



The
Belize
Cacao Industry

Trade and Investment Prospectus



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COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Introduction to Belize

Bordered by Mexico in the North, Guatemala in the West, and the Caribbean Sea in the East, Belize is a unique, vibrant country in Central America whose British colonial history strongly links it to the Caribbean. It consist of hard-working, diverse, friendly, bilingual (with English being the official language), and well-educated workforce that bolsters an economy focused on growth. Quite the popular tourist destination for its eco-friendly, pristine natural resources, Belize's rich soil, year-round tropical climate, and long coast line creates an attractive and sustainable climate to foster niche products and services that cater to niche markets, such as adding values deriving from nature.

The Government of Belize's commitment to the country's niche-oriented development model has supported the expansion of business in the Tourism, Agriculture, Agro-processing, Light Manufacturing, Aquaculture, Energy and Offshore Outsourcing services sectors amongst others. Both Belize's goods and services sectors continue to grow and diversify and with progressive development policies and this trend is expected into the future. Our competitive advantage is rooted in sustainability and commitment to quality, which provides distinction for our small developing economy.

Economic Highlights

Major Economic Indicators

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT					
Population (Thousands)	356.9	366.3	375.9	385.8	395.9
Employed Labour Force (Thousands)	134.6	138.1	146.9	150.1	155.9
Unemployment Rate as at April (%)	11.1	10.1	8.0	9.0	9.4
INCOME					
DP at Current Market Prices (\$BZD M)	3,385.9	3,525.0	3,482.2	3,725.2	3,849.8
Per Capita GDP (BZD, Current Market Prices)	9,485.8	9,623.2	9,263.4	9,656.7	9,724.6
Per Capita GDP (%)	2.4	1.4	-1.4	0.4	0.7
Real GDP Growth (%)	3.7	3.4	-0.8	1.4	3.0
Sectoral Distribution of Constant 2000 GDP (%)					
Primary Activities	14.0	12.0	9.4	10.1	10.1
Secondary Activities	15.3	14.3	9.4	14.4	14.1
Services	54.8	57.0	64.2	61.9	62.3
MONEY AND PRICES (\$M)					
Inflation (Annual average percentage change)	1.2	-0.9	0.7	1.1	0.3
Currency and Demand deposits (M1)	1,313.9	1,528.4	1,471.9	1,565.9	1,598.5
Quasi-Money (Savings and Time deposits)	1,358.3	1,345.4	1,478.4	1,372.9	1,418.8
Annual Change of Money Supply (%)	7.9	7.6	2.7	-0.4	2.7
Ratio of M2 to GDP (%)	78.9	81.5	84.7	78.9	78.4
CREDIT (\$M)					
Domestic Bank's Loans and Advances	1,933.0	1,985.7	2,015.0	2,018.2	2,119.9
Public Sector	17.5	11.3	8.7	5.3	50.6
Private Sector	1,915.5	1,974.4	2,006.3	2,012.9	2,069.3

(Source: Central Bank of Belize)

Competitive Advantages

Bi – Lingual Language Skills	Only Central American and Caribbean country with truly bi – lingual capabilities (English and Spanish)
Time Zone Advantage	Mirrors US Central Standard Time (CST)
Proximity & International Connectivity	Within 2 to 4 hours of flying time from key US cities with direct flights from Dallas, Houston, Charlotte, Atlanta and Miami
Stable Environment	One of the most stable political, social and business environments in Central America with a relatively low tax structure
Strong Government Support	Industry sectors identified as priorities
Telecom Infrastructure	Modern telecom infrastructure with high redundancy
Ease of Employment	Easy availability of work permit for non – residents
Ease in acquiring Real Estate	Foreigners do not need qualifications to own real estate and can acquire full title to properties with increasing property values
Visa Waivers	No visa requirement for U.S., Canada, E.U. and the Caribbean Community
Top Tourist Destination	Prime tourist and retirement location in The Americas
Multiple FTAs Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements, Regional Trade Agreements	United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Central America

Investment Overview

Belize's natural assets, progressive development policies, pro-business investment climate, and long-time democratic stability has created an ideal destination for investors seeking a sustainable harbor amidst the waves of global economic hardship. The Government of Belize (GOB) is wholly committed to supporting the country's niche-oriented development model, while preserving the country's distinctiveness and fostering investor confidence. Likewise, the wide array of investment related incentives has continued to firmly reinforce the country's business-friendly reputation. Current priority sectors for investment include:

- Tourism & Leisure (w/ Medical Tourism)
- Agri-business & Agro-processing
- Offshore Outsourcing (BPO, ITO & KPO)
- Sustainable Energy
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Light Manufacturing and Logistics

As a testimony to the global reach and effectiveness of Belize as an investment destination, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) positioned Belize in the margin of receiving measurable shares of Foreign Direct Investment inflows in relation to GDP in 2016 as reported in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Latin American and the Caribbean 2017 Briefing Paper.

According to the Central Bank of Belize in 2016, FDI inflows also increased by 17.4% to 159.5 million USD when compared to inflows in 2015 with the primary sectors of inflows being Construction, Hotels and Restaurants, Real Estate Activities and Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing. Though we saw a decrease of -21.68%

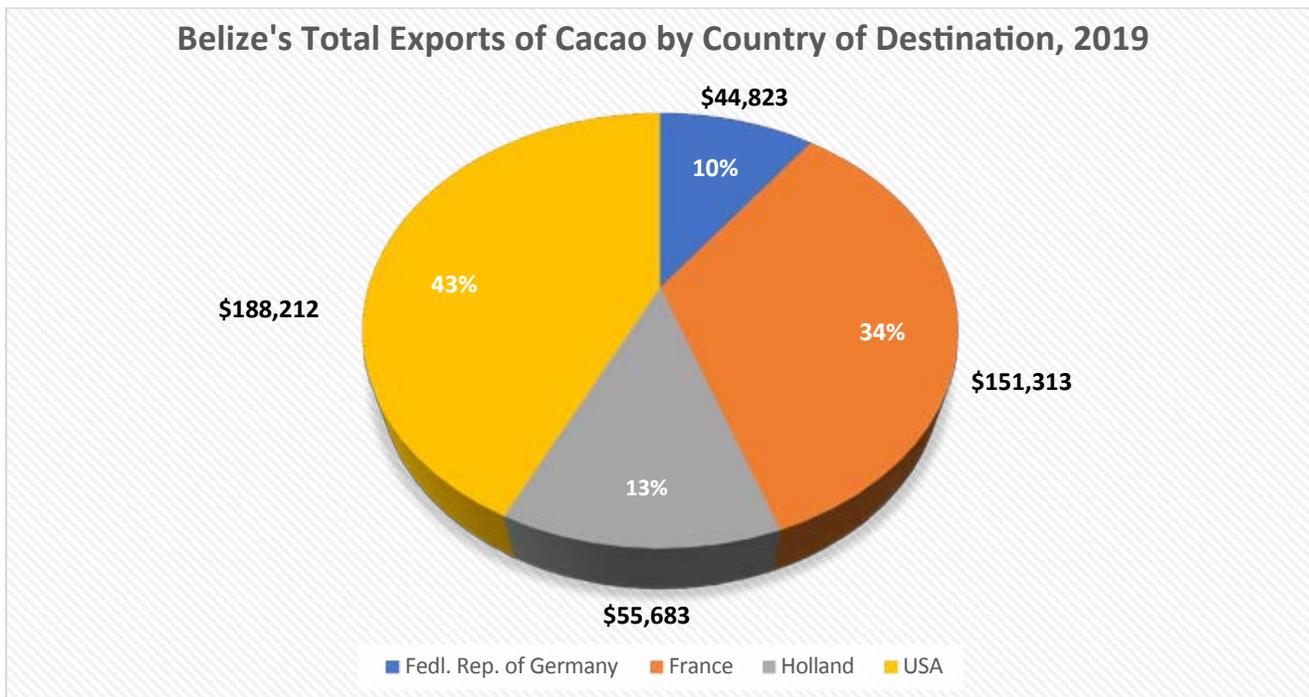
in 2017 with its value being USD 25,637,116, we saw a change of 366.28%, increasing to USD 119,541,647 and therefore, we believe that sustainable investments will be made in coming years.

Trade Overview

Agriculture has been the backbone of Belize's trade relations with products such as bananas, sugarcane and citrus and it remains an important sector to the national economy. However, the new emerging commodities of grains, pulses, livestock, poultry and aquaculture, among others, offer great opportunities for investment and enterprise development for both national and international markets. With collaboration between the public and private sector, there is works being done for the development and diversification of these commodities for export, with cacao being one of the main drivers for trade and investment opportunity.

January to June of 2019 indicated that the United States of America absorbed 43% of Belize's cacao which is a breakthrough for Belize as this industry is small when compared to others and because the US has been known for importing liquors, marine products, furniture, value added spices and some grains. Traditionally, this market has been and continues to be the most significant trading partner with Belize.

Other growing importing regions are the EU, CARICOM member states and Central America with some grains and pulses and pepper sauce going to the EU, mostly juices, shrimp, coconut oil, pastes/pepper sauces and cleaning products going to CARICOM member states and some juices, pepper sauce, fisheries and grains going to Central America.



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW CACAO

Global Cacao Industry

Cacao refers to a tropical plant that is native to South America. It can also refer to the beans of this plant. **Cocoa** is a chocolate powder made from roasted and ground cacao seeds. So, while cacao refers to the plant itself, cocoa is the powder that is made from its seeds. The varieties of cacao being produced are Trinitario, Forastero and Criollo. The ideal areas for cacao growth are in countries in a belt between 10°N and 10°S of the Equator. The humid tropical climate found in these areas contributes to finest growth of cacao. The temperature required range between 21 and 23 degrees centigrade; there also needs to be a constant rain fall of at least 1,000 to 2,500 mm yearly. Excessive heat and drought are not conducive to cacao growth. Currently, there are over thirty three countries where there is cacao production, namely countries such as Panama, Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, etc. Belize is depicted as a producer of fine and flavour beans. "The world cocoa market distinguishes between two broad categories of cocoa beans: "fine or flavor" cocoa beans, and "bulk" or "ordinary" cocoa beans. As a generalization, fine or flavor cocoa beans are produced from Criollo or Trinitario cocoa tree varieties, while bulk (or ordinary) cocoa beans come from Forastero trees" (International Cocoa Organization).

History of Cacao in Belize

Evidence has shown that the Cacao industry has been in existence for centuries in Southern Belize, as Cacao was once used as a form of currency by the Mayan civilization over 2000 years ago.

Belize's production of cacao embraces principles of environmental sustainability, attaining the dual distinction of organic and fair-trade certifications and a reputation for its authenticity. With a variety of blends of Trinitario, Criollo, and Forastero, Belize's cacao has a unique flavour characteristic, ranging from fruity to woody. The fermentation process is vital in developing this myriad of flavors. Natural micro-organism aids in the process through natural occurring chemical reactions which contribute to both the development of color and flavor. The drying process also contributes to the development of a rich brown color, a signature of quality.

The rich flavors and aroma of Belizean cacao is sought after by producers of fine chocolate across the globe. Belize's certified beans are shipped to high end bean – to bar producers in Europe and the United States, who have constantly offered validation for its consistent quality.



Source: <http://www.vreelandassociates.com/resource-center/>

Our unique bean is also used by local companies in the production of a variety of products, including chocolate bars, chocolate tea, cacao butter, cacao powder, liqueurs, soaps and other intriguing products for the most discerning consumers. Each product is complemented by an experimental component, such as but not limited to, farm tours and chocolate making exhibits.

The figure of Belize’s Cacao Industry is promising as it is supported by progressive development strategies and development of specifications to attract additional premiums for our unique beans. Many opportunities exist along the value chain and Belize is ready to make a name for itself as a player in international niche markets.

Cacao Producing Areas in Belize

The natural planting, harvesting and processing of cacao (organic cacao) along with its tropical climate, makes Belize a unique region for the growth and nurturing of the “true” and fine flavours of cacao. Belize is one of the seven countries in the Caribbean that produces fine flavour cacao. Currently, cacao is mainly being grown in southern Belize in the Toledo District. This is the area of concentration of cacao growth in Belize due to the high presence of Mayan communities in this district. However, cacao producers can also be found in the Stann Creek and the Cayo Districts. Recently, there has been interest for development of a cacao plantation in the Orange Walk District. The following map and table illustrates key cacao farms and their respective location.



Figure 2-Cacao Corridors Map (Source: Cacao Industry Strategy 2015)

Key Locations of Cacao Farms:

District	Community	Zone No.	
Toledo	Laguna	One	
	San Marcos	One	
	Big Falls	One	
	San Pedro Columbia	One	
	San Miguel	One	
	Silver Creek	One	
	Indian Creek	One	
	Golden Stream	One	
	Na Luum Ca	Two	
	San Jose	Two	
	Crique Jute	Three	
	Blue Creek	Three	
	Aguacate	Three	
	San Antonio	Three	
	Santa Cruz	Three	
	Santa Elena	Three	
	Pueblo Viejo	Three	
Stann Creek	San Felipe	Four	
	Santa Anna	Four	
	Mid Way	Four	
	Conejo	Four	
	Sunday Wood	Four	
	Crique Sarco	Four	
	Cayo	Red Bank	
		Maya Mopan	
		San Roman	
		Santa Rosa	
Maya Center			
Toledo	Xibun Farm		

Stann Creek	Red Bank
	Maya Mopan
	San Roman
	Santa Rosa
	Maya Center
Cayo	Xibun Farm

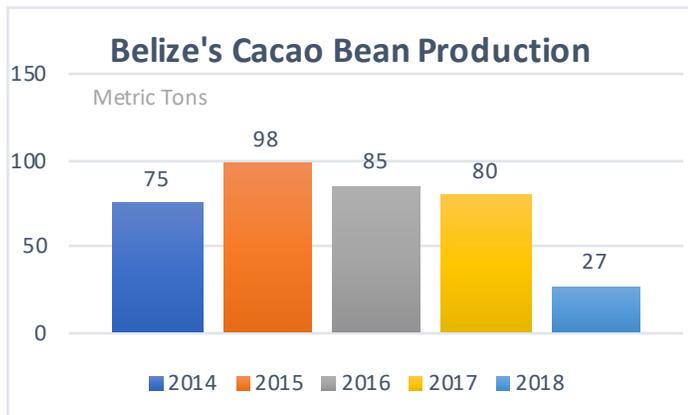
(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

*NOTE that the data from the above table is available as from 2014.

Product Statistics

The figure below illustrates the production levels for the past five (5) years (2014-2018). It indicates that the highest levels of cacao production in Belize were in the years 2015 and 2016, 98 and 85 metric tons respectively. However, as new cacao producers seek to re-invest and expand production outputs, the outlook for the upcoming years remain positive.

Production levels in years 2010-2018:



(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

Production Highlights: Cocoa Beans

Year	Production (lbs)	Acres	Estimated Pounds Per Acre	Metric Tons
2014	165,850	1,750	95	75
2015	216,053	1,692	128	98
2016	186,554	N/A	N/A	85
2017	177,146	1,013	531	80
2018	59,999	4,054	60	27

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

*NOTE that for N/A, the data was not available from the Ministry of Agriculture

The statistical analysis for the table above is very significant, since it reflects the amount of cacao beans that has been produced in the mentioned time series. It is evident that production of cacao bean fluctuates as we can see a rise from 2014 to 2015 and a small decrease from 2015 through 2018, respectively. However, as cacao is a source of food for local consumption and contributes to Belize's food security, there is focus on expanding the Cacao Industry through multiple strategies currently being developed by the Government of Belize and Business Support Organizations, with a sole purpose of identifying factors that might affect the industry in the future. Additionally, as a custom of practice, the strategized plan used by every farmer in their fields are becoming more and more promising day by day, which will increase their production outputs.

Types of Cocoa Produced in Belize

Three main varieties of Cacao: Forastero, Criollo and Trinitario. In Belize, there are Trinitario, Forastero and some blends of Criollo.

The **Criollo** cacao pod, mainly used for fine chocolates, contains up to fifteen to thirty white, ivory or pale purple seeds which weight more than one gram. These have pointy-ended pods, its color ranges from yellow to ruddy orange while the inside appears almost white. It has a softer skin; its flower is white with two pink lines. These do not require a lot of fermentation and roasting to soften them and develop their flavor. Fermentation takes approximately three to five days (3-5).



Figure 3 (Criollo pod)

The **Trinitario** cacao is a hybrid of Criollo and Forastero cacao. These are normally more resistant to diseases than the Criollo but are not normally found in the wild. The pods contain up to thirty or more beans varying in colors but rarely white in color. The outside color of the pod varies ranging from green, light green, red, yellow. Fermentation also takes approximately three to five days (3-5).



Figure 4 (Trinitario pod)

The **Forastero** cacao pod produces up to 30 seeds weighing less than one gram. The color of the pod varies to green, light green and red while the inside of the pod is covered in a deep or light purple pulp. It has a strong bitter taste (strongest flavor). Therefore, the fermentation normally takes about Six to Eight days (6-8). It is most common in West Africa and South America and it makes up most of the cacao production.



Figure 5 (Forastero Cacao pod)

Seasons of Crop

The harvest season for cacao is between November and June. The cacao pods ready to be harvested need to be properly handled. Consequently, it is important to harvest the cacao pods immediately after they mature. Hence, harvesting should be done every two weeks. However during high production periods it should be done weekly.

Quality of the Product

In order to preserve the rich flavors and aroma of cacao, Belize focuses on producing organic cacao. The traditional Mayan methods of planting, harvesting and processing cacao are kept alive in the production. No fertilisers or pesticides are used in the process. This therefore attracts producers of fine chocolates to purchase Belize's organic cacao.

Cacao production in Belize is mainly focused on Trinitario, Forastero varieties along with some blends of Criollo. The length of growth time varies. Un-grafted cacao trees produce its first crop between its 4th or 5th year however; its major production levels are until its seventh year. While grafted trees produce its 1st crop in its 2nd year and its major production in its 3rd-4th year.

