

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELIZE AND THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE
USE OF RESOURCES**

Belize and the Republic of Guatemala, herein after "the Parties"

CONSIDERING that Belize and Guatemala are countries rich in natural resources and are confronted with similar environmental challenges;

COMMITTED to the objective of maintaining and deepening the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation;

RECOGNIZING the importance of promoting and enhancing cooperation between the Parties on matters relating to forests, ecosystems and protected areas, enhancing protection, conservation and sustainable management of their natural resources, focusing on sustainable development and implementation of preventative measures bearing in mind security and the respect for human rights.

CONVINCED that the impact of environmental degradation of these areas negatively affects the peoples of the Parties

Agree as follows:

**ARTICLE 1
OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the current Agreement is to design a framework for cooperation and strategic collaboration between the Parties, with the aim of improving the protection and conservation of the environment and of protected areas, through joint efforts which include:

- a) the participation of their peoples in the conservation and promotion of biodiversity;
- b) the maintenance of vital functions of the natural ecosystems;
- c) the management and sustainable use of natural resources.

**ARTICLE 2
JOINT COORDINATING MECHANISM**

1. The Parties shall establish a joint coordinating mechanism in order to obtain the desired success of this Agreement;
2. The participants in the joint coordinating mechanism will be designated by the Parties through the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs;

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3. The Joint Coordinating Mechanism may form working groups comprised of institutions relevant to the subject area and may include the participation of representatives of civil society;
4. The Joint Coordinating Mechanism shall meet as often as necessary but not less than semi-annually, at a time and place mutually agreed.

ARTICLE 3 PLAN OF ACTION

The Joint Coordinating Mechanism will define a Plan of Action for the development of specific programs under this Agreement, with a defined implementation timeframe.

The Action Plan shall focus, in the first instance, on the following:

- a) Environmental Safety (protection, monitoring and enforcement of respective laws relating to protected areas).
- b) Protection and management of watersheds.
- c) Protection of archaeological sites and cultural and natural heritage.
- d) Community development through the sustainable management of natural resources.
- e) Environmental education aimed at populations in the vicinity of protected areas.
- f) Information and awareness campaigns for the prevention of illegal activities in protected areas.
- g) Protection and monitoring of threatened and endangered species.
- h) Capacity building and information exchange for the integrated administration and management of protected areas in conformity with their respective national laws.
- i) Promote the respect for and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations of the Parties.
- j) Identify critical areas, threats and impacts, and the strategies to reduce them
- k) Promote best practices for conservation and alternatives for sustainability.

ARTICLE 4 FUNDING

The activities carried out under the framework of this Agreement will be funded by the Parties and through alternative sources.

The funding available for the implementation of the activities under the framework of this Agreement, shall be invested directly and efficiently to ensure rapid impacts in respect of the protection of the environment and the peoples adjacent to protected areas.

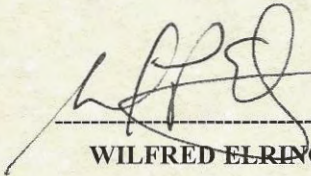
ARTICLE 5
FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The present Agreement is based on the "Framework Agreement for Negotiations and Confidence Building Measures between Belize and Guatemala," signed on 7th September 2005, that has as an objective the maintenance and deepening of friendly bilateral relations until the Territorial, Insular and Maritime Dispute is permanently resolved.
2. This Agreement is also based on the Road Map for the Strengthening of the Bilateral Relations signed in Washington, D.C. United States of America on 24th January 2014 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Parties, in which it was agreed to develop a programme of activities for the strengthening of the bilateral relations.
3. The present instrument shall not constitute a total or partial waiver of sovereignty over any territory (land, insular and maritime) claimed by either Party; nor shall any rights of either Party to such territory be prejudiced; nor shall any precedent be established for the strengthening or weakening of either Party's claims to any such territory. Each Party expressly reserves its rights with respect to its claims of sovereignty over any territory (land, insular or maritime).
4. The Parties agree that neither Party will use against the other, in any forum in which their territorial differendum may be addressed in the future, the fact that either of the Parties has accepted, agreed to, complied with or implemented any of the confidence building measures included herein.
5. Any dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably through diplomatic channels.
6. This Agreement will enter into force on the date when both sides have received notification via diplomatic note that their respective legal requirements have been met.
7. The present Agreement will have a duration of ten (10) years and will be automatically extended for equal periods, unless any of the Parties, through written communication via diplomatic channels, revokes it, and the termination will be effective one (1) year after the respective notification.

8. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the rights or benefits already acquired by the individuals by virtue of this Agreement.
9. This Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement of the Parties through written communications via diplomatic channels. Its entry into force will be in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Article.

Done in Placencia, Belize, on December 17, 2014 in two original copies, in the Spanish and English language, both texts being equally authentic.

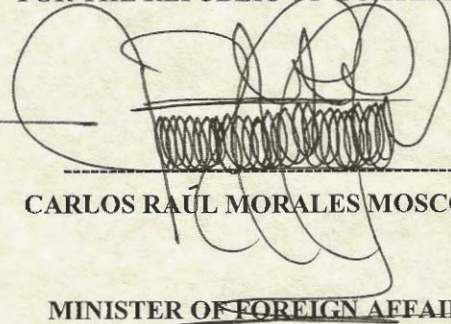
FOR BELIZE



WILFRED ELRINGTON

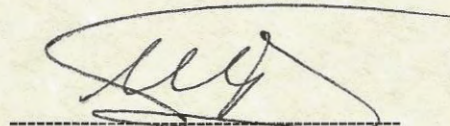
**ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA



CARLOS RAÚL MORALES MOSCOSO

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



JOSÉ MIGUEL INSULZA

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
(WITNESS OF HONOUR)**