



**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
PART 1: COVER SHEET**

Name of Organization: Enter legal name of organization.

Humana People to People Belize

Organization ACRONYM:

HPPBZ

Project Title:

Empower women and girls to improve their living conditions in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts, Belize.

Project Summary: (Do not exceed 50 words.)

The project will empower 200 Maya Mopan, Maya Kekchi, Garifuna and immigrant women and girls to improve their living conditions. They will improve their nutrition and health – and also improve local natural resource care and management - while improving their capacity to generate income through gardens and micro-businesses.

Duration: 24 Months. The duration of the support requested should be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity.

Amount requested from the IAF: \$ 338,905 (in US dollars)

Proponent counterpart: \$ 143,448 (in US dollars) *

Other counterpart: \$ 91,950 (in US dollars) *

*Counterpart is a contribution from the proposing organization ("proponent") or third party. Counterpart may be in cash donations or in kind, including, but not limited to, land, supplies, infrastructure, labor, and office, storage and meeting space.

How did you hear about the IAF? Internet research and word-of-mouth.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Address:

Street Address: Monkey River Road, Via Independence, Toledo District, Belize

Postal Address (where applicable): Monkey River Road, Via Independence, Toledo District, Belize

City: _____ Province (Dept./State): Toledo District

Country: Belize Postal Code: N/A

Office Telephone: 501 678-9943
Country/area code Telephone Number

Cell Telephone: 501 615-4496
Country/area code Telephone Number

Fax: N/A
Country/area code Telephone Number

Email: info@humana-belize.org

Website: http://www.humana-belize.org/

Contact Person(s): Enter the name(s) of the person(s) primarily responsible for contact with the IAF.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Ms.
Jensen, Susanne, Country Director
(last name) (first name) (position)

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Ms.
Williams, Ishelly, Proposal Writer and Public Relations Officer
(last name) (first name) (position)

Year Organization was Founded: 14 June, 2007

Date of Legal Incorporation: 07 / 19 / 2007
Mon / Day /Year

Direct Beneficiaries (number of people who will directly participate in and/or benefit from project activities): 3,000

Indirect Beneficiaries: (number of people who will indirectly benefit from project activities): 20,000

Funding History: Sources, years and amounts of previous funding received (excluding from the IAF) in US dollars.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Amount</u>
European Union	2017-2021	410,560
United Nations High Commission for Refugees Fund	2019-2020	183,179
United States Embassy Belize- CARSI Fund	2018-2020	370,370
Caribank- Community Disaster Risk Reduction Fund	2017-2019	648,860
Australian High Commission	2019-2020	22,300
The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility	2019-2020	25,000
Motorola Solutions Foundation	2020	10,000

Embassy of Germany, Belize	2019	13,392
Embassy of the Czech Republic, Mexico	2019	21,649
Embassy of Switzerland, Mexico	2019	20,000
Planet Aid	2017–2019	291,000
Fundación Pueblo para Pueblo	2017–2019	153,000
Humana People to People Baltic	2017–2019	189,000

Has the organization ever received funding from the IAF? No **If so, when?** _____
Grant # (if known): _____ **Amount:** _____.

Annual Budget/Operating expenses for the last three years: 404,694 ; 840,462 ; 941,000 .

Organizational Background: Brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission, structure (operating and governing), membership and achievements.

Mission (Do not exceed 100 words.)

The mission of HPPBZ is to improve the standard of living and the way of life of those who are affected by poverty in Belize through social assistance, education and welfare programs.

Governing Structure (Refers to the organization's form of leadership which might include a board of directors, general assembly, fiscal council and/or chief executive officer; also indicate how decisions are made, frequency of meetings, etc.) *Please list the board of directors by complete names and positions.*

HPPBZ is governed by its 3-member board of directors, who have the overall responsibility for its management. This board has appointed and given authority to the country director to lead and manage the day-to-day affairs of the organization. With the support of in-office staff, the country director undertakes program quality assurance, ensuring that HPPBZ projects achieve the agreed-upon goals, and securing compliance to donor regulations, as agreed with its partners.