Grafting cacao trees is used as a strategy to improve the quality of the pods, the tree's productivity levels and its resistance to diseases. This is done by selecting a tree leaf bud, cutting the main branch of the receiving tree and carefully grafting the leaf bud in the main branch. Non-grafted trees are basically grown through seedling processes.

Generally, a cacao tree reaches maturity at its 10th year. Hence, when it comes to the production lifespan of cacao trees in Belize, there are variations since a grafted tree continues its production 15 to 20 years after maturity. Production of an un-grafted tree continues 20 to 25 years after maturity. However, these trees can live up to a hundred years.

The quality of the cacao beans depends significantly on the fermentation process. Therefore, the beans are fermented for approximately a period of seven (7) days (*fermentation days may vary according to the type of cacao bean*). During these days the beans are constantly stirred to ensure proper fermentation. Another contributor to good quality is the absence of fertilizers; this contributes to a higher quality product enriched with natural nutrients and minerals.

Furthermore, an important aspect to consider when measuring the quality of cacao is that it is free from foreign odours, free from evidence of adulteration and free from broken beans or other foreign particles.



Figure 7- Drying: Cacao Beans

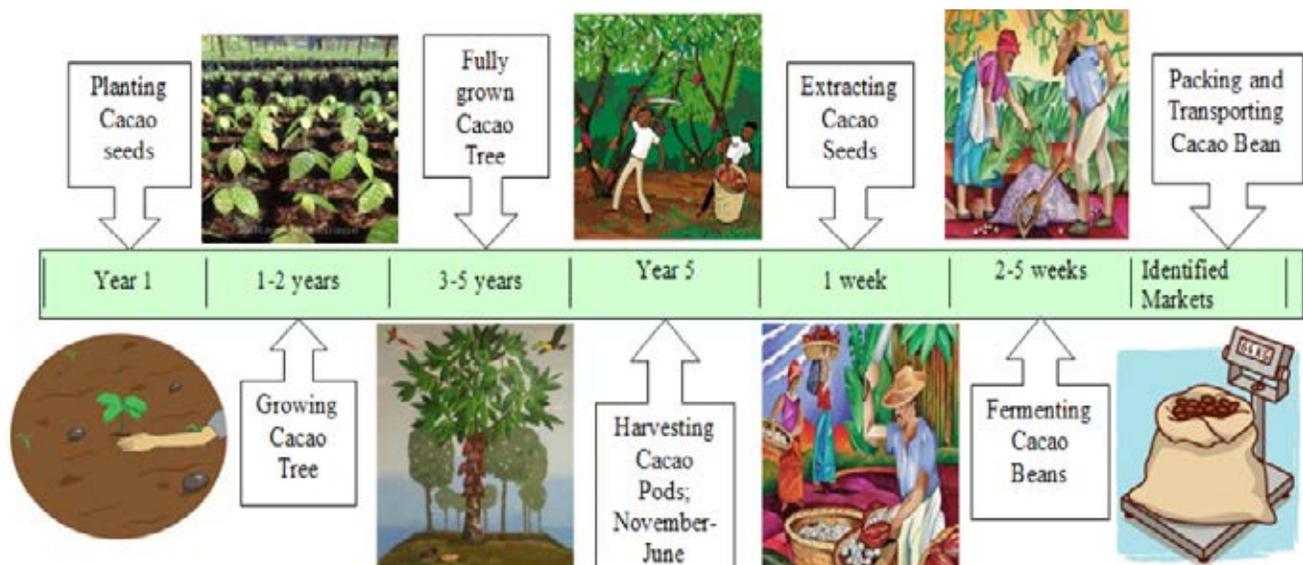


Figure 6- Cacao Production Timeline



ECOCERT Certification

ECOCERT Certification is a leading organic certifier of fair-trade for foods and food products and cosmetics, to inspect ingredients, manufacturing process and packaging. Only environmentally friendly and “green chemistry” products are sustainable for approval and accredited by **ECOCERT**. At least 95% of physically transformed agro-ingredients must be organic, chemically processed agro-ingredients must be obtained from raw agricultural materials, water must respect strict hygiene standards and packaging must be ecological and recyclable and include a environmental waste management plan for the production site.

Organic Certification and Accreditation

Organic Certification allows a farm or processing facility to sell, label, and represent their products as organic. The organic brand provides consumers with more choices in the marketplace. The USDA protects consumer options by protecting the organic seal. Any organic operation violating the USDA organic regulations faces enforcement actions, which can include financial penalties or suspension/revocation of their organic certificate. **Organic Accreditation** authorizes private, foreign, or state organizations to certify farms or processing facilities. Certifying agents are accredited by the USDA and are responsible for making sure USDA organic products meet all organic standards.

MAYACERT Certification

The aim of **MAYACERT** is to ensure sustainable management practices of agricultural products- crops, handling, livestock and wild crop operations to reduce carbon footprint. It audits input processes to evaluate the equivalence of organic standards and ensures that customers meet regulations and codes for production, processing and marketing.

Technical Infrastructure

The overall operation of the cacao industry has been improving due to proper and continuous improvement of management practices. They have established well define operation standards to maintain a high quality product.

Cacao farmers in Belize do not make use of extravagant machineries. Their secret to highly productive trees lies in their machetes, harvesting knives, cacao hooks, and grafting knives (used during harvesting).

Typical equipment used includes rakes, wheelbarrows, fermentation boxes and solar drying facilities. These are used in post harvesting. Extended motorized pruners, ladders and chainsaw are only used during extensive renovation and rehabilitation.

Soil Type

Belize comprises of six districts: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo with diverse soil profiles which can be classified in nine categories listed below:

Category	Soil Type
1	Soils of the Maya Mountains a. Soils of the Mountain Pine Plateau b. Soils of the rugged land systems
2	Clays of the limestone uplands and foothills
3	Grey and brown soils of the Toledo Beds
4	Pine ridge soils of the Northern Coastal Plain
5	Dark limestone clays of the Northern Coastal Plain
6	Reddish limestone clays of the Northern Coastal Plain
7	Swamp soils
8	Young soils on river alluvium
9	Young coastal soils

Cayo District

As the largest district of Belize, Cayo extends to over 2,000 square miles which is elevated 2,500 above sea level. The soil in this region primarily constitutes of a homogeneous mixture of black soil with limestone pebbles consisting of less than an inch to 8 inches in diameter relatively easy to break which contributes to proper drainage. This soil is of high fertility and requires minimal or no levels of fertilizers for farming. [\(Please see Annex 1 and 2\)](#)

Stann Creek District

The soils of the Stann Creek Valley are undulating with some areas steeply carved from the rushing waters of the many rivers, creeks and streams coming out of the hills. The production of citrus and banana in the area has been significant. There have been recent trials of corn/red beans in lower Middlesex but the soils may need liming. The soils of northern Stann Creek, such as the Melinda flood plain, are a mixture of recent alluvial material mixed with old flood plain granitic sand and curves south on the way to the banana plantations. Some of these areas have high growth of broadleaf forest and coconuts but citrus predominate. Most of the rest is fairly infertile and the floodplain occurring south of Hopkins/Kendall/Sittee, have been recently cut down for pasture. Due to the infertility of the area, there are mixed/poor results with pasture grasses and stocking rates being very high. A number of areas, especially in the Sittee area, used to produce citrus, pineapples and rice, an indication of soils that have acidic pH. The alluvial areas along the rivers, such as the South Stann Creek River, are currently being used to produce bananas. [\(Please see Annex 3 and 4\)](#)

Toledo District

The soils of Toledo are moderately acidic due to the thin bands of limestone located in this region. While the contents of available nutrients are variable, it predominantly composes of high levels of potassium and magnesium. This region primarily constitutes of clays and loams. As we further south, we encounter limestone hills and soils in association with the karst (limestone hills) on the upper and lower portions of the coastal plains. Many of these hills have parcels of land that are fairly arable in the areas that have flowing rivers nearby but can be subject to flooding and high water retention. The Deep River flood plain initiates the transition to the Southern Coastal Plain and land form is mildly undulating on the coastal side with higher hills occurring on the western side. Citrus and rice have been grown in flatter areas and upland rice, corn, beans and now cacao on the higher and sloping elevations. [\(Please see Annex 5 and 6\)](#)



Meteorological and Climate Data

The data below highlights the monthly climate averages for rainfall and temperature for the period of 2010-2018, in the districts of Cayo, Stann Creek and Toldeo where Cacao is predominantly found.



CAYO DISTRICT MONTHLY RAINFALL
IN MILLIMETERS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	100.2	29.1	1.3	118.6	172.8	271.8	291.3	209.4	237.9	169.5	163.2	45.6
2011	36.7	86.3	31.2	45.7	45.2	165.3	218.3	162.8	144.8	168.4	88.2	78.9
2012	162	42.6	93.7	15.4	183.5	163.5	168.8	67.4	68.6	185.2	35.6	46.6
2013	178.8	41.8	32.6	1.2	111.3	275	110.4	235.6	249.9	318.3	351.1	305.4
2014	186.2	29.1	3.9	6.2	144.2	100.4	129.2	51.6	221.8	212.4	120.4	77.4
2015	140.2	31.7	72.8	12.8	28.6	268.8	100.9	25.5	104.6	146.2	635.4	72.4
2016	26.5	71	17.4	17.2	13.5	268	134.2	129.4	89.3	131.8	313.4	113.3
2017	87.7	91	35.3	17.7	46.6	307.3	27.31	56.4	112.8	59.2	11.4	25.6
2018	18	11	9	20.4	27.3	71.2	35.7	57.7	82	144.8	64.1	25.9

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

CAYO DISTRICT MONTHLY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE
IN DEGREES CELSIUS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	12	12.4	11.8	16.8	20.1	22	22.5	22	22.5	17.2	14.2	11.8
2011	14	14.6	14.8	16	18.8	21.6	21.8	21.6	20.4	15.8	11.9	11.4
2012	12.8		15	N/A	20.2	22.2	21	20.2	20	19.2	13.4	14
2013	16.6	14.5	10.7	14.5	17.8	21.2	21.5	21.3	22	21.3	17.3	19.1
2014	13	16.5	17	16.3	21.5	22.5	21.2	21	21.378	N/A	15.9	14.8
2015	13.8	14	16	18.1	18.5	21	20.5	18.9	20.5	20.1	18.9	21
2016	13.1	11.1	14.1	18.8	14.9	21.5	21.6	21.5	20.9	19.3	16	17.9
2017	16	17	18	20	22	22	21	22	22	21	18	18
2018	24	28	31	32	33	30	32	31	30	29	28	28

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

CAYO DISTRICT MONTHLY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE
IN DEGREES CELSIUS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	34	35	37	37.5	39.5	37.5	35	35	35.5	34.5	33.6	33
2011	33	33.3	37	40	39	37	34.5	35.5	36	34	33.5	30.8
2012	32	33.8	35	36.5	37	35.4	34	35	36	35	30.6	32.8
2013	33	34	38.6	39.8	38.5	35	36	35	34.5	34	33.2	33
2014	31	33.5	35.5	39	34.5	34	34.5	36	36.837		35.8	35.5
2015	34.9	34.1	34.8	39	35.6	34.9	34	39	35.9	37.9	35.1	33
2016	32.6	36	35.6	36.1	37.5	36	36.6	35	35.9	34.1	36.4	33.5
2017	28	30	30	33	33	31	31	32	31	28	27	26
2018	24	28	31	32	33	30	32	31	30	29	28	28

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

*NOTE that for N/A, the data was not available from the National Meteorological Service of Belize



STANN CREEK DISTRICT MONTHLY RAINFALL
IN MILLIMETERS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	66.7	62.2	25.2	106.9	293.7	218.6	361.2	127.3	326.9	190	277.2	42.8
2011	52.1	108.9	81.9	4.5	39.4	214	328.7	202.2	267.7	403	119.6	154.5
2012	255.3	92.4	121.6	46.6	299.5	385.8	166.9	244.5	81.5	254.1	269.2	151.7
2013	256.2	72.6	11.9	3.8	58	348.3	242.2	306.2	368	514.5	196.9	338.2
2014	122	55	59.5	58.2	181	52.3	138	161.3	289	385.9	223.4	126.3
2015	203.2	56.2	72.4	11.6	41.9	299.9	94.7	62.3	246.5	296.8	514.7	156.3
2016	117.4	141.7	52.8	25.1	42	527.7	163.7	164	256.8	190.1	230.5	218.5
2017	35.6	46.9	45.8	17.7	31.4	170.2	119.2	164	98.7	209.8	81.9	57.8
2018	96.5	79.8	16.2	32.7	41.9	81.3	79.4	181.9	140.1	663.6	267.2	127.8

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

STANN CREEK DISTRICT MONTHLY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE
IN DEGREES CELSIUS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	13.5	14.9	15.1	18.5	22.5	23.2	22.1	22.2	23	18.5	16.3	12.5
2011	17	17.5	17	20	20.5	21.7	22	22.5	21.5	17	13.5	13.5
2012	15	19	18	18	21	20.5	21.5	21	22.5	19	16.5	16
2013	17	17	13.2	18.5	20	22	21.5	20.2	22	22.3	20	19.5
2014	13.7	19	19	18	21.2	21.5	22	22.5	22	19.5	18	17.5
2015	15.5	15.5	18.9	20.4	21	22	22.5	22.7	22.5	22	20.5	21
2016	14.5	12.8	17.9	20.5	20.5	22	22.1	23.1	22.5	19.9	18	20.2
2017	21	22	22	24	26	26	25	26	26	24	22	22
2018	20	23	23	24	25	26	25	26	26	24	23	22

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

STANN CREEK DISTRICT MONTHLY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE
IN DEGREES CELSIUS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	32.5	34	37	38.5	34.5	34.5	34	34	36	33	32	30.6
2011	32	31	34	36	34.7	35	33	34.5	35.5	33.7	32.5	31.5
2012	31	32	32.5	34.5	34	34	33.2	34	33.6	33	31	32.5
2013	32	34	34	35.5	36.5	33.5	32.5	33.5	33.7	33.8	32.5	33
2014	31	32.5	33.5	35	34	33.3	33.7	35.2	34.5	33	33	34
2015	31.5	33.5	36	37.5	34.5	34.5	34	35	34.9	34.9	33.8	32.6
2016	32.5	34	34.4	35	35.5	35.3	33.7	35.5	34.5	34.7	31.5	32
2017	28	28	28	30	31	31	30	31	32	29	28	27
2018	26	27	28	30	31	30	30	29	30	28	28	27

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

*NOTE that for N/A, the data was not available from the National Meteorological Service of Belize.



TOLEDO DISTRICT MONTHLY RAINFALL
IN MILLIMETERS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	102.2	30	1.5	85.3	557	422.3	437.6	672	758.8	4.5	221.3	119.6
2011	91.7	136.7	149.9	10	110.8	835.85	1502	577.8	1119.7	318.2	253.7	55.2
2012	339.3	198.9	79.7	31.1	393.9	409.6	1059	600.9	557.9	526	108.5	345.4
2013	613	37.8	N/A	0.4	315.6	1255.5	1521.6	638.8	464.4	456.1	331.5	167.3
2014	160.8	162.1	33.2	46.3	405.3	359.3	557.3	648.7	739.6	564.4	138	116.8
2015	344.5	78.5	67.3	210	220.2	389.2	426	370.2	462.1	224.9	668.2	N/A
2016	N/A	91.4	75.9	39	N/A	471.6	861	251.2	559.4	232.2	N/A	N/A
2017	41.1	47.4	99	52.1	71.9	127	185.5	119.1	105.5	185.3	85.5	77.35
2018	116.1	80.1	62.4	70.4	71.5	119.9	120.1	126.6	120.3	226.9	163.3	117.6

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

TOLEDO DISTRICT MONTHLY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE
IN DEGREES CELSIUS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	N/A							
2011	N/A	25.1	N/A	N/A	N/A							
2012	N/A											
2013	17.2	17.5	21	22.5	22.5	22.5	20	20.2	20.5	20.1	15	11
2014	11.5	18.5	18.3	16.2	22.9	23.3	22.2	21.4	21.4	20.9	18	18.4
2015	16	13.7	17.9	18.6	18.1	12.3	11.3	11.5	19	18.3	15.3	N/A
2016	N/A	15	18	18	N/A	N/A	20.9	21	21	19.2	N/A	N/A
2017	20	21	21	23	25	25	25	25	25	24	22	21
2018	19	22	22	23	24	25	24	25	25	24	23	21

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

TOLEDO DISTRICT MONTHLY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE
IN DEGREES CELSIUS FOR 2010-2018

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2010	27.7	29	30	33.8	32.9	33.8	32.2	32.6	32.5	30.9	29.6	27.2
2011	29.3	29.6	31.4	33.7	34.8	33	31.8	33.1	32.6	30	29	27.6
2012	28.4	30	30.4	33.3	32.9	32.2	31.6	32.5	32.6	30.9	28.5	29.9
2013	33.5	33.5	34.5	35	34.5	33	32	33.5	38	32.3	32.3	33.5
2014	30.7	35.1	33.3	35	31.9	31.9	32.2	33.1	31.5	31	33.4	33.7
2015	32	32.1	34	37.2	31.9	33.5	35.5	35.8	33.6	34.5	35.3	30.1
2016	N/A	33.8	35	37.7	N/A	N/A	33.3	34.8	34.6	34	N/A	N/A
2017	28	29	28	31	32	32	31	32	32	30	28	27
2018	25	28	29	31	32	31	31	31	31	29	27	27

(Source: National Meteorological Service of Belize)

*NOTE that for N/A, the data was not available from the National Meteorological Service of Belize.

