

## **Submission from Belize**

Extract from a communication dated 7 April 2008

“Since the establishment of the National Ozone Unit in Belize, several activities has been undertaken to raise awareness among the Belizean population concerning Ozone Layer Depletion and its effect on the environment and human health. Main groups that have been target include teachers, student, refrigeration technicians, and the general public in a whole. Through the collaborative support of the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Education, the National Ozone Unit has conducted several activities in its effort to educate and sensitize the public concerning the global threat of Ozone Layer Depletion.

Every year, Belize celebrates its National Trade & Agriculture Show either in April or May. During this three day festival, the NOU exhibits a booth, along with the Department of the Environment, where activities for Kids and Adults are held, including the distribution of public awareness materials such as brochures, caps, cups, Ozzy Ozone Story Booklets, T-shirts and exercise books, all with ozone layer messages. Several Teacher Training Workshops were held in 2006. These workshops were critical activities and helped the NOU gather the overall support and participation of teachers across the country to build public awareness. Through the collaborative effort of the Ministry of Education, the NOU was able to equip several teachers with information and other materials, including the OzonAction Education Pack, which will assist them to impart this information to their students. Other workshops will be conducted in the future so to get the support of all teachers in the country. The main objective of these workshops is to build public awareness among all primary school teachers and also to work together with the Ministry of Education to incorporate environmental and ozone layer issues in the school's national curriculum.

Also in 2006 and 2007, Natural Resources and the Environment Week was celebrated in Belize. The NOU participated in the environmental fair by installing the Ozone booth along with the Department of the Environment. The boot was a great attraction for kids and teachers since Ozzy Ozone was the main character. There were questions that kids and teachers had to answer concerning ozone layer and Montreal Protocol issues and received Ozzy Ozone T-shirt, caps and exercise books as prizes.

The NOU implemented a Public Awareness activity at the National Scouts Summer Camp 2006. The NOU made presentations about "Ozone Layer Protection" and on "How to Protect Yourself" from UV radiation to many scout groups from different parts of the country. As in all other activities, the NOU had a booth, along with the Department of the Environment, where public awareness materials were distributed.

On the 16th September 2006, Belize joined the global community in recognizing the International Day for the protection of the Ozone Layer. The NOU of Belize joined the

Caribbean Community in a regional activity which included a Poster Competition for the compilation of a "Save the Ozone Layer" Calendar which will feature the winning poster from each country. The NOU invited all Belizean students countrywide to partake in the International Ozone Day Celebration by participating in a countrywide Painting Competition using the theme: "Protect the Ozone Layer: Save Life on Earth". The competition was a success. Many student from all over the country submitted there posters. The winner for Belize's poster competition was a 13 yr student named Shanel Pelayo.

As part of Ozone Day Celebrations 2007, NOU developed and launched its new website ([www.noubclize.gov.bz](http://www.noubclize.gov.bz)). The newly developed website details the NOU's compliance strategies, activities undertaken and future plans.

Ongoing public awareness activities up-to-date include the airing of the Caribbean Ozone Song in local radio stations, broadcasting of the ozone story in local television, and as well as visits to several primary schools country-wide to educate children about Ozone Layer Protection issue. Many students are provided with Ozzy Ozone T-shirts, Caps, Pencils, and Exercise Books. This activity will continue for the first half of 2008.

The NOU would greatly appreciate if the activities undertaken in Belize can be shared with the global community by posting it on the Ozone Secretariat's website, and if our activities can be included in the Secretariat's report for the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties. For further information don't hesitate to contact us. Attached are photographs of some of our activities.”