The board holds meetings quarterly; the chairperson can call additional meetings as necessary. The board of directors has the responsibility to ensure that all operations are in accordance with the organization's Articles and Memorandum of Incorporation and donor requirements.

Members of HPPBZ (4) are - on a yearly basis - presented with project information and updates; they vote on candidates for the board of directors and on the external auditor.

Board of directors: names and positions

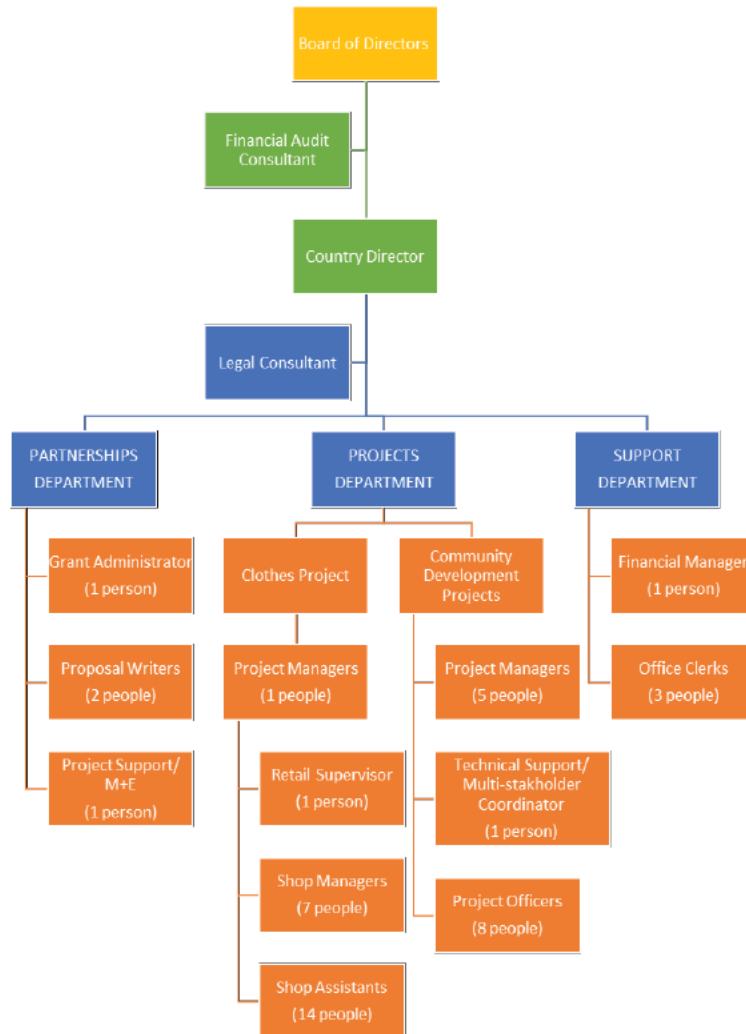
Michael Ferslev, Director

Jaime Barrientos, Director

Susanne Jensen, Chairperson

Operating Structure (Refers to the division of labor within the organization which might include an educational team, a communications team, an administrative department, etc.)

HPPBZ's operating structure is depicted in the organizational chart below:



Membership (Only for membership organizations; describe the members, criteria to joining, fees charged, etc.)

Persons who approve HPPBZ's statutes and endorse the organization's mission, objectives and work may become members; the board of directors votes to approve/deny membership. No fees are charged. There are currently 4 members.

Organizational Achievements (Describe your organization's founding, history and past achievements)

HPPBZ registered as an NGO and established itself as a not-for-profit organization under the laws of Belize in July 2007.

Between September and December 2007, the organization was introduced to the community leaders and communities in Toledo and baseline assessments were conducted. Local staff - "area leaders" - were employed and trained. HPPBZ's first project, its holistic community development program "Child Aid", was officially launched on December 7, 2007. Since then, more than 3,000 families in southern Belize have been empowered through their involvement in development activities that target income generation and improved health, nutrition, education, and environment.

