



# Annual Report 2017

Ya'axché Conservation Trust

Punta Gorda | May 2018

**Cover page**

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*)

Photo: Eric Sambol

**Back page**

Mahogany tree (*Swietenia macrophylla*)

Photo: Maximiliano Caal





# Annual Report 2017

## Ya'axché Conservation Trust

Punta Gorda, Belize - May 2018

### Editors

Maximiliano Caal

### Contributing authors

Christina Garcia

Karla Hernandez

Said Gutierrez

Ivanny Oliva

Carianne Johnson

### Design & Layout

Maximiliano Caal

Copyright © 2017 Ya'axché Conservation Trust

### Ya'axché Conservation Trust

20A George Price Street, P.O. 177  
Punta Gorda, Toledo District  
Belize

**Phone:** (+501) 722-0108

**E-mail:** [info@yaaxche.org](mailto:info@yaaxche.org)

**Web:** [yaaxche.org](http://yaaxche.org)



A mature Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*)  
photographed by our field cameras.

Photo: Ya'axché.





A serene creek at Bladen Nature Reserve.

*Photo: Erik Hammar.*





Criollo Cacao pods.

Photo: Maximiliano Caal.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

List of acronyms	7
From the Executive Director	8
Strategic plan	10
Institutional structure	11
Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve	12
Improving community access	12
Protected Areas Management	14
Collaboration is critical for success	14
SMART patrols	16
Protecting jaguars outside of PAs	16
Biodiversity Monitoring	17
Cohune extraction zone improvement	17
Permanent sample plot assessment	17
New rosewood research areas	19
Mammal and bird monitoring in MMNFR	20
Community Outreach & Livelihoods	21
Cacao Agroforestry	21
Beekeeping	21
Inga Alley Cropping	21
Integrated Farming System	23
Exchange Visit to Cuba	23
Staff	24
Funders and Partners	25
Partner organizations	25
Members	25
Financial statement	26

## List of acronyms

BAS	Belize Audubon Society
BDF	Belize Defence Force
BNR	Bladen Nature Reserve and
CFII	Chiquibul Forest Investment Initiative
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COL	Community Outreach and Livelihoods
FCD	Friends for Conservation and Development
FD	Forest Department,
GSCP	Golden Stream Corridor Preserve,
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning System
GTC	Global Trees Campaign
IFS	Integrated Farming System
km	kilometer
MFFSD	Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development
MGL	Maya Golden Landscape
MMNFR	Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve
PAM	Protected Areas Management
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SPU	Police Special Patrol Unit
TFCGA	Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Association
TIDE	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
Ya'axché	Ya'axché Conservation Trust

## From the Executive Director

As we conclude 2017, I am pleased to share with you the highlights of Ya'axché's accomplishments. We began the year with a renewed team and a new mission – “Ya'axché is a Belizean organization which aims to maintain a healthy environment with empowered communities by fostering sustainable livelihoods, protected area management, biodiversity conservation and environmental education within the Maya Golden Landscape.”

During the year Ya'axché was able to expand its protected areas staff from 9 to 13 rangers. This came as a pronounced partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Forestry and the Environment, Ministry of National Security and Friends for Conservation and Development through the Chiquibul Forest Initiative. This was quite a change for the organization especially with the challenges of illegal timber extraction, poaching and illegal entry in protected areas. Our 500 patrols in 2017 signified a 50% increase in patrol effort from 2016. The work in protected areas was also coupled with multiple joint SMART trainings conducted in partnership with Belize Audubon Society and Toledo Institute for Development and Environment. This prompted the establishment of a joint enforcement protocol that allowed the partners to carry out joint patrols in the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL). As a result of this, Ya'axché was able to cover a wider area in the landscape and record key hotspots for future exploration.

The work done in Protected Areas Management is also complimented with community involvement and livelihood enhancement. Earlier this year, the Community Outreach and Livelihoods Program established 7 new Inga alley cropping and 3 agroforestry farms. This gives a total of 14 Inga alley cropping and 24 agroforestry model farms in the MGL. These eco-friendly farms are being utilized as a tool to promote climate-smart agricultural practices in communities; and, it was important for farmers to start visualizing their farms as an income generating source and as a business model. The fusion of these practices led to the creation of a strategic approach to integrated farm businesses in southern Belize.

We can see each year how the landscape is confronted with many challenges such as unsustainable agriculture, improper use of fire and the effects of climate change; however, I was happy to see the involvement of 80 farming families utilizing agroecology as a means to better their lives in 2017. These farmers did not just forgo the usage of harmful techniques on their farms, but they also made a conscious decision to better conserve their land.

Research plays a key role in how we monitor the success of our work, and our Science Program and parabiologists rangers have been working tirelessly with farmers in setting up camera traps within cacao farms to indicate the abundance of wildlife that traverse the area. The pilot study resulted in a record of 15 species of indicator birds and 14 different mammal species present on these farms. This really shows that cacao agroforestry is a beneficial practice that sustains both people and biodiversity.



