



FOOD SYSTEMS
NDC SCORECARD

Belize Assessment

October 2025

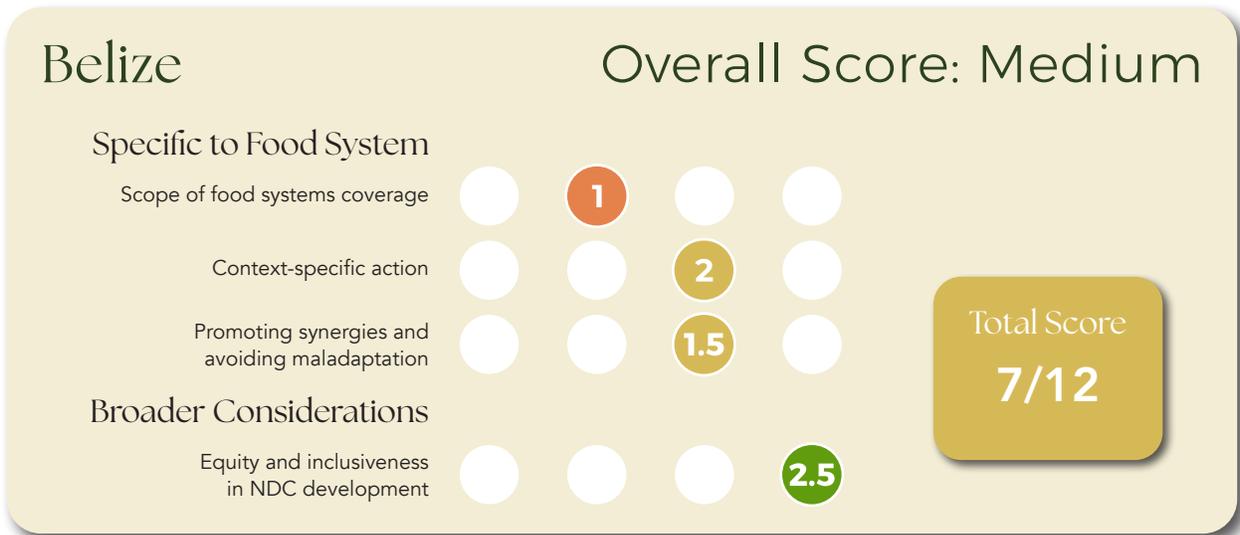
I. Introduction

Belize is a coastal state in Central America that includes many cayes and borders the Caribbean Sea to the east ([Belize's Third Nationally Determined Contribution NDC 3.0](#) [NDC], p. 7; [Embassy of Belize; UNESCO.org](#)). While Belize is geographically located in Central America, it identifies as part of the Caribbean ([The United Nations in the Caribbean](#)). Additionally, the UN lists Belize among the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and because of its low-lying coastal nature, Belize shares many of the characteristics and challenges of other SIDS ([UN, "List of SIDS"; UN, "Who Are the SIDS?"](#)). Belize's NDC states that the expected rise in sea level will threaten the country's coastal communities and ecosystems, "especially mangroves and coral reefs," which host biodiversity and protect the coasts ([NDC](#), pp. 8–9). Belize is also an upper-middle-income country with a high-impact diet ([Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), Appendices II, IV).

Belize submitted its NDC on June 14, 2025 ([NDC Registry](#)). The NDC states that Belize "aims to avoid cumulative GHG emissions of [6.234 Mt (megatonnes)] CO₂e by 2035 when compared against a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario," which is a more ambitious target than the one in its previous NDC ([NDC](#), p. viii). The NDC reports that Belize commits to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 ([NDC](#), p. viii). The NDC also notes that the mitigation measures for 2031–2035 are estimated to cost USD 610 million and that there is a funding gap of 75% of the total cost ([NDC](#), p. 30).

This NDC was evaluated according to the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#) using the documents below. All scores are based on evaluations of the NDC and documents cited within each area of the assessment. Where not specified, in this assessment "NDC" may refer to content within an NDC submission document or other documents analyzed as part of the NDC (see Appendix).