In 2007, HPPBZ also established a second-hand clothes project – importation and sales of second-hand clothes – to generate its own funds to support its community activities. HPPBZ currently has 4 retail shops and 1 wholesale. Apart from creating funds, the clothes project has a positive environmental impact and provides quality, stylish clothing at an affordable cost to local communities.

In 2017, a sustainable agriculture project ("Farmers' Club") that worked with communities to build their resilience to disaster risks was initiated.

Since its inception, HPPBZ has worked with the poorest, most vulnerable, and most remote communities in the country. HPPBZ's work embeds the organization into the target communities with which it works. HPPBZ is currently implementing 7 projects that target 43 communities in two of Belize's poorest, most underserved districts: Toledo and Stann Creek.

HPPBZ is a strong implementer with an established M&E system that has allowed the organization to successfully implement projects with support from international donors such as the Embassy of the United States in Belmopan, the European Union, UNHCR, the Caribbean Development Bank, embassies, and private foundations, among others. HPPBZ funds approximately 6% of its yearly budget through its own funds, which are created via its second-hand clothes business. An additional 30% of HPPBZ's annual budget is supported by members of the Humana People to People Federation (Planet Aid, Fundación Pueblo para Pueblo, and Humana People to People Baltic). HPPBZ also partners with other Belizean organizations – including all Government of Belize departments, Belize Family Life Association, Maya Mountain Research Farm, Help for Progress, RET Belize, and the Human Rights Commission of Belize, among others – to build its capacity and to better empower communities. Once a year, HPPBZ accounts are audited to international standards by BDO Belize LLP.

Project-related Experience (Describe your organization's experience in the proposed project area(s) or sector(s))

Aligned with HPPBZ's mission, the organization implements three main programs: Child Aid, Farmers' Clubs, and Secondhand Clothing and Shoes.

Child Aid operates within 10 lines of activities, which work to improve food security, promote good health, solve basic problems with water and sanitation, create better educational conditions, and organize systems to care for the sick or for children in difficult situations.

Farmers' Clubs organize farmers in self-support groups and provide them with capacity building in climate smart agriculture and support to establish market linkages. The Farmers' Clubs provide farmers with the means to transform their lives and enhance their climate resilience. In Toledo, this work promotes the production of local food through the organisation of farmers into crop groups which concentrate on growing coffee, cacao, pineapples and Moringa. The farmers are also taught conservation farming methods, crop diversification, and improved farm planning and budgeting, as well as new and improved methods for sustainable environmentally friendly crop production.

HPPBZ works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Health departments in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts to mobilize and work with local community members. HPPBZ has been active in the Toledo District since 2007 and has worked with approximately 3,000 families in the District.

HPPBZ is currently active in the Districts, implementing several relevant projects.

HPPBZ is currently implementing a project – funded by Australian Aid – that targets improved nutrition among vulnerable females and their families in Toledo and Stann Creek Districts. This project improves the health and wellbeing of community members - 80 women and girls' groups from 6 targeted communities - through education sessions and practical actions related to food security, health and community improvement.

HPPBZ is also implementing a project with funding from the Embassy of the United States in Belmopan which strengthens emergency and disaster response by building capacities and improving collaboration and service delivery in Toledo and Stann Creek. This work has also been partly financed by the Motorola Solutions Foundation. Key accomplishments of this project to date include the installation of crucial emergency equipment (loud hailers, radio systems, search and rescue gear); training of community members in search and rescue (22 people), river monitoring (38 people) and first aid (39 people); establishment and strengthening of Village Emergency Committees with Alcalde support (5 VECs have been trained thus far); awareness-raising; and training in backyard gardens at local schools (3). The project has also brought together a diverse and influential Project Steering Committee – which is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Works, NEMO, Rural Development, DAVCO, HPPBZ, CARDI, Met Office, Alcaldes, and beneficiaries – that meets regularly. It will soon also begin consultation/training of other local NGOs.

