

THE MAYA FOREST CORRIDOR

Securing Belize's National Protected Areas System and the last link for the Selva Maya

We are perilously close to losing the last forested connection between the magnificent Maya Mountains of Southern Belize and the rest of the four million hectare tri-national Selva Maya of Guatemala, Mexico and Belize. Together they comprise the **largest and most important forest in Mesoamerica**, of critical importance to biodiversity, clean air and water, stable soils, drought and flood control for hundreds of thousands of people. Join us as an early action leader in linking and securing this extraordinary forest.

A CRITICAL CONNECTION

These vast blocks of forest are connected by a single thread of remaining forest, the Maya Forest Corridor in Central Belize. With a rate of deforestation approximately 4x the national average, this corridor has been **reduced over the past decade by over 65%**.

Through 10 years of research, we have identified 50,000 acres total that comprise the minimum for a viable corridor connection. Of this total, **10,000 acres have already been pledged** by private landowners, non governmental organizations and Government to help secure the corridor.

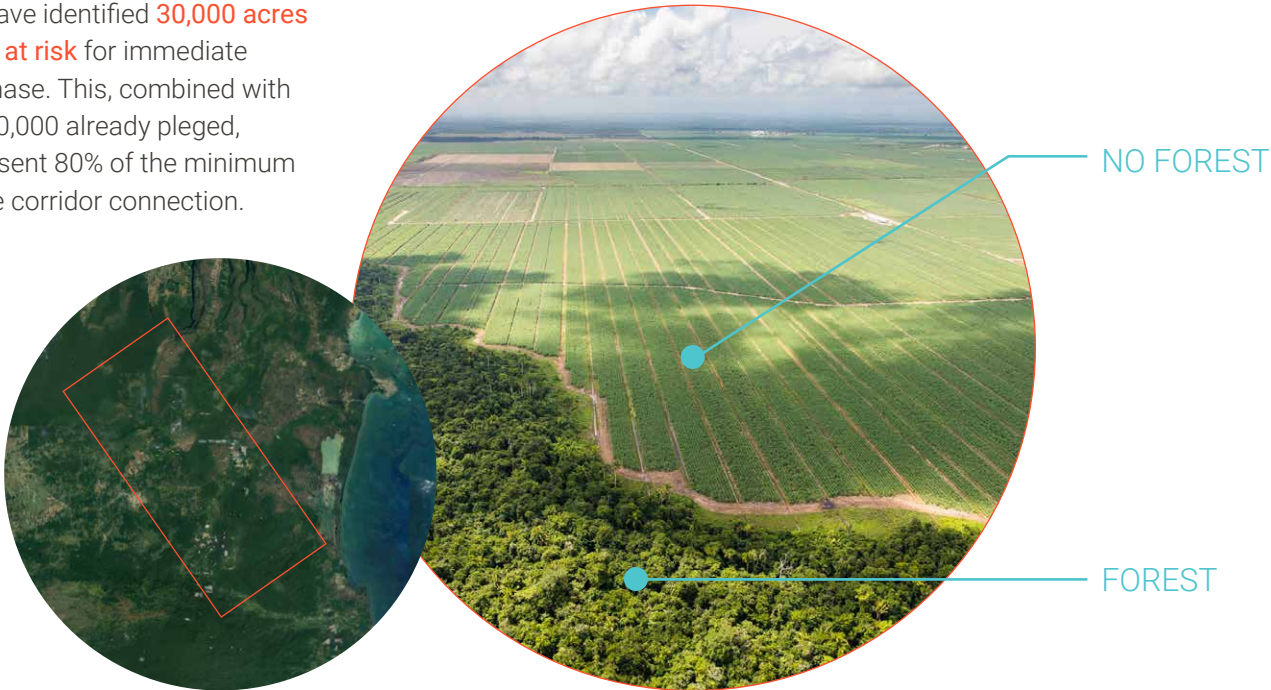
The other 40,000 remain privately owned. There has simply never been a more critical moment than now to secure this corridor. If not, we will suffer a permanent loss of biodiversity and a sharp increase in regional threat to the survival of the iconic Jaguar, the critically endangered Central American River Turtle, the endangered Baird's Tapir, and numerous bird species.