For Belize, we analyzed the [NDC](#) and the [Belize National Agroforestry Policy](#) (NAFP). We were unable to evaluate the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan referenced in the NDC, as the document is not publicly available. This omission or unavailability of policies may affect the accuracy of scoring. For additional information on policies considered in this evaluation, please see the Appendix.



II. Scope of Food Systems Coverage (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 1 POINT (WEAK)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates whether the NDC or policies referenced within the NDC addresses each stage of the food system to assess the full extent of the country’s climate mitigation and adaptation potential. The stages are as follows: (1) food production; (2) food loss; (3) food processing; (4) food distribution; (5) food consumption, including food access, diets, and nutrition; and (6) food waste. This area does not assess the policies’ benefits or harms; these considerations are addressed in subsequent areas of this assessment. The NDC will receive a “strong” score of 3 points if it addresses all subareas; a “medium” score of 2 points if it addresses at least food production, food consumption, and either food loss or waste; a “weak” score of 1 point if it addresses at least one subarea; and an “absent” score of 0 points if no subarea is addressed.

Since Belize’s NDC demonstrates action at the food production, food processing, food distribution, and food waste stages of the food system but does not demonstrate action at the food loss or food consumption stages, the NDC received **a weak score of 1 point** for the scope of food systems coverage area.

(1) Food production

The NDC demonstrates action at the food production stage through initiatives to bolster production and cultivation practices, among other policies. For example, in addition to basic staples, the NAFF describes plans to strengthen production enterprises by investing specifically in the production of coconuts, pineapples, cocoa, and indigenous fruits (NAFF, p. 6). The NDC also indicates that Belize intends to develop an aquaculture and mariculture plan, which will include “interventions for investment, monitoring responsible feed sourcing and integrated multi-tropic aquaculture” (NDC, pp. 44–45). Belize also reportedly engages in cultivation practices such as crop rotation (NDC, p. 83) and agrosilvopastoral systems (NAFF, p. 11).

(2) Food loss

Nothing in the NDC suggests action in this subarea.

(3) Food processing

The NDC demonstrates action at the food processing stage through plans to invest in processing plants to strengthen local production and value chains, along with other policies (NAFF, p. 18). For example, the NDC indicates that the processing of perishables such as fruits is a priority to increase the products’ value and make them more marketable (NAFF, pp. 17–18).

(4) Food distribution

The NDC demonstrates action at the food distribution stage through agroforestry targets. The NAFPP describes goals to increase exports and reduce imports of food products to bolster Belize's economy ([NAFPP](#), p. 22). Nothing else in the NDC suggests other action in this subarea.

(5) Food consumption

Nothing in the NDC suggests action in this subarea.

(6) Food waste

The NDC demonstrates action at the food waste stage through mitigation measures. The NDC discusses measures such as composting that, while they could not be assessed using the Low Emissions Analysis Platform (LEAP) due to lack of sufficient data, "are expected to contribute significantly to Belize's overall mitigation ambition, mainly through emissions reductions and removals not yet fully quantified" ([NDC](#), p. 16). Nothing in the NDC suggests other action in this subarea.

III. Context-Specific Action (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 2 POINTS (MEDIUM)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the depth of food systems integration within the NDC through a framework of seven critical subareas for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the food system: (1) addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, (2) mitigating emissions in food production, (3) reducing fossil fuel use in the food system, (4) reducing agricultural deforestation, (5) shifting from high-impact dietary patterns, (6) reducing food loss and/or waste, and (7) enhancing climate-resilient food production. Subareas 6 and 7 are evaluated for all countries, and the other five are evaluated if applicable to a given country.

Subarea 1 is evaluated for all countries except high-income countries. Although food insecurity is present in high-income countries, this subarea is assessed only for low- and middle-income countries where the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition are associated with greater climate vulnerabilities. Subareas 2 and 3 are evaluated for high- and upper-middle-income countries only. Subarea 4 is scored for countries that are ranked among the 25 countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation according to Global Forest Watch data, and subarea 5 is evaluated for countries with a high-impact diet—countries whose consumption of animal-source foods (ASFs) exceeds EAT-Lancet recommendations by 25%.