HPPBZ is furthermore completing a project funded by the Caribbean Development Bank, which built community resilience to natural disasters and also provided training in improved agriculture in Toledo and Stann Creek. This work has also been financed by the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). Key accomplishments of this project to date include the rehabilitation of two hurricane shelters in Toledo, the construction of earthen flood drains at Bella Vista and Bladen Villages, training of community members in emergency response (River Keepers and Radio Operators) and providing villages with related and needed supplies (communication system), and the formation and training of 180 farmers in 9 Farmers' Clubs, which installed demonstration gardens, drip irrigation systems, greenhouses, post-harvest grain storage metal silos, and livestock pens and sheds, as well established an animal pass-on loan system. The targeted communities have also raised their awareness about climate change and disaster risk reduction via public education and radio campaigns.

HPPBZ is also currently implementing two projects funded by the European Union to contribute to an effective participation of CSOs as governance actors in youth development and to improve the overall well-being of the population of Belize by enhancing knowledge and awareness of human rights and contributing to ensuring their

protection in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts. Key accomplishments of these projects to date include: the participatory mapping of youth service and human rights agencies in Stann Creek and Toledo; collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Human Development, youth associations and networks; mobilization and engagement of youths; youth-led community actions; development of training manuals and guides for training of trainers; sensitization and organization of community leaders and key stakeholders; local and school actions; and community awareness campaigns.

HPPBZ has also, since August 2019, implemented a project with UNHCR funding - “Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Belize” - to contribute to building the resilience, inclusion and integration of Persons of Concern (PoCs) in Bella Vista, Toledo District. This project established a resource center to provide information and support to refugees and asylum seekers (an average of 30+ people per day.). It also provided income generation and skills building courses in sewing, pastry, and carpentry (28 people) and provided education in English as a Second Language (18 people). It furthermore conducted community awareness campaigns, which raised awareness and support among 3,000 community members.

In all projects, HPPBZ considers the multi-dimensionality of poverty and vulnerability. Its holistic community development project – Child Aid – has run continuously since 2007 and focuses on: the promotion of local food security and access to adequate nutrition; improvement of family income sources; healthier lifestyles; and access to improved sanitation. Over the years, best practices and lessons learnt from Child Aid have been scaled-up to other projects.

To date, overall, HPPBZ has promoted family and collective food production with vulnerable populations in 50+ rural and marginalized villages in northern and southern Belize; emphasis has been placed on mobilizing youth and women and girls. As a result, 24 demonstration plots have been built; 3,500+ vulnerable families have created/expanded backyard vegetable gardens to improve nutrition; 30+ schools have created school gardens to encourage the agricultural profession; and 65,000+ fruit and edible trees have been planted in residential areas. Women and girls have played a consistent and key role in these achievements.

Through its agriculture-related projects, HPPBZ targets and mobilizes women and girls living in poverty who are not reached by government services and do not have opportunities for further education, training, or employment. In its majority, club members belong to indigenous (Maya Mopan, Maya Kekchi and Garifuna) and migrant groups from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. They are either attending primary school, unemployed/underemployed and/or are involved in family agriculture.

HPPBZ also strengthens the role of youth (ages 12 to 35) and girls (ages 9-13) in agriculture and food systems with the formation of self-sustaining, community-based clubs that are comprised of 6 to 10 members. Clubs work with HPPBZ for 1 to 3 years. During this time, they meet at least once a week to participate in continuous theoretical and practical actions that enable them to build and maintain different food systems - for family and commercial use - while learning to: implement sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices; establish income generating activities; optimize animal husbandry practices; and improve their health, nutrition, and wellbeing.

Food systems include vegetable production in open fields and greenhouses; group and pass-on animal husbandry (pigs, hens and goats); post-harvesting storage; and processing of goods. Food systems for youth and girls' clubs are usually installed in schools or communal land and function as demonstration plots for interested youth and girls (both

in- and out-of-school) and other community members to see first-hand how new techniques are implemented and how they work. At the plots, project participants gain experience with new crops and techniques to replicate at personal/family fields. As not all group members have farming land, vegetable and fruit tree gardening and animal husbandry at homes is also promoted. Club members are provided with start-up inputs for demonstration plots as well as for individual food gardens and they are expected to support each other in marketing the produce. The clubs are also supported with equipment for value addition such as grain storage silos.

