

Friends *for* Conservation and Development

Promoting Core Conservation

ANNUAL REPORT 2016





The 17th Annual General Meeting event of **Friends for Conservation and Development** is made possible through the full sponsorship of **San Ignacio Resort Hotel**



This publication is made possible through the sponsorship of **BRC Printing**

Cover photo: An aerial view of the majestic Natural Arch in the Chiquibul by Tony Rath

Back cover photo: Water flow into Natural Arch by Tony Rath

Heading photos: Pages 3,4,9,12 by Tony Rath

Inside photos: page 6 (Aerial of mountains), page 14 (Nohoch Chen) by Tony Rath

Inside photo: page 13 (Mountain Lion), page 6 (white lipped peccary) by Lauren Watine



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

This is my second year as Chair of the Board and I want to use this space to thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this position; reflect on the experiences and work that lies ahead; and urge you to become more involved.



I want to start by sharing three questions that have guided my role as Chair over the last two years: “Do we understand the complexity of the responsibility we have assumed? Are we positioned and equipped to handle the job we have assumed? What do we need to put in place?”

Two years ago, I accepted to join the Board and subsequently to serve as Chair. Having assumed this responsibility, I came to the scary realization that I did not understand the complexity and enormity of FCD’s work. Our mission is about the environmental protection of the Chiquibul and that may sound simple. However; environmental protection is already complex enough under normal circumstances. Add to that a very rugged terrain, large size and a particularly thorny trans-border situation with questions of national security and international politics and you have a situation that is as rugged as the landscape of Chiquibul to navigate. While we are absolutely clear that our mission is biodiversity conservation and nothing else, we have to work along with stakeholders that are about national security. The Chiquibul is one of the most beautiful natural areas in Belize, with a high level of biodiversity and a major watershed for Guatemala and Belize but it is also one of the most challenging areas to work in. It requires a high level of competency, creativity, clarity, maturity and integrity. We need to keep this in mind and seek to understand the issues as much as possible. That is perhaps most important for Board members who have to make policy and strategic decisions but it is also true for all FCD members. We collectively have taken this awesome responsibility.

Are we positioned and equipped to handle the job we have assumed? And, what do we need to put in place? Again, this might sound as a job for the Board and while the Board must take the lead, it is the job over all members of FCD. Over the course of the last two years we embarked on a strategic planning process and I am proud to say that we have adopted the plan; we also embarked on the elaboration of a tourism enterprise development plan to begin to work towards the financial sustainability of FCD; a revision of what personnel is needed and building the capacity of the Board. These are just some of the accomplishments and just the beginning of getting the job done more effectively, but much is yet to be done. FCD needs adequate office space; we need greater investment and a more supportive policy framework to facilitate our work. The job; however; won’t be accomplished without the greater and wider involvement from the membership and the Board.

Having urged you to become involved I want to end with two related questions or challenges. The first is what mechanisms can we put in place to increase the participation of the membership? FCD is a membership organization, and we cannot take that lightly. If we mean that, then we must create mechanisms for member’s involvement. The second question has to do with youth. How are we to involve young people? Last year, I spoke about FCD’s youth history. Sustainability is not only about finance it is about the extent to which a dream, a philosophy, a mission lives in the minds and hearts of people. One of FCDs sustainability pillars has to be the involvement of young people.

I want to conclude by once again thanking you for the opportunity to serve FCD and to take the opportunity to wish you well in the coming year!

Filiberto Penados PhD



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When people think of FCD, what comes to mind are the avid rangers on the ground patrolling and conducting reconnaissance in the Chiquibul Forest but the work of FCD is more than just patrols. FCD like many conservation organizations is a well-rounded institution with many interventions aimed at protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. We have educators in schools teaching about the beauty of the Chiquibul; researchers gathering data to understand what we have; and field station staff catering for people to enjoy the wilderness.



Our 2016-2020 strategic plan reassures us of the way forward and in a sentence, our goal is to conserve the natural and cultural resources of the western Chiquibul-Maya Mountains for the sustainable development of Belize. The work is enormous but after being nine years in the area we are optimistic that the goal can be achieved. Essentially our work on a daily basis is biodiversity conservation. It is a job undertaken through team effort. Seven units form part of the implementation team at FCD, led by young Belizeans.