I must say that 2017 was a very good year for Ya'axché. Thanks to the tireless and dedicated team we overcame the challenges and flourished with successes. I take the opportunity to thank each staff member at Ya'axché. If it weren't for your late night working writing grants and developing budgets, tireless visits to the field, creating new stories, enduring the rugged terrains while conducting patrols and making sure that the workplans are being followed, none of this would have been possible.

I would like to give a special thank you to our partners, especially Fauna & Flora International, our supporters and our donors. Thank you for continuously believing in us. It is my sincere hope that we continue to collaborate and dream even bigger for a better Belize. I look forward to an even better 2018.

Sincerely,



**Christina Garcia,**  
Executive Director

## Strategic plan

The work carried out by Ya'axché is guided by a strategic plan that sets out the goals of the organization and the means to achieve them.

The strategic plan for the period 2018 to 2020 was finalized in December 2017 and includes updated mission statements, as well as updated organizational values.

### Vision statement of the organization

Harmony between nature and human development for the benefit of both.

### Mission statement of the organization

Ya'axché is a Belizean organization which aims to maintain a healthy environment with empowered communities by fostering sustainable livelihoods, protected area management, biodiversity conservation and environmental education within the Maya Golden Landscape.

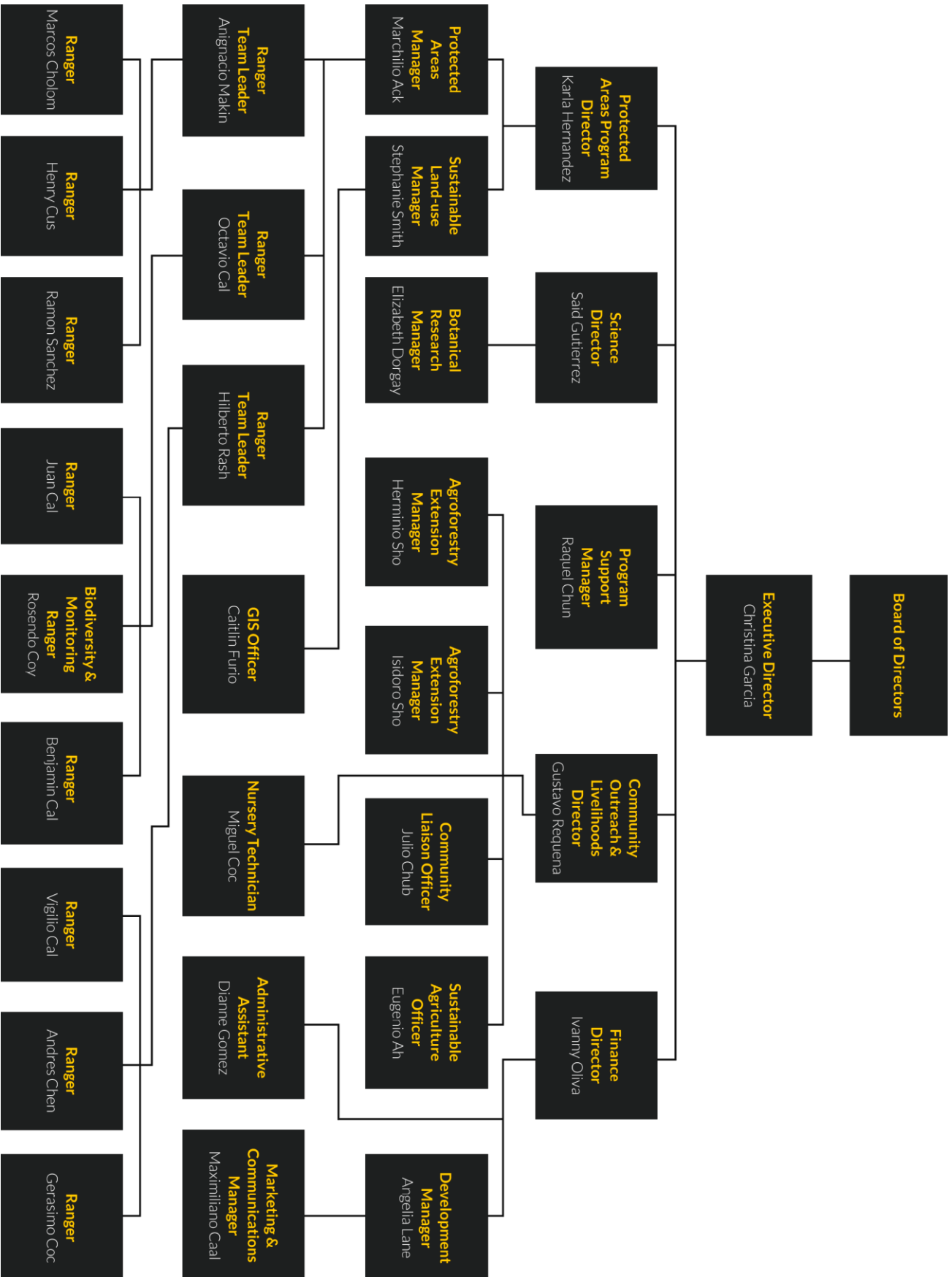
### Organizational values

Ya'axché works with...