National or Regional Institutions Related to Cacao

The University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus

The University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus consists of a Cocoa Research Centre with a unique mission to support the sustainability of the Cocoa sector through management of genetic resources, research, innovation and outreach. This is mainly supported by maintaining a diverse, representative and well-curated field collection of Cocoa genetic resources. Furthermore, the University is committed to creating a learning environment of global excellence with a set of core professional staff, project contract staff, adjunct staff from institutions, adjunct staff from other departments across facilities, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students.

As a matter of practice, the University supports public policy and decision making with respect to the cocoa industries in the region. This is mainly done by developing an innovation-oriented research programme, capable of spawning competitive industries. In a globalizing business environment, the University of the West Indies has expanded its roots by developing a strong outreach programme by serving as a portal to all the University's resources to support the regional and international cocoa industries.

Address: University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

Telephone: +868-662-2002/8788

Email: info@cocoacenter.com; info@cacaoacenter.com

Website: <https://sta.uwi.edu/cru>

Universities or Scientific Centers

University of Belize- Central Farm

The Agricultural College of the University of Belize, Central Farm, is home to the University's integrated program in applied agriculture. The College plans, delivers and evaluates its agricultural program of studies, agriculture-based extension services and applied research contributing to the University's revenue base and Belize's food security and economic goals in a sustainable manner. The high quality program, validated by industry, produces graduates with relevant skill sets and competencies as farmers, agro-business entrepreneurs, technicians or professionals in agro-industry. Through its production of both primary and processed products and extension services for income generation, it continuously provides learning opportunities for staff, faculty and students within communities and in a productive environment that is a living laboratory of a self-sustainable farm.

Address: Mile 62 George Price Highway, Central Farm San Ignacio, Belize

Telephone: +501-824-3775

Website: www.ub.edu.bz

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) strongly supports productive and sustainable agriculture in each of its 34 member countries in the Americas. The Institute is committed to providing support for the agricultural sector in Belize that has partnered with various agricultural institutes for strengthening the economy through one of its major economic pillars, the agricultural sector. This partnership has led to successful outcomes.

As a member of the National Cacao Task Force, IICA provided support to the Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Enseñanza (CATIE) for the presentation of the history and future of Cacao in Belize at a workshop in 2008. This effort was in support of the Central American Cacao Improvement Project and the National Cacao Industry Evaluation. Moreover, the Institute (IICA) provides technical assistance to the Belize Organic Producers Association in the preparation of the Belize organic Policy and legislation for submission to authorities.

Address: IICA Delegation in Belize, #24 Orchid Garden Street, Orchid Garden Area, City of Belmopan, Belize, Central America

Telephone: +501-822-0222/10878

Email: iica.belize@iica.int

Website: <http://www.iica.int/es/countries/belize>

Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

Over the years, the Caribbean agricultural agenda has continued to be guided / driven by the sequence of initiatives/reports following the declaration of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, July, 1973. These include the Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture (RTP), and 'The Jagdeo Initiative', which was conceptualised to hasten its implementation. In Belize, CARDI's contribution to agriculture and rural development in recent years has focused on:

- Improved productivity of cereal and grain legumes through introduction of high yielding varieties, improved production and protection practices, and improved harvesting and post-harvest technologies.
- Increased availability of seeds of selected varieties of cereal and grain legumes for farmers which directly contribute to agricultural production.
- Training of farmers in improved technologies in crop production, protection, harvest and post-harvest technologies
- Provision of problem-solving expertise in response to needs of farmers, government and other organizations or individuals in crop production and protection.

Address: Central Farm, Cayo District

Telephone: +501-824-2934

Email: infocentre@cardi.org

Website: www.cardi.org

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

Trade Agreements

Belize also offers its private sector access to a number of international trade agreements across multiple geographic regions enabling global market access inclusive of those listed below:

Multilateral Level

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was originally created to reduce barriers to international trade. The functions of the GATT were replaced by the World Trade Organization (WTO) during the final round of negotiations in January 1995. The WTO aims to increase international trade by promoting lower trade barriers and providing a platform for the resolution of trade disputes between member countries. Under the WTO Agreement, Belize made commitments in goods, services, and intellectual property protection.

1. Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Belize is a Member State of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which includes 15 Member States – Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The objectives of the Community, identified in Article 6 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, are: to improve standards of living and work; the full employment of labor and other factors of production; accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development and convergence; expansion of trade and economic relations with third States; enhanced levels of international competitiveness; organization for increased production and productivity; achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third States, groups of States and entities of any description and the enhanced coordination of Member States' foreign and foreign economic policies including enhanced functional cooperation.

Belize has also signed on to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) comprising of 13 member states and a combined population of approximately 6 million people, (12 million once Haiti is included). The Single Market component of the CSME entered into force on 1st January 2006.

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy is intended to benefit the people of the Region by providing more and better opportunities to produce and sell goods and services, and to attract investment.

The main objectives of the CSME are: full use of labor (full employment) and full exploitation of the other factors of production (natural resources and capital); competitive production leading to greater variety and quantity of products

and services to trade with other countries. It is expected that these objectives will in turn provide improved standards of living and work and sustained economic development.

As a regional grouping, CARICOM has negotiated and entered into several bilateral trade agreements, namely:

1. CARICOM - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement
2. CARICOM - Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement
3. CARICOM - Venezuela Trade and Investment Agreement
4. CARICOM - Colombia Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement
5. CARICOM - Cuba Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement

CARICOM is also pursuing other partnership agreements including:

1. CARICOM - MERCOSUR negotiations
2. CARICOM - Canada negotiations
3. CARICOM - USA negotiations

2. Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is an establishment between CARIFORUM (Member states of CARICOM and the Dominican Republic) states and the 27 member states of the European Union for reciprocal (two-way) trade signed on the 16th day of December 2007.

The objective of this agreement is to contribute to the reduction and eventual eradication of poverty, promote regional integration, economic cooperation and good governance.

This agreement was negotiated under four technical negotiating groups:

- Market access
- Services and investment
- Trade related issues
- Legal and institutional issues

The EPA promotes the gradual integration of the CARIFORUM states into the world economy, improving the CARIFORUM states' capacity in trade policy and trade related matters. It also supports the conditions for increasing investment, and strengthens the existing relations between the Parties on the basis of solidarity and mutual interest.

EPA contains a strong development component with clear links to development aid for adjustment and modernization of CARIFORUM economies. It grants CARIFORUM States considerable concessions in market access for both goods and services. Products originating in the CARIFORUM States shall be imported duty free into the European Community. In addition to expanding its exports of goods and services, the EPA also provides investment opportunities to private sector in CARIFORUM.

3. Caribbean Basin Initiative

The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) is intended to facilitate the economic development and export diversification of the Caribbean Basin economies. Initially launched in 1983 through the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), and substantially expanded in 2000 through the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), the CBI currently provides 24 beneficiary countries with duty-free access to the U.S. markets.

Eligible Products

Most products manufactured or grown in CBI beneficiary countries are eligible for duty free entry into the United States. Some of the most successful CBI eligible products that have been developed for export by both U.S. and Caribbean Basin companies include:

- Electronic and electro-mechanical assembly
- Handicrafts, giftware, and decorative accessories
- Wood products, including furniture and building materials
- Recreational items, such as sporting goods and toys
- Fresh and frozen seafood
- Tropical fruit products and winter vegetables
- Ethnic and specialty foods, such as sauces, spices, liqueurs, jams, and confectionery items
- Ornamental horticulture
- Medical and surgical supplies

These countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

4. CARIBCAN

CARIBCAN is an economic and trade development assistance programme offered by the Canadian Government, that provides duty-free access to the Canadian market for most Commonwealth Caribbean exports.

CARIBCAN's basic objectives are to enhance the Commonwealth Caribbean's existing trade and export earnings; improve the trade and economic development prospects of the region; promote new investment opportunities; and encourage enhanced economic integration and cooperation within the region.

5. ACP-EU Relations

From 1975 to the new millennium, cooperation between Africa, Caribbean and The Pacific (ACP) and the European Union (EU) was defined by the Lomé Convention. In June 2000, a new convention known as the Cotonou Partnership Agreement was signed in Cotonou, Benin, by 77 ACP countries and 15 EU member states.

The agreement aims to alleviate poverty and to promote sustainable development and the integration of the ACP countries into the world economy. The CARIFORUM group comprises of all but one (Montserrat) of the CARICOM countries, plus Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

6. Partial Scope Agreement: Guatemala

The Partial Scope Agreement (PSA) is an agreement between the Government of Belize and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala signed on the 26th day of June 2006. A PSA is a reciprocal (two-way) trade on a small number of goods.

The objective of this agreement is to strengthen the commercial and economic relations between the Parties through:

- The facilitation, promotion, diversification and expansion of trade in originating goods from the parties.
- Development of mechanisms for the promotion of investments
- The facilitation of the land transportation of goods
- The establishments of an efficient, transparent and effective system to resolve trade disputes.

In this agreement the parties agree to reduce or eliminate customs duties in connection with importation of goods. Guatemala imports products that Belize can easily supply on a consistent basis. These include:

- Orange juice (spirited, sweetened or frozen)
- Red Kidney beans
- Fresh fish
- Livers and roes, frozen shrimps and prawns
- Meat
- Aquatic invertebrates
- Crustaceans
- Live Poultry
- Live swine
- Maize (corn)

The PSA also provides for the promotion of investments between both countries, facilitating joint ventures and the issuance of necessary permits, licenses and contracts for technical, commercial or administrative assistance relating to investments.

7. Partial Scope Agreement: Mexico

Belize and Mexico have for some time now expressed interest in pursuing a PSA. Progress with this agenda continues to be made through communication at diplomatic and other levels with both countries reiterating the need for this Agreement. At the VII Meeting of the Belize Mexico Bi-National Commission in Belize, both countries reiterated their commitment to proceed with negotiations for a PSA. On Monday, 03 March 2014, The Belize Delegation met with a high level team of officials from the Secretaria de Economía in Mexico City. The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss and agree on the General

Framework and a schedule for negotiating a Partial Scope Agreement between Belize and the United Mexican States.

The discussions highlighted the benefits to be gained by both countries with the successful conclusion of negotiations in areas such as transportation, trade in goods and Investment among others. With respect to Trade in Services, both countries have experienced significant growth in this sector which can only be augmented through the negotiation and implementation of the agreement. It is envisioned that negotiations will be concluded before the end of 2014. The meeting ended with both countries reaffirming their commitment to concluding a Partial Scope Agreement.

Both Parties concluded a successful First Round of Negotiations and are confident that the results are mutually beneficial and will contribute substantially to advance trade relations between the two countries.

The Ministry of Trade reiterates the economic value of the opportunities that will be generated by this Agreement in enhancing Belize's economic capacity.

8. Partial Scope Agreement: El Salvador

In 2013, Belize launched the first preliminary round of negotiations for a Partial Scope Agreement with El Salvador. This agreement will allow Belize to deepen ties with El Salvador and better penetrate the Central American market.

The Meeting ended with the signing of an Aide Memoir by Mr. Michael Singh, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Trade and Chief Negotiator for Belize and Mr. Carlos Moreno, Director, Ministry of Economy and Chief Negotiator for El Salvador. The key components of this first round of the Partial Scope Agreement include Market Access for goods and the Legal and Institutional Framework for the Final Agreement.

Export Markets

Presently, the two major export markets of cacao are Europe and the United States. The past buyers of Belize's fine flavor cacao beans include:

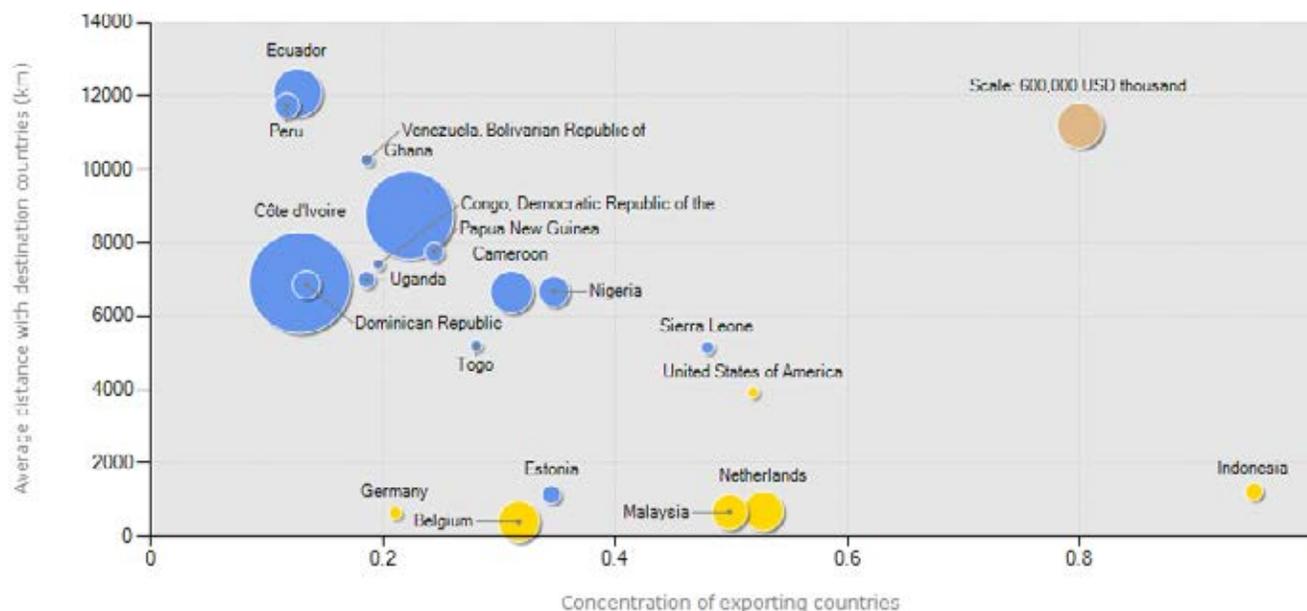
Europe:

- Green & Black's Organic
- Cadbury's
- Kraft Foods LTD/ Mondelez International
- Choco Del Sol
- Zotter
- Belyzuim

United States:

- Green Planet Paradise LTD

Market Diversification:
 Concentration of exporting countries and average distance with their destination countries
 for the selected product in 2018
 Product: 180100 Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted



*NOTE that Market Prices for Cacao beans are subject to negotiation.

Export Statistics:

The following table represents the exported amounts and varieties of Cacao beans to the world for the years 2015-2018. As the potential markets have been identified to be the United States of America and Europe, revenue for the Cacao Industry is becoming more advantageous and motivating for farmers.

Belize Cacao Bean Exports by Country of Destination, 2015- 2018

HS CODE	IMPORTER	2015		2016		2017		2018	
		VOLUME (POUNDS)	VALUE (BZD)	VOLUME (POUNDS)	VALUE (BZD)	VOLUME (POUNDS)	VALUE (BZD)	VOLUME (POUNDS)	VALUE (BZD)
1801001000:	World	157,940	846,949	210,008	1,127,459.64	177,109	1,027,838.6	223,654	1,004,796
<i>Raw cocoa beans, whole or broken.</i>	Germany	11,200	41,522	12,500	64,307.81	10,900	44,885.34	-	-
	France	41,880	191,663	66,806	304,642.50	48,149	219,332.51	59,999	273,099
	Jamaica	-	-	47,400	307,332.21	-	-	-	-
	United States	29,360	198,912	83,302	451,177.12	118,060	763,320.81	108,760	407,676
	Republic Of Austria	45,000	231,259	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Netherlands (Holland)	30,500	183,593	-	-	-	-	54,895	324,021
1801002000:	World	33,000	166,903	1,592	5,750	-	-	12	40
<i>Roasted cocoa beans, whole or broken.</i>	United States	33,000	166,903	1,592	5,750	-	-	12	40

Source: The Statistical Institute of Belize

*NOTE that for “-”, the data was not available from the Statistical Institute of Belize.

How to Export

- 1. Identify Export Market/Buyers:** Typically done through online research, trade shows, trade missions or referrals.
- 2. Negotiate for Export Contract:** Starts with a business offer. Samples are shipped and later purchase order is confirmed.
- 3. Prepare Goods for Export:** Proper labelling and packaging of goods must be done according to standards. Final arrangements with shipping lines must be confirmed.
- 4. Process Export Documents**
- 5. Transport Goods.**

Export Documents:

Currency Declaration Form (also known as Exchange Regulation Form or XCH2 Form) - issued by the Central Bank of Belize and must be filled out to address the treatment of financial transactions between residents and non-residents involved in exports.

Customs Declaration Form (Form C100) - prepared by a customs broker and must be submitted to Belize Customs & Excise Department for all goods and merchandise being exported from Belize.

Commercial Invoice - prepared by the exporter or their customs broker which takes into account requirements for the commercial invoice in the export destination.

Export License/Permit- required for some products and is granted by the Belize Bureau of Standards.

*For Marine Products an Export Permit is granted by the Belize Fisheries Department.

Certificate of Origin- certified by the Belize Customs and Excise Department and used to certify the origin of the exported good. There are two forms, one for the exportation of goods to CARICOM, and the other for the exportation of goods to the European Union.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificate - issued by the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and are essential for the exportation of plants, animals, animal products, and food products.

*Note: An Export License, Customs Declaration Form, Commercial Invoices, Currency Declaration Form, and Certificate of Origin are compulsory for all goods being exported. In Addition:

- For Food, plant or animal products a Sanitary and Phytosanitary certificate is necessary.
- For Marine Products a Fisheries Export Permit is needed with the addition of a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Certificate for Conch.
- For Wood or Forest products: An Export License from the Forest Department is needed. Rose Wood and Mahogany in addition to the Forestry Export License a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Certificate is also required.



Belize Shipping Companies:

AMERIJET INTERNATIONAL INC.

About the Company:

Amerijet is the only all air cargo Airline that flies from Belize to Miami Florida and connects to the world. Real time tracking is available where by you can track your container each step of the way.

