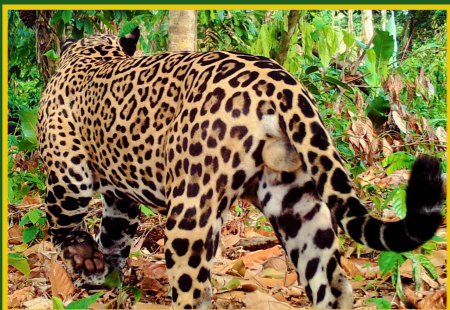


# Human-Jaguar Conflict

The iconic jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is the top predator in the jungle which helps to keep wildlife populations in balance. The major threat to this amazing wild cat is deforestation, destroying its home and food resources. This leads jaguars to find food outside forested lands and into farms attacking cattle.



Predatory cattle attacks cause economic loss and conflict between farmers and jaguars. In 2012, Ya'axché partnered with the Forest Department, Panthera-Belize and the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute (ERI) to protect biological corridors and the jaguar, as an endangered species.

Ya'axché's Protected Areas Management program safeguards forests that helps to expand and maintain the jaguar's range and its population in Belize healthy.

Through the Human-Jaguar Conflict program, Ya'axché has engaged with cattle farmers in Toledo to co-exist with jaguars.



Some of the mitigation measures cattle farmers are using to protect their domestic animals and in turn, save the jaguars are:

- Adequately fenced farms help to keep predators out. An electric fence or tight barbed wire fence works very well.



- Clean pasture edges from bush makes it difficult for jaguars to reach the cattle, as jaguars do not like open areas.

- Solar lights around the farm helps to keep jaguars away at night.



- Having a donkey in the farm acts as an alarm system against jaguars. Donkeys are loud animals when threatened.

- Seasonal breeding of cattle allows farmers to provide extra and easier care for the calves against predators.

- Water trough keeps cattle away from rivers and other freshwater watersheds where jaguars frequent for cooling down and to drink water.

- Proper disposal of cattle carcasses helps to prevent attracting jaguars around a farm.

# Ya'axché Conservation Trust

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

Ya'axché is a Belizean organization aiming to maintain a healthy environment with empowered communities through sustainable livelihoods, protected area management, biodiversity conservation and environmental education utilizing innovative approaches within the Maya Golden Landscape.

## Contact Us

### Administrative Office

P.O. Box 177  
Ogaldez Street, Punta Gorda Town  
Toledo District  
Belize

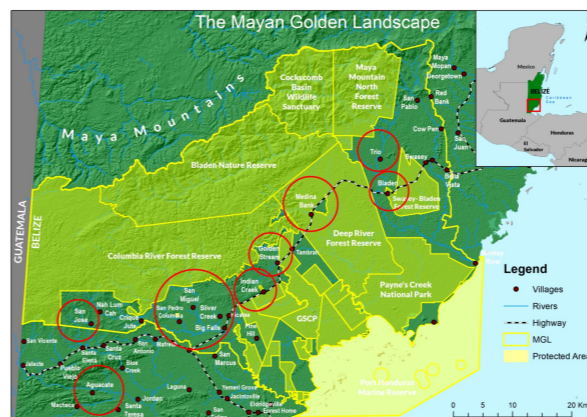
**Phone:** (+501) 722-0108

**E-mail:** info@yaaxche.org

**Web:** yaaxche.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

All images have been captured by Ya'axché staff and field cameras deployed in wild places managed by Ya'axché in the Maya Golden Landscape.



# Protected Areas Management Program



Photo of Blue Pool River in the Bladen Nature Reserve.

# Protected Areas Management program

Ya'axché's Protected Areas Management program was established upon receiving the ownership and management of Golden Stream Corridor Preserve in 1998. Today, Ya'axché also co-manages Bladen Nature Reserve and Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve.

Within the three protected areas, Ya'axché safeguards 151,000 acres of forest, 6 watersheds, and protects 37 globally threatened species and 18 endemic wildlife species.



The program aims to protect wild places and its biodiversity across the Maya Golden Landscape to benefit its sustainable development.

Ya'axché enforcement team implements science and the use of innovative technology to monitor illegal activities and biodiversity. With over 35 years of land use data for the Maya Golden Landscape, Ya'axché continues gathering data to support the development of national policies, legislation and strategic management of the protected areas system in Belize.



**GOLDEN STREAM CORRIDOR PRESERVE**



Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP) is a private protected area of 15,441 acres.

The area was purchased and rescued from industrial citrus and shrimp farming by community leaders to secure the environment of the buffering communities. The communities of Golden Stream, Indian Creek and Medina Bank buffers the area, directly depending on GSCP's natural resources.

GSCP is recognized as a critical link in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, protecting the last forested link between the Maya Mountains and the coastal lowlands forests. GSCP is also



recognized as an area of cultural importance, providing resources such as the cohune palm and essences for communities traditional shelters and spiritual ceremonies. It also protects archaeological sites containing remains of ancient human civilizations and Pleistocene mammals.



**BLADEN NATURE RESERVE**

Bladen Nature Reserve (BNR), an area of 100,000 acres, was established in 1990 and in 2008 Ya'axché acquired co-management.

BNR has the highest level of protection and is considered to be the 'crown jewel' of Belize's protected areas system. Only educational and scientific activities are allowed in BNR.

BNR is one of the most pristine forests in Belize, protecting 20 ecosystems



types, from uplands and valleys. With its diverse range of conditions of altitude, elevation and moisture. BNR has an estimated 4,000 plant species, one of the richest in Belize and the region.

More than 50% of mammal species in Belize find refuge in BNR, allowing animal populations to reproduce and restock in surrounding extractive forests. BNR protects 1 major watershed, the Monkey River Watershed, providing buffering communities of Bladen and Medina Bank and others with clean water.



**MAYA MOUNTAIN NORTH FOREST RESERVE**



Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (36,000 acres) is co-managed by Ya'axché since 2015.

MMNFR connects forests and wildlife with the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS) and BNR, two major protected areas in Belize.

The forest reserve shelters and protects the endangered species and keeps the Monkey River Watershed healthy, which provides Belizeans with clean water.

MMNFR is highly threatened by illegal hunting and deforestation for logging and agriculture. Sustainable extraction of resources is permitted in the area.

Belize's first community agroforestry concession was established in 2015, to help a buffering community group to have access to arable land. The community based model helps to decrease the illegal activities in the area, strengthen sustainable livelihoods and protects wildlife.