Over the years, I have been amazed to see young people join FCD with a deep enthusiasm to protect the richness of Belize. Although we hear of corruption elsewhere in Belize and the region, these young men and women that comprise FCD have a high level of integrity in promoting biodiversity conservation. The work ethics is most valuable for us and we hope to maintain it that way despite the evolution taking place at FCD. Seriousness and dedication should always be our letter of presentation, and constantly we must promote and award that within FCD.

I have always felt that the word “development” in the name of the organization also means growth of the human spirit and enterprise. For those who form part of the FCD, it is my expectation that they can develop their capabilities to do more effectively their work, but more importantly that they can develop individually. By doing so they will not only raise the quality of work at FCD but they will raise the bar in terms of their family and country status.

My early and long-time mentor, Paul Butler taught me that it is less than 1% of those who dedicate their lives in protecting the environment and thus the work would always seem to be an uphill battle. In Chiquibul that seems to prevail indeed. Given this reality, I am pleased to have a set of individuals that are willing to undertake the challenges and grow. No doubt the experience here will make them develop into better persons.

A certificate given to FCD recently from John Muir Trust reminds me of the intrinsic value that nature has. Muir believed that destroying nature was like scratching the face of God. Thus nature, regardless of what species, size or color, has its own intrinsic value. Our work in the Chiquibul -Maya Mountains is, therefore special for us, for all the people that depend on this, but it also has a divine meaning.

I end by thanking those that form FCD and the supporters and friends that believe in us. It all starts by coming through our doors and once inside it is our duty to keep the work in due diligence. Maintaining high standards will result in positive outcomes and getting closer to our mission. Protecting those that cannot speak - all those wild animals and plants - is a major responsibility and I want to encourage my staff to develop and grow further. It is good for them, FCD and for Belize!!!



A Forward Outlook

We have concluded another year of conservation efforts and as we look back we can attest that each of the programs managed by FCD young leaders are certainly meeting the overall purpose of conserving biodiversity in the western Chiquibul-Maya Mountains. The results obtained have an impact on the population of Belize who depend on the many environmental goods and services derived from this ecosystem. It is rather difficult to quantify the benefits we obtain; however, we are certain that the Belizean society appreciates the conservation efforts undertaken on a daily basis by various environmental organizations throughout Belize. The recent launching of the Chiquibul Forest Investment Initiative also serves to reassure us that the Government of Belize is putting more attention to the protection of the Chiquibul Maya Mountains. FCD is appreciative of the importance given and we have a forward positive outlook that our efforts will be bolstered and our work will be more effective.

FCD has devised over the years key programs that are critical towards park management and as you can observe in the following pages, there is a lot of planning, coordination, commitment, desire and vision that occurs on each program area. The outputs are only possible due to the employees that comprise the various programs. The essence of success of the FCD is due to its employees, supported by collaborators and friends.

This year we have seen a reduced expansion of the human footprint across the Chiquibul landscape, though agricultural incursions and gold panning remain critical issues. But we cannot take a sigh of relief - the other evolving trends of cattle ranching and drug cultivation along the distant border area needs to be monitored and controlled in the Chiquibul. This task has to be done in combination with other institutions.

Wildlife appears to be having a comeback and the work must continue to safeguard the wildlife populations and increase the viability of the ecosystems. The various programs at FCD are helping curb the degradation trends known historically. But the work must continue in earnest.

Our strategic plan and tourism enterprise plan directs us to new levels of governance, financial sustainability and a clear forward vision and mission. Conscious of the challenges and capabilities needed, FCD is also placing more effort in building the human capacities, improve the staff incentives and build a stronger governance program to take us to the next five years.

FCD's Mission

FCD pioneers adaptive management of the Chiquibul Forest to improve the ecological and cultural integrity of the western Chiquibul-Maya Mountains



FCD's Vision

FCD envisions healthy terrestrial ecosystems that are sustainably managed for Belize and the region.





Las Cuevas Management



Las Cuevas Research Station has been active throughout the year catering for student groups, interns and volunteers. FCD's goal is to bring it back as how it was in its glory days in the late 90's. At the time the Natural History Museum of London was intimately involved in the management. Since taking it over for more than 2 years now, FCD has intended to engage once more the Universities who historically used the station. Dr. Malcolm Penn, Dr. Stephen Blackmore, Dr.

Sam Bridgewater and Chris Minty are key figures that still maintain a close affinity to the research station and have made a commitment to support our efforts in Belize.