THIRTY THOUSAND ACRES

The remaining 40,000 acres of minimum land needed to protect the corridor is in private hands. Some of the key remaining parcels are currently subject to speculation by large scale sugar cane developers and must be purchased immediately if they are to be protected in perpetuity.

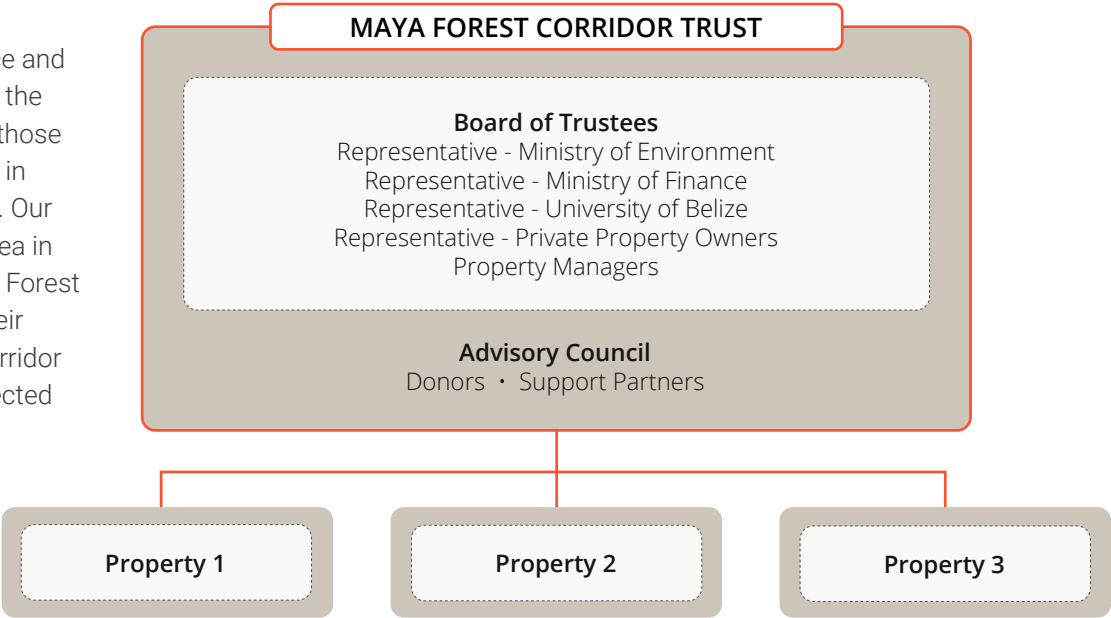
We have identified **30,000 acres most at risk** for immediate purchase. This, combined with the 10,000 already pledged, represent 80% of the minimum viable corridor connection.



If any of the parcels in this identified critical 30,000 acres are converted from wild land to agriculture, the link between two of Central America's great forests will be **broken**.

GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

A coalition of partners have developed a draft governance and management framework for the purchased lands, as well as those properties voluntarily placed in trust by existing landowners. Our plan is to protect the total area in perpetuity through the Maya Forest Corridor Trust and realize their eventual declaration as a Corridor under Belize's National Protected Areas System Act.