- Integrity
- Respect
- Professionalism



# Institutional structure



# Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve

## Improving community access

Since 2005 Ya'axché has been promoting agroforestry, a climate-smart farming practice, to reduce the growing pressures on forests and biodiversity in the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL). Agroforestry is a sustainable farming practice where crops such as cacao are grown among trees. More importantly, agroforestry diversifies income for farming families, reduces erosion on farm slopes, generates layers of mulch that helps prevent soil desiccation and supports habitat conservation.

In 2012, a 31 member cooperative called the Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Association (TFCGA) with support from Ya'axché began the dialogue with the Government of Belize for access rights to Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (MMNFR). After extensive consultations and lobbying, a 15-year permit for 936 acres of land within the MMNFR was secured for TFCGA to implement cacao-based agroforestry. Belize's first official community agroforestry concession is utilized and managed closely by Ya'axché and the farming group to increase farmers' food and income security; as well as to rehabilitate degraded land heavily used in the past for logging and cattle ranching.

Ya'axché has been instrumental in establishing this community agroforestry concession, seeking investments, providing technical and material support to the members and leadership of the TFCGA. The strong partnership between both organizations enable sound decisions relating to the agroforestry concession to be made; this is done through consultations with Ya'axché staff, TFCGA board of directors and its membership.

Guided by a management plan, the farmers began planting two acres of cacao in 2014 with over 165 acres established, over 58,000 trees planted, at the end of 2017. This year also saw the establishment of the first inga demonstration plots within the concession. Projecting into the near future, it is estimated that 1,000 pounds of wet cacao beans would be harvested next year and as the cacao trees continue to mature in 2019, 90,000 lbs of cacao beans are to be harvested from the plots. This year farmers who are engaged in bee-keeping have extracted 500 lbs of honey. The honey has all been sold locally with future potential for exports. The agroforestry concession benefits the thirty-one farmers and their families, impacting over 150 individuals.

In anticipation of the harvest that will commence in 2019 from the concession, Ya'axché is already exploring avenues for enterprise expansion, including that of obtaining international certification to garner maximum price and constructing a cacao drying facility for chocolate production. In addition, both the TFCGA and Ya'axché have seen the potential for ecotourism activities. Ya'axché and TFCGA continue building on momentum and sharing with other stakeholders the successes of the agroforestry concession model, one which can be replicated in other forest reserves in Belize. Many partners and donors have supported this incredible work of engaging communities in the management of natural resources while improving their livelihoods in southern Belize.





Ripe cacao pods at the agroforestry concession,  
Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve.

*Photo: Maximiliano Caal.*



# Protected Areas Management

## Collaboration is critical for success

Since its inception in 1998, Ya'axché Conservation Trust has continuously improved the management of its 3 protected areas across the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL). Throughout these years collaboration has played a crucial role in the success of the Protected Areas Management (PAM) program. Indeed 2017 was a year full of very impactful partnerships that allowed us to achieve our goals and increase our scope for work.

Ya'axché shared the successful implementation of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to conservation professionals at the International Conference for Conservation Biology in Cartagena, Colombia. Our holistic approach to conservation within the Maya Golden Landscape was highlighted by showcasing the human-jaguar conflict initiative, long-term biodiversity monitoring and awareness raising events such as BioBlitz. The conservation event provided a perfect networking opportunity to seek new partnerships.

Ya'axché partnered with master students from the Colorado State University to update the management plan for Bladen Nature Reserve. The participatory process included input from communities and staff.

Ya'axché established a special partnership with the Belize Defence Force (BDF) to train enforcement park rangers in navigation, firearm handling and safety, and jungle combat. In addition to this capacity building, our rangers received in-house training in ecosystem services, GPS, public speaking, biodiversity monitoring, SMART.

The capacity building improved skills essential for daily operations within the 3 protected areas.

We realized that Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, Bladen Nature Reserve and Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve are part of a larger landscape, where the successful management of the natural resources requires the participation of different stakeholders. Due to that, this year Ya'axché partnered with the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) and the Belize Audubon Society (BAS). Ya'axché provided a series of SMART training workshops to representatives of the partner organizations. Joint operations, guided by an integrated enforcement plan, were conducted across 3 adjoining protected areas – Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, Golden Stream Corridor Preserve and TIDE Private Lands. Through this partnership the first SMART Local Network was created to gather and share information using the innovative SMART technology.

We are grateful for the successful partnerships developed that aid in the development of effective strategies to protect Belize's unique landscape.





SMART has improved ranger patrols at Bladen Nature Reserve, Golden Stream Corridor Preserve and Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve.