The action in each applicable subarea is first assessed as strong, medium, weak, or absent:

- Actions are strong when a specific policy has been adopted or a plan to adopt a specific policy is in place.
- Actions are medium when an intent to take action is mentioned (i.e., no detailed implementation plan exists).
- Actions are weak if only a descriptive mention of it is included and absent when no action is mentioned.

On the basis of these assessments, the NDC will receive a strong, medium, weak, or absent rating for the area as a whole. (See more details in the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 7.)

Subarea 4 was evaluated but not scored because Belize is not one of the countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation.

Since Belize's NDC demonstrates strong action in subareas 1, 2, 3, and 7, medium action in subarea 6, and no action in subarea 5, the NDC received **a medium score of 2 points** for the context-specific action area.

(1) Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition

The NDC demonstrates strong action to address food insecurity and malnutrition. For example, the NAFP expresses a vision to make agroforestry a common practice that farms of all sizes can adopt to increase productivity and “enhance food and nutrition security” (NAFP, p. 17). The NAFP states that the Belize Forest Department does not have an agroforestry program but that the department has adopted the National Forest Policy, which seeks to promote agroforestry and advances multiple management strategies that increase soil health, crop productivity, and beekeeping (NAFP, p. 11). These benefits can lead to greater food production and security. One of the objectives listed in the NAFP is to develop tools to improve food security, nutrition, and people's health (NAFP, p. 22), and the NAFP states that agroforestry “can make a significant contribution to several” sustainable development goals, including those regarding poverty and hunger (NAFP, p. 21).

(2) Mitigating emissions in food production

The NDC demonstrates strong action to mitigate emissions in food production. For example, agricultural mitigation measures listed in the NDC include “integrating fruit trees and hardwood species into crop systems, thereby diversifying farmers’ income and improving soil health” (NDC, p. 83). Additionally, the NDC states that agroforestry systems can “reduce fertilizer demand” and “create carbon sinks” (NDC, p. 83). Healthier soil has the capacity to sequester more carbon, thus mitigating some emissions of food production. (For more information, see [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), pp. 6, 8.)

(3) Reducing fossil fuel use in the food system

Although the NDC’s strong actions to reduce fossil fuel use are not specific to the food system, the NDC does describe plans to expand Belize’s use of renewable energy sources “through utility-scale solar farms and wind installations” (NDC, p. 81). The NDC states that this initiative should reduce Belize’s “reliance on imported fossil fuels [and] lower emissions from electricity generation” (NDC, p. 81). Since many areas of the food system use electricity, relying on sources other than fossil fuels should positively impact the food system. (For more information, see [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), pp. 7–8.)

(4) Reducing agricultural deforestation

Although we did not score its NDC on reducing agriculture deforestation, Belize has policies that express a general intent to reduce deforestation. The NAFFP describes how shifting cultivation systems, such as the traditional milpa system, promote deforestation and that alternatives to such systems “must receive a high priority in order to control deforestation and forest degradation in Belize” (NAFFP, p. 7). The NAFFP also discusses promoting protein and energy banks, small areas where feed is grown predominately by smallholder farms as a lean-season backup, to discourage farmers from expanding grazing areas (NAFFP, p. 11).

(5) Shifting from high-impact dietary patterns

Although Belize has a high-impact diet, nothing in the NDC suggests action in this subarea.

(6) Reducing food loss and/or waste

The NDC demonstrates medium action to reduce food waste—no actions to reduce food loss were found. The NDC states that some planned mitigation measures were not modeled using LEAP “due to a lack of sufficient data, quantified indicators, or clear baselines” but that these measures should still help reduce emissions (NDC, p. 16). One of these measures is composting, which reduces food waste (NDC, p. 16).

