

For Immediate Release
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Toledo District, Belize



Ya'axché Conservation Trust Reaffirms Commitment to Continued Dialogue Amid Residential Lot Issuance in Boden Creek

The Ya'axché Conservation Trust (Ya'axché) reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding biodiversity, ecosystem health, and supporting sustainable livelihoods in southern Belize, while expressing serious concern regarding the recent issuance of residential lots within the properties owned by Boden Creek Land and Cattle Limited (Boden Creek), a wholly owned entity of Ya'axché.

Ya'axché is the sole shareholder and manager of the Boden Creek property, approximately 12,876 acres of land located along the eastern side of the Southern Highway near Mile 78, adjacent to Indian Creek village. Records indicate ownership of the property dates back to before the 1960s. Over time, the land has supported a range of uses, including large-scale agriculture such as bananas, citrus, rice cultivation, as well as logging and ecotourism.

In more recent years, the role of Boden Creek has evolved toward biodiversity conservation, reflecting its ecological significance as part of Belize's Southern Biological Corridor, connecting the Maya Mountains to the coastal plains of Toledo. This corridor plays an important role in wildlife movement, climate resilience, and long-term ecosystem health. Biodiversity monitoring within the property has confirmed the presence of numerous near threatened, threatened, and endangered species, including jaguars, tapirs, howler monkeys, and a rich diversity of resident and migratory birds. Maintaining the ecological integrity of Boden Creek for the benefit of present and future stakeholders remains a central objective.

Since 2022, Ya'axché has engaged in ongoing dialogue with leaders of Indian Creek village and with the Government of Belize regarding the land. Ya'axché acknowledges and respects the affirmed Maya customary land tenure in Maya villages in Toledo and recognizes the ongoing national process to identify, protect, and give legal effect to these rights, inclusive of drafted legislation.

Regarding the recent issuance of approximately 200 residential lots, covering an estimated 300 acres within the Boden Creek property, Ya'axché expresses serious concerns over disregard for law and order. This includes concerns related to the absence of respectful dialogue, clarity on tenure arrangements, and alignment with existing environmental and land governance frameworks.

Ya'axché recognizes the needs and concerns of the Indian Creek community and reiterates its willingness to continued discussions with community leaders and the Government of Belize. The organization remains committed to working collaboratively to identify solutions that address community's rights while ensuring the long-term protection of this biologically significant landscape. Ya'axché is committed to harmony between nature and human development for the benefit of both.

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