*Photo: Maximiliano Caal.*



## **SMART patrols**

This year, four years after piloting Spatial Monitoring and Report Tool (SMART) to guide protected area management, Ya'axché conducted a total of 500 patrols – reflecting a 50% increase in patrols from the previous year. The patrol data collected using SMART has been analyzed and shared with key enforcement stakeholders that help deter illegal activities within protected areas in southern Belize.

SMART was utilized during special operations, done in collaboration with the Belize Defence Force, the Belize Forest Department and the Police Special Patrol Unit (SPU), to collect data on illegal hotspots in Bladen Nature Reserve. The findings informed our enforcement strategies to deter illegal activities, including identifying new patrol routes.

SMART continues to improve efficiency and effectiveness of ranger patrols.

## **Protecting jaguars outside of PAs**

The PAM program also worked closely with communities as part of our human-jaguar conflict initiative. This year we worked with 9 livestock farmers from 6 communities to promote the co-existence between jaguars and people. Seven mitigation measures were piloted to determine their effectiveness of reducing conflict between humans and jaguars – a very sensitive, multi-layered ongoing issue.

A critical component of addressing the human-jaguar conflict issue was raising the awareness of communities on the importance of protecting jaguars and their livelihoods. As a result we launched the “Keep Cows, Save Jaguars” campaign which was developed with the assistance of interns from the Ecology Project International, Belize.

This initiative also allowed us to conduct a one-of-kind forum called “People, Jaguars and Livestock”. Farmers from 6 communities participated in the forum; they shared how this initiative changed their perspective towards jaguars, allowed them to utilize field camera to monitor wildlife around farms, and implement mitigation measures to keep cows safe.

The continuous collaboration with the communities has played a key role in the success of this human-jaguar initiative, it will continue in 2018.

# Biodiversity Monitoring

## Cohune extraction zone improvement

The cohune palm (*Attalea cohune*) is an abundant palm from southern Mexico to Colombia and has a large number of uses for cultures throughout the region. In the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL), the palm is the primary source of thatch for traditional Maya homes. Since 2009, Ya'axché has allowed neighboring communities permitted access for cohune leaf extraction in designated sustainable use zones of the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP).

Ya'axché's goal is the sustainable use of these zones while also meeting the needs of communities. Given the high volume of permit requests in recent years, we realized that more work needs to be done. Ensuring sustainable harvest involves 1) improving the process of harvest from extraction zones, 2) experimentally determining the optimal harvest level that allows the palms to regenerate, and 3) incorporating that harvest level into management of the zones.

In 2017, we tackled the first step. We used observations of traditional harvest practice, data from prior permit requests, and surveys of cohune size and abundance within the extraction zones to demarcate multiple 1-hectare plots within the zones. Now that we know roughly how many harvestable cohunes and leaves are within each plot, plots will be directed for harvest on a rotational basis.

Despite the cohune palm's abundance and frequent use, the impact of leaf extraction on the palm has not been studied anywhere in its range. In 2018, Ya'axché

will investigate the optimal harvest level and rate of leaf regeneration for the palm while communities enjoy access to cohune leaves. To effectively manage the harvesting process, Ya'axché's Protected Areas Manager will direct the permit holder to the plot with the appropriate number of leaves.

## Permanent sample plot assessment

This year, we began the process of re-censusing a permanent sample tree plot on a limestone slope in the Bladen Nature Reserve (BNR). This plot was established and last censused in 2012. At that time, we recorded several tree species new to BNR and one *Cinnamomum* species that was new to science!

Ya'axché monitors a total of four 1-hectare permanent sample plots located in different regions of BNR. The goal of the plots is to expand knowledge of vascular plant diversity in the Maya Mountains and how diversity is distributed across the landscape. Systematic inventories of the plots allow us to monitor changes in the physical structure of this unique limestone forest over time. The fact that Bladen is relatively undisturbed by humans makes it an ideal reference point for the surrounding landscape.

The re-census of the plots involves recording, tagging, measuring, and identifying all woody stems greater than 5cm in diameter. By December, Ya'axché rangers, staff, and volunteers had censused roughly 1200 trees in the slope plot. The remaining three plots will be censused in 2018. Data analysis and reporting will take place after the completion of all plots.





A young Rosewood tree (*Dalbergia stevensonii*) with seed pods in its branches. Its bark is slowly becoming flaky.

Photo: Maximiliano Caal.



## New rosewood research areas

Rosewood (*Dalbergia stevensonii*) trees have been a valuable timber resource for the people of Belize for many years. In the early 2000's, intensified extraction to meet demands of international markets led the species to the point of crisis, pushing the government of Belize to establish a moratorium on its harvest in 2012.

Much progress has been made for the species since the moratorium was enacted. All *Dalbergia* species are now regulated at the point of export under CITES Appendix II. This year, the government of Belize amended the Forests Act and increased penalties for illegal logging and possession of forest produce. The Ministry is currently in the process of developing a management plan for the sustainable harvest of the species.