(7) Enhancing climate-resilient food production

The NDC demonstrates strong action to enhance climate-resilient food production. For example, the NDC indicates plans to conserve, restore, and protect mangroves and critical fish habitats in most publicly owned areas and to work with private owners to do the same (NDC, pp. 33, 36–37, 83, 104). A “keystone of the coastal ecosystem,” mangroves sustain multiple species and provide “critical habitats for juvenile fish populations” while absorbing carbon and protecting Belize’s coastline and communities ([Perry Institute for Marine Science, “Rewilding the Marls of Abaco: PIMS Plants 100,000 Mangroves and Counting in 2024”](#); NDC, p. 83). The NDC also notes plans to design more agrosilvopastoral, drought-resistance, diversification, and intercropping programs by 2030, with implementation by 2035 (NDC, p. 37). The NDC says that agricultural plans include increasing irrigation, water extraction, and retention ponds—high-risk activities discussed in section IV of this assessment (NDC, pp. 34–35).

IV. Promoting Synergies and Avoiding Maladaptation (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 1.5 POINTS (MEDIUM)

Measures put forth in the NDC can promote synergies with other sustainability, social, and health objectives. These measures could also conflict with the same objectives. In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the extent to which the NDC has sought to promote synergies and avoid maladaptation or make trade-offs with other sustainable development objectives. This is a two-step evaluation process. The first step is an assessment of whether the NDC considers seven topics in relation to the food system that support sustainable development synergies: (1) nutrition; (2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare; (3) other health considerations; (4) human rights; (5) biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems; (6) gender; and (7) small-scale producers. For each synergistic subarea addressed 0.5 points are given, up to a maximum of 3 points.

Belize's NDC **received 2.5 points in the synergies main subarea** because it addresses five of the seven synergistic topics.

The second step is an assessment of the NDC for risks of maladaptation related to the inclusion of five to eight high-risk activities: (1) expansion of agricultural frontier; (2) increasing production of crops such as soy, corn, rapeseed, wheat, and sugar cane for animal feed and energy; (3) increasing pesticide use; (4) intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers; and (5) increasing water consumption. The remaining high-risk activities are evaluated only for high- and upper-middle-income countries: (6) intensification of animal agriculture and/or expansion of animal agriculture subsectors, (7) increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption, and (8) increasing fertilizer usage.

Belize's NDC **lost 1 point in the maladaptation main subarea** because it engages in one of the high-risk activities considered.

For each synergistic subarea, the NDC receives 0.5 points up to a maximum of 3 points. For each maladaptive high-risk activity, the NDC loses 1 point. The number of points subtracted from high-risk activities or policies *can equal but not exceed* the number of points gained for the synergistic topics mentioned.

The NDC's synergies score of 2.5 points was reduced by 1 point for the risks of maladaptation, resulting in a **medium total score of 1.5 points** for the promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area.

Synergies

(1) Nutrition

Nutrition is broadly mentioned throughout the NAFPP. One aim in the NAFPP is to enhance food and nutrition security by mainstreaming agroforestry systems (NAFPP, p. 17). The NAFPP discusses incentivizing adoption of agroforestry practices through compensation from funds for environmental or social programs, such as community support programs focused on poverty reduction and food and nutrition enhancement (NAFPP, p. 19).

(2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize considers this subarea in the context of food systems.

(3) Other health considerations

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize considers this subarea in the context of food systems.

(4) Human rights

The NAFP considers land-tenure issues and proposed improvements in the context of food systems. Agroforestry is described in detail, and the NAFP states that an agroforestry “policy should also enable the formulation and implementation of land and tree tenure policies that can promote [agroforestry]” (NAFP, pp. 16–17). One of the NAFP’s policy objectives is to solve the issues that are preventing agroforestry from becoming a common practice, including “laws [and] regulations pertaining to the tenure, access and use of land” (NAFP, p. 18). Nothing else in the NDC suggests additional consideration of human rights.

(5) Biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems

The NDC and NAFP consider biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems in relation to food systems several times. For example, the NDC states that the Belize Forest Department plans to develop a “monitoring and reporting system that integrates forestry, biodiversity, and agriculture ... which keeps track of progress under the NDC commitments” (NDC, p. 34). The NDC states, “This shows Belize’s commitment to maintaining healthy forest ecosystems and sustainable land use, given its critical contribution to the ecological, economic, and social dimensions” (NDC, p. 34). The NDC also notes that Belize encompasses multiple cayes, has a shoreline of over 380 kilometers, and hosts a “rich marine biodiversity [that] provide[s] a foundation for the nation’s fisheries and tourism sectors” (NDC, p. 7).

