



JOB TITLE	ECO-PROJECT MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER YA'AXCHÉ CONSERVATION TRUST
PROJECT	USFWS - AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT MANAGEMENT FOR SOUTHERN BELIZE
LOCATION	GOLDEN STREAM FIELD CENTER & YA'AXCHÉ'S PUNTA GORDA OFFICE, TOLEDO DISTRICT, BELIZE
POSITION REPORTING TO	SUSTAINABLE LAND-USE PROGRAM MANAGER
DURATION	SIX MONTHS MINIMUM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Ya'axché Conservation Trust is a community-oriented organization which advances integrated landscape management for equitable development in southern Belize through sustainable land use management, strategic advocacy and awareness, and by supporting socially innovative and economically viable enterprise.

I. OBJECTIVE

To build the capacity of Ya'axché Conservation Trust staff members and to assist with the management and implementation of the USFWS project "An Integrated Approach to Neotropical Migratory Bird Habitat Management for Southern Belize".

II. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Ya'axché Conservation Trust is implementing a project in the Toledo District with the primary goal to protect key habitat of neotropical migratory birds through an Integrated Landscape Management approach in the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL).

To achieve this aim, the project will address the following objectives:

- 1: Incorporate NMB habitat conservation into the sustainable land-use planning approach that Ya'axché is implementing with authorities, communities and landowners within the MGL, and into complementary land management plans
- 2: Reduce NMB habitat loss and increase bird-friendliness of agricultural lands by helping communities to replace unsustainable practices, such as slash-and-burn, with viable alternatives, such as cacao agroforestry.
- 3: Enhance community-managed monitoring systems to enable adaptive management of migratory birds and their habitats according to activities developed in the Maya Mountain Marine Corridor Conservation Action Strategy.
- 4: Increase (i) farmers' willingness to modify land use practices in favor of birds and (ii) local participation in the NMB monitoring programme through locally appropriate community environmental outreach activities focusing on the promotion of migratory birds.

The Project Management Volunteer will provide support to Ya'axché by working flexibly, responsibly, with initiative and in a professional manner, playing an active role as part of Ya'axché's team by actively contributing to the organisation's overall objectives and mission.

III. SPECIFIC DUTIES

The Project Management Volunteer is expected to:

Act as Co-manager of this project

1. Ensure timely progress of project activities - in the field and in the office
2. Provide updates/assist with communications with FFI (partner organization) and USFWS
3. Assist with writing or editing project reports

4. Provide guidance and assistance with education and training materials as needed
5. Throughout the project, strengthen the capacity of Ya'axché staff in relevant areas

IV. AUTHORITY

The Project Management Volunteer is responsible to and reports directly to Ya'axché's Executive Director.

V. QUALIFICATIONS

The Project Management Volunteer should have:

1. Strong interest in migratory bird conservation as well as in gaining experience in Project Management (some experience preferred)
2. Ability to be a self-starter, independent and assertive
3. Excellent organizational, writing, and communication skills
4. Cultural sensitivity
5. Ability to operate as part of a team in a dynamic environment, as well as motivation and enthusiasm to work under own initiative
6. Common sense and flexibility
7. Excellent written and spoken English is essential. Spoken Spanish, K'ekchi or Mopan languages would also be advantageous.
8. A minimum BSc or equivalent in a relevant subject area (e.g. ornithology, conservation biology, environmental sciences, development or education)

HOW TO APPLY:

Please read the 'Volunteer Information Manual' at the bottom of this link www.yct.bz/volunteers.html before applying.

Submit letter of interest detailing why you are interested and how you meet qualifications, along with resumé and 2 letters of reference to:

Development Officer, Ya'axché Conservation Trust

By email: yct.development@gmail.com

Please type in Subject: "NMBCA Volunteer"

Ya'axché Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 177

#2 Alejandro Vernon Street, Punta Gorda,

Toledo District, Belize

Central America

Phone: (501)722-0055

Phone/Fax: (501)722-0108

Website: www.yct.bz

Blog: <http://yaaxche.wordpress.com/>

Benefits of Volunteering with Ya'axché:

- o Free, shared housing (or camping) in a quiet, nature preserve
- o Opportunity to work closely with dynamic, multi-cultural staff
- o Appreciation for your dedication and hard work
- o Excellent references for excellent work
- o Adventure in a country with pristine ecosystems, world-class snorkeling and SCUBA
- o In-depth, interactive cultural experience unattainable by tourists

Volunteers live and work in a beautiful but rustic, rural setting at Ya'axché Field Center and become part of the team to gain and promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment. Accommodations offer limited solar power, a cold water, shared bathroom, and the occasional rat, bat, tarantula, or scorpion.

Volunteer Personal Expenses:

There are no program fees charged for this experience, but the volunteer is expected to arrange and pay for:

- o Transportation to Punta Gorda, Belize, including airfare
- o Food, personal expenses, in-country travel, passport, visa