HPPBZ's approach embeds the organization into the target communities with which it works and closely cooperates with officials from government agencies (such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the National Emergency Management Organization), non-governmental organizations (including RET Belize, Belize Family Life Association and the Belize Human Rights Commission, among others) private organizations (such as the Belize Red Cross Society, credit unions, and local companies) and local organizations (such as the Toledo Maya Women's Association, agricultural cooperative associations, farmers associations, and village councils).

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

PART 2: NARRATIVE

The application is the first step in developing a potential relationship with the IAF. This is your opportunity to share how you developed your ideas. Please address the following:

Context

1. Describe the community/communities expected to participate, including all characteristics you believe relevant.

Toledo and Stann Creek are two of Belize's poorest and most underserved districts, with a rural poverty rate of 73% and 53% (SIB, 2018), respectively. The prevalence of poverty in both districts is linked to poor access to services, low levels of educational attainment, poor infrastructure and low resilience capacity when compared to other districts in the country. The targeted villages have a combined population of 3,170 and the majority of inhabitants belong to indigenous groups (Maya Mopan and Maya Kekchi) and migrant groups (from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua); there is also 1 village that is primarily Garifuna. Community members face the following challenges: limited sources of employment; lack of capacity and/or capital to create income generation; gender disparities; family dysfunction; inadequate nutrition and high malnutrition rates. They are also more vulnerable to the increasing negative impacts of climate change. As a consequence, they lack the financial capacity to properly treat illnesses and/or seek appropriate care, purchase nutritious food, send their children to school and/or cover other basic needs.

Young women in Belize represent the majority of the country's out-of-school population at the secondary school level. As a result, the targeted women do not have the skills and resources to break themselves and their families free from poverty and dehumanizing conditions. Because of beliefs, traditions and culture, many people believe that a man can dominate a woman and limit what a woman says or does in her community. They are thus susceptible to domestic violence.

The districts furthermore feature low proportions of trained teachers and low student performance on the Primary School Education exam.

There are also few activities that target girls and young women to improve their opportunities. The police conduct community outreach within the communities to educate about crime and how youth can protect themselves. There are, however, very few organizations actively working with the area youth, and/or specifically young women.

2. How do the community members or constituents engage in your project?

Community members gain first-hand experience and reinforce knowledge acquired in project lessons and workshops by: establishing and maintaining micro businesses (such as local arts production and vegetable sales); building and managing diverse food systems and demonstration plots; leading community actions (e.g. clean-ups and tree planting campaigns); and participating in cooking demonstrations and other food processing actions. They further develop leadership skills, as project staff strongly encourage members' participation, particularly youth and young women, in both daily operations and in club committees, which are created to manage club activities and lead decision-making processes. Activities bring together traditionally marginalized groups from different ages and cultural backgrounds to give them a voice through knowledge, skills and capacity development, collaboration and collective action while building upon cultural traditions and ancestral knowledge. Furthermore, sustainable local agricultural practices as well as crop and cooking preferences are incorporated into each project.

3. Have you worked together in the past? How and why?

The project will be implemented in 10 communities in Stann Creek and Toledo: Georgetown, Santa Rosa, San Roman, San Isidro, Trio, Golden Stream, Indian Creek, Big Falls, Blue Creek and Aguacate. Beneficiaries of HPPBZ's projects participated in capacity building sessions and received technical support and assistance from HPPBZ, Ministry of Health and Agriculture personnel, the local head and technical officers from the MOA, the social Advocate for Nutrition, community health workers/clinics and the Health Education Officer.

The proposed project will build on HPPBZ's community development work being implemented in some of these communities and with whom HPPBZ staff has built a strong and collaborative working relationship. HPPBZ also has a close relationship with the local authorities in the area - the Alcaldes, Chairperson, council – as well as the local Government and NGOs.