- HUB or Transit location- Miami Florida
- Transit time- Depending on container and destination
- Sailing/arrival dates- Leaves Belize every Monday and Thursday (weekly)
- Ships FCL and LCL
- Price- Varies on container and destination (quick quote available by contacting station manager above)
- Ships to the Caribbean Islands

Address: P.S. Goldson International Airport
Belize City, Belize C.A

Telephone: +501-225-3184

Fax: +501-225-3135

Station Manager: Roy P. Grant

Email: rgrant@amerijet.com

Website: www.amerijet.com

BELIZE SHIP HANDLERS

About the Company:

Belize Ship Handlers ships Full 20" & 40" containers to and from all over the world through ZIM Lines (Zim Integrated Shipping Services) except from the below destinations:

Germany, Africa and Europe (do not have services)

- HUB or Transit location- Kingston, Jamaica where all shipments are transhipped through mentioned port before they proceed to their final destination.
- Transit time- Depends on the port of call or final destination
- Sailing/arrival dates- Weekly but are subject to changes
- Price- Varies on container and destination
- Ships to the Caribbean Islands

Address: 6480 Mahogany Street
P.O. Box 2057
Belize City, Belize C.A

Phone: +501-222-4075/501-222-4722

Fax: +501-222-4724

Email: info@belizeshiphandlersbz.com

BELIZE ESTATE COMPANY LTD.

About the Company:

Belize Estate Company ships via shipping line Hapag-Lloyd. Hapag-Lloyd has a global reach via ocean transportation. Products offered are, Cargo shipment: Dry cargo, reef cargo and special cargo. They also provide shipment of containers and vessels anywhere in the world.

- Hub or transit location: Kingston Jamaica or Santo Domingo, Dominica Republic
- Transit time: Depends on cargo and destination
- Ships 20" and 40" containers
- Prices: Vary on container and destination
- Ships to the Caribbean Islands

Address: One Slaughterhouse Rd, Belize City, Belize

Phone: +501-223-0641

Email: bec@becbz.com

Website: www.belizeestateshipping.com

CARIBBEAN SHIPPING AGENCY

About the Company:

Caribbean Shipping Agency is a representative of Hyde's Shipping who ships containers worldwide. Shipment is done every Monday and Thursday via Ocean transportation.

- HUB or transit location- Miami Florida
- Transit time- Depends on container and destination
- Sailing/arrival dates- Monday and Thursdays (weekly)
- Ships 20" & 40" Containers
- Dry and Reef cargo
- Prices- Varies on container and destination
- Ships to the Caribbean Islands

Address: 117 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize

Phone: +501-227-7396

Contact Person: Russel Longworth

Email: russell@hydeshipping.com

Website: www.csabelize.com

SEABOARD MARINE

About the Company:

Seaboard Marine is an ocean transportation company that provides direct, regular services between the United States and the Caribbean basin, Central and South America. They provide sailing for full container loads (FCL), less container loads (LCL), D-Containers, and heavy equipment.

- Hub or transit location: Miami Florida
- Transit time: Depends on container and destination
- Ships Dry and Reef cargo
- Prices: Varies on container and destination
- Ships to the Caribbean Islands

Address: 1 Mapp Street, Belize City, Belize

Phone: +501-223-0069

Email: info@btalco.com

Producers/Suppliers Profile-Cacao

The below Cacao producers are currently well established and exporting their product to the world.



3R FARMS LIMITED

About the Company:

3R Cacao Farm is a newly established grassroots cacao company located in Southern Belize. The company aims to produce fine flavoured cacao beans and value-added products to local and international markets. It has an established 20-acre cacao plot, and has recently planted an additional 40 acres. 3R has been selling its wet cacao beans since 2017 to companies in Toledo. In April of 2019, the company was later able to establish a full post-harvest processing facility. The establishment of this facility now allows the company to produce dried cacao beans and presents the opportunity to venture into the Belizean Cacao export market.

Variety of Cacao: CATIES/ Trinitario

Size of Farm: 60 acres

Location: Trio Village, Toledo District

Contact Person: Wilbert Ramclam

Phone: +501-610-1943

Email: wramclam@gmail.com

Products: Fermented and Sun-Dried Cacao Beans

BELIZE CACAO TRADERS LTD.

About the Company:

The Belize Cacao Traders Company will buy and sell wet and fermented/dried cacao beans wholesale from Toledo and area cacao growers including Peini Cacao plantation as well as the Na'lu'Um Cacao Institute and their members.

Variety of Cacao: Cacao Hybrids

Location: Southern Belize, Toledo

Export Market: United States

Investment Interest- Unspecified

Association: Belize Cacao Consortium

Contact Person: Darren Doyle

Phone: +1-520-226-9119

Email: darrend@belizecacaoconsortium.com

Website: <https://belizecacaoconsortium.com>

BELIZE CHOCOLATE COMPANY

About the Company:

Using organic, fair trade certified cacao beans, from small family farms in the Toledo district of Belize, Belize Chocolate Company produces fine artisan bean to bar chocolate. The market is primarily wholesale to hotels and restaurants throughout Belize. Belize chocolate Company chocolate Boutique caters to both the local and tourist market. (Source: Made in Belize Catalogue)

Address: Barrier Reef Drive San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize

Contact Person: Chris Beaumont

Phone: +501-226-3015

Email: info@belizechocolatecompany.com

Products: Chocolate Bars (Dark, White, Milk), Cocoa Powder & Cocoa Butter.

Investment Interest – Open Joint Venture Partnerships
(see page 24)

BELYZIUM

About the Company:

BELYZIUM is a small-scale, Tree to Bean to Bar Artisan Chocolate manufacturer operating in Belize, California and Germany. BELYZIUM are dedicated to producing only the finest quality chocolate using the best organic ingredients.

Variety of Cacao: Hybrid of the wild native Criollo and cultivated Trinitario variety.

Location: Big Falls, Toledo District

Export Market: Berlin, Germany

Investment Interest- Unspecified

Email: andrei@belyzium.com

Website: <http://belyzium.com/en/index.htm>

BLACK ORCHID CACAO COMPANY LTD.

About the Company:

Black Orchid Cacao Company Ltd has been in operations for 2 years. It is a privately owned company that focuses on producing and exporting cacao beans.

Variety of Cacao: CATIE-R1, CATIE-R4, CATIE-R6, CC-137, ICS-95 T1 and PMCT-58 on 16 acres. These plants were purchased from Maya Mountain Cacao in Punta Gorda, Belize. The other 16 acres was planted.

Size of Farm: The Company currently have 32 acres in the ground with the potential to go up to 90 acres.

Location: Yemery Grove, Toledo District.

Export Market: United States

Investment Interest- Unspecified

Contact Person: Brian Lambey

Phone: +501-615-5967

Email: b.lmabey85@gmail.com

CHE'IL MAYAN CHOCOLATE FACTORY**About the Company:**

Che'il Mayan Chocolate Factory is operated by a group of people that uses only certified organic cacao beans. These beans are received from small farmers then housed in a concrete building where they are processed to become chocolate. (Source: Made in Belize Catalogue)

Address: Mile 15 Southern Highway (Maya Center) Stann Creek District

Contact Person: Julio Saqui

Phone: +501-660-3903

Email: juliosaqui@gmail.com

Products: Chocolate Bars, (Dark & Milk), Cocoa Powder, Cocoa Tea

Investment Interest – Open to Joint Venture Partnerships
(see page 24)

COPAL TREE**About the Company:**

Copal Tree Farm Program is full bean to bar Production. From their 100 Acres of selected local varieties of organically grown cacao, they ferment and dried the beans to bring out the best flavors so that it can be used in chocolate making; it is first roasted then grounded to formulate their unique blend.

Address: Punta Gorda, Toledo

Contact Person: Richard Brinckmann

Phone: +501-722-0051

Email: reb@copaltreefarm.com

Products: 70% Dark Chocolate, Dark Chocolate with Toasted Coconut, Milk Chocolate, Chocolate Ganache infused with Copali Rum

COTTON TREE CHOCOLATE COMPANY**About the Company:**

Cotton Tree Chocolate Company is a small chocolate producer in southern Belize that engages in a unique process where each batch of chocolate starts with cocoa beans from a single day's harvest from a single farmer. This small business works with local farmers towards environmental, economic, and social sustainability. (Source: Made in Belize Catalogue)

Address: 2 Front Street Punta Gorda, Toledo District

Contact Peron: Lydia Saki

Phone: +501-621-8776

Email: lydia@cottontreechocolate.com

Products: Chocolate (Dark, Dark Milk, Cacao Nib Crunch, Light Milk, Light Milk with Mint, Dark Milk Coffee, Dark with Coconut, Dark with Black Pepper)

Investment Interest- Unspecified





FINCA CHOCOLAT LTD.

About the Company:

Finca Chocolat Ltd. Was founded by four (4) Belizeans in 2015 and is located on San Felipe Road in the Toledo District. They have available primarily the Trinitario, but also some mixed varieties. Seeds has been chosen over a couple generations for vigor, disease resistance and early production. They have approximately 220 acres in cultivation with 110 acres planted in 2016 and 2017 respectively. The total farm is 515 acres. They intend to plant 100+ acres in 2018 and 2019 with any remainder to be planted in 2020.

Variety of Cacao: Trinitario

Size of Farm: 515 acres

Location: San Felipe Road, Toledo

Export Market: Worldwide

Email: dsantilli@fincachocolat.com

GOSS CHOCOLATE

About the Company:

Goss Chocolate is a small family owned and operated enterprise in Seine Bight Village, in southern Belize. It is 100% natural made from Fair Trade certified 100% organically grown Belizean cacao beans, Belizean cane sugar, whole milk powder and natural whole vanilla bean. (Source: goss-chocolate.com)

Address: Seine Bight Village, Stann Creek District

Contact Person: Terry Goss

Phone: +501-523-3544

Email: Linnbluecrabbeach@gmail.com

Website: www.goss-chocolate.com

Products: Bulk Chocolate, Truffles, Milk Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Cocoa Powder, Mini Bars.

Investment Interest- Unspecified

IX'CACAO MAYA BELIZEAN CHOCOLATE

About the Company:

Ix' Cacao Maya Belizean Chocolate has a farm-to-bean process in making chocolate products. It is a small family operation established in 1985 that produces hand-made authentic Mayan chocolate products from organic cacao pods grown and harvested on their farm. (Source: Made in Belize Catalogue)

Address: San Felipe Village, Toledo District

Contact Person: Juan Cho

Phone: +501-742-4050

Email: ixcacaochocolate@gmail.com

Products: Chocolate Bars (Dark & Milk), Cacao Powder & Cacao Butter

Investment Interest – Open to Joint Venture Partnerships
[\(see page 24\)](#)

LAMANAI CHOCOLATE COMPANY

About the Company:

Lamanai Chocolate Company is committed in producing the highest quality chocolate in Belize. Hardworking people and dedication to their cacao farms is the key for their organic cacao bean to be processed and made chocolate. Their business outreaches in to selling locally and making everyone have a taste of what a 100% organic all natural chocolate taste like.

Address: 43 Hummingbird Highway, Armenia Village.

Contact Person: Roger Hale

Phone: +501-621-9127

Email: lamanaikukow@gmail.com

Products: Chocolate Tea, Chocolate Drink Mix, Chocolate Nibs, Chocolate Jerk Mix, Kahlua Mix, etc.

Investment Interest- Unspecified

MAYA MOUNTAIN CACAO LTD.**About the Company:**

Maya Mountain Cacao Limited (MMC) sources premium cacao (cocoa beans) from Belizean farmers for markets of fine chocolate products. Their model creates an exceptionally high-quality cocoa bean and a growing source of income for farmers, while contributing to reforestation efforts and promoting sustainable organic agricultural practices in Belize.

Variety of Cacao: Hybrids of Amelonado, Upper Amazon Forestero, Nacional, Criollo (USDA Tested)

Products: Fermented and sundried cacao, Certified Organic NOP and EU

Size of Farm: Organic Group Certifications is comprised of a network of approximately 409 farmers

Location:

Farms: Toledo and South Stann Creek Districts

Office and Centralized Processing Facility: 13.5 Miles, San Antonio Road, Toledo, Belize

Main Export Market (s): North America and Europe

Investment Interest – Open to Joint Venture Partnerships
(see page 24)

Name: Emily Stone

Position: Director

Email: emily@uncommoncacao.com

Phone: +501-630-9206

Website: www.uncommoncacao.com

TOLEDO CACAO GROWERS ASSOCIATION (TCGA)**About the Company:**

The Toledo Cacao Growers Association was established in 1986 as a non-profit company limited. It is operated as a cooperative that consists of 9 member board of directors, whom are elected at an annual general assembly. (Source: Made in Belize Catalogue)

Variety of Cacao: Belizean Blend – Trinitario, Forastero, Criollo

Products: Raw Fermented and Dried Organic Fair Trade Cacao

Size of Farm: Three (3) acres

Note: Supply also comprises of additional acres of farms from approximately two hundred and four (204) farmers

Location:

Farms: Southern Belize

Note: Additional farms comprise of a network of approximately one thousand farmers.

Processing Facility 1: San Antonio Depot, Southern Belize

Processing Facility 2: Crique Troso, Punta Gorda (PG), Southern Belize

Export Market(s): Europe

Investment Interest – Open to Joint Venture Partnerships
(see page 24)

Name: Orlando Coc

Position: Managing Director

Email: cocorlando@gmail.com or tcgabze@gmail.com

Phone: +501-653-0773

Website: www.tcgabelize.com

XOCO GOURMET COCOA/XOCO BELIZE LTD.**About the Company:**

Xoco is a privately held company focused on supplying high-end cocoa beans in Central America (mainly in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Belize) and is currently looking at more projects both in this region and in Eastern Africa. (Source: xocogourmet.com)

Variety of Cacao: Mayan Red – Trinitario

Size of Farm: Approximately 60 acres with expansion prospects to 500 – 1000 acres

Note: Supply also comprises of additional 100 acres of farms from other farmers

Location:

Farms: Southern Punta Gorda (PG), Southern Belize

Processing Facility: Toledo District – To be Determined (TBD)

Export Market (s): Europe and Asia

Investment Interest – Open to Joint Venture Partnerships
(see page 24)

Contact Person: Frank Homann

Position: Owner

Phone: (Denmark) +45 51463890; (Honduras) +504 31804556

Email: frh@xocogourmet.com

Website: www.xocogourmet.com

FB/Twitter: “Xoco Fine Cocoa Company”

YA'AXCHE'**About the Company:**

Ya'ache' Conservation Trust is a Belizean Community Based NGO that aims to maintain a healthy environment with empowered communities, by fostering sustainable livelihoods and promoting the protection and sustainable use of the natural resources of the Maya Golden Landscape. One of its most impactful projects has been the formation of Belize's first cacao-based agroforestry concession within a protected area which exists on 936 acres and provides an alternative to the original slash and burn technique.

Size of Farm: 336 completed within the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve; 110 in other communities.

Location: MMNF Reserve and MG Landscape

Investment Interest: Open to Joint Venture Partnerships

Contact Person: Christina Garcia

Position: Executive Director

Phone: +501-722-0108 or 629-4185

Email: christina.garcia@yaxche.org

Website: yaxche.org

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Green Field Opportunities

Given Belize's long-standing tradition as an agricultural connoisseur, the opportunities for agribusiness investments are immense! Our close proximity to the North American, Central American, South American and Caribbean markets offers easy access to premium markets. In addition, the availability of productive land resources for a wide range of agricultural commodities means that both input provisions and output processing activities continuously spell out great prospects.

Agri-Business serves as the foundation of the Belizean economy and continues to be the base force propelling the local productive industries onward. Today, traditional agricultural productions (citrus, banana, sugar cane) have been undergoing gradual and planned transformation; broadening its pillars to encompass industries such as Agro-Processing, green gold crops (grains, cacao beans, cottons), renewable energy crops (sorghum, sugar crops), and organic crop farming. The Agri-Business industry can be viewed from a multiple angles:

- Traditional Agricultural Commodities: (grains [rice, corn], legumes [assorted beans], assorted vegetables, fruits & assortments [sugar cane, citrus, banana, pitaya, pineapple, mango]);
- Organic Agricultural Commodities: (grains [rice, corn], legumes [assorted beans], assorted vegetables);
- Livestock Farming (dairy use, cattle meat production);
- Bio-Fuel Feedstock Production (sugar cane, sorghum, Jatropha);
- Agro-Processing (citrus juice, fine sugar, pepper sauce, corn cereal, coconut and cohune oil, chocolate, fillet, sausage, assorted sauces and powders);
- Agricultural Inputs (NPK granular fertilizer, organic fertilizers).

Why Belize

- Strategic location: close market proximity to North American and connecting to EU market.
- Availability of high-yield arable land: over 1,998,230 acres (38%) of the total land area are considered agriculturally suitable;
- Well-positioned for organic and eco-labeled production: branded with an aura of quality and distinctiveness pursued by consumers in the new era;
- Agricultural workforce;
- Not within the high hurricane landfall probability belt;

Investment Opportunities:

- Production of raw produce: organic/fair trade cacao beans.
- Value-addition to agri-produce such as; cacao powder, organic chocolate, scrubs and soaps, cacao liqueur, cocoa butter, etc.
- Production of inputs - agri-inputs (organic fertilizer) and packaging materials.
- Provision of storage and export-handling facilities for agro-products (mobile and fixed).
- Transportation and delivery of end produce to consumers (local and export).

Joint Venture Opportunities

THE CACAO INDUSTRY: plays a very important economic role for both small farmers and producers of cacao. The below cacao producers have expressed interest in exploring investment partnerships and further strategic collaborations in expanding production.

Maya Mountain Cacao (MMC)

Maya Mountain Cacao is engaged in producing a single variety of cacao bean, the Forastero Cacao. Maya Mountain Cacao comprises of a network of approximately 350 farmers making them a competent producer in the industry. As a matter of expanding within the industry, MMC is a cooperative open to joint venture partnerships with potential investors. Their main industrial interest is to expand on capacity building, infrastructure, process manufacturing and improving their supply chain efficiency. Their product has well defined export markets, nonetheless, MMC is open for joint market ventures across the globe.