This year several modifications were made at Las Cuevas. The FCD research staff moved to their new quarters at Las Cuevas, and the Karst Management Unit team was moved from the Tapir Ranger quarters to the research station. This has now enabled for the station to have a larger presence of FCD staff on that location and an on-site medic and rescue team.

A Tourism Management Unit Manager was also hired and is now responsible for the management of the Research Station. This does not change the focus of the station, but in fact it diversifies it for other users. FCD's Tourism Enterprise Development Plan recommends the Las Cuevas Station as the main hub for anchoring tourism ventures for the Chiquibul Forest. This goes in line with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development's vision for improving FCD's capabilities to generate its own finances.

FCD received several high delegates this year at Las Cuevas Research Station. During the month of September we had the honor of receiving the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Honorable Dr. Omar Figueroa, and earlier in the year Ambassadors Carlos Quesnel of Mexico visited the park and Las Cuevas. Towards the end of the year Ambassador Benjamin Ho from the Republic of China (Taiwan) made his last wilderness trip to Chiquibul before departing Belize.

Program Highlights

- From May to November, 166 persons visited LCRS
- 7 University groups used the facilities
- 3 high delegate groups visited the area
- The concept of a University Consortium is supported by more than 4 Universities
- Two new quarters were constructed at Las Cuevas for research team
- All trails and tower lookout remain open and well-maintained
- Two long term students conducted research at LCRS surrounds
- Buildings upgraded and one expanded to accommodate more students





Bi-national Conservation

A glance over the landscape of the Chiquibul Maya Mountains Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala shows the major degradation that has taken place over recent times. Yet this reminds us of the same trend that can occur if we do not control the number of encroachments into Belize's Chiquibul-Maya Mountains. We have been repeatedly informed by Guatemalan environmentalists of the reality and the roots of the problem, as people desperately seek new lands and greener pastures to survive in nearby Peten. Thanks to the bi-national cooperation programs supported by the British Embassy in Belize, the US Department of the Interior and Ukaid DFID, FCD maintains a vibrant and proactive effort with Guatemalan partners in matters related to the protection of the environment and natural resources, in line with the MoU signed between both Governments in December 2014.



Despite the challenging times faced this year, FCD has been dialoguing with key counterparts in Guatemala and remain positive that the struggles can only make us stronger and more focused on what we have to do to protect the Chiquibul landscape. In January 2016, FCD signed an extended Agreement of Cooperation with Asociacion Balam for the protection of the Chiquibul ecosystem for the period 2016-2020. The British High Commissioners to Belize and that of Guatemala witnessed the signing. Thereafter on the 16th of February, 2016 at the recommendation of the new municipality mayors of the five municipalities of Southern Peten, namely Melchor de Mencos, Dolores, El Chal, Poptun and San Luis a framework of cooperation between these mayors, Asociacion Balam and FCD was renewed. This agreement primarily seeks to jointly promote the protection of the Chiquibul Maya Mountains ecosystem and reduce conflict among communities located on the Belize/Guatemala adjacency zone. This year we also got a renewed commitment of village alcaldes from nine Guatemalan communities to continue being a part of the Bi-National Watershed Alliance, whom in partnership with another 10 community leaders from Belize seek to jointly protect the Chiquibul, Mopan and Macal Rivers.



Program Highlights

- Extended FCD's partnership with Asociacion Balam for 5 years.
- Expanded FCD's joint efforts with Balam to include other areas north and south of Chiquibul.
- Renewed FCD's partnership with 5 municipal mayors from Southern Peten to reduce conflict.
- Registered El Comité Integral para la

Protección de Cuencas Chiquibul y Mopan

- Obtained commitment from 9 communities in Peten to form part of the Comité Integral.
- Developed 3 twin proposals with Asociacion Balam
- Opened discussions with 2 other conservation institutions in Guatemala
- Provided Bz\$12,000.00 to Balam for development of a community project in Peten



Forest Protection



The primary management component of the Chiquibul Forest is that of protection. For this reason, most of our actions in the field are aimed at monitoring and reducing any activity that can compromise the integrity of the region. FCD employs park rangers to undertake this important role. During this year, a ranger presence was maintained in three conservation posts, namely Tapir Camp, Ceibo Chico and Rio Blanco. Approval was received to install and make operational

another two conservation posts, namely Cebada and Caballo. Park Rangers continued this year receiving the support from the Belize Defence Force and the Police Department. To make them more effective a training course was conducted in February, that also had the participation of Forest Officers from the Belize Forest Department and Park Wardens from the National Institute of Culture and History. Towards the end of the year interviews were held as part of the selection process to hire new park rangers. Discussions were also ensued with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development for development of a Park Ranger Training Program. The concept has received Ministerial support and partners are currently being identified.

