



The Wildlife Ambassador Program

A Program by The Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic



ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Wildlife Ambassador Program (WAP) is an outreach and educational program that is set out to decrease and mitigate risks associated with Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and Illegal Wildlife Traffic (IWT). The program is based on a One Health Approach that interconnects human health with animal health and the overall health of the environment.

This program is designed especially for Belize enforcement officers, conservation partners, teachers, protected areas managers, rangers as well as fellow wildlife enthusiasts and community members who want to learn how to protect themselves and their loved ones, while helping the wildlife of Belize.

WAP is a combined online and in person capacity building program. Most topics (Species Identification for Wildlife of Belize, Commonly Seen Conflicts and Emergencies, Legislation, One Health and Zoonosis to Wildlife Emergency and Response) can be covered online, in guided lectures or self-paced. Our team will also host several in person workshops nationwide and cover more sensitive topics like Emergency Response, Capture, Restraint, and Transport with hands-on training in person. After in person workshops, Ambassadors will be equipped with a toolkit that includes a Pocket Guide on “Human Wildlife Conflict, Wildlife Emergency and Response in Belize” and a Pocket Guide on “Wildlife and the Law”. This effort will be supported by our BWRC Wildlife Emergency Hotline which is staffed 24/7 to answer your questions regarding assessment and response to wildlife in trouble, or wildlife giving you trouble.

ABOUT THE HOSTING INSTITUTION:

The Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic - BWRC:

BWRC is a Belizean non-profit organization founded in 2011 with the help of a host of wildlife partners and friends. BWRC is a veterinary teaching clinic, rescue and rehab center for imperiled wildlife of Belize. The Vision is: “*Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Development in Cooperation*” The Mission is: “*to support wildlife conservation, animal welfare and the veterinary profession with veterinary care, rehabilitation, research and education*”.

Today BWRC is a modern, fully staffed veterinary clinic with x-ray and gas anesthesia, for both wildlife and domestics. As of 2020, BWRC has provided free veterinary care to over 4,000 animals. BWRC continues to grow in scope while remaining focused on its core mission. Over the years we found the majority of wildlife patients brought into the clinic for care were injured due human interactions. And many times, humans had no idea that they caused conflict or even committed wildlife crimes. Hence, public education and outreach became one of the most important activities, and the Wildlife Ambassador Program was started with a pilot workshop in 2018. Thanks to GEF-SGP and GIZ Selva Maya Program this effort is now going nationwide!

WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR TRAINING PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Mitigate & prevent biodiversity loss from Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and Illegal Wildlife Traffic (IWT) through increased awareness and training, and community collaboration with enforcement agencies and NGO partners.
2. Increase awareness of One Health Concept.
3. Increase cooperation & response ability between enforcement, PA managers, NGO Partners, community members through training workshops.
4. Support effective and timely response to Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC), Illegal Wildlife Traffic (IWT), disease monitoring, and other wildlife emergencies through BWRC veterinary services, wildlife emergency hotline and rehab.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To gain comprehensive knowledge on the latest trends and issues within the fields of One Health, Wildlife Health, and conservation medicine through high quality online instructional delivery:

- Awareness of Human Wildlife Conflict causes, prevention, and solutions through collaboration.
- Knowledge of national wildlife legislation (Wildlife Protection Act, Fisheries Act regarding Hickatee) and international regulations (CITES)
- Knowledge of commonly seen cases of Illegal Wildlife Trade in Belize and impacts
- Awareness of global impact of Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Recognition of the importance of One Health Concept.
- Awareness of Zoonosis risks and prevention
- Familiarity with common Zoonosis, Vector Borne and Food Borne disease risks and prevention
- Awareness of Antimicrobial Resistance
- Knowledge of Toolkit Pocket guides on Human Wildlife Conflict and Wildlife and the Law in Belize and how to use it.
- Knowledge of available assistance and response possibilities for wildlife emergencies in Belize, including the BWRC hotline.
- Knowledge of basic animal health and behavior assessments: how to recognize an emergency and avoid common mistakes.
- Become familiar with the challenges of wildlife examination
- Ability to ID common species, with the help of references and networks
- Become familiar with commonly seen emergencies and non-emergencies in Wildlife Rescue