(6) Gender

Gender is considered in the context of food systems in the NDC and NAFP. For example, the NAFP states that the “unconscious bias” toward males “can distort critical decision making in terms of who makes decisions, what incentives are needed, who does the work, and who harvests the benefits” (NAFP, p. 8). The NAFP notes that gender representation in agriculture is important, especially in agroforestry “because women, compared to men, prioritize the wellbeing of the children and family (i.e., food, nutrition, health, house construction, and conservation of natural resources) above short-term productivity and cash income gains” (NAFP, p. 8).

(7) Small-scale producers

The NAFP shows consideration for small-scale producers. For example, it states that agroforestry “has attracted considerable attention from the scientific and development community as a very promising technology because ... [it] has a definite potential for smallholder farming systems from the perspective of sustainable resource management and environmental services” (NAFP, pp. 4–5).

Maladaptations

(1) Expansion of agricultural frontier

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize engages in this high-risk activity.

(2) Increasing production of crops primarily for nonfood uses (animal feed and energy)

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize engages in this high-risk activity.

(3) Increasing pesticide use

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize engages in this high-risk activity.

(4) Intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize engages in this high-risk activity.

(5) Increasing water consumption

The NDC's policy on increasing irrigation was assessed as maladaptive. The NDC references agroforestry or land-use mitigation targets and actions that include increases in irrigation, water extraction, and retention ponds (NDC, pp. 34–35). While irrigation may support drought resistance and freshwater scarcity impacts Belize's agriculture, this water consumption policy does not appear to boost "nature-positive production" or promote "sustainable agriculture practices" as the [Belize Food System Transformation Pathway 2023–2030](#) (BFSTP) suggests (BFSTP, p. 6). Without safeguards and management, the expansion of irrigation could worsen seasonal water shortages, deplete aquifers, and increase conflicts over water use.

(6) Intensification of animal agriculture and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize engages in this high-risk activity.

(7) Increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize engages in this high-risk activity.

(8) Increasing fertilizer usage

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize engages in this high-risk activity.

V. Equity and Inclusiveness in NDC Development (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 2.5 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the NDC on the main subareas of equity and inclusiveness throughout the NDC's development. The NDC as a whole was scored on this area, not just the NDC's content concerning food systems. Each main subarea was scored up to 3 points, and the total score is the average of the two main subarea scores.

Belize's NDC received a **strong total score of 2.5 points** for the equity and inclusiveness area.

Equity

The scorecard framework evaluates equity through (1) equitable 1.5°C alignment, (2) just transitions, (3) consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, and (4) equitable finance. Subarea 4 is evaluated only for high-income countries on whether they commit to financing for developing countries. The equity main subarea will receive a strong score of 3 points if all issues are addressed, a medium score of 2 points if two or three issues are addressed, a weak score of 1 point if one issue is addressed, or an absent score of 0 points if no issues are addressed.

Belize's NDC received a **medium score of 2 points in the equity main subarea** because it addresses subareas 2 and 3 but not subarea 1.

(1) Equitable 1.5°C alignment

Equitable 1.5°C alignment is assessed according to the fair shares assessment approach of the Civil Society Equity Review (CSER), using the [Climate Equity Reference Calculator](#). Under this analysis, a country's emissions reduction is determined to contribute its mitigation fair share if the country meets either of two CSER benchmarks, each corresponding to different but reasonable visions of equity.

This assessment was not performed in this case due to the lack of clarity in Belize's target. The general description of the target states: "Belize's 2035 target is a cumulative avoided emissions amounting to 6.2 MtonCO₂e (including sequestration and avoided emissions) from all the mitigation efforts when compared against a business-as-usual trajectory using 2020 as the baseline year. The mitigation quantified contributions include energy (electricity and transport), AFOLU, and waste" ([NDC](#), p. 74).