Toledo Cacao

Toledo Cacao, located in the Toledo district is engaged in growing a single variety of cacao. Their products vary from organic peeled premium cacao beans, cacao nibs, organic cacao powder and organic cocoa tea, all deriving from the Trinitario Cacao. As a growing producer, Toledo cacao is an entity open to joint venture partnerships with available and potential investors. Their industrial focus is on increasing cacao production through land acquisition, catering to all current demands for cacao, newer and improved equipment, larger storage and processing facilities.

Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA)

The Toledo Cacao Growers Association is engaged in producing a Belizean blend of cacao beans, specifically the Trinitario, Forastero and Criollo varieties. Based on their constant collaboration for research, TCGA is an association open to joint venture partnerships within the cacao industry. Their main focus is on expanding plantations in terms of total acreage, equipment, processing facilities, technological improvements and production strategies. Their location in southern Belize makes them a competitive cooperative for cacao production, since they are comprised of a network of approximately one thousand (1000) farmers.

Xoco Belize Ltd.

Xoco Belize Ltd. is a growing cacao producer with a single growing variety of cacao, Mayan Red- Trinitario. This producer consist of 60 acres with expansion prospects from 500-1000 acres. Their supply also comprises of an additional 100 acres of farms from other farmers. As an aspiring producer for growth, Xoco Belize Ltd. is open to possible joint venture partnerships with potential investors. Their industrial focus leads more to expanding production amounts, processing facilities, process manufacturing, modernized equipment and technological enhancements. In a developing industry, Xoco Belize has identified export markets in Europe and Asia and agrees that identifying other potential export markets will definitely serve the cacao industry well.

THE CHOCOLATE INDUSTRY: plays a very important role within the Cacao industry, since both are interrelated by the same product. The following chocolate producers have expressed significant interest for joint venture opportunities with potential investors.

Belize Chocolate Company

The Belize Chocolate Company, strategically located in one of the most prestigious islands in Belize, San Pedro, is a key player within the chocolate industry. Their main focus for investment negotiations is to increase both their demand and supply of chocolate, upgrade to a larger processing facility, machinery, production, and acquiring land for farming. Their chocolate products has gained a suitable market in the United States of America. Therefore, joint venture opportunities would definitely serve this company well.

CHE'IL Maya Chocolate Factory

CHE'IL Mayan Chocolate has become strategic in the chocolate industry by providing a tour service at their business establishment. As an innovative-oriented business, CHE'IL Mayan Chocolate is fully available for joint venture partnerships with potential investors. Their products have created a quantifiable demand that has a potential for export markets. Their main focus for joint ventures is to expand cacao farms for future increased production, technological enhancements, machinery and establishing a larger facility.

IX'Cacao Maya Belizean Chocolate

IX'Cacao Maya Belizean Chocolate is a well-established and growing business with high aspirations in the Cacao/Chocolate Industry. As an aspiring business for growth and development, IX'Cacao is open to joint venture opportunities with available investors. Their main Industrial point of interest is to upgrade their processing facility with new technological enhancements, equipment for grinding, roasting, and tempering. Their expansion is not limited to only chocolate, but expanding their cacao farms is another industrial interest that will strongly support this developing business.



FINANCING OPTIONS

Banking in Belize

Commercial Banks:

Banking in Belize is like much that all over the world but more closely modeled after the British and American banking system. Most of the banks are owned or affiliated with banks in Europe and North America. The country has four (4) main commercial banks regulated by the Central Bank of Belize. Unlike other countries, for example the U.S.A., there is no insurance on deposits such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, However, the Central Bank of Belize exercises tight oversight over the banking industry and requires that banks retain suitable liquidity and asset ratios in respect of loans and liabilities.

The four (4) Private Commercial Banks licensed to operate in Belize are:

Atlantic Bank Limited

Freetown Road, Belize City, Belize
sbedran@atlabank.com
 +501-223-4123
www.atlabank.com

Scotia Bank

4A Albert St. Belize city, Belize
belize.scotia@scotiabank.com
 +501-227-7027/227-7028
www.scotiabank.com

Belize Bank Limited

60 Market Square, Belize City, Belize
bblbz@belizebank.com
 +501-227-7132/227-7082
www.belizebank.com

Heritage Bank of Belize

106 Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize
services@banking.bz
 +501-223-6783/223-6784
www.heritageibt.com

(Source: Central Bank of Belize)

Licensed International Banks:

Belize's Private international banks offer traditional banking services in foreign currencies exclusively to non-residents, offering advantageous lending rates. Services and products include personal and commercial loans, brokerage services, foreign exchange, credit cards, savings, demand and time deposits. International banks are licensed under the International Banking Act.

The International banks licensed in Belize with an “A” Class-Unrestricted License include:

Atlantic International Bank limited

1 BelCan Plaza
P.O. Box 1811,
Belize City, Belize, C.A
info@atlanticibl.com
+501-223-5306/5366/3152
www.atlanticibl.com

Belize Bank International Bank Limited

Coney Drive, 2nd floor, Belize City, Belize C.A.
services@BelizeBankInternational.com
+501-227-0697/227-1548
www.belizebankinternational.com

Caye International Bank Ltd

Caye International Bank, LTD
PO Box 105, Coconut Drive
San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye
Belize, C.A
N/A
+501-226-2388/226-3083
<http://www.cayebank.bz>

Choice Bank Limited

Paradise Point Building
Corner Hutson Street and Marine Parade Boulevard
Ground Floor, P.O. Box #2494
Belize City, Belize, C.A
info@choicebankltd.com
+501-223-6850/223-6784
<http://www.choicebankltd.com>

Heritage International Bank & Trust Ltd.

106 Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize
services@banking.bz
+501-223-6783/223-6784
www.heritageibt.com

(Source: Central Bank of Belize)

Development Finance Corporation (DFC):

The Development Finance Corporation is Belize's only Development Bank. Their purpose is to support the strengthening and expansion of Belize's economy by providing developmental financing on an economically sustainable and environmentally acceptable basis to individuals, business and organizations.

Financing Cacao ventures include:

- Land clearance and field preparation
- Planting and grafting materials
- Agro-inputs & labor for crop agronomy
- Harvesting & marketing expenses

- Processing of cacao products (Value added)
- Rehabilitation of existing groves

Loan size is based on acreage being cultivated and activities to be financed.

Benefits include:

- Up to 10 years repayment inclusive of grace period
- Grace period up to 4 years

Address: P.O. Box, Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District

Email: info@dfcbelize.org

Phone: +501-822-2350

Website: www.dfcbelize.org

National Bank of Belize Limited:

The National Bank of Belize Limited commonly known as the People's Bank, opened its doors for business on September 2, 2013 in the nation's capital, Belmopan. The bank is fully owned by the Government of Belize, and has built a solid foundation based on integrity, transparency, fairness and sound banking principles. The financing offerings are designed to meet the banking needs of all Belizeans at the most affordable and competitive interest rates.

When it comes in providing affordable financing for the business sector, the National Bank of Belize provides very flexible and suitable financing options such as:

- Supplementing working capital needs.
- Financing growth
- Upgrading facilities
- Purchase of needed equipment
- Renovation/Expansion

Address: Forest Drive, Belmopan

E-mail: services@nbbltd.bz

Phone: +501-822-0957/822-0950

Website: www.nbbl.bz

Belize Credit Union League:

The Country of Belize has a thriving system of credit unions. Some cater to particular sectors such as teachers, public officers or farmers. The better credit unions have close connections with well-established churches and offer good alternatives to the commercial banks. The larger credit unions are utilized by the most sectors of the society including small to medium sized business. Since credit unions charge simple interest they are a popular alternative to the commercial banking institutions.

Main Services offered include

- Savings accounts
- Consumer loans,
- Education loans,
- Medical loans and,
- Residential loans.

Address: # 88 Victoria Street, Belize City, Belize C.A

E-mail: info@belizecreditunionleague.org

Phone: +501-223-0495

Website: www.belizecreditunionleague.org

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Legal Particulars Relating to Cacao

1. Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA)

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority is a statutory body, under the Ministry of Agriculture, designed to modernize Agricultural Health Services in Belize. As a regulatory entity, BAHA comprises of four main departments namely: Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety and Quarantine and Inspection.

The following are certifications required based on the type and scope of development.

Import Risk Analysis:

(1) If:

- A. A commodity has never been previously imported into Belize;
- B. A commodity or product originates from a country or region not previously approved;
- C. A commodity or product originates, comes from or passes through a country or region whose health status changes or is not known by the Authority;
- D. There is new information on a particular pest or disease; or
- E. It is required that a country or region provides evidence that an export commodity does not present threat or risk to Belize, then an import risk analysis shall be conducted.

(2) Every import risk analysis conducted under sub-regulation (1) shall incur a fee of one thousand dollars (BZ \$1000.00) of which two hundred dollars (BZ \$200.00) shall be paid to the Authority immediately upon application and the remaining balance shall be paid to the Authority upon completion of the import risk analysis.

Procedures for export of goods from Belize – Sanitary Certification

An exporter should clearly submit the import requirements of the Country he/she wishes to export to. An inspection is done on both plant and product to ensure that proper food safety procedures and standards are being followed under standard specifications. Such standards are those of Good Manufacturing standards, which are a system that ensures that the products are consistently produced and controlled according to quality standards. HACCP (Hazard analysis and critical control points) is also necessary as it is a systematic preventative approach to food safety from biological, chemical and physical hazards in the production process that can cause finished products to be unsafe. The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) with a fee, provides trainings to companies and later conducts inspections. If approved, the Director of food safety will issue a certificate stating that the company is in compliance with those standards.

The below provides the steps to obtain a Food Safety Sanitary

Certificate on:

1. The facility or manufacturing facility is registered by BAHA. If the facility is not registered then the owner is required to complete the application form which can be obtained upon request to the food safety department at Central Investigation Laboratory (CIL).
2. The company or manufacturing company is required to submit their HACCP plan to the food safety department.
3. The HACCP plan will be reviewed and if compliant approved by the Food Safety, BAHA.
4. A pre-audit to the facility will be conducted;
5. A report of the pre-audit will be submitted to the company with corrective actions to be implemented if any.
6. The company will inform the food safety department when these corrective actions have been completed.
7. A HACCP audit will be scheduled with the relevant parties (Belize Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Health and BAHA Food Safety);
8. If the establishment receives a satisfactory report, a certificate of HACCP compliance will be issued to the company;
9. An application for Sanitary Certificate request will be submitted to Central Investigation Laboratory CIL with pertinent information;
10. Issuance of the Sanitary Certificate within 2-3 days of application. Note: some countries eg. Japan only require HACCP certification which need updating annually. Once HACCP certification has been obtained the sanitary certificate will not be required

Procedures for Inspection and Issuance of a Phytosanitary



Certificate

A Phytosanitary Certificate is a document that is issued to an exporter of any commodity, after a designated officer has inspected the commodity and is satisfied that the commodity meets the import requirements of the importing country. In order for a designated officer to be able to properly inspect and certify any plant health commodity requiring a phytosanitary certificate, the following procedures should be carried out:

1. The importer should clearly submit the import requirements of the importing country for the commodity in question to the designated officer or the Plant Health Department before requesting inspection and certification.
2. The exporter or his representative should fill out an application for inspection, call the nearest BAHA office at least 72 hours before the commodity needs inspection and make proper arrangement with a designated officer or the office assistant. If the request is sent by email, the importer should request an acknowledgment of the email and should receive confirmation on the availability of the designated officer to conduct the inspection. If the importer receives no reply from the office assistant or designated officer this does not constitute a confirmation.
3. The commodity should be stored in an area that allows the designated officer easy access to inspect the commodity.
4. In the event of bulk loading, the commodity should be loaded in a manner that allows the designated officer to take samples during the loading process.
5. A representative sample of any commodity should be inspected and only after meeting the import requirements of the importing country should a phytosanitary certificate be issued.
6. Once a phytosanitary certificate is issued and the container is loaded, a seal should be affixed on the door lock of the container to ensure that the phytosanitary integrity of the consignment is maintained.
7. The Designated officer will ensure that Commodities that require treatment such as fumigation are adequately administered along with the required dosage. An accompanying fumigation certificate should be issued whenever applicable.
8. The exporter shall safeguard the certified shipment from infestation between the date the shipment was sampled and the actual shipping date, and ensure the certified shipment departs within the time limits specified by the importing country.

(Source: Belize Agriculture Health Authority)

2. Belize Bureau of Standards (BBS)

The Belize Bureau of Standards is a Government Department, which was formally established in 1992 by the Standards Act Chapter 295 of the Substantive Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2000-2003. The Bureau is the national standards body responsible for the preparation, promotion and implementation of standards in relation to goods, services, and processes.

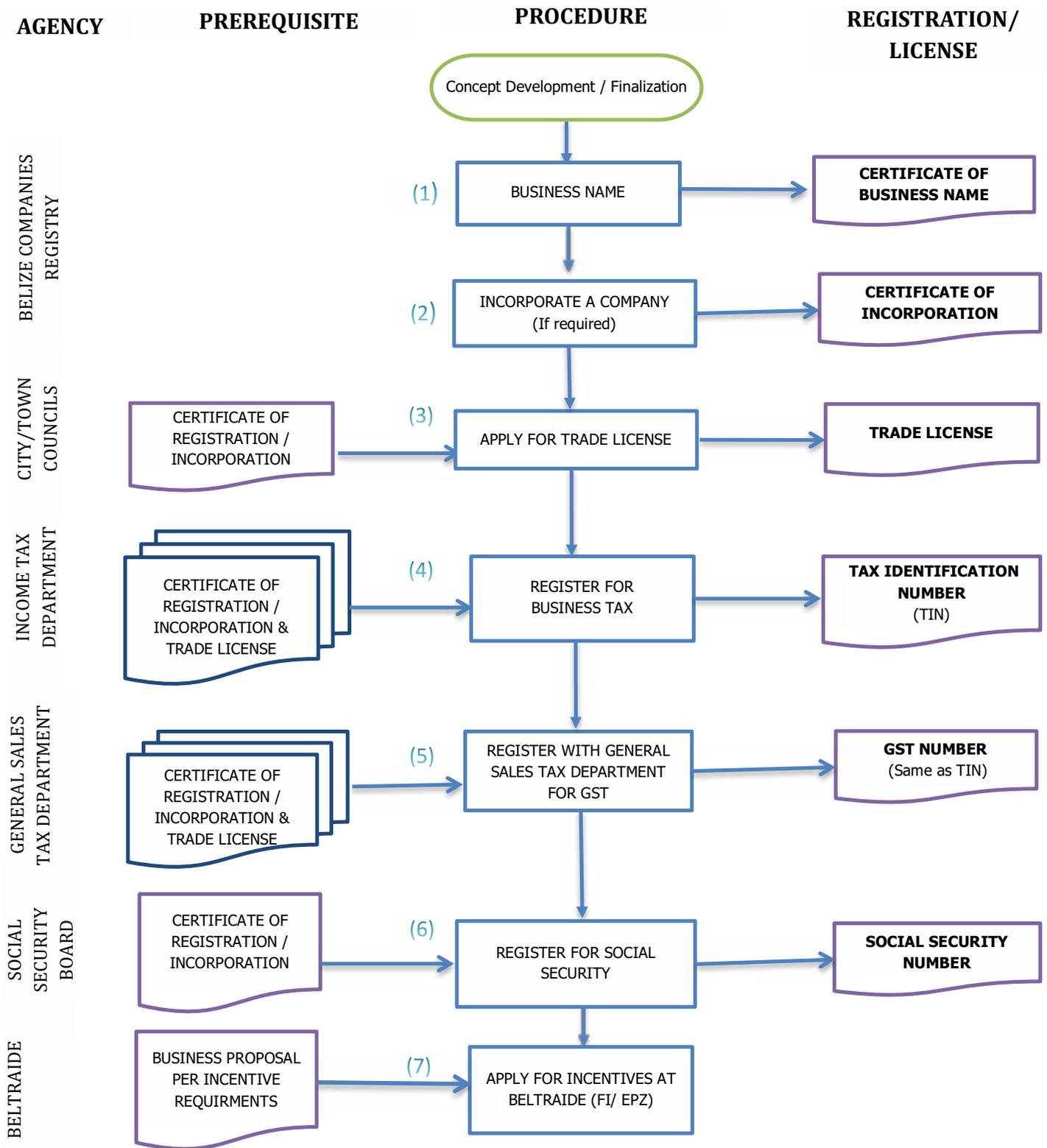
The Bureau's modus operandi is guided by its overall legislative mandates, the policy of government and the administrative direction of the Standards Advisory Council (SAC). The Bureau also operates in accordance with:

- The World Trade Organisation Technical Barrier to Trade Agreement (WTO/TBT); and
- The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), which is currently looking at a draft for regional standards for Cacao & Chocolate.

Additionally, the BBS is responsible for the administration of the Metrology Act, the Consumer Protection Unit and the Supplies Control Unit. The Metrology legislation gives the BBS responsibility for regulating all weighing and measuring devices used for trade in Belize. The Supplies Control Unit gives the Unit the responsibility of managing the import/export licensing regime and to monitor and enforce the price controlled/price regulated goods. The Consumer Protection Unit currently operates without an established legislative framework, however, is responsible for safeguarding the health, safety and life of Belizean consumers.



Business Establishment Process Flow



Business Establishment

Businesses are born out of creative and unique ideas coupled with determination and ingenuity. An idea alone, however, does not guarantee success. It is imperative to understand that a business idea is as important as its business plan. The following outlines the business establishment steps for investments in Belize

Step One (1): Business Plan

The Business Plan is recognized as the first step in this process. It serves as an outline for the vision and goals of your business; it is the road map for future development. Taking ideas a step further by crafting a basic business plan is sure to place the right emphasis on your project and garner the support required to implement your idea. Business Plans assist in identifying your competitive advantages, strengths, and weaknesses. In doing so, the document not only guides your development, but also allows business support organizations and financial institutions to fully assess your project's viability.

