delivery

Outcome

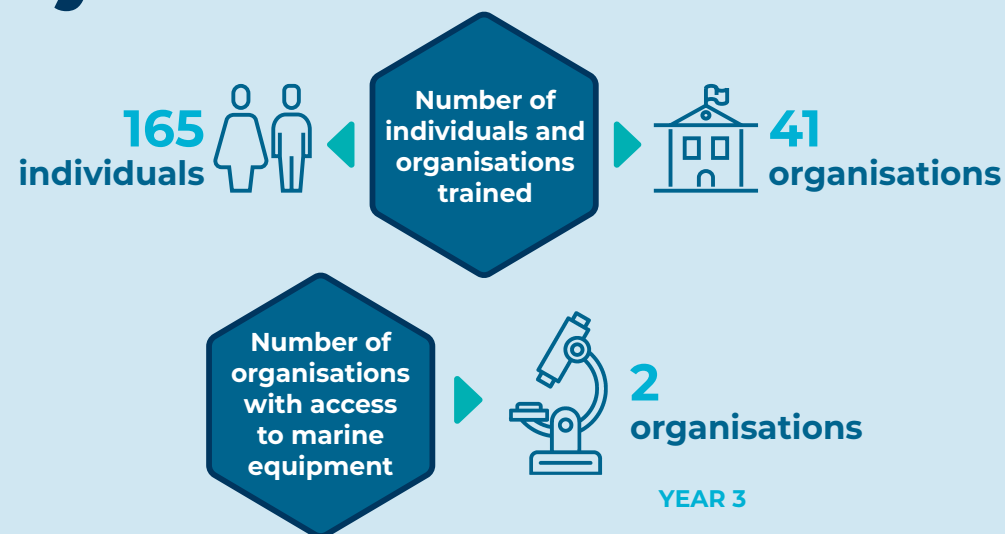
The programme reported that the Ministry of Agriculture and Belize Agricultural Health Authority established systems to implement biosecurity monitoring in the shrimp and tilapia industry. Stakeholders stated that this would not have been possible without the support of the OCP.

Furthermore, the Department of Environment is now monitoring water quality and plastic pollution in seven rivers (previously only one). Moreover, it is supporting implementation of the National Marine Litter Action Plan of 2020 and its capacity and capability to fulfil their delivery of the Ridge to Reef programme. The OCP provided equipment and training to increase in-country capacity to conduct laboratory analyses on pollution.

The programme further supported Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) currently in the Green Listing application phase. The Green List represents a policy shift toward standardised, outcome-based evaluation of protected areas, embedding global best-practice criteria into national MPA governance frameworks. As of February 2026, Belize have formally registered four MPAs, meeting their legally binding Blue Bond commitments due to support from OCP.

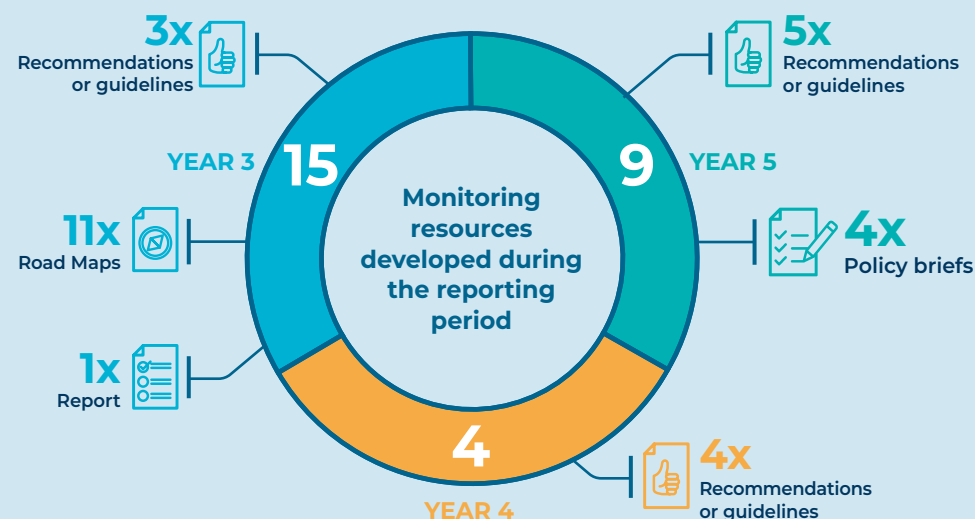
Marine knowledge and capacity

The programme worked to strengthen the capacity and capability of Belize stakeholders in marine science, management and governance. Of those surveyed, 86% of participants reported increased knowledge and capacity.



