

Press release
Ya'axché Conservation Trust



(Punta Gorda, 18th of May) The Honorable Lisel Alamilla, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, has captured the prestigious *Whitley Fund for Nature Award*. Lisel received her award from the Princess Royal, during ceremonies at the Royal Geographical Society in London, England. Lisel joined six other nominees from countries including Indonesia, Madagascar, Peru, Mexico, and Costa Rica in competing for project funding worth £30,000.

These awarded funds will enable Ya'axche to; 1) further community empowerment and education in the biodiversity rich Maya Golden Landscape in Toledo and 2) expand the effectiveness of the National Protected Areas System by incorporating private protected lands throughout the network. Ya'axché is a Belizean NGO with a 14-year history of dedication to achieving harmony between nature and human development for the benefit of both.

Ya'axché and the people of Toledo are incredibly proud of Lisel's achievements in leading Ya'axché in its mission to maintain healthy forests, rivers and reefs for the benefit of all Belizeans. Through protected area management, advocacy, and working hand in hand with communities, Lisel has ensured Ya'axché has always strived to develop local capacity for the wise use of land and natural resources in and around the Maya Golden Landscape in Toledo.

This award highlights the growing global recognition of Belize in leading the region to achieve sustainable development in harmony with nature.

Read more:

[Ya'axché Conservation Trust website](http://www.yaaxche.org/)

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[Whitley Fund for Nature website](http://whitleyaward.org/winners/conservation-maya-golden-landscape-belize/)

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