4. Identify the situation(s) you are addressing (the scope, nature, causes and social or economic impact).

The scope of poverty is extensive in the targeted communities. Its nature, causes, and impacts are also interconnected and widespread:

- **Inadequate nutrition and high malnutrition rates:** Traditionally, the targeted indigenous and migrant families consume mostly corn, beans, rice and pumpkin and do not complement their diet with other nutritious foods. This is generally due to a lack of knowledge about nutrition, poor access to such foods and a lack of the financial means to purchase them. These circumstances are a major contributor to the large number of people with diabetes nationally (13%) and in the targeted project area.
- **Limited sources of employment and income generation activities:** The targeted families lack the capacity to send their children to school, provide them with adequate school supplies, ensure they are properly treated for illnesses, and cover other basic needs. These issues also influence high migration rates.
- **Gender disparities and family dysfunction:** In the targeted communities, boys and girls are raised and taught according to traditional beliefs about gender roles; as a result, there is ingrained gender inequality. Among the poorest of the poor, women represent the majority of the out-of-school population at the secondary school level. As a result, they do not have the skills and resources to break themselves or their families free from poverty and dehumanizing conditions; this also directly influences teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. The project will work directly with women and girls with a key focus on improving the living conditions of the family which will include the participation of men and boys in local and school actions in learning about personal and economic empowerment.
- **High rates of deforestation and ecosystem damage:** Most people in the targeted rural communities cook with inefficient stoves that require higher amounts of firewood and produce more smoke. This increases deforestation rates and health-related issues, particularly for the women (who do the majority of the cooking). Furthermore, the families practice slash-and-burn agricultural practices and use industrial fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, which cause further long-term environmental damage.

5. How did you decide on the proposal focus and who participated in the decision?

To design the proposed project, HPPBZ consulted with local project staff, leaders, and community members via project visits, one-on-one interviews, and focus group discussions. The targeted women and girls included provided input regarding their access to information, services and opportunities, the need for capacity building on income generation,

health, nutrition, and education, among others. They have expressed their satisfaction with the collaboration with HPPBZ and their desire to continue with empowerment and capacity-building activities.

During visits to the targeted areas, authorities and technicians from both the Agriculture and Nutrition/Health Departments were also consulted; their input has been incorporated in the project design.

HPPBZ also analyzed its current project work, lessons learned, and other opportunities for project leverage. This included the following:

The **Australian Aid** project targets improved nutrition in vulnerable women and girls and their families in Stann Creek and Toledo District. The proposed project used lessons learned to design the proposed project.

The work to strengthen emergency and disaster response in the targeted communities – funded by the **Embassy of the United States in Belmopan, Caribank, Motorola Solutions Foundation, and CCRIF** – has highlighted particular constraints that families face regarding income generation, health, and agriculture as a result of natural disasters. The proposed project will consider established risks in its project design and lessons.

The **UNHCR-funded project** provides refugee-seekers with information about their rights, the asylum process, and legal registration. The project also links community members with services and livelihood opportunities, while also raising awareness among host communities about immigrant/refugee/and asylum-seeker integration. Considering that there is a rising number of refugees in Belize, the proposed project will – when needed/appropriate – use information, referrals, and materials used in the UNHCR project to support new refugees encountered.

Project

6. Describe the activities you will undertake.

Project activities will include the following:

Education/training sessions. Activities:

1. HPPBZ hires a nutritionist, who trains/builds capacity of HPPBZ staff and local health providers.
2. Donate nutrition supplement packages to local health workers for distribution.
3. Establish project groups. 200 women and girls will be mobilized from existing clubs and in new communities to form new clubs.
4. Enhance existing women and girls' club manuals and cooking recipes.
5. Organize members into groups of 8-12 people.
6. Provide weekly theoretical lessons that include the following sample topics:
 - Entrepreneurship and micro businesses:** marketing, personal and economic empowerment, registration, small scale skill-building.
 - Nutrition:** balanced diet, nutritional deficiencies, malnutrition prevention, supplementary foods, pregnancy and lactation, benefits of local food and its incorporation into daily meals.
 - Health:** proper disposal of garbage, affordable solutions to improved sanitation, prevention of avoidable diseases, proper hygiene habits, the dangers of open defecation, food safety, sexual reproductive health, gender equality; and
 - Natural resource management:** proper forest management, forest fires, environmentally friendly methods of cooking, the importance of reforestation, proper usage of firewood and firewood saving stoves.
7. Conduct cooking demonstrations.