Despite some additional information in the NDC, Belize's target remains unclear, particularly in the following areas:

- The meaning of a "business-as-usual trajectory using 2020 as the baseline year," given that BAU and baseline year are typically distinct concepts.
- Whether this implies a commitment to an absolute emissions level or one that varies according to the accuracy of the assumptions that the 2020 BAU trajectory is based on.
- The meaning of "cumulative avoided emissions" and any methodology used to calculate this, particularly whether avoided LULUCF emissions or sequestrations are counted multiple times.

Additionally, this target remains difficult to understand in a global context, given that cumulative multiyear pledges are uncommon. Further, the base year for avoided emissions has changed from the one in Belize's last NDC, which makes discerning any increase in ambition difficult.

Overall, making reasonable assumptions about the meaning of Belize’s target may be possible. However, the level of transparency and comprehensibility does not meet expectations in a process that depends on an international understanding of such pledges. As a result, Belize’s target was not analyzed under the CSER framework and was, therefore, found not to be equitably aligned with a 1.5°C pathway. If Belize’s target had been analyzed and found to be aligned, the NDC would have received a point for this subarea.

(2) Just transitions

The NDC contains measures to promote just transitions. For example, the NDC lists proposed interventions on loss and damage, including “vocational training and microenterprise support initiatives that enable fishers to transition into sustainable non-fishing income streams where appropriate” (NDC, p. 63). In addition, the NDC notes that sustainable forest management programs and activities also include support for “the communities and groups whose livelihoods depend on forestry activities” (NDC, p. 32).

(3) Specific consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups

The NDC specifically considers the needs of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. For example, the NDC’s chapter “Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion” describes the aim of ensuring that “climate action in Belize not only addresses the differentiated needs of socially marginalised and vulnerable groups; but also ensures that these groups are empowered to contribute to achieving NDC Targets” (NDC, p. 55). Actions in this section include mainstreaming the risks, opportunities, and needs of women, Indigenous communities, and youth and ensuring that these groups have “equitable access to climate-resilient infrastructure and basic social services” (NDC, pp. 58–59).

(4) Equitable finance

This subarea was not analyzed for Belize.

Inclusiveness in NDC Development

Inclusiveness in NDC development was evaluated on whether the following groups were included in the NDC’s development: (1) multiple government ministries, (2) departments and agencies of government, (3) subnational bodies, (4) the private sector, (5) academia, (6) civil society organizations, (7) Indigenous Peoples, and (8) other vulnerable and/or marginalized groups, earning 0.5 points for each for a maximum of 3 points.

Belize’s NDC received a **strong score of 3 points in the inclusiveness main subarea**.

The development of Belize’s NDC included multiple government ministries and agencies, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, and Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable or marginalized groups. For example, the NDC describes Belize’s nationwide multitiered engagement strategy for developing the NDC in which “government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and academia participated in structured dialogues, bilateral meetings, and thematic workshops, ensuring diverse representation” (NDC, p. 79). Consultations also included “coastal communities, indigenous associations, and women’s groups” (NDC, p. 79).

VI. Analysis and Conclusions (Total score 0–12 points)

BELIZE'S NDC TOTAL SCORE = 7 POINTS (MEDIUM)

Belize's NDC received a **medium total score of 7 points out of 12**. This score is based on evaluations of the NDC and the NAFFP.

In the **scope of food systems coverage area**, Belize's NDC received a **weak score** because although it demonstrates action in the food production, food processing, food distribution, and food waste stages of the food system, it lacks action in the food loss and food consumption stages.

In the **context-specific action area**, Belize's NDC received a **medium score** because it demonstrates strong action in four of the six applicable subareas, medium action in one subarea, and no action in another. Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize has any policies that address food loss (e.g., storage, cold chain, preservation, fisheries discards). Additionally, Belize has a high-impact diet, but the NDC does not have policies that encourage a shift from high-impact to lower-impact dietary patterns.