This year FCD Park Rangers concentrated their efforts to address and reduce the expansion of the agricultural frontier with support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service; and with the financial support of the Protected Areas Conservation Trust an active strategy was maintained in the southern region of the Chiquibul National Park to contain the illegal gold panning activity at Ceibo Chico and Rio Blanco Conservation Posts. Farming and gold panning are considered the most critical threats to the biodiversity of the park. The work is both complex and sensitive since the root of the problem originates in Guatemala. Xate extraction and illegal logging are no longer a major problem; however; other evolving trends are being observed and documented that can have more disastrous impacts on Belize's forests and the country. Marijuana cultivation and cattle ranching with appearance of more firearms in the western flank of the Chiquibul Forest urges us to devise a new strategy to confront the problem with an improved capability and with new partners in conservation.



Program Highlights

- More than 75 patrols conducted by park rangers in the Chiquibul Forest
- One binational patrol with Guatemalan rangers carried out successfully
- 218 park ranger man-days undertaken at Rio Blanco Conservation Post
- 319 park ranger man-days undertaken at Ceibo Chico Conservation Post
- 17 park rangers trained on tactical interventions
- Four forest officers and two NICH wardens trained in Search and Rescue
- Conducted 18 patrols to reduce illegal agricultural farming
- 6 aerial reconnaissance conducted over the western flank of the park covering over 1,500 km.
- Lobbied successfully for construction of two new conservation posts

Karst Management



Karst

as we recently learnt is more than just caves; it relates to watershed management, and in this regard FCD has a big job to play. FCD's strategic plan specifically puts attention to watershed management and recommends the development of a bi-national watershed management plan as well as a re-designing and re-scoping of the existing "Blue Gold" campaign into a national public awareness campaign focusing on the importance of bi-national watershed management. However, to do this we must learn more about the karstic areas of the Chiquibul. FCD's Karst Management Unit shoulders that responsibility. The team of three persons, based at Las Cuevas Research Station (LCRS) is led by

Chief Ranger/Medic Wendy Garcia. From LCRS the team is more strategically placed to assist in monitoring and helping researchers in the area.

This year the Karst Management Unit was boosted up with further training and equipment and got better experience on how to operate in remote areas of the Chiquibul Cave System. A team of British scientists, led by Andy Eavis who is recognized as the human being having discovered more of earth underground led an expedition to 3D scan the largest cave room in the system known as the Belize Chamber.

With financing from the Protected Areas Conservation Trust, the Karst Management Unit continued collecting valuable information using the data sheets produced by the University of Kentucky. The information was analyzed and the first karst management report was produced including key recommendations for enhanced protection of the karst systems in the Chiquibul jungles.

The findings indicate that the third set of caves known as Cebada, located nearby the western border with Guatemala is seriously being threatened by farming activities nearby and on top of the karstic areas of Cebada. For this reason, FCD has found it critical to install a conservation post in the area to mitigate further deterioration.



Program Highlights

- 65 karst features of the Chiquibul Cave System (CCS) documented
- 35 sinkholes and 31 caves explored
- An expedition to extract a Maya incensario successfully undertaken with IoA
- The largest chamber in the CCS 3D scanned and measured
- Karst Management Unit restructured and trained
- Facilities for Karst Management Unit team established
- The first technical situation and management for karst landscape produced
- Mapping of hotspot areas in the CCS developed
- Permit to test tours in the Kabal caves of the CCS obtained from IoA
- Creation of a Cave Mapping volunteer team endorsed
- CCS Working Group organized

Environmental Education



The headwaters of Belize, particularly the Belize River Watershed has received more interest and community support thanks to the PACT funded project aimed at protecting the headwaters of the Chiquibul. FCD's environmental educator, Wilford Justin Pook has taken the task to visit schoolchildren, youth and adults with the key message inviting community members to care and protect our rivers by participating in clean up campaigns and reforestation. The task is daunting since the Greater Belize Watershed is comprised of four rivers, namely the Chiquibul, Mopan, Macal and Belize. It covers a great number of communities including those in Guatemala. The education outreach is targeting 42 communities and more than 125,000 inhabitants. *Scarlet* the macaw, brought joy to schoolchildren and information leaflets served to interpret the importance of the watershed and ways to protect it. In addition, the educator worked very closely with the Bi-national Watershed Alliance, comprised of nine communities in Belize, who have pledged to continue in a joint effort with Guatemalan community leaders to protect this invaluable resource.