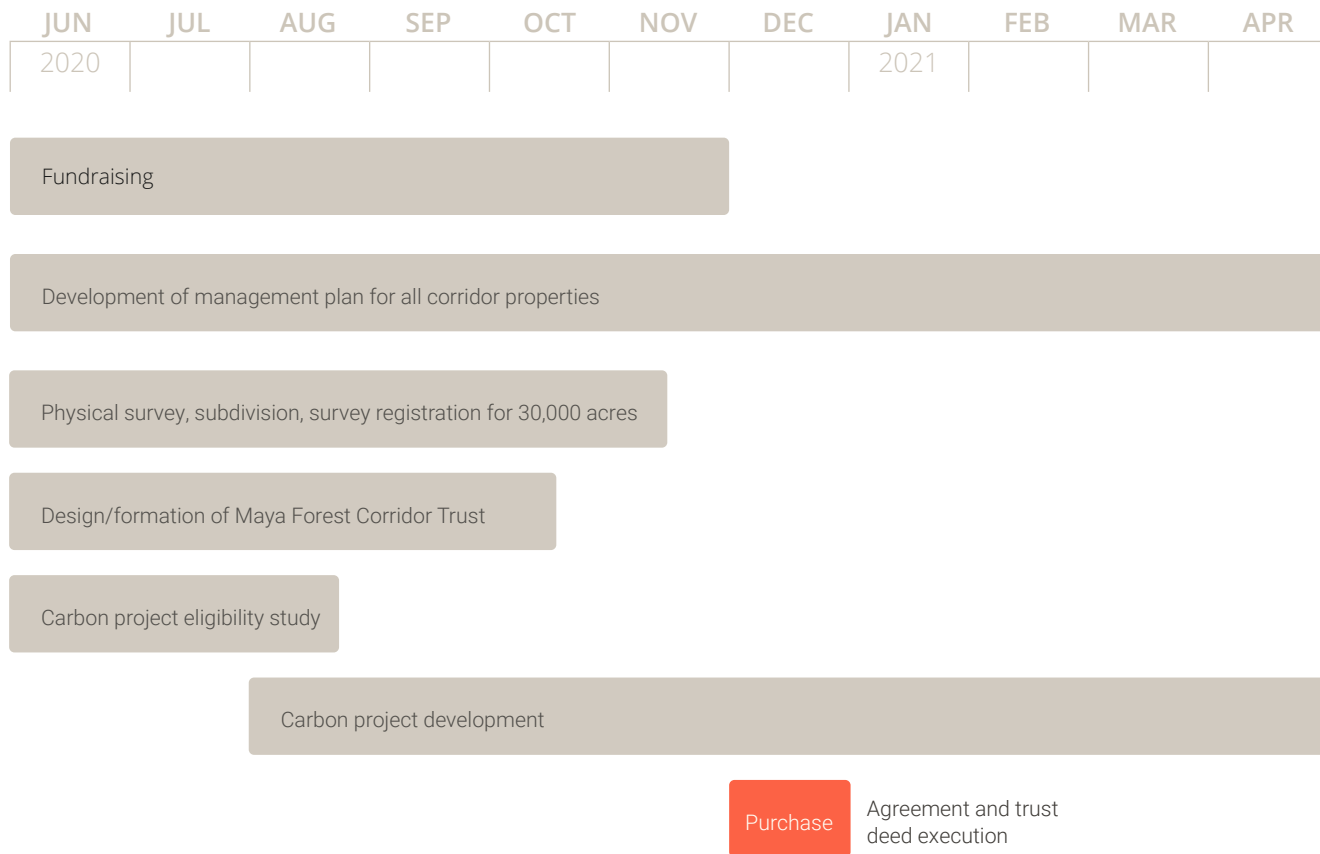


FUNDING STATUS

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| PROJECT COST | |
| Land price for 30,000 acres | 21,500,000 |
| Carbon development, surveys, and legal | 500,000 |
| Long-term management of reserve | 1,500,000 |
| TOTAL NEED | 23,500,000 |
| FUNDS RAISED | |
| Global Wildlife Conservation | 3,200,000 |
| National Philanthropic Trust | 4,500,000 |
| Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation | 1,000,000 |
| Rainforest Trust | 2,000,000 |
| Anonymous foundation | 900,000 |
| Carbon financing* | 9,300,000 |
| TOTAL RAISED | 20,900,000 |
| SHORTFALL | 2,600,000 |

* pending

TIMELINE



A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

This is a locally driven, collaborative effort headed by Belize's Hon. Minister of Environment Omar Figueroa, the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute, local civil society protected area managers and landowners. This team has built strong relationships with international partners to support the project including the Wildlife Conservation Society, Rainforest Trust, Panthera, and Global Wildlife Conservation, demonstrating the level of importance attached to this historic effort.



The University of Belize and Global Wildlife Conservation respectfully request your support and invite you to be a leader in this unprecedented and urgent effort to link the most important forest in Mesoamerica, the Selva Maya, through Belize's Maya Forest Corridor.



