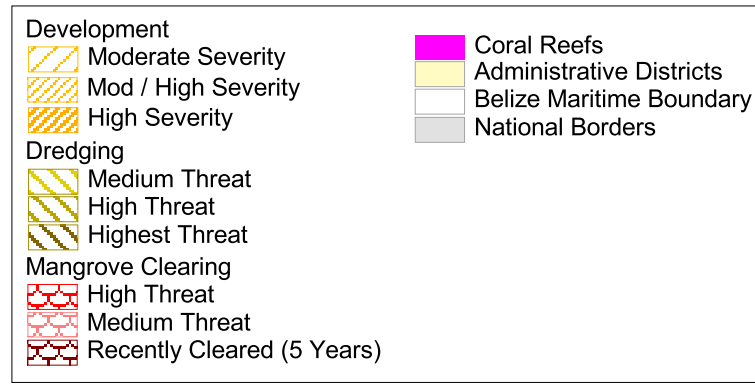


# Coastal Development Threat in Belize - Expert Mapping

Belize is endowed with a beautiful and highly productive coastal environment. Mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs support valuable finfish and shellfish fisheries and attract hundreds of thousands of tourists each year. Many coastal areas, both along the mainland and on atolls, are developing rapidly. Development can impact coastal ecosystems through removal of coastal habitat (such as mangroves), dredging (which obliterates submerged habitat and affects nearby reefs and seagrass beds), runoff from construction sites and roads, and discharge of sewage and grey-water. Coastal development was identified by local stakeholders and scientists at expert mapping workshops as a key threat to coral reefs on Turneffe and Lighthouse Atolls, and along the Belize Barrier Reef. The threat from coastal development is particularly high along the northern Belize Barrier Reef, near Belize City, and near Placencia.



Data Sources: Coastal development threat maps based on results of "Belize Threat Assessment and Mapping" workshops - Belize Audubon Society and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) for Lighthouse Reef; CZMAI, Turneffe Islands Coastal Advisory Committee, and WCS for Turneffe; and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and WCS for the Barrier Reef.

## Reefs at Risk in Belize

A collaboration between the World Resources Institute, Belize Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, and many other partner organisations in Belize. Datasets available on the Belize Coastal Data CD (email [datacen@coastalzonebelize.org](mailto:datacen@coastalzonebelize.org) for more information).