Since 2012, Ya'axché in partnership with the Global Trees Campaign has committed to assisting the government with collecting information to make science-based management decisions. Ya'axché rangers have monitored growth and flowering and fruiting patterns of 100 trees in Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP) to address a gap in critical knowledge on this species. This study was last published in the 2016 Biodiversity Synthesis Report.

In April this year, Ya'axché established a new rosewood monitoring site in Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (MMNFR). These 18 new trees are generally more mature and have had less disturbances than the hurricane-impacted GSCP trees. The flowering and fruiting times in this population will be recorded for the long-term and compared to those in GSCP.

In May, we implemented a new study to monitor the regeneration capacity of rosewood stumps. When cut, rosewood produces copious shoots from the cut surface and any roots and stems left behind. It's uncertain how many, if any, of these shoots survive to become mature trees or how quickly this happens. Fifteen stumps were identified from illegally logged trees in MMNFR during 2015. The stumps are now being measured on a yearly basis for shoot success and growth. This information gathered could be extrapolated to stumps left behind in protected areas and private lands during the peak of rosewood exploitation in Belize.

Other ongoing conservation actions for *D. stevensonii* include regular patrols for logging activities, decoding legislation to communities, and promoting conservation education. We continue to advocate for sustainable use so that the species can provide a steady income far beyond the next few decades, and that the forests of Toledo will continue to provide essential ecosystem services for future generations.

## Mammal and bird monitoring in MMNFR

Over the last eight years much emphasis has been placed in the monitoring of target species (mammals and birds) within the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL). For the most part, this monitoring covered areas within the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP), Bladen Nature Reserve (BNR) and some village land areas. In 2017 we were successful in collecting consistent data on target bird and mammal species within two transects established in 2016.

Out of list of 19 species of target mammals 11 species were detected in the two transects. Nineteen species of target birds were detected out of a list of 31. These numbers are consistent with what is being observed in the nearby Bladen Nature Reserve which had 14 target mammal species and 23 target bird species combined from two transects. The presence and abundance of wildlife recorded in the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve in 2017 demonstrates the importance of the reserve to wildlife and highlights its designation as a Key Biodiversity Area.

The first year of mammal and bird monitoring data collected from the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve has been added to our biodiversity database. As has been done for other sites monitored over the years, Ya'axché will continue to use the data to guide management plans within the Maya Golden Landscape.



## Community Outreach & Livelihoods

The Community Outreach & Livelihoods (COL) program is the bridge between Ya'axché and the communities in the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL). It fosters the relationship through various activities including the provision of extension services to farmers, trainings in climate-smart agricultural practices, working with community groups and schools.

The use of exchange visits and demo plots are very important approaches that this program uses to get farmers to adopt new practices resulting in changes in attitudes and behaviors. In 2017 the COL program has had success with the climate-smart farming practices it promotes.

### Cacao Agroforestry

There has been a steady increase in the planting of new cacao fields in the MGL. This is a direct result of the increased demand for cacao beans. The COL team continues to provide farmers with materials and equipment so that the farmers can improve the management of cacao farms. Extension visits to each of the farms allow for the farmers to get individualized training sessions.

This year our trainings focused on cacao pruning and shade management. Farmers from the MGL communities and members of Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Association attended these sessions. Farmers also benefitted from practical training sessions on the establishment of model agroforestry farms, to date 8 agroforestry model plots have been established. Particular focus was placed on the design of model farms to ensure that the many components of an agroforestry system are incorporated.

### Beekeeping

This climate-smart farming practice is being promoted in the MGL to compliment the agroforestry work being done. Traditionally, Toledo has had a vibrant honey industry and it has contributed to the income stream of farmers. The viability of the industry is supported by the high forest cover that still exists in the district.

The farmers from 6 communities within the MGL harvested over 570 pounds of honey, marketed locally. The farmers raising bees in the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve faced challenges with flooding during the rainy season and fire during the dry season. A central, suitable new location was identified for the apiary. It proved a good move, resulting in a harvest of 500 pounds of honey and an increase in the number of colonies.

### Inga Alley Cropping

With all the challenges that climate change presents to our community and especially our farmers, it is imperative that Ya'axché finds innovative ways to make our communities more resilient.

For the first time in the MGL two Inga plots, owned by Bartolo Teul of Big Falls and Mateo Ack of Medina Bank, were pruned. Inga farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture extension officers took part in the Inga pruning training sessions.

Corn planted in the alleys of the plot at Medina Bank was damaged by tapir and we were unable to accurately record production at the other plot. There are other Inga demo plots that will be pruned next year.





Dried  
All-  
Spice

Coffee

Cacao  
Beans

yan

Ya'axché has been working with MGL farmer Daniel Chiquin for years, here he is with his farm produce.

Photo: Maximiliano Caal.