- Awareness of Wildlife Rehabilitation challenges and regulation
- Ability to respond to a wildlife emergency with guidance from hotline staff
- Ability to provide assistance in basic stabilization of wildlife*
- Familiarity with wildlife capture and restraint equipments and methods*
- Ability to provide safe wildlife transport*
- Ability to recognize personal limitations and knowledge of safe behavior around wildlife

STRUCTURE:

The program will be delivered in a combination of virtual sessions (synchronous and asynchronous) and then, face-to-face sessions for more delicate and hands-on topics and finally finishing up with our Wildlife Ambassador National Conference in January of 2023.

Synchronous sessions will be done online via Zoom and links will be shared accordingly. Asynchronous sessions will be pre-recorded lectures made available on Google Classroom. Lastly, each topic will have its own quiz and will count as a grade for the overall certification.

All recordings will be made available for your viewing at any time convenient to you through Google Classroom. In order to receive access to this Google Classroom, you need to [register](#) for the Wildlife Ambassador Program after which an automated message will be sent to you with the necessary information and important links.

I. Pre-Recorded Lectures:

The pre-recorded lectures will provide the opportunity for participants to work at their own pace throughout the certificate program. These will be in a video format easily available in Google Classroom or YouTube in some instances. It is expected that participants write down any questions they might have and ask instructors over email or participate in the Google Classroom class discussion or on the comments section under each video.

II. Live Virtual Lectures:

Live online lectures will be facilitated through Zoom Meetings. This will allow participants to ask questions, engage in discussions, and comment on the relevant topic. For those unable to attend the live discussions, each discussion will be recorded and posted on Google Classroom (these will take place on demand and depending on the group).

III. Face to Face lectures:

Reaching the end of the program, participants will be invited to attend the face-to-face workshop sessions where more sensitive and hands-on topics will be shared. This will allow you to have hands-on interaction with the instructors and common tools and techniques in capture, restraint, and transport. These workshops will be scheduled by demand and by location. **Note:** please complete all virtual sessions first.

IV. Quizzes:

Each session will have its respective quiz to evaluate and ensure you learned the key ideas of the lectures. These quizzes will mostly be in the Google Forms format and

will be found in Google Classroom under each topic. When needed, quizzes will be printed and handed out, in the face-to-face sessions. Though online quizzes are readily available on Google Classroom, it is encouraged to view and watch the respective topic lecture *BEFORE* attempting the quizzes.

V. Feedback:

Each session/topic will have respective feedback surveys for evaluation of the presentations. The surveys are in the google forms format and will be found in Google Classroom under each topic. This is to give our instructors feedback on their presentations and future training needs. When needed, surveys will be printed and handed out, in face-to-face sessions. It is encouraged to view and watch the respective topic *BEFORE* filling out feedback surveys.

Recommended Equipment: Computer with reliable, high-speed internet access; your preferred web browser; video player with ability to play MP4 videos; speakers and/or headphones and working sound; PDF reader.

Attendance & Participation: It is expected that all participants of this program review educational content as published or provided by the instructors. All participants are encouraged to attend all planned sessions to grasp the full context of the program, pass and complete the certification. Participation will be confirmed by completion of the session quiz. If participants are unable to attend any live online sessions, it is expected that they utilize the online platform to view lectures that were missed. As a Wildlife Ambassador, the hotline team may ask participants to assist voluntarily in rescue and outreach initiatives by the WAP and BWRC team.

Professional Conduct: Participants are expected to behave as professionals, and consistent with the values of the Wildlife Ambassador Code of Ethics (see link below). Less than professional behavior, including derogatory or hateful communications, are inconsistent with these values, and will result in withdrawal from the certificate program, all benefits and association with the hosting institution.

Diversity Welcome: In this program, each voice has something of value to contribute. Please take care to respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by participants and staff involved in this course. We support our sponsor's commitment to diversity, and welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disability, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

Code of Ethics:

The Belize Wildlife Ambassador Code of Ethics governs duties, responsibilities, and expectations of all Wildlife Ambassadors. Each participant is expected to voluntarily sign and adhere to this pledge at the end of the program before receiving a complete Wildlife Ambassadorship certificate. To view the Code of Ethics, click the following link:

<https://belizewildlifeclinic.org/wp-content/uploads/Code-of-Ethics-Wildlife-Ambassadors.pdf>.