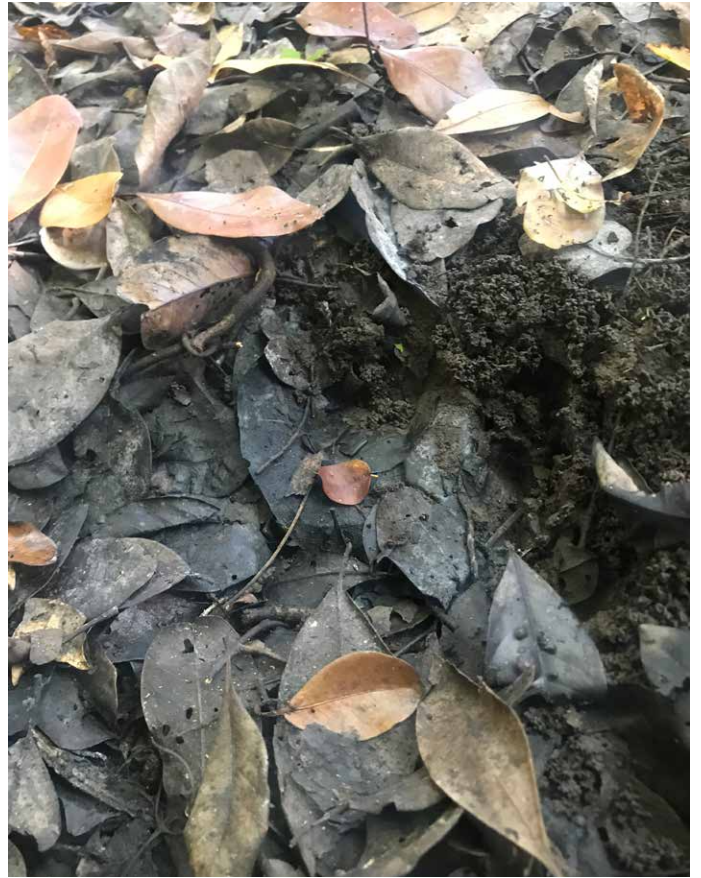
The creek and riparian forest leading into Cox Lagoon; inset photo is drone imagery of this area. © GWC



Cox Lagoon. © Tony Rath



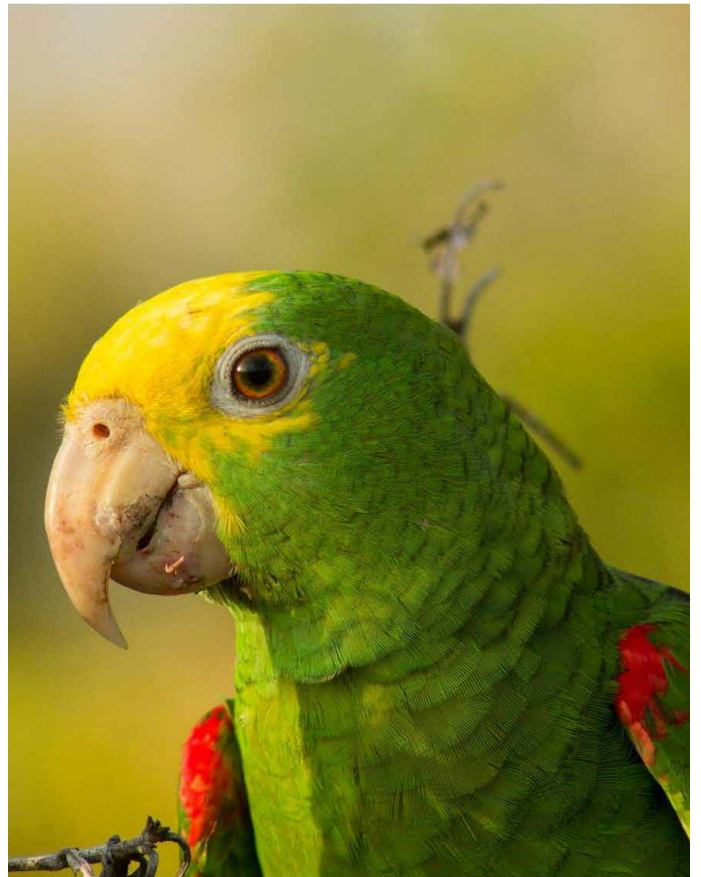
The endangered Baird's Tapir. © Nick Hawkins