In Guatemala, the effort to protect the watershed has also continued. This year we focused in strengthening the capability of the 9 leaders to register their community organization named La Comision Integral para la Proteccion de Cuencas Chiquibul y Mopan. These leaders managed a 5,000 plant nursery at the village of El Cruzadero. The program in Guatemala is funded through the British Embassy in Belize.

FCD also promoted this year the beauty of the Chiquibul Forest, with the purpose of making people understand the true value that we have in Belize and the reason why it is critically important to maintain it. A set of five posters, brought home the magnificence of the Chiquibul jungles and invited people to visit us. It is a challenging endeavor as normally people consider that Chiquibul is dangerous, but the fact is that this forest is large covering over 423,000 acres and the critical hotspots are isolated areas nearby the western flank of the park. In practice, much of the greater landscape of Chiquibul is safe to enjoy it.



Program Highlights

- 43 Primary Schools visited
- 250 teachers and 6,246 school children presented on the Beauty of the Chiquibul Forest.
- 500 adults have been presented on the importance of the bi-national watershed
- Over 280 persons participated on clean up campaigns
- Over 2,100 posters distributed since November 2015
- 9 community leaders, 1 women's leader and 1 youth leader confirm their participation on the Bi-National Watershed Alliance
- Over 100 seedlings distributed among children and adults
- One nursery with over 5,000 seedlings constructed in Peten



Wildlife Conservation



With support from various institutions including the US Department of the Interior, UkAid DFID, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Belize Electricity Company Limited, the Taiwanese Embassy in Belize and the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement from the Government of the U.S, a more robust program aimed at the protection of wildlife species has been implemented this year. Primarily the financing has been obtained through sub-awards provided to FCD by the WCS. This year the

research team focused seven months conducting biological monitoring of scarlet macaws in the Chiquibul Forest, while at the same time a small team of FCD staff took care of at risk chicks in a laboratory. A total of 14 chicks safely made it to the wild on their own, while another 5 macaws were released from the laboratory. This makes it the highest number of macaws safely protected in one nesting year. But protecting macaws also took other strategies this year. FCD managed to put a presence of park rangers in the area primarily to detect poachers while radio announcements were aired encouraging Belizeans not to buy any wild animals and to report anyone dealing with wildlife species. FCD also partnered with organizations in Guatemala including Asociacion Balam, WCS, Foro de Justicia Ambiental and el Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas to address illegal wildlife trafficking through law enforcement and public awareness. FCD also signed an agreement with WCS in Guatemala and Natura y Ecosistemas Mexicanos, A.C in July in order to coordinate research, management and conservation efforts of scarlet macaws in the Maya Forest.

During a lapse of five months, the research team with support from the Protected Areas Conservation Trust, conducted a study on the impact of poaching on game species communities. The first study was conducted in 2014 and thus the 2016 results could be compared to the previous results. FCD's Biologist also analyzed data compiled through GIS, aerial reces and ground trutting to produce reports on the state of agricultural incursions and conditions of the karstic regions of Chiquibul.

The research team consisting of four field personnel, led by the Biologist is based at Las Cuevas Research Station though for most of the time they are in the field and spend weeks in a makeshift camp. With support from the Council of Agriculture and Forestry Bureau this team was constructed a separate quarter enabling them to have more space and comfort.