## Integrated Farming System

This year we advanced farming approaches being practiced in the Maya Golden Landscape with the adoption of Integrated Farming System (IFS). IFS focuses on connecting the climate-smart farming practices to increase efficiency and reduce energy loss. For example, trees that bees collect nectar from can be planted on agroforestry farms that provide needed shade to cacao trees.

We had the opportunity to design an Integrated Farming System demonstration farm, one that has all its components interconnected. Farmer Leonardo Cucul and son Orlando have livestock, cacao, fruits, and corn on their farm. To decrease deforestation and address the nutritional needs of his cattle, a protein bank was established to help feed his animals.

Similarly, they had major issues with water especially during the dry season. We advised and worked with them to keep an area forested to help restore a small stream that runs through his farm. They now have an adequate, regular supply of water on the farm for his livestock to drink from. This has saved the farmers BZ \$105 per week which would have been used to provide drinking water to the cattle.

More work is yet to be done to improve efficiency at this Integrated Farm System demonstration farm.

## Exchange Visit to Cuba

At the end of 2017, Ya'axché facilitated an exchange visit with farmers and staff to Cuba. This provided us an opportunity to help grow our program within the Maya Golden Landscape. We have evolved from promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, to integrated farming system to agroecology.

Agroecology is all encompassing; it considers working with the environment, using natural pest control, embracing traditional knowledge, improving crop yields and increasing maximum use of farm space. The MGL farmers learned how Cuban farmers improved fertility of soils and increased crop yields in small spaces and established support systems with university and government bodies.

The COL team, through this exchange visit, sparked a partnership with an Agroecology Expert, Professor Ruben Sanchez of Instituto de Investigaciones Fundamentales en Agricultura Tropical, who will be visiting and providing tailored training sessions to farmers in the Maya Golden Landscape.



## Staff

The list below represents staff members (past and present) that have contributed to Ya'axché's achievements throughout 2017. As of January 2018, Ya'axché employs 29 full time staff. Volunteers, indicated by an asterisk (\*), fill key positions in the organization.

<b>Christina Garcia</b>	Executive Director
<b>Karla Hernandez</b>	Protected Areas Program Director
<b>Ivanny Oliva</b>	Finance Director
<b>Gustavo Requena</b>	Community Outreach & Livelihoods Program Director
<b>Said Gutierrez</b>	Science Director
<b>Kamille Pennell</b>	Operations Director
<b>Marchilio Ack</b>	Protected Areas Manager
<b>Stephanie Smith</b>	Sustainable Land Use Manager
<b>Raquel Chun</b>	Program Support Manager
<b>Maximiliano Caal</b>	Marketing & Communications Manager
<b>Elizabeth Dorgay</b>	Botanical Research Project Manager
<b>Julio Chub</b>	Community Liaison Manager
<b>Isidoro Sho</b>	Agroforestry Extension Officer
<b>Eugenio Ah</b>	Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator
<b>Herminio Sho</b>	Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator
<b>Miguel Coc</b>	Nursery Technician
<b>Dianne Gomez</b>	Administrative Assistant
<b>Anignazio Makin</b>	Ranger Team Leader, specialized in freshwater monitoring
<b>Octavio Cal</b>	Ranger Team Leader, specialized in freshwater monitoring
<b>Hilberto Rash</b>	Ranger Team Leader, specialized in navigation
<b>Rosendo Coy</b>	Research & Monitoring Ranger and licensed tour guide
<b>Vigilio Cal</b>	Ranger, specialized in navigation
<b>Marcos Cholom</b>	Ranger, specialized in snail monitoring
<b>Andres Chen</b>	Ranger
<b>Juan Cal</b>	Ranger
<b>Henry Cus</b>	Ranger
<b>Benjamin Cal</b>	Ranger
<b>Ramon Sanchez</b>	Ranger
<b>Gerasimo Coc</b>	Ranger
<b>Angelia Lane*</b>	Development Manager
<b>Benjamin Fletcher*</b>	Protected Areas Program Assistant
<b>Caitlin Furio*</b>	GIS Officer

## Funders and Partners

Ya'axché is grateful to its long-term institutional partner, Fauna and Flora International for its continuous support over the years and would also like to thank all those who have contributed to our work throughout 2017:

- Belize Nature Conservation Fund
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
- Conservation, Food and Health Foundation
- European Union
- Gesellschaft für Internationales Zusammenarbeit - Selva Maya Programme
- Global Trees Campaign
- Inter-American Foundation
- Lotex Foundation
- Protected Areas Conservation Trust
- New England Biolabs Foundation
- UNDP-GEF Community-Based Adaptation Programme
- GEF Small Grants Programme
- Rufford Foundation
- The Overbrook Foundation
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wild Earth Allies