Baird's Tapir track in the property, February 2020. © GWC



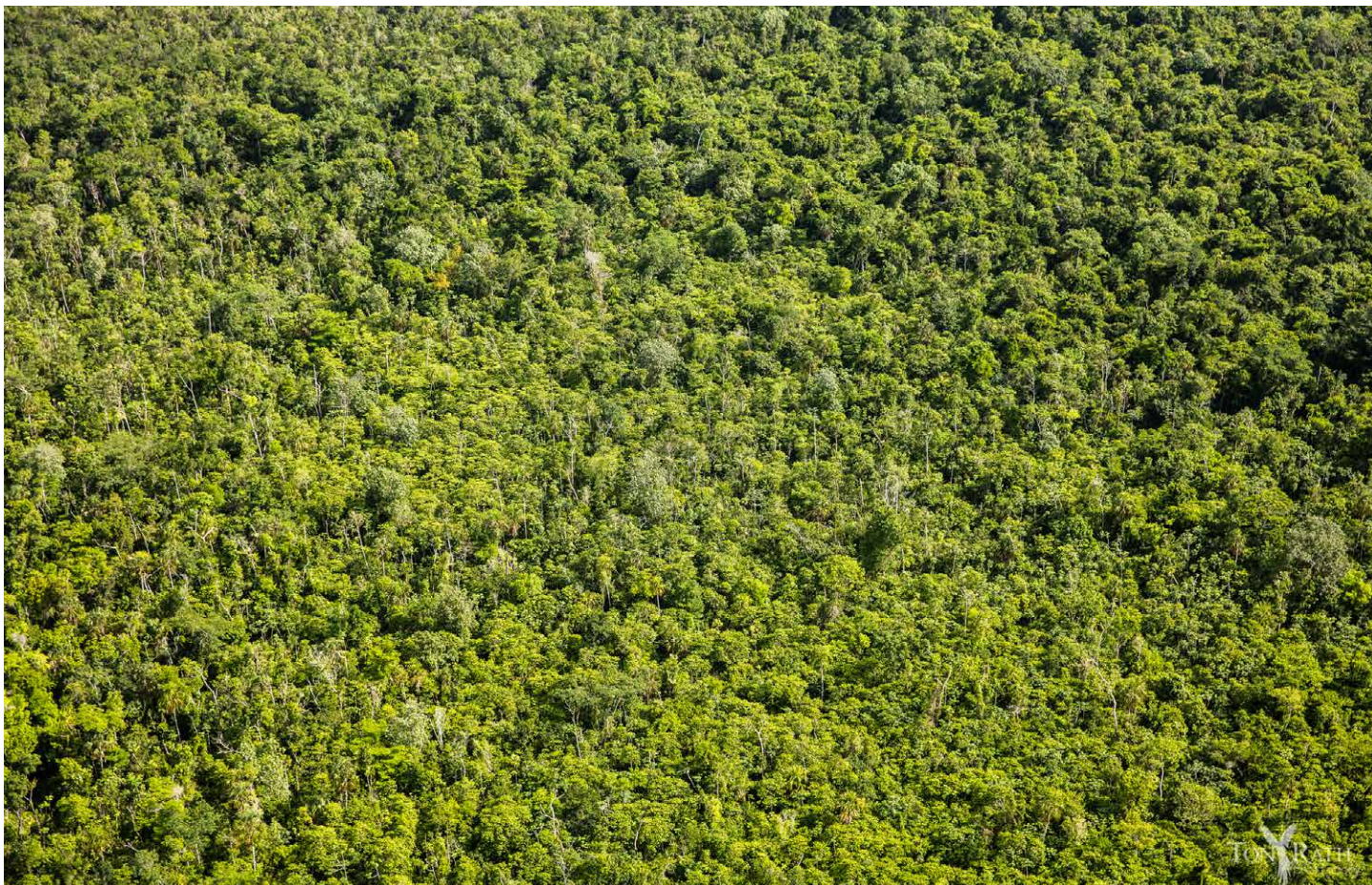
*The critically endangered Central American River Turtle.
© Donald T. McKnight*



The endangered Yellow-headed Parrot. © Francis Canto



Overhead imagery of one of the land parcels being acquired. © Tony Rath



Overhead imagery of one of the land parcels being acquired. © Tony Rath



Camera trap imagery of Jaguar, edge of Cox Lagoon
 © Bart Harmsen / Panthera



Camera trap imagery of Pumas, edge of Cox Lagoon
 © Bart Harmsen / Panthera



Camera trap imagery of Baird's Tapir, edge of Cox Lagoon
 © Bart Harmsen / Panthera



Camera trap imagery of White-lipped Peccaries, Cox Lagoon
 © Bart Harmsen / Panthera



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