Program Highlights

- 14 macaws fledged from natural cavities
- 5 in-situ lab macaws hand reared and released
- 0% poaching of monitored macaw nests
- New in situ lab constructed and refurbished
- New field assistant quarters constructed
- Morelet's crocodile research began with Belize Crocodile Research Coalition
- Impacts of poaching on game communities research conducted and published
- Report on impacts of agricultural farming in the Chiquibul prepared and produced
- Report on karst landscape condition and management prepared and produced
- One technical presentation on research results made at MSBC Congress
- A tri-national agreement reached for protection of scarlet macaws
- One jaguar cub and 2 emerald toucanets rescued in Chiquibul due to natural causes



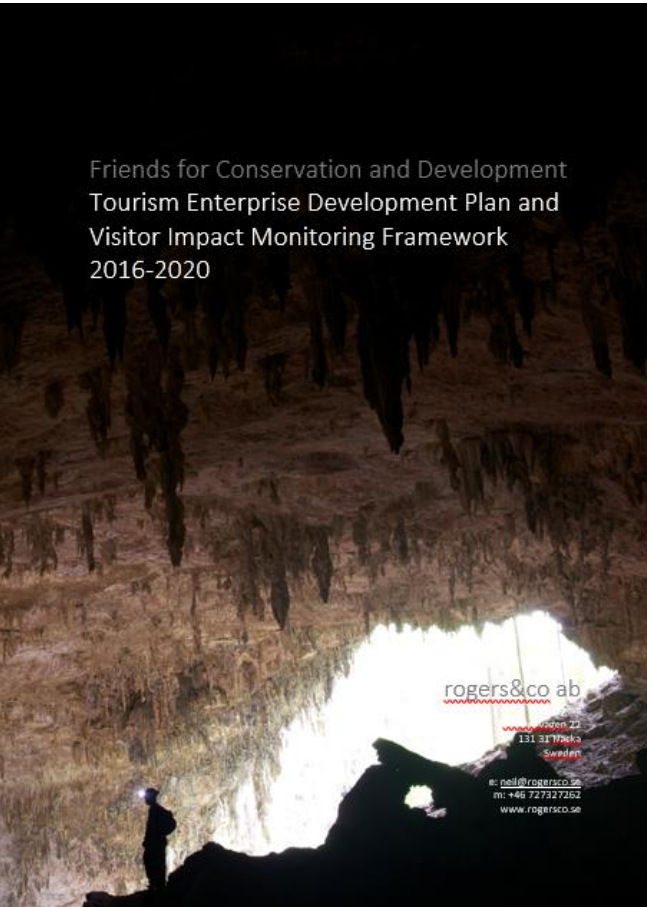
Institutional Development

Fifteen years ago FCD developed its first strategic plan. At the time, we did not even have any staff employed. In 2006 with support from Conservation International and PACT we started the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains project guided with a project driven roadmap for a period of three years. After concluding that project, FCD continued on the achievements obtained. With this growth and with FCD's expansion into new areas, it was urgent to devise our next strategic plan. With PACT's support, this year, three main consultancies and products were developed that will prove to strengthen our organization during the next five years.



A five-year Strategic Plan was finalized and adopted by FCD's Board. Likewise, a Tourism Enterprise Development Plan was adopted, marking a new road for FCD and a first launch towards a self-sustaining mechanism. The third product, was a Board Manual whose aim is to make this governing body more effective in the new era for FCD. The development of these frameworks was extremely tedious, with many working sessions and reviews.

Friends for Conservation and Development
Tourism Enterprise Development Plan and
Visitor Impact Monitoring Framework
2016-2020



Program Highlights

- FCD's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 prepared and approved
- Tourism Development Plan prepared and approved
- Tourism Marketing Plan prepared and approved
- FCD's Business Plan revised
- Visitor Impact Monitoring Framework finalized
- FCD Board Manual prepared and reviewed
- FCD Board members trained on Board governance
- Two Board Committees approved and constituted

Partnerships

FCD is honored to have worked with more than 85 partner institutions from Belize and abroad. From the private sector and community based organizations to government and international organizations, they have made our work more effective and result oriented.