The following lists important competitive advantages offered by a business plan:

- Crucial when you are seeking financing. It helps investors and financial institutions understand your business and what you intend to spend the money on.
- It is an important management tool for setting development goals for your business.
- It is also an evaluation tool as it will help you evaluate where your business is and whether it has achieved any of the objectives you have set.

We proceed with the Business Establishment Guideline by outlining all the steps that follow the business plan. These steps provide a comprehensive guide to ensure all the requirements are met in order to propel your business venture forward.

Step Two (2): Registration of Business Name or Incorporation

The next step to formalizing your investment is to register your business name at the Belize Companies Registry in Belmopan. According to the Business Names Act, Chapter 247 of the Laws of Belize, every firm or individual having a place of business in Belize should register their business name.

The average processing time of a completed application is a minimum of 3 hours, and it carries an application fee of US\$12.50 (BZ\$25.00).

Procedures for Registering a Business name:

1. The Applicant/Representative completes an application form and submits the application to the Belize Companies Registry in Belmopan City. The prescribed forms are either form 1, 2, or 3. You will need identification of all owners: a Social Security card, Voters ID, Passport, etc. All owners need to sign the form.
2. A form will be given to you where you will write your business name and phone number. Then a name search will be conducted by the Registry of Companies to see if the name is unique and

that it is not similar to any existing business, and to ensure compliance with the rules set out in the legislation. It takes approximately half an hour for the name search.

3. If the business name is available, a Certificate of Business Name Registration is issued.

Incorporation of a Company

A business consisting of more than ten (10) persons or shareholders which seeks to carry on business in banking or a business consisting of more than twenty (20) owners/shareholders carrying on business for profit must be incorporated as a company. The company that is limited by shares or by guarantee must have the word, "limited" at the end of the business name.

The first step in this process is to have an attorney prepare the necessary documents such as the "Memorandum of Association" and the "Articles of Association". These documents are then submitted to the Belize Companies Registry for review and subsequently a "Certificate of Incorporation" is issued to the company under Chapter 250 Laws of Belize.

The average processing time is a minimum of three (3) hours, and carries an application fee dependent on the quantity of share capital and attorney fees.

Step Three (3): Acquiring a Trade License

A business must obtain a trade license before commencement of any type of operation in Belize's Towns or Cities. A trade license is required for each location that the trade will be carried out regardless as to whether it is the same business and it must be renewed annually. The application is submitted to the city or town council that the trade will be conducted in. Trade licenses are regulated by the Trade Licensing Act Chapter 66 of the Laws of Belize. The final approval of a trade license is based on the recommendation of the Trade Licensing Board responsible for each town or city.

Procedure for acquiring a Trade License:

1. Submit a completed application form along with a copy of the Certificate of Registration (Business Name Certificate) or Certificate of Incorporation to the city or town council. The application form can be obtained at the City or Town Council.
2. The Applicant may be required to attend an interview.
3. The Application is evaluated at the Board meeting and is approved or denied.
4. The clerk will inform the Applicant and prepare a letter to formally inform the decision.
5. If approved the Applicant pays the license fee and will return to collect the Trade License Certificate at the Council office when prepared. The fees are calculated based on the annual rental

value of the property in which the trade will be carried on-up to 25% of the market rental value.

*The Board meets quarterly (January, April, July and October) every year. However, a fee of BZD \$150 can be paid to the council for a special sitting of the Board which will meet within 10-15 days of payment of the fee.

Time taken: 15 days to 3 months depending on time application is submitted and whether special meeting is requested.

Registration for Taxes

After registering your business or company and obtaining your trade license, all businesses must register with the Income Tax Department and Government Sales Tax Department for tax purposes.

Income Tax Department

Upon completion of the registration process at the Income Tax Department, a unique Tax Identification Number (TIN) will be issued. The TIN number is the same number that is to be used for General Sales Tax (GST) and Customs and Excise processes.

Step Four (4): Registration for Business Tax

Business Tax is a 1.75% to 25% corporate income tax on TOTAL REVENUES or RECEIPTS whether in cash or in kind and whether received or credited without any deduction for expenses. It is payable by any person practicing his profession, or firm carrying on business in Belize, and includes:

- Individuals
- Partnerships
- Companies/Corporations
- Consultants, both local (Resident) and Foreign (Non Resident)
- And any other 'person' who is in the business of providing goods and services.

For more details on the corporate income tax brackets visit: incometaxbelize.gov.bz

Step Five (5): Registration for General Sales Tax (GST)

General Sales Tax is a tax on consumer spending collected at the point of importation and on business transactions when goods changed hands or services are performed. As set out in the General Sales Tax Act No. 45 of 2005, taxable importations and taxable supplies of goods and services are required to register for GST. It is generally charged at a rate of 12.5%; however there are zero-rated items that can be found in the Fourth Schedule of the Act.

All persons who are engaged in a taxable activity with an annual turnover exceeding BZ\$75,000.00 must register with the Department of Government Sales Tax in accordance with the Government Sales Tax Act No. 49 of 2005. It is not the business activity which is registered but the person conducting those activities. This person could be a company, partnership, sole proprietorship, trustee or estate. Persons

must register within one (1) month of the day on which the person first becomes eligible.

For more details on GST, visit www.gst.gov.bz

Step Six (6): Registration for Social Security

The Social Security Act is governed by Chapter 44 of the Laws of Belize. It requires that persons who employ one or more persons must register for social security with the Belize Social Security Board. Social Security covers the health benefits of employed persons in cases of sickness, maternity, or injury. The application must be made within seven (7) days of employing the first employee. Each employer is to ensure that persons are in possession of a valid social security card prior to hiring.

Social Security contributions are made weekly but submitted to the Department with a monthly statement of contributions. The contribution is related to the weekly insurable earnings. A portion of the contribution is paid by the employer and other portion is discounted of the employee salary.

The contribution can be paid through the bank or directly to the office. The deadline for payment is 13th of the following month. Interest is calculated for the number of days of non-payment.

For more details on Social Security Schedule, visit: www.socialsecurity.org.bz

Step Seven (7): Applying for Incentives offered by BELTRAIDE

There are two (2) main incentives offered by BELTRAIDE which include the Fiscal Incentive (FI) program and the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Incentive program. These incentives, however, are subject to requirements effected by the Government of Belize in the priority investment sectors.

The purpose of these incentives is to stimulate growth in the priority investment sectors such as Tourism, Agribusiness, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Offshore Outsourcing, Light Manufacturing & Logistics and Sustainable Energy. Investments in each of these sectors can be considered for investment incentives based on the business model and the requirements per program.

For more details on the investment incentives offered by BELTRAIDE see page 32 or visit www.belizeinvest.org.bz

Real Estate Acquisition – Belize

1. Purchasing Land through a Real Estate Agent

- 1.1 Provide agent with criteria for land/property being sought - details such as size, special characteristics (sea frontage, highway frontage, etc.) and purpose (agricultural, commercial, etc.). Indicate the estimated budget to acquire the land/property.
- 1.2 Physically visit the proposed site(s).
- 1.3 Prepare a formal "offer" for the selected site of interest. Based on the value of your offer, 10% is usually held in escrow. If your offer is "accepted" the escrow becomes non-refundable.

- 1.4 Based on your above offer and acceptance, the terms of agreement and sale are stipulated and are to be followed contractually for “closing” of the deal.
- 1.5 The Title Transfer is to be prepared by an attorney or the Real Estate Agent and duly registered by him/ her at the Lands Registry. The usual cost is between 1.5% and 2% of the value of the land/property under consideration.
- 1.6 Ultimately, stamp duty is payable to the Government of Belize at the rate of 5% of the value of the land for Belizean and CARICOM nationals once the land value is in excess of BZ\$20,000 (8% stamp duty is charged on the value of the land for any other person). In addition, a BZ\$30 application fee is payable for the land certificate and registration.
- 1.7 Once the completed forms and the proper supporting documentation have been submitted to the Land Registry, and all applicable fees have been paid, the documents then go through a process where ownership of the property is transferred and the land documents are issued in the new property owner’s name.

2. Procedures for Acquiring Land - Party to Party

- 2.1 Identify parcel of land or property, and locate the owners;
- 2.2 Negotiate details and terms of sale; and
- 2.3 Prepare and submit proper documentation (Certificate of Registration and Land Transfer Form) to the Registrar of Lands; this is usually prepared by the seller.

3. Procedures for Leasing Land Requirements

- Recommendation from Area Representatives/Lots Committees is required. In some instances, the recommendation of both is required depending on the agreement between the Area Representative and its various lots committees. It should be noted that recommendations from lots committees refer to the majority of the members of such committee and does not restrict to only the chairperson;
- Social Security Card and proof of nationality for Belizeans and in the case of foreigners a copy of their Passport;
- Five dollars postage stamp;
- Properly filled Form for Application to Rent or Lease National Lands (Schedule Section 9); and
- Information Sheet (personal information).

Process:

- Applicants are required to visit the respective District Land and Surveys Office for lodging application and making arrangements for a site inspection for the land being applied for;
- Applicants will be issued a receipt with an Instrument Number to track down the application process;
- After the inspection has been carried out the inspector will continue the processing of application through the Land folio system for the recommendation of the Commissioner of Lands and Surveys and the Approval of the Honorable Minister; and
- If application is approved/not approved a letter will be prepared to inform applicant of decision.

Note: In the cases of churches, non-profit groups or other bodies, the following will be required in addition:

- Certificate of registration/incorporation/statutory instrument;
- Signatures from two representatives;
- Evidence that those signing on the company’s behalf are in fact authorized to do so (Articles of Association); and
- Company’s seal.

Government Incentives Overview

A variety of investment incentives are offered by the Government of Belize (GOB). These provide investors with the legal framework to engage in economic activities and were developed to grant relief to genuine investors wishing to establish a business in Belize provided their investment proposal meets the approval of the Government of Belize. As a general rule, when assessing investment proposals, GOB focuses on the economic and social benefits to be obtained from the investment, including environmental sustainability. The following provides an overview of the standard assessment guideline:

- Investment should be socially and economically acceptable and legally doable.
- Bring revenue to Government.
- Bring meaningful employment to the country.
- Bring foreign exchange.
- Preserve and possibly enhance the environment and respect the cultural heritage of Belize.

Listed below are the salient government incentive programs and avenues currently in place:

- Fiscal Incentives (FI) Program
- Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Program
- Cabinet Sub Committee on Investments (CSCI)
- Commercial Free Zones (CFZ)
- Qualified Retired Person’s Program (QRP)

Fiscal Incentive Program

The **Fiscal Incentive Program** aims to encourage genuine investment in Belize for both existing and prospective investors through the granting of Customs duty exemptions. The Program provides a legal and fiscal framework to stimulate productive economic activities that will ultimately contribute to the overall development of Belize.

Import Duty Exemption:

- Duty exemption of up to five (5) years for a maximum of fifteen (15) years to companies granted an Approved Enterprise Order.
- Duty exemption may be renewed for a further term of 10 years, or a total of twenty-five (25) years, for companies engaged in agriculture, agro-industrial products, mari-culture, food processing and manufacturing with operations centered on export, and that are highly labor intensive.

Categories:

Several categories of items may benefit from full or partial relief from Import Duty, depending on the nature of the business. Examples of categories that may be approved are:

- Building Materials and Supplies
- Plant, Machinery, and Equipment Specialized Tools (excluding hand tools) Utility and Transport Vehicles
- Fixtures and Fittings
- Office Equipment and Appliances
- Spare Parts for Plant, Machinery & Equipment
- Agricultural Machinery and Supplies
- Raw Materials or other items for the sole use of the approved enterprise.

Who Qualifies?

- A company applying for a development concession must be an incorporated entity under the Laws of Belize.
- Business activities must provide benefits to the economy of Belize.

The Designated Processing Area (DPA)

The Designated Processing Area (DPA) Program aims to encourage investment in the national priority industries by providing specific tax exemptions for a period of up to ten (10) years with an option to renew. The DPA Program is intended to support investments that engage in International Trade and Value Addition inclusive of technology transfer, generation of employment and production according to standards of the intended market.

Benefits of DPA Program:

- Import Duty and Tax Exemptions
- Exemptions from property and land taxes on the designated area
- Exemptions from Excise and Consumption (GST) taxes on imported inputs
- Preferential Tax Rate based on Chargeable Income as per the Income and Business Tax Act (Amendment Act, No.26 of 2018)
- Opportunity to open foreign currency bank accounts in Belize
- Opportunity to sell, lease or transfer goods and services between DPA companies
- Customs inspection at the designated area for expediency
- Work permits may be granted for up to 15% of workers of the DPA (Senior Management or Technical Staff)
- Supplies Control and Import Licenses does not apply to inputs used for exports
- Exemption from the Trade Licensing Act

Exemption Categories:

- Building Materials and Supplies
- Fixtures and Fittings
- Plant, Machinery
- Equipment
- Utility Vehicles
- Raw Materials
- Packaging Materials

Who Qualifies?

Any company conducting business activities that provide benefits to the economy of Belize and which are in any of the following sectors are eligible to apply: Agro-processing, Aquaculture, Data processing including Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), and Information Technology Outsourcing (ITO), Manufacturing, and a Developer of an Industrial or Business Park.

Note: The Export Processing Zone Act was repealed and replaced by the Designated Processing Areas Act 2018, therefore, the regulations governing this program are still being finalized.

Commercial Free Zone (CFZ) Program

The Free Zones Act of 2005 was established to attract foreign investment and provides for various activities including manufacturing, processing, packaging, warehousing and distribution of goods and services. Merchandise warehoused in a CFZ may be sold free of duty wholesale or retail:

- To diplomats of other countries.
- To ships that dock at ports in Belize.
- For direct export whether by sea, air or land.
- For entry into national customs territory (related import duties and taxes become payable upon entry into national customs territory).

Benefits of CFZs in Belize

Duty exemptions available to investors in a CFZ on:

- Merchandise, articles or other goods entering a CFZ for commercial purpose.
- Fuel and goods including building materials, furniture, equipment, supplies and parts required for the proper functioning of the CFZ business.
- Exemption from income tax, capital tax, gains tax or any new corporate tax levied by the Government of Belize during the first 10 years of operation.
- Exemption from such tax for the first 25 years of operation on dividends paid by a CFZ business.
- Imports or exports by a CFZ business do not require an import or export license.
- No restrictions on the sale of foreign currency or transfer of foreign exchange in a CFZ.
- No Government charges and taxes imposed on the use of foreign currency in a CFZ.
- CFZ businesses are allowed to open an account in any currency with any registered bank.
- Income tax deductions on the chargeable income of every developer and CFZ business after the first 10 years of operation.
- CFZ businesses incurring a net loss over the 10 year tax holiday may deduct the loss against profits in the 3 years following the tax holiday period.

Who Qualifies?

Any private or public party or group of parties may establish wholesale or retail businesses on property it owns or leases within a CFZ, provided it has obtained approval from the CEO of the Commercial Free Zone Board of Directors.

BELTRAIDE SUPPORT



Introducing BelizeINVEST

BelizeINVEST is a unit of the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE), which is a statutory body of the Government of Belize under the Ministry of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade & Commerce. BelizeINVEST provides tailored services to local and foreign investors seeking to capitalize on investment and to link investors to opportunities in Belize.

BelizeINVEST has its emphasis on:

- Maximizing investment opportunities in key niche areas under the various growing priority industries in Belize;
- Building relationships and connecting investors with key public and private sector decision makers and business support organizations;
- Enhancing Belize's competitiveness by advocating for market-driven pro-investment policies.
- Providing establishment compliance guidance and investment packaging support;
- Accessing intellectual capital that is required to make business happen;
- Coordinating and facilitating inbound site visits and investment missions;
- Promoting investment opportunities through investment forums and events;
- Expending recommendations to enhance the ease of doing business in Belize.
- Building long-term, collaborative relationships with concession holders through outreach for continued business growth and reinvestment.

BelizeINVEST depends on keeping investors satisfied and motivated via our unique business development strategies. Furthermore, the BelizeINVEST team strives to create and to leverage market opportunities to enhance the success of the country.

Introducing EXPORTBelize

One of BELTRAIDE's technical units, EXPORTBelize, has a mandate to foster an enabling environment that promotes diversification and competitiveness of Belize's export sector. EXPORTBelize offers its clients customized needs based services in the areas of export development and promotion, but more specifically our efficient and highly knowledgeable team assists local businesses by providing export coaching and mentoring, market facilitation, market research as well as specialized business development trainings.

EXPORTBelize has its core services:

- Developing and executing strategies and activities for increased market access for Belizean products and services;
- Ensuring quality and consistency is continuously met by encouraging exporters to benchmark their products and services to international standards.
- Assisting enterprises in acquiring expertise, know-how, finances and systems necessary to enter export markets.
- Analyzing Identifying export opportunities, viable export markets and potential business partners.
- Promoting Belize products and services locally, regionally and internationally.

EXPORTBelize works actively with their clients to develop a competitive and dynamic export sector founded on quality, innovation and customer orientation.