## Partner organizations

- Belize Association for Private Protected Areas
- Belize Audubon Society
- Belize Defence Force
- Belize Forest Department
- Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education
- Colorado State University
- Fauna and Flora International
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Environment, and Sustainable Development
- Maya Mountain Cacao
- Maya Mountain Research Farm
- Panthera
- Penn International Impact Consulting
- Protectors of the Last Corridor
- Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
- Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Association
- University of Belize – Environmental Research Institute

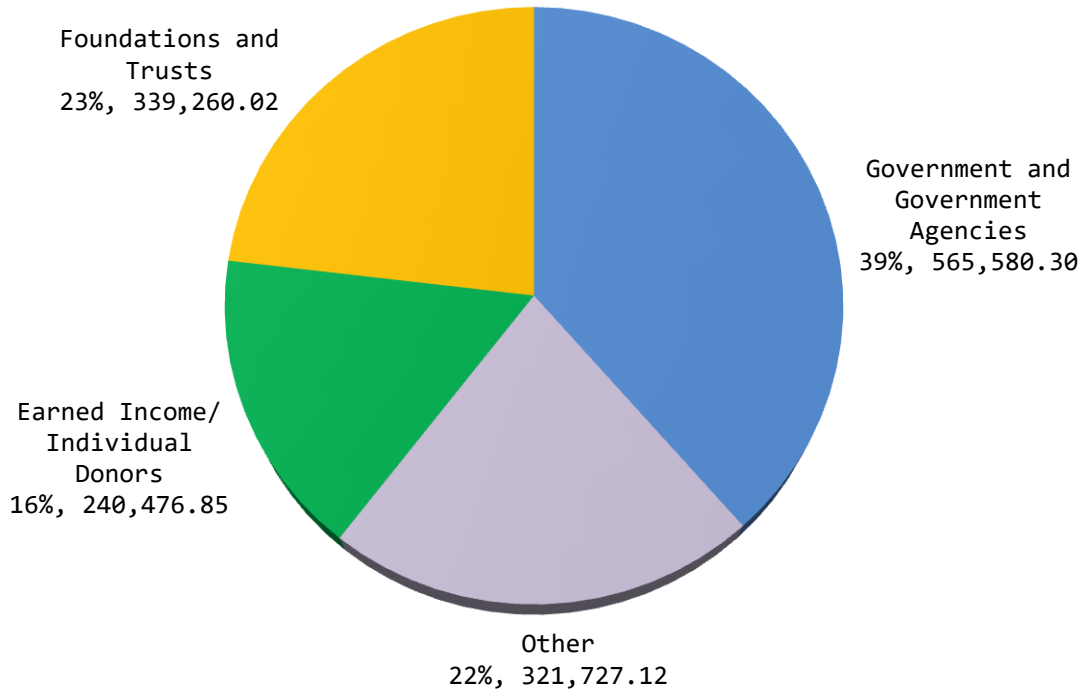
## Members

Ya'axché would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our members who support our work through their kind monetary contributions!