Governmental Agencies

- The Forest Department
- The Belize Defence Force
- The Police Department
- Immigration Department
- Institute of Archaeology
- Agriculture Department
- Department of Cooperatives
- Department of the Environment
- The Mining Unit
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Ministry of National Security
- Ministry of the Environment and SD
- U.S Department of the Interior
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- Republic of China (Taiwan) Embassy
- British Embassy in Belize
- US Embassy in Belize
- UK-Aid DFID/DEFRA
- Ministry of the Environment (Guatemala)
- Municipality of Melchor de Mencos
- National Protected Areas Council



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign & Commonwealth Office



(Guatemala)

- Protected Areas Conservation Trust
- National Association of Village Councils
- Commonwealth of Municipalities of Southern Peten
- Ministry of Agriculture (Guatemala)
- Belize Agricultural Health Authority

Community Based Organizations



- Friends of Lower Dover
- CMMB Watershed Alliance (Belize)
- Grupo Integral para Conservación de las Cuencas
- San Jose Succutz Village Council
- FCD Youth Environmental Group
- Cayo Women's Conservation Group
- Friends of the Vaca Forest Reserve
- Caracol



Non-Governmental Organizations



- Belize Nature Conservation Foundation
- Cayo Tour Guide Association
- Centre for Strategic Studies, Policy Analysis and Research
- Asociación Balam
- COACAP
- XMET
- Engaged Scholarship and Service Learning
- Foro de Justicia Ambiental



- Creation Care Studies Program (CCSP)
- Hagen Avicultural Research Institute
- Rare Species Recovery Foundation
- Belize Wildlife and Referral Clinic
- The Wildlife Institute
- The Belize Zoo and TEC
- WildTracks
- Scarlet 6



International Organizations

- United Nations Development Program
- Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh
- Western Kentucky University
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- American Adventure Sport
- GEF-Small Grants Program
- Summerlee Foundation
- Conservation Concern
- Concentric Advisors
- Survival Wisdom
- Restoring Eden
- Selvana Ltd
- IUCN



Private Sector

- Mountain Equestrian Trails
- Belize Magnificent Tour
- Via Venture Foundation
- Lions Adventure Tour
- Pine Lumber Company
- Bull Ridge Company
- Blancaneaux Lodge
- San Ignacio Resort
- Grace Kennedy
- Idealab Studios
- Toyota Ltd
- Midway Ltd

Other Sectors

- BECOL
- Organization of American State
- Godfrey and Valerie Smith
- University of Florida
- Virginia Tech
- Channel 5 OYE
- Channel 7
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- The Reporter
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- Sewanee University



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FCD remains grateful to each one of our corporate sponsors and all the many other individuals that provided financial support to the Park Ranger Program in 2014. The positive impacts of the support are still vivid on every aspect of the rangers' field work undertaken in the Chiquibul Forest.

Board and FCD Staff

STRATEGIC GOAL

FCD aims to conserve the natural and cultural resources of the western Chiquibul-Maya Mountains for the sustainable development of Belize.

BOARD

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Mrs. Susana Canton – Vice President
Mr. Wiczsman Pat – Past President
Dr. Isabelle Durant – Secretary
Major Oscar Mira – Director
Mr. Jorge de Leon - Director
Mr. Joe Awe – Director

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Rafael Manzanero, Executive Director

Luceli Itza, Admin Assistant
Derric Chan, CNP Manager
Veronica Avila, E. Educator (Until May)
Gliss Penados, TED Unit/Station Manager
Joseph Hendrixx, Project Manager
Jose Sierra, CNP Ranger
Sylvester Choc, CNP Ranger (Until Jan)
Marvin Puc, CNP Ranger
Carlos Cocom, Chief Ranger
Darrio Bautista, CNP Ranger
Demery Harris, CNP Ranger
Wilford Pook, Environmental Educator
Billy Lerma, CNP Ranger
Ryan Thompson, CNP Ranger
Johny Tzib, Karst Unit (From Oct)
Elroy Reyes Jr., Research Assistant
Francisco Galicia, Research Assistant
Evelyn Magana, Janitor
Angelica Morales, Cook

Diana Garcia, Accounts Clerk (From Sept)
Boris Arevalo, Biologist
Nidia Panti, Accounts Clerk (Until July)
Derry Harris, CNP Ranger (Until July)
Kenny Pech, CNP Ranger
Marco Diaz, Chief Ranger
Leroy Supal, CNP Ranger
Joseph Panti, CNP Ranger (Until Jan)
Benjamin Cal, CNP Ranger
Robin Magana, CNP Ranger
Elsworth Sutherland, CNP Ranger (From Jan)
Wendy Garcia, CCS Ranger
George Cocom, CNP Ranger (Until Jan)
Pedro Bol, Research Station Caretaker
Tanya Santos, Project Manager (Until Jan)
Gabriel Lopez, Research Assistant
Roberto Tzib, Research Assistant
Rafael Mesh, Assistant Station Manager

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