



**PACT**

Protected Areas Conservation Trust

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# Conservation Trust's (PACT) Accreditation to the Adaptation Fund Board: The Process and experience.

By:

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# Overview of PACT

- **PACT** is a statutory body established in 1995
- **PACT** – has an annual operational budget of USD 2.25M
- Revenue is earned from a conservation fee and cruise tourist head tax
- Funds are used to finance various local projects
  - ▣ How those projects are funded

# The Process and Timeline

- ❑ **October 6 2009** – AFB invitation to nominate NIEs
- ❑ **April 8 2010** – AFB invitation to nominate Designated Authority (DA)
- ❑ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) focal point for UNFCCC
- ❑ MNRE obtained Cabinet decision endorsing PACT as NIE

# The Process and Timeline cont.

- **May 11** Endorsement of PACT as NIE
- **June 22** Formal application by PACT to be NIE
- **July 11** Formal information request by AFB
- **Aug 9** Teleconference with AFB
- **Sep 19** Notification to PACT of accreditation by the AF Board

# Accreditation Process – Our approach

- **Senior and middle mgmt. process review:**
  - Deep organizational introspection
  - Recruit Board of Directors support
  
- **Enlisted organization –wide support**
  - Provided all requested data
  - Team review of each question to understand the request and formulate our best approach

# Required Documentation

- Legal status and mandate
- Audited Financials & Management Letter
- Project files
- Finance Committee Terms of Reference
- Accounting Software
- Manuals (accounting, procurement, grants, board)
- Budgets

# Financial Controls

## Key features:

- Documentation
- External review
- Public disclosure

## Approved Annual Budgets

- Required by law
- Quarterly internal board subcommittee review
- Annual external audits
- Public documentation annually

# Additional Control Features

## **Independent external evaluation:**

- ▣ Large grants evaluation – 3 years
- ▣ National Strategic PACT plan



# Anti - Corruption

## **Evidence of anti-corruption efforts**

- Review of all fraud cases in last five years
  - Include minutes of meetings
- Compliance with Finance and Audit Act and Office of Contractor General

## Review of procedures addressing :

- Conflict of interest
- Code of ethics / misconduct

## Capacity for self investigation and address

# Risk Mitigation

- PACT Endowment
- Investment and use of funds
- Grant counterpart funding
- Organizational capacity assessment
- Logical framework
- Stakeholder participation/ publicity

# Recommendations

The process produced several areas of strengthening

## Recommendations:

- ▣ Development of an internal audit function
  - Finance committee charter has been adjusted
  - Risk management should be separate and focused part of various manuals
- Adopt policies to address wrongdoing/fraud
- Public zero tolerance tone
- Internal capacity to investigate and address fraud

# General Notes


- Existence of policy is not assumed to demonstrate proper execution or effectiveness
- Independent external review and public disclosures are important
- Willingness to adjust and strengthen controls is necessary at the top.
- Process requires extensive and detailed disclosure.

# Adaptation Projects

- **Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project**
- Expansion and enforcement of MPA/no take zones
- Promote alternative livelihood projects for affected
- Improving capacity and awareness of importance of reef health

# Conclusion

- Accreditation of PACT by the AFB is noteworthy for the following reasons:
  - ▣ Increase image of PACT globally
  - ▣ Brings notable distinction to the region/country
  - ▣ Allows PACT to leverage additional resources
  - ▣ PACT fiduciary/grant management capabilities strengthened
  - ▣ Improved national stakeholder confidence in PACT

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# THANK YOU !