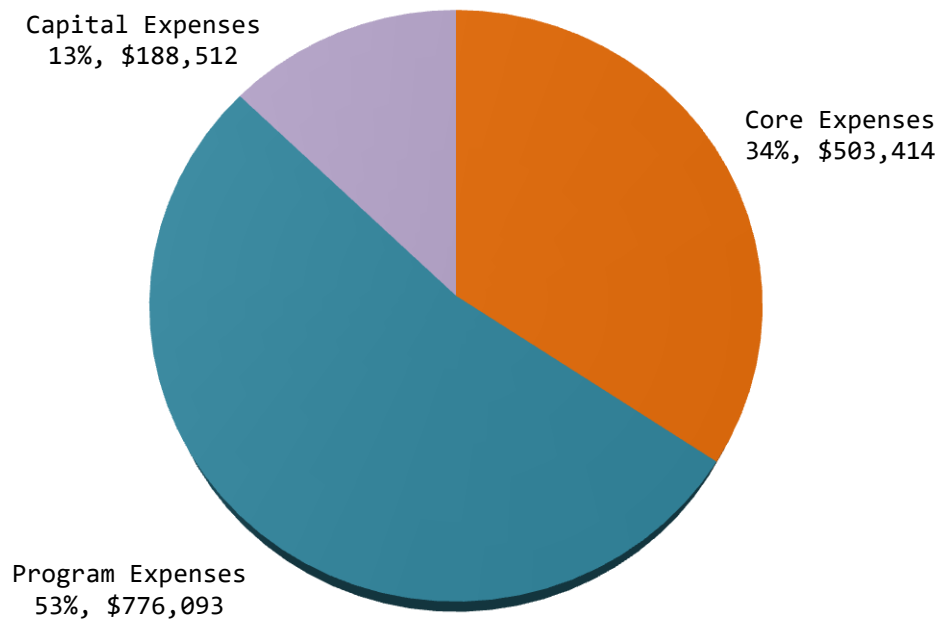
# Financial statement

1st January to 31st December, 2017

FISCAL YEAR 2017 INCOME

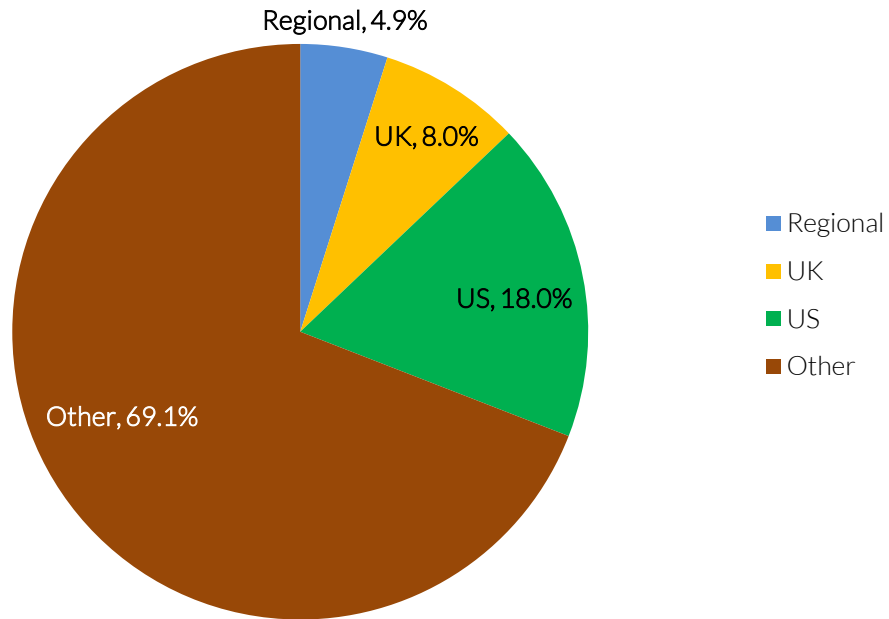


FISCAL YEAR 2017 EXPENSES

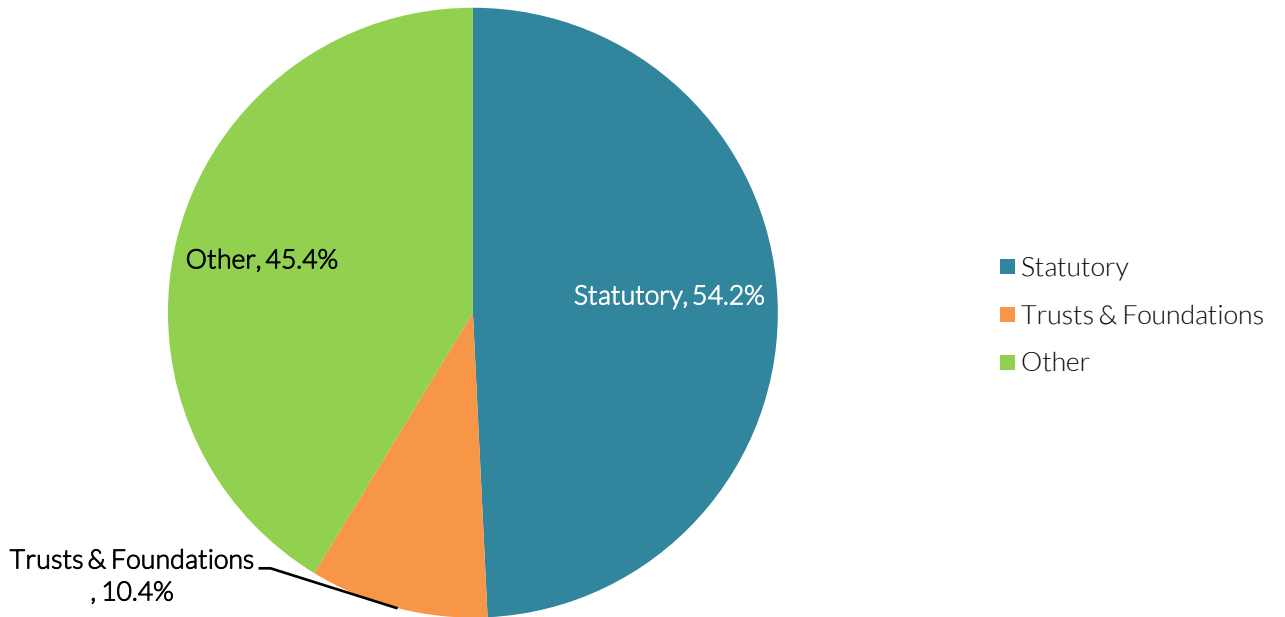




## Geographical Origin of Funding 2017



## Funding Source 2017







**Ya'axché Conservation Trust**  
20A George Price Street, P.O. 177  
Punta Gorda, Toledo District  
Belize

Phone: (+501) 722-0108  
Email: [info@yaaxche.org](mailto:info@yaaxche.org)  
Web: [yaaxche.org](http://yaaxche.org)

