

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2022

Punta Gorda

Toledo, Belize



Royal Visit to the Maya Golden Landscape

Ya'axché extends a warm welcome to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge wishing them a most enjoyable time during their visit to Belize.

As part of the royal visit, Ya'axché was extended an invitation to showcase its work in the Maya Golden Landscape by highlighting local community-based entrepreneurship and sustainable conservation models in southern Belize. This provided the opportunity to the Maquin family and various women's groups to engage and market their unique products and stories.

Ya'axché firmly believed that engagement with the Maquin family and the women's groups during the royal visit would have garnered the global attention to the family's artisanal chocolate-making story and their culture, while bringing a perfect marketing opportunity to the farmer, community, Toledo District, and Belize.

Ya'axché was guided by the event organizers by following strict protocols, confidentiality and logistical arrangements for the visit. Ya'axché had no responsibility or authority to invite anyone. The logistics and the list of invitees for the visit were not Ya'axché's purview.

Ya'axché has 25 years of community-oriented approach in working with buffering communities in southern Belize. We work with beneficiaries that are willing to be a part of Ya'axché's mission and vision, inclusive of farmers, small business entrepreneurs, women's groups and other community-based organized groups that choose to partner with Ya'axché. Partnership support includes institutional and technical capacity building that fosters community engagement, creating opportunities for the promotion of their livelihoods whether it be in subsistence farming, cacao and chocolate making, beekeeping and honey production or cultural and eco farm tours.

Ya'axché remains open to working with all communities in southern Belize and especially the communities of the Maya Golden Landscape and looks forward to continued collaborations that support sustainable conservation and livelihood improvements for the people of Belize.

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

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