Note: Though these are general guidelines that governs the conduct and responsibilities of the program, the hosting institution, and the Belize Forest Department (governmental enforcement agency in charge of the wildlife of Belize) have full authority to change, add, or otherwise modify the said provisions of the Code of Ethics at any point in time.

Wildlife Ambassador Program Course TOPIC OUTLINE

Topic #	Modality	Topic/Subtopic	Assessments
Topic 1	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Introduction to the Wildlife Ambassador Program (WAP) (1h) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is WAP? - Goals & Objectives of WAP - Activities 	Online Introduction Forum
Topic 2	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Identification of the Wildlife Species of Belize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mammal Species of Belize (45 min) - Common Bird Species of Belize (40 min) - Identification of Snakes of Belize (1 h) - Identification of Other Reptiles of Belize (20 min) - Commonly seen patients at the BWRC (1h) 	Quiz on Mammal ID Quiz on Bird ID Quiz on Snake ID Quiz on Other reptiles ID Quiz on Commonly seen species
Topic 3	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Illegal Wildlife Traffic/Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife Traffic, Crime & Forensics Cases seen at BWRC (1h) - Illegal Wildlife Traffic - a global issue (guest presentation from Hong Kong) (35 min) 	Quiz on Wildlife Traffic, Crime & Forensics Cases seen at BWRC
Topic 4	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Wildlife Legislation of Belize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) (presentation by Belize Forest Department) (20 min) - Wildlife & the Law Pocket Guide: A Guide to recognizing Wildlife Crime in Belize (30 min) 	Quiz on WPA Quiz on Wildlife & the Law Pocket Guide
Topic 5	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Human Wildlife Conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common Cases seen at BWRC (30 min) - How to use the Pocket Guide to Human Wildlife Conflict, Emergency and Responses in Belize (35 min) 	Quiz on Common Cases seen at BWRC Quiz on HWC Pocket Guide
Topic 6	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Introduction to One Health Concept/Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is One Health? (20 min) - <i>Key topics under the One Health Concept:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)</i> (guest presentation by Dr. M. Manzanero) ▪ <i>Vector Borne Diseases</i> ▪ <i>Food Safety</i> (8 min) 	Quiz on One Health Quiz on AMR Quiz on Vector Borne Diseases Quiz on Food Borne Diseases

Topic 7	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	<p>Introduction to important Zoonosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rabies (20 min) - Mange & Skin Infections (25 min) - Roundworms (soil transmitted helminths) (15 min) - <i>Ehrlichiosis</i> (“Tick fever”), <i>Leishmaniasis</i> (“Bay sore”), <i>Malaria and Dengue</i> - Salmonellosis (8 min) <p>Additional One Health presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monkeypox Virus (guest presentation by Dr. M. Manzanero) - Marburg Virus (guest presentation by Dr. M. Manzanero) 	<p>Quiz on Zoonosis</p> <p>Quiz on Rabies</p> <p>Quiz on Mange & Skin Infections</p> <p>Quiz on Roundworms</p>
Topic 8	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation (30 min)	Quiz on Wildlife Rescue & rehabilitation
Topic 9	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Wildlife Emergencies & Response (35 min)	Quiz on Wildlife Emergencies & Response
Topic 10	Online/Self-Guided Lectures	Basic Wildlife Health Assessment (1h)	Quiz on Basic Wildlife Health Assessment
Topic 11	In-person Session	Emergency Assessment Review and Basic Stabilization for Wildlife Species (2h)	Quiz on Emergency Assessment & Basic Stabilization
Topic 12	In-person Session	Wildlife Capture, Restraint, Immobilization, and Transport: Equipment, References, and Procedures (4h)	Practical quiz on Wildlife Capture, Restraint, Immobilization and Transport

*NOTE: The layout of the topics above is a general layout and is subject to change.