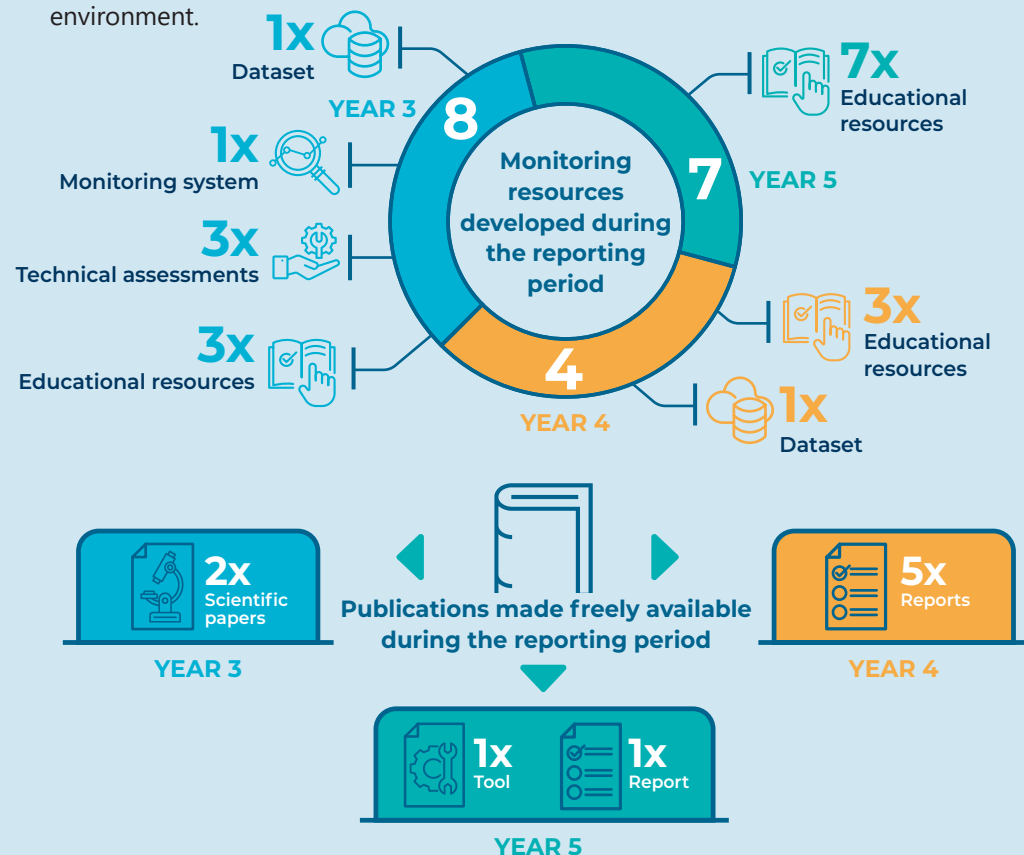
Policies and guidelines

In Belize, the programme proposed or developed policy and regulatory recommendations. 82% of the products developed were reported to have included a consultation process.



Education and awareness

The OCPP worked to enhance education, awareness and the exchange of scientific, technical knowledge and data in Belize on a variety of topics concerning the marine environment.



CASE STUDY

While the majority of these publications were published by a single contributor, there are a few examples of broader collaborations. One such example is the scientific paper titled '[Creation of an international laboratory network towards global microplastics monitoring harmonisation](#)'. This publication included 31 authors in total, 25 of whom were in-country, and nine were female.

Networks and partnerships

The OCPP took steps with the Government of Belize to develop and support active ocean-science related knowledge networks and partnerships – either as UK-partner country or in-country coalitions.

