



Bladen was established in 1990  
Photograph by Steven Brewer

# Bladen Nature Reserve

Size of Protected Area  
**99,796 Acres**

Globally Endangered Species  
**2 Plant, 2 Bird, 3 Mammal**

Species found in Protected Area  
**337 Bird, 20 Fish, 93 Mammal,  
92 Herpetile**

Ecosystems found in Protected Area  
**20 Ecosystems**

DON'Ts in Protected Area  
**Fishing, Hunting,  
Logging, Tourism**

DOs in Protected Area  
**Environmental Education  
Research and monitoring**

Threats to Protected Area  
**Wildfire,  
Overhunting,  
Agricultural expansion,  
Logging,  
Xaté extraction**

## The 'crown jewel' of Belize's protected area system

Considered to be one of the most biodiversity-rich, and geographically unique areas within the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, Bladen forms a significant portion of the Maya Mountains Massif.

Bladen's large expanse of primarily forested uplands and valleys are essential for the survival of regionally iconic species such as the jaguar, scarlet macaw, white-lipped peccary and harpy eagle. Furthermore, Bladen provides a refuge for more than 57% of all mammal species known in Belize and plays a vital role in restocking harvested animal populations in surrounding extractive forests and downstream freshwater habitat.

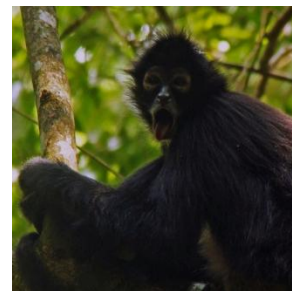
Largely protected from hurricanes, Bladen's forest has a little-disturbed structure supporting 20 intact ecosystem types and high species diversity across a great range of elevations. With its diversity of altitude, geology, aspect and hydrology, Bladen Nature Reserve offers perhaps the most diverse range of conditions for plant life of any protected area in Belize. Assessment has found tree species diversity to be highest in Central America and experts estimate upwards of 4000 plant species may be present.



Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*)  
Photo: Erik Hammar



Scarlet Macaw (*Ara macao*)  
Photo: Maximiliano Caal



Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*)  
Photo: Maximiliano Caal