In the **promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area**, Belize's NDC received a **medium score** because it considers five of the seven synergistic topics, but it lost 1 point because of Belize's high-risk policy to increase irrigation. Belize's NDC and agroforestry policies address nutrition in the context of food security and agroforestry but could consider additional, more specific nutrition policies. The NDC acknowledges that the effects of climate change "lead to an increase in health risks" and make environments more susceptible to the spread of certain vector-borne diseases (NDC, p. 45). Nothing in the NDC suggests that Belize considers One Health, animal health or welfare, or other health considerations in relation to the food system, even though Belize has acknowledged that food-related noncommunicable diseases persist throughout its population (Food Systems Profile [FSP], pp. 6, 18), and it has recently adopted several policies regarding nutrition and health (BFSTP, pp. 3–5; National Nutrition Policy [draft]). Additionally, the FSP notes that 60% of adults have parasitic infections from unsafe food or water, but Belize does not address this in the NDC (FSP, p. 18). The NDC would have received more points if these health policies were included, and by omitting them, Belize misses an opportunity to strengthen both health and climate outcomes.

Although expanding irrigation is important for climate resilience, the NDC lost 1 point for engaging in this high-risk activity, which is not aligned with the goals set out in the BFSTP, which include "nature-positive production" and "sustainable agriculture practices" (BFSTP, p. 6).

In the **equity and inclusiveness in NDC development area**, Belize's NDC received a **strong score** because it addresses all applicable subareas in equity except equitable 1.5°C alignment and its development included all the listed groups.

The following are some ways Belize could substantially improve its NDC score in accordance with this evaluation: (1) create a food loss policy that aims to reduce on-farm or after-harvest food losses; (2) develop measures to encourage shifts to healthy, lower-impact diets (i.e., increase plant-based foods and reduce animal-based foods); (3) consider animal health and welfare when addressing or creating a policy related to the food system, as well as the impacts of nutrition on public health (e.g., how promoting more plant-based foods can reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and zoonoses); (4) align the NDC with—and include—sustainable policies like the National Healthy Start School Feeding Program (BFSTP, p. 5), and continue to strengthen existing food system policies; and (5) provide an easily understandable and internationally comparable mitigation target that is equitably aligned with a 1.5°C pathway.

Appendix

Documents Evaluated

- [Belize’s Third Nationally Determined Contribution NDC 3.0](#)
- [Belize National Agroforestry Policy](#)

Document Selection

An NDC submission typically references a number of policy documents. In some cases, these policy documents are referenced to provide context clarifying the content of the NDC. In other cases, these policy documents are referenced because they form part of a country’s contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Where a country considers the documents integral to its climate change response, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers the content of these documents, if adequately referenced in an NDC submission, to be part of the NDC. As a reference’s intended function is not always clear, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers it holistically:

- How the NDC discusses the policy document.
- Location of the reference. For example, if the reference is within the planning processes section of an “information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding” table, this is a strong indication that the policy was incorporated into the NDC.
- Content of the referenced policy document itself—namely, the extent to which it considers climate change and therefore constitutes part of the country’s climate policy framework.
- The Party’s overall policy framework—for example, whether a cited policy is active rather than obsolete or superseded by other policy documents and whether other policy documents should perform the same function.

The Belize National Agroforestry Policy was included in this analysis. The National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan was not included, as it is not publicly available and understood to be undergoing revisions.

Scope of Assessment

This evaluation focuses on a food system perspective. While evaluating equity and inclusiveness more broadly, it does not specifically assess other sectors (such as energy) or indicate the quality of a country’s climate policy overall. Additionally, the scoring reflects the presence or absence of particular types of action or consideration within the areas and subareas examined. This does not necessarily reflect ambition in the depth of action. For example, a policy to slightly mitigate food production emissions in a subsector will count equally in scoring to a policy to significantly mitigate emissions. The scores should be understood as indicators to consider alongside the fuller analyses. Finally, while NDCs are critical policy instruments, implementation is necessary to translate their ambition into action. Accordingly, an ambitious NDC alone does not guarantee effective action, just as the ambitiousness of action is not limited to the content of an NDC.

The [Belize Food System Transformation Pathways](#), [Food Systems Profile](#), [National One Health Surveillance Report](#), and [National Nutrition Policy](#) (draft) were used for additional information but were not evaluated.



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Please contact the Food Systems NDC Scorecard project (info@foodsystemsndcscorecard.org) with any feedback, comments, or questions.