

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2020
Punta Gorda
Toledo, Belize



Ya'axché Conservation Trust completes its COVID-19 food relief program reaching 300 households in the Maya Golden Landscape, Toledo, Belize.

During the current escalating health crisis, Ya'axché created a community outreach opportunity to assist the most vulnerable families; single mothers, elders and widows/widowers in the Maya Golden Landscape with food relief.

On September 7, 2020, Ya'axché led a COVID-19 emergency assistance program which was successfully completed with the delivery of 300 food baskets through its regional Forest Governance Project funded by the European Union/ICCO Cooperation. The two-week food basket support for households in the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL) consisted of the daily staples, including sanitising and other hygiene items as guided by the Ministry of Human Development food assistance program.

Ya'axché assisted indigenous communities of Trio, Bladen, Medina Bank, Golden Stream, Indian Creek, Big Falls, San Miguel, Silver Creek, Aguacate and San Jose, in the Toledo District. These ten communities buffer the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, Bladen Nature Reserve and Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve, important wild places managed by Ya'axché.

Forest communities across the Maya Golden Landscape contribute to safeguarding essential natural resources such as fresh water, fertile soils, forests, and wildlife fostering the way towards the sustainable development of Belize. Ya'axché and the European Union/ICCO Cooperation recognizes the vital role of indigenous community stewardships and their vulnerability in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ya'axché has been protecting wild places and empowering communities in southern Belize since 1998.

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