BELTRAIDE

Belize Trade and Investment Development Service

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Website: www.belizeinvest.org.bz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BELTRAIDE

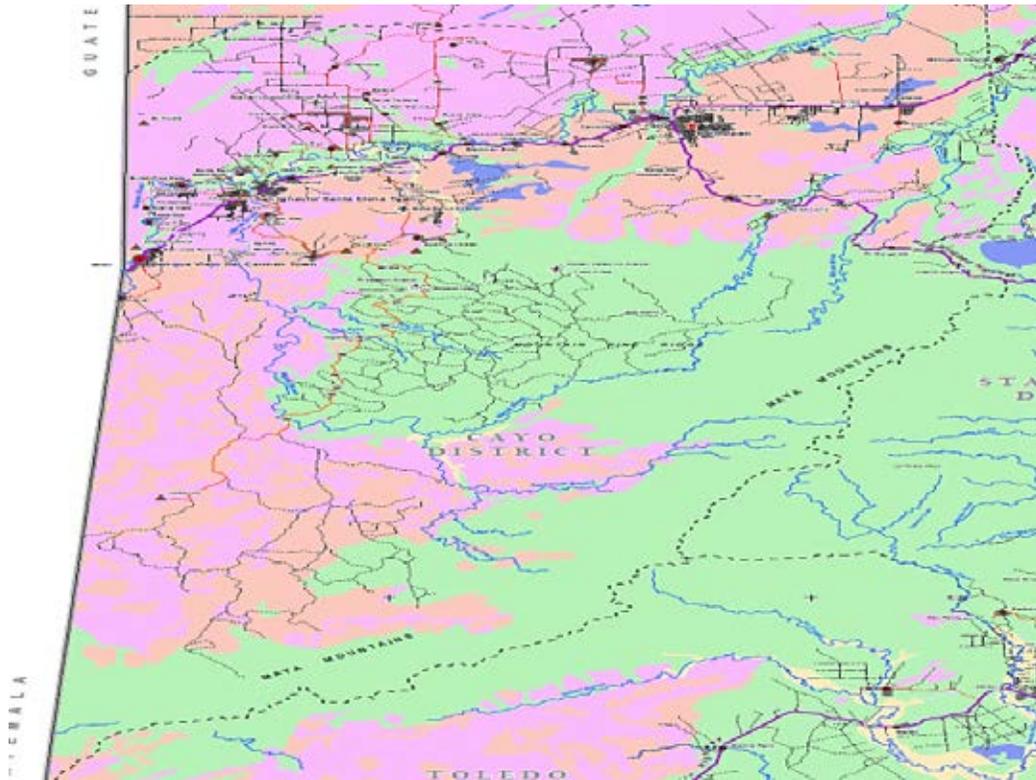
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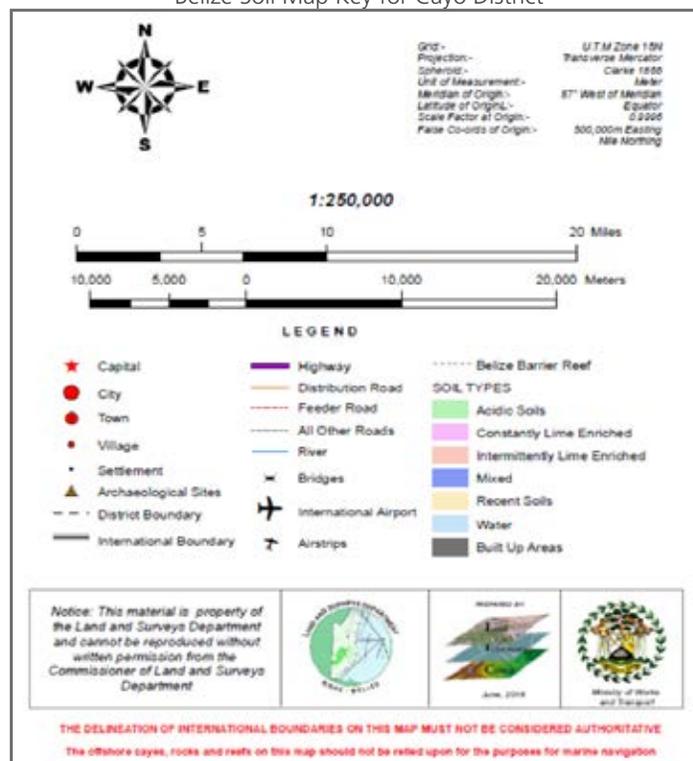
ANNEX

ANNEX 1: SOIL MAP & AGRICULTURAL VALUES MAP

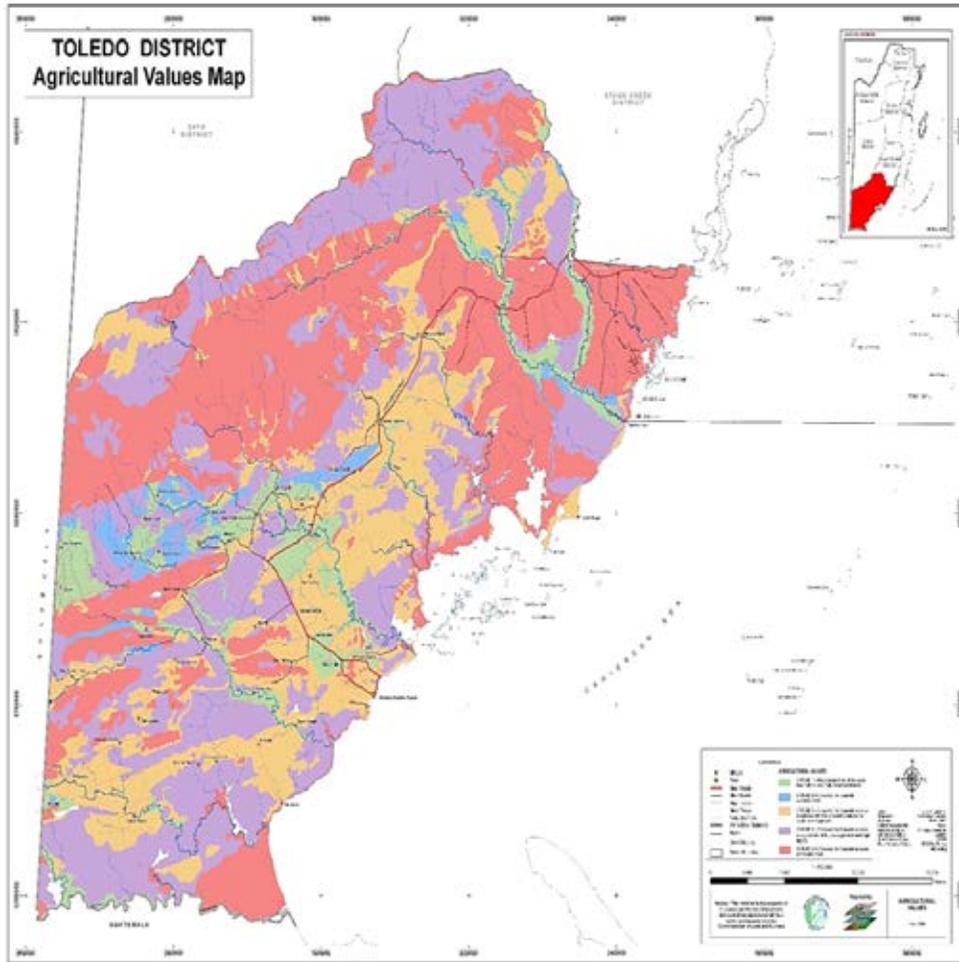
ANNEX 01: Soil Profile Map, Cayo



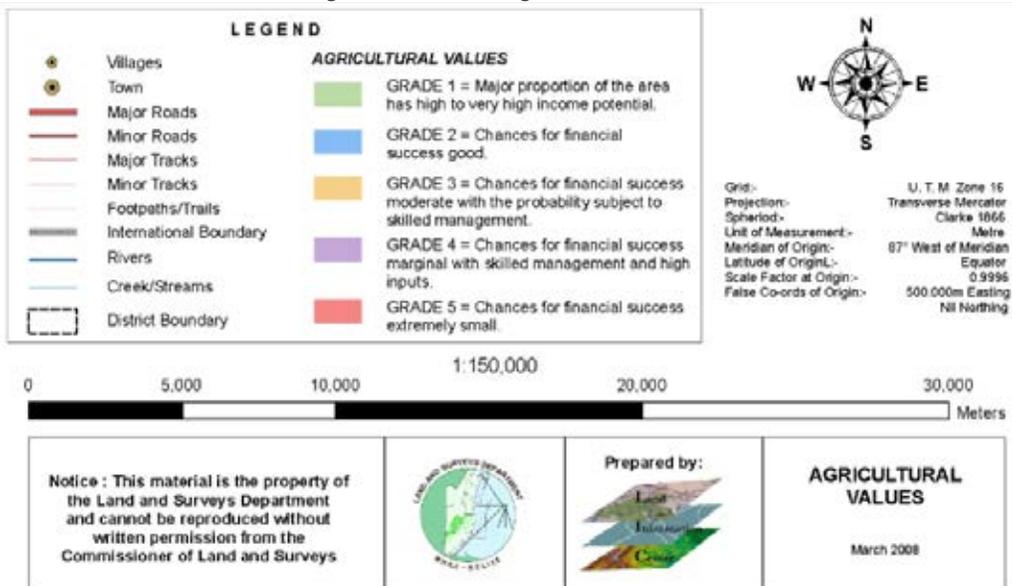
Belize Soil Map Key for Cayo District



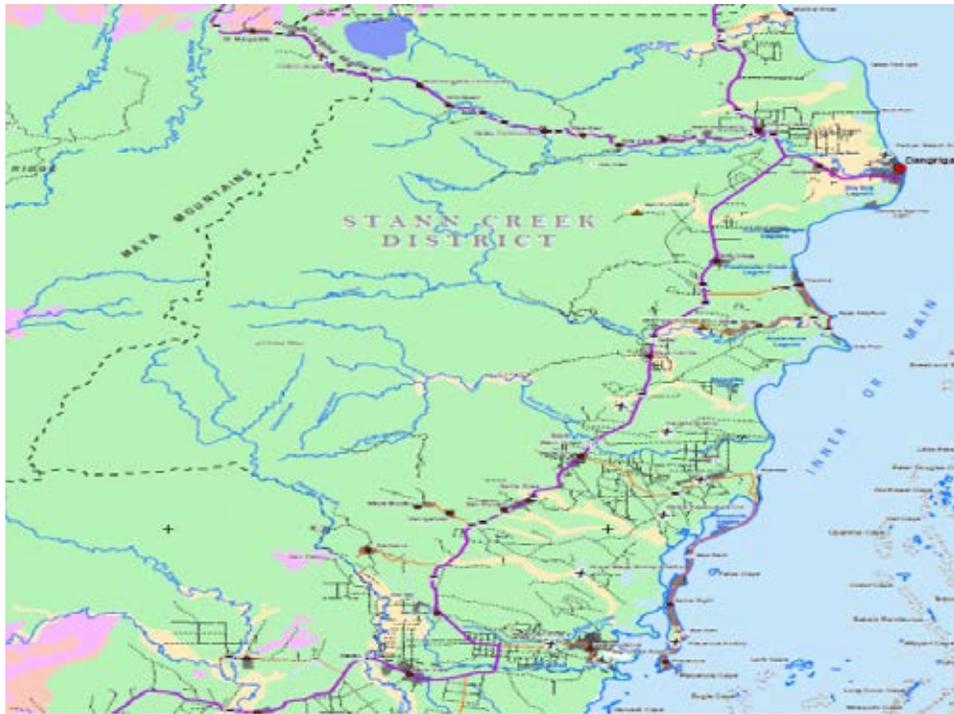
ANNEX 02: Agriculture Values Map, Cayo



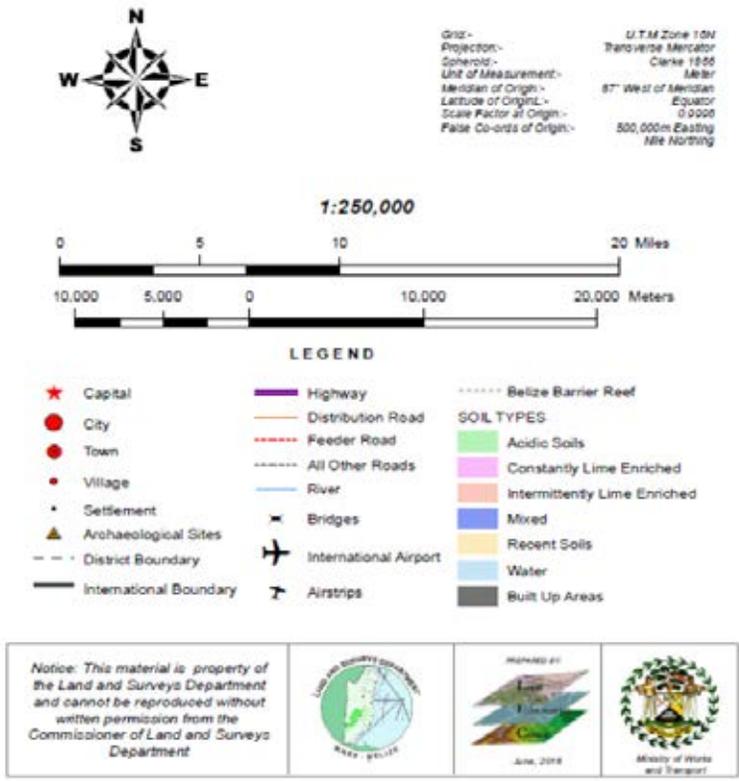
Belize Agricultural Value Legend for Toledo Districts:



ANNEX 03: Soil Profile Map, Stann Creek

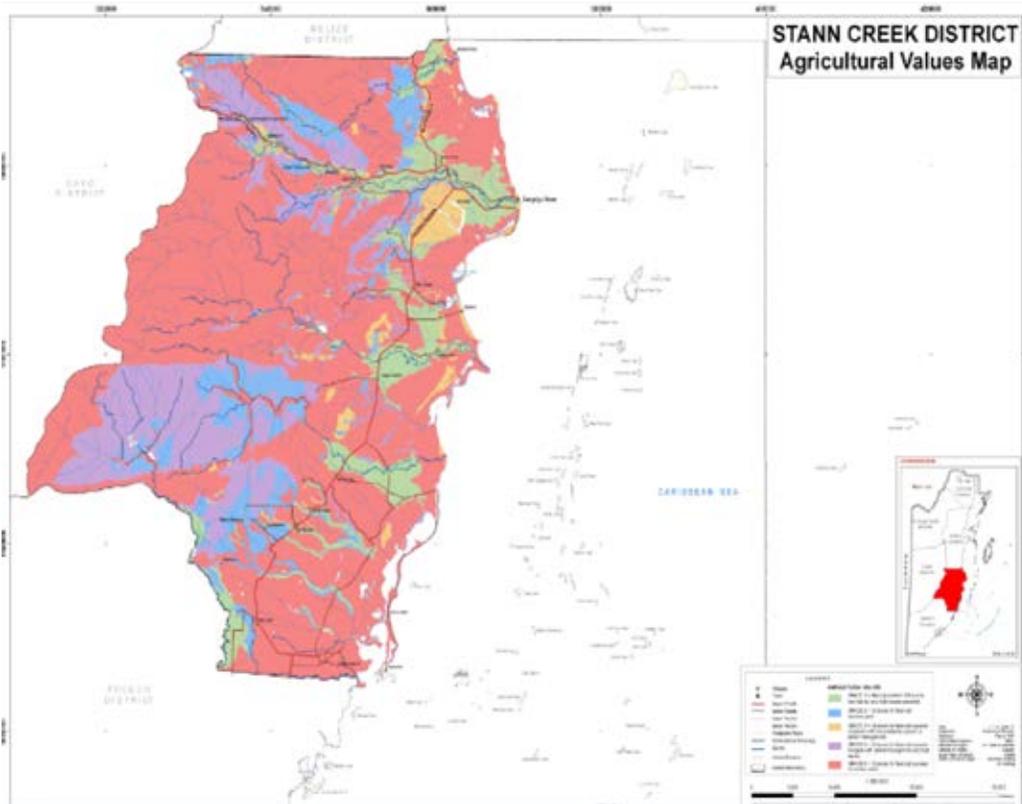


Belize Soil Map Key for Stann Creek District

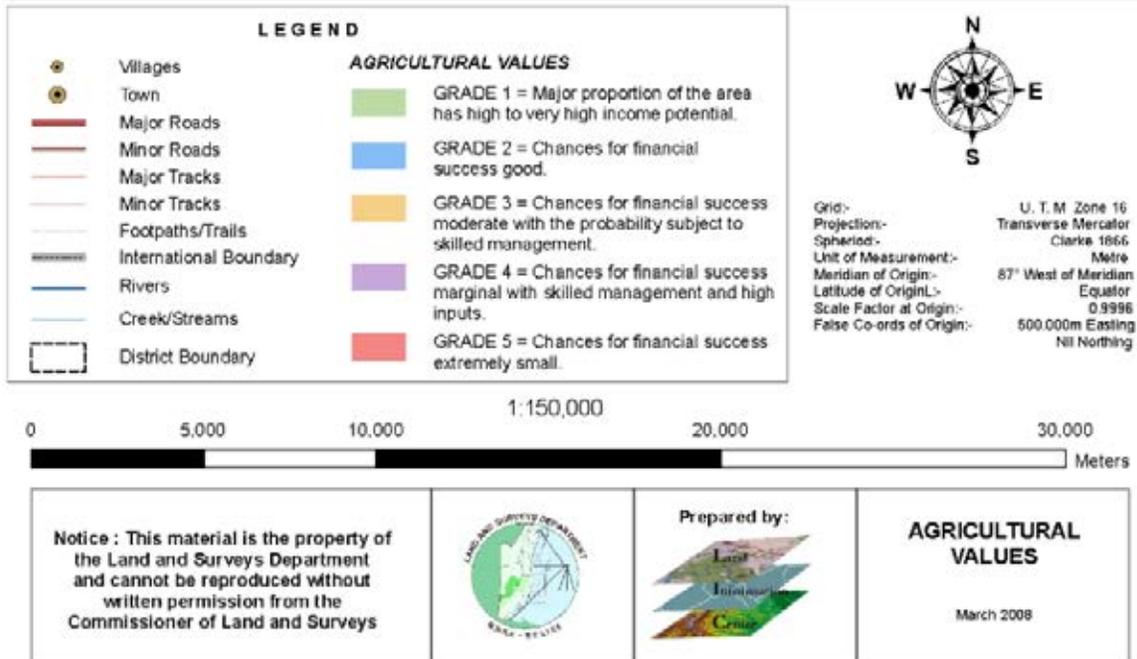


THE DELINEATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES ON THIS MAP MUST NOT BE CONSIDERED AUTHORITY
 The offshore cays, rocks and reefs on this map should not be relied upon for the purposes for marine navigation

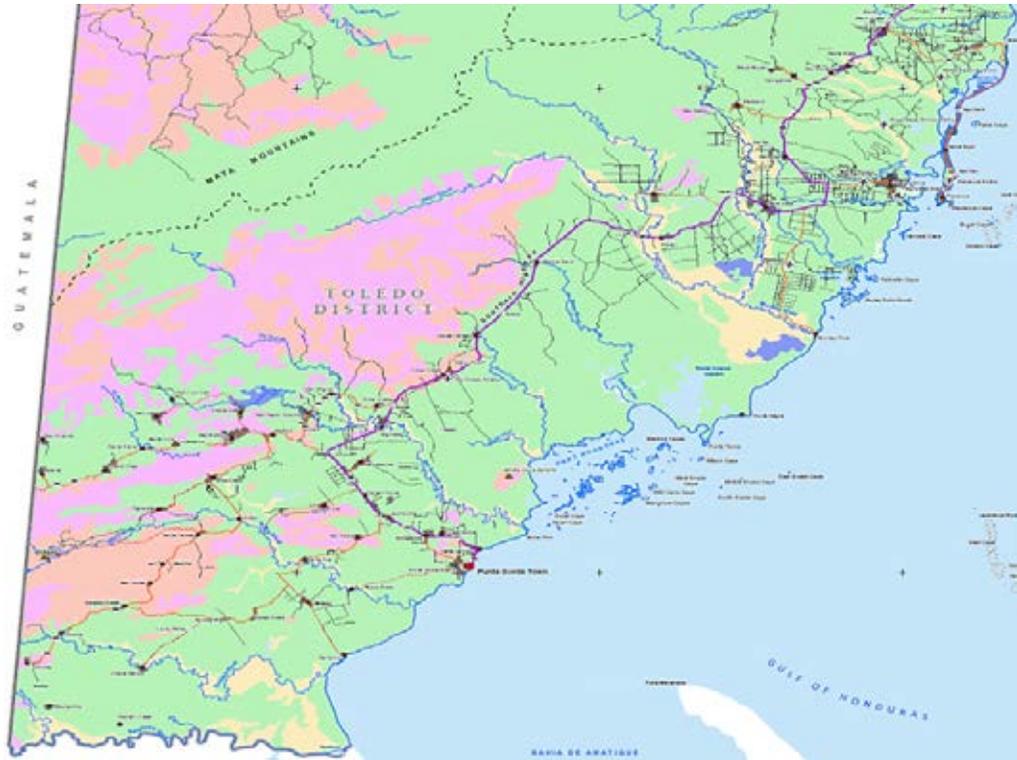
ANNEX 04: Agriculture Values Map, Stann Creek



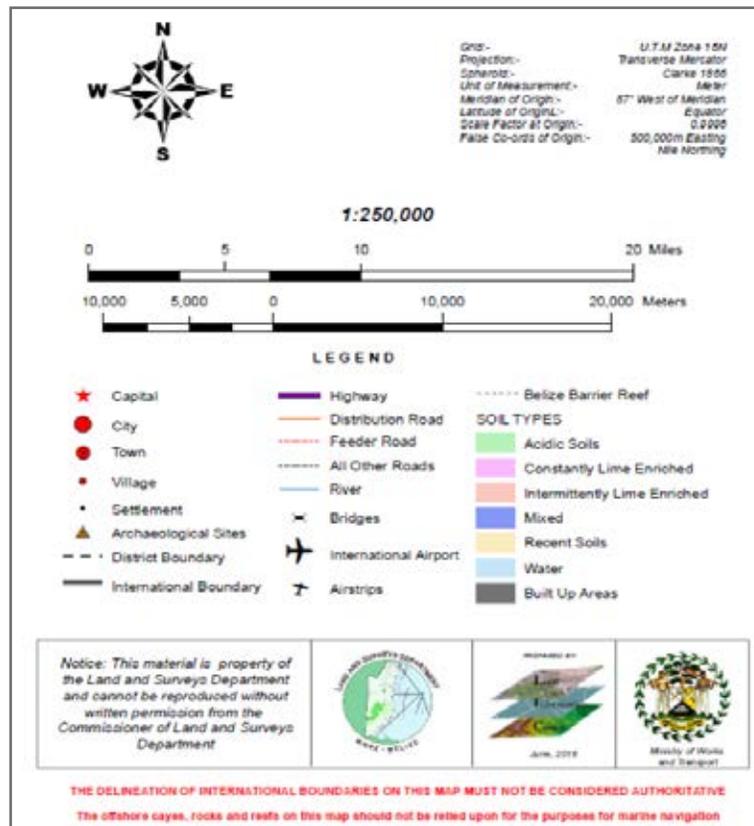
Belize Agricultural Value Legend for Stann Creek District:



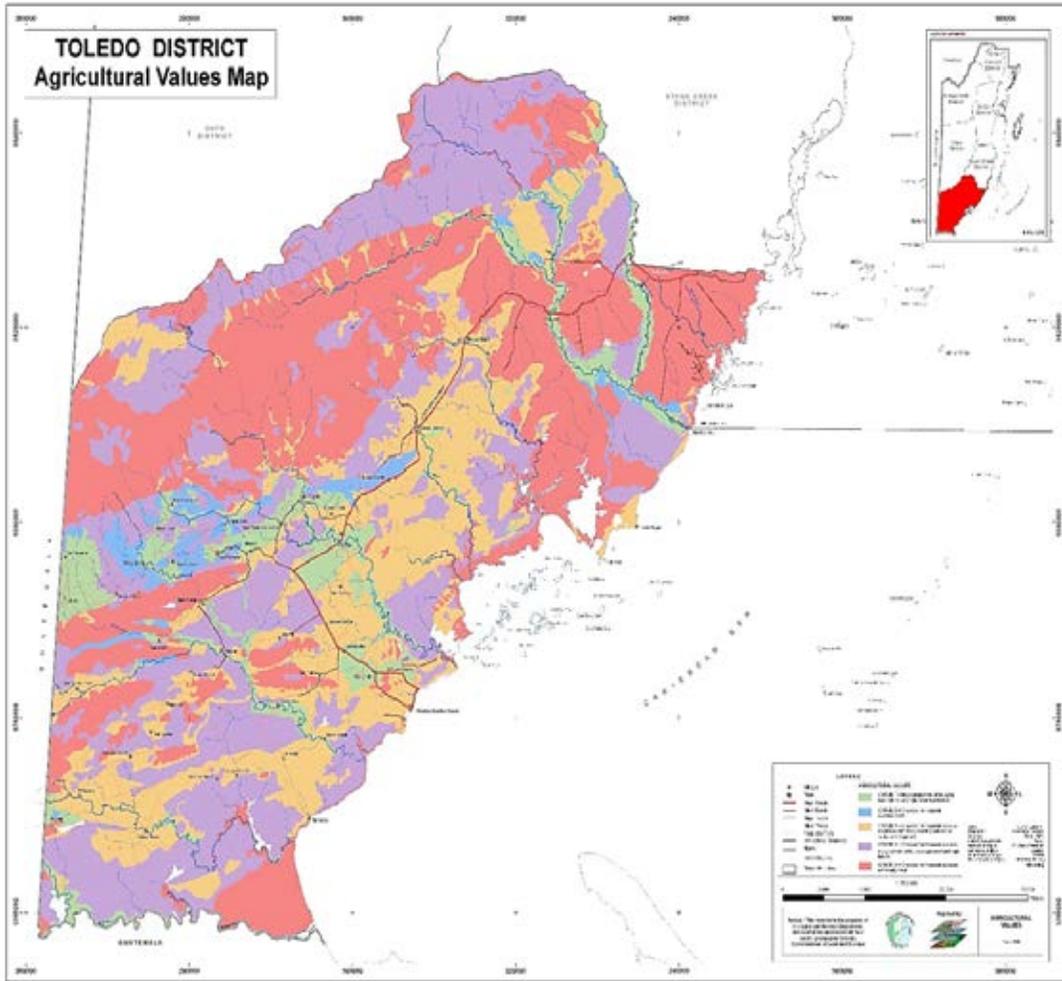
ANNEX 05: Soil Profile Map, Toledo



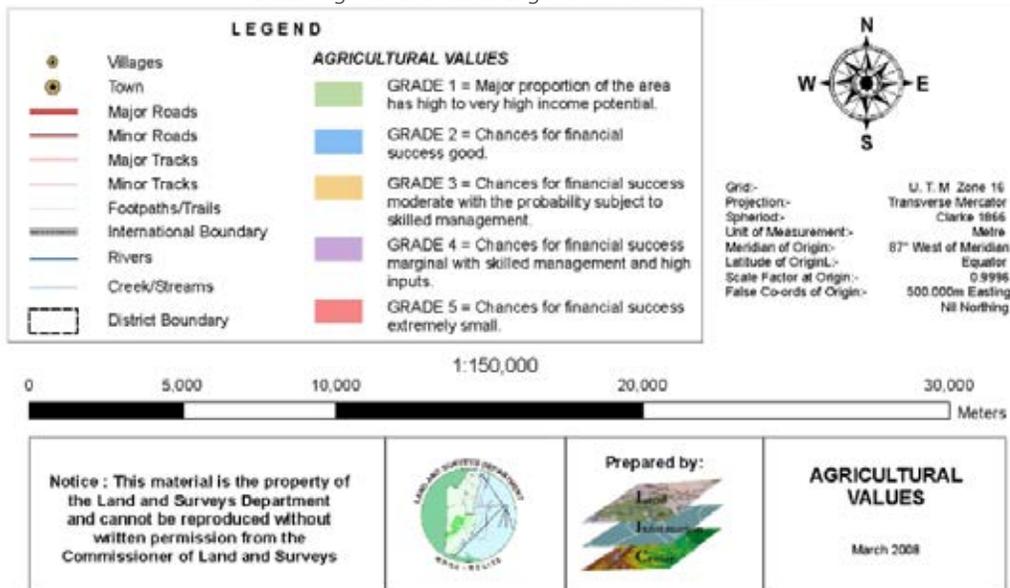
Belize Soil Map Key for Toledo District



ANNEX 06: Agriculture Values Map, Toledo



Belize Agricultural Value Legend for Toledo District:



ANNEX 2: POTENTIAL REAL ESTATE OPTIONS

Hesed Realty

Contact: Dean F. Hill
17 Brown Street, Belmopan
P.O. Box 481, Belmopan City, Belize
Mobile: +501-621-3043 or 501-664-1692
Email: info@hesedbelizerealty.com
Website: hesedrealtybelize.com

PROPERTY 01: San Felipe Village, Toledo District

Size: 640 acres near Coastal Village
Price: \$740,000.00 USD



Description:

This is a great opportunity to own an amazing piece of Real Estate in Belize. Located in the scenic area of San Felipe Village and the Sarstoon Temash National Park in the Toledo District, is this beautiful 640 acre farm. Situated 3 miles off the Southern Highway on an all-weather road, 10 miles from the coastal village of Barranco and a 15 minute drive to Punta Gorda Town places this property at a great location. The San Felipe area is a rapidly developing area with other agrarian ventures (teak plantation) close-by and a lumber yard. The property features over 150 acres of bearing Valencia orange trees and other fruit trees like coconuts, mangoes and cashews. There is an excellent limestone spring and creeks which form a tributary to the Moho River (which is less than a mile away). Over 200 acres of this property is in its natural jungle state and the topography is fairly flat with a few rolling hills.

Features:

- The property has access to electricity and cell phone service.
- The estate will be sold with all farming equipment like tractors (2) and bush-hog.

PROPERTY 02: Western Belize, Frank's Eddy Village, Cayo

Size: 5,450 acre
Price: \$ 8,175,000 USD for 5,450 acres
(List price for 2,471.05 acres is \$ 3,459,470 USD)



Description:

Located only 10 minutes from Belmopan in the village of Frank's Eddy, in the Cayo District, is this amazing property. This choice 5,450 acre property is great for any agricultural venture since it is bordered by the west by a creek and the Belize River is just north of the property. With soil pH around 6.5 to Neutral, crops such as Citrus, Cacao, Sugarcane and vegetable would flourish in this soil.

The land can be easily cleared as much of the primary vegetation has been taken out. There is a road that links the southern end of this property to the northern tip. The Santander Group currently cultivates over 10,000 acres of Sugarcane in the general proximity of this property. The George Price highway is immediately accessible from this property.

PROPERTY 03: Southern Belize, Punta Gorda Town, Toledo

Size: 7,000 acres (Owner is willing to sell 2,700 acres)
Price: \$1,000 USD per acre



Description:

This property consists of 7,000 acres of lush fertile land located in the Toledo District. It is situated near Punta Gorda Town and the municipal airport. This property would be the perfect location for Cacao production as that crop grows best in Southern Belize. 90% of the property is in its natural state, which provide the opportunity for lumber extraction in commercial quantities.

The property extends for six miles along the western shoreline of Deep River (The Deep River is a navigable river with manatees, world class sport fishing and inland waterways through the rain forest) where it opens to the Caribbean Sea with ready access to part of the 165 mile long spectacular barrier reef.

Ceiba Realty Ltd.

Contact: Jonathan Lohr
 161 George Price Highway
 Santa Elena, Cayo
 Belize C.A
Phone: +501 824-4050
Mobile: +501 610-4458
Website: www.ceibarealestatebelize.com
Email: jonathan@ceibarealtybelize.com

PROPERTY 01: St Margaret's Village, Southern Belize

Size: 300 Acres
Price: \$300,000 US (\$600,000 BZ)



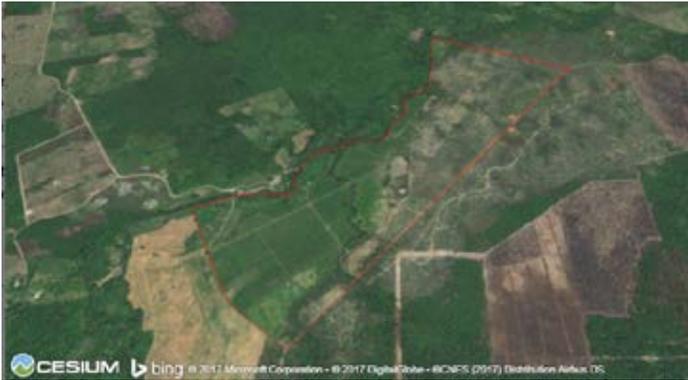
Description:

This property is located just east of the Manatee River in the Maya Mountain foothills and a few miles off the Hummingbird Highway from the village of St Margaret's. The land is rolling with multiple valleys and hills that offer views over the surrounding area and the mountains in the distance. A couple of creeks run through the property and provide year round water. The property is still in jungle state and can easily be cleared and developed as one sees fit. The jungle on the property has value and can either be logged for personal or commercial use. The immediate area is a developing agriculture area and the nearby farms are cattle ranches, citrus groves, teak farms or crop farms. The land would be suitable for either of these endeavors. This Parcel, at this Price, is a Solid Asset.

PROPERTY 02: Western Belize, Cayo District

Cacao Trade and Investment Prospectus

Size: 400 Acres
Price: \$650,000 US (\$1,300,000 BZ)



Description:

PROPERTY 03: Gales Point Village, Southern Belize

Size: 550 Acres
Price: \$825,000 US (\$1,650,000 BZ)



Description:

Size: 1470 Acres
Price: \$1,999,000 US (\$3,998,000 BZ)



Description:

The property is a 400-acre tract of land about 4 miles south of the village of Teakettle. Located on the road to the hugely popular ATM Cave and along the Roaring River, this property features easy access and almost a mile and a half of prime riverfront. The majority of the property is arable soil and over half of it is currently rented to a local farmer for crops. The remainder of the land is suitable for a ranch or pastureland and can easily be cleared and developed as such. Gravel found on the riverbanks can be mined and is currently a very lucrative market. The terrain is mostly flat with a seasonal creek running through the property and two established ponds. A solid foundation and concrete pad of approximately 2,000 sq. ft. is still at the old home site and can be used to construct a home or a garage. Numerous fruit trees surround the old home site and it is set on a small knoll overlooking the river.

This 550 acre parcel fronts the Coastal Highway and is within a few miles of Gales Point Village. The land is mostly flat and covered in untouched forests of palms and hardwoods. The large hill located along the road offers incredible views of the surrounding mountains and beyond to the Caribbean Sea. This property features over 7,000 feet of frontage along Soldier Creek and over a mile of Coastal Road frontage. Coastal Road connects southern Belize with Belize City and beyond via the coastal plains. An upgrade to the road is only a few years away with development in the South rapidly increasing. This parcel is a great investment before the prices rise in this area.

PROPERTY 04: Southern Belize, Toledo

This incredible parcel of land features thousands of feet of frontage on the Sibun River and even includes your own 20 acre river island. It also has two pristine, beautiful, all year creeks running through the property providing year round clean water. The property is partially developed with multiple private access roads through the property and a 35 acre hybrid Teak plantation as well as 2 acres of Mahogany trees and some Barbajolote trees planted. Two caretaker cabins are in place; one at the gate and one at the corral area. The terrain is quite diverse with beautiful fertile valleys for farming or further agroforestry development and includes some larger wooded hills of over 100 meters high. Approximately 500 acres of land have also been cleared and planted in improved grasses for livestock with fencing in place and a corral area. This farm is up and running with three full time employees and includes one hundred fifty cattle and ten horses.



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