8. Train and support club members and their families to construct, use and maintain firewood-saving stoves.
9. Conduct monthly health check-ups of club members (using scale with weight, fat%, water%, blood pressure, etc.)

Micro-business and food security infrastructure. Activities:

10. Provide materials to construct/upgrade: backyard gardens, greenhouses/tunnels with irrigation, food processor, fruit-dryer, small chicken and school food production, sewing, shoe making, soap/perfume making and traditional art production.
11. Train members in and support construction of backyard gardens, greenhouses/tunnels and chicken coops.
12. Train members in the use and maintenance of infrastructure.
13. Provide skills training: sewing, art production, etc.

Community actions led by women and girls. Activities:

14. Conduct cleaning campaigns.
15. Conduct tree planting campaigns.

Project visibility and awareness-raising actions for the wider communities. Activities:

16. Conduct house-to-house visits.
17. Hold community sessions and “open day” community events: malaria/dengue (mosquito) prevention, healthy habits, proper waste disposal, gender equality.
18. Conduct quarterly-monthly school training sessions and actions such as art competitions, debates and workdays in the garden, greenhouses/tunnels and chicken coops.
19. Distribute IEC materials: pamphlets, flyers, brochures, and posters.
20. Install project banner and signs on project-established infrastructure.
21. Conduct education campaign and provide project updates on social media.
22. Club members create and distribute quarterly newsletters for community members.

Small businesses. Activities:

23. Train women to develop small businesses.
24. Disburse seed-funding.

Project management. Activities:

- Project management unit (PMU) meets regularly.
- Provide in-house training and technical assistance to project staff.
- Hold project planning and monitoring meetings.
- Conduct monitoring visits.
- Conduct baseline and final survey.
- Complete and submit monthly and final internal/external technical and financial reports.

7. Explain in narrative form your work plan and provide a proposed schedule.

The project will be implemented over 24 months and utilize a community-based approach in which the targeted women and girls participate in trainings, decision making and actions that empower them to take ownership of the project. The activity schedule will be as follows:

Month

Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Community sensitization	x	x									x	x												
Hiring M+E and Nutritionist	x																							
Staff capacity building incl. training by nutritionist		x	x	x	x	x	x																	
Internal Baseline Survey		x	x	x																				
Establish groups		x	x																					
Blood tests			x																			x		
Material development		x	x	x																				
Weekly women's club sessions: training and action on nutrition, health, entrepreneurship			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Weekly girls' club sessions: training and action on nutrition and health			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Cooking demos				x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		x		
Construction of firewood-saving stoves and training in its use and maintenance												x	x	x	x	x	x							
Monthly health check-ups (weight, fat%, blood pressure)					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Materials purchased and distributed				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Training and construction of backyard gardens, tunnels,					x	x	x	x	x	x														
Training and construction of chicken coops											x	x	x	x	x	x								
Skill-building training														x	x	x	x	x						
Micro-business																x	x	x	x	x	x			

- # of people who pass a project quiz demonstrating nutrition, health/wellbeing, and environmental understanding. Goal: 200

Result 2. Build the capacity of targeted women to generate their own income. This will be measured by the following indicators:

- # of women trained in entrepreneurship/micro business. Goal: 100
- # of women provided with micro-business support kits. Goal: 100
- # of women with 70% participation in skills training sessions. Goal: 100
- # of women who pass a project quiz demonstrating an awareness of micro business opportunities. Goal: 100

Result 3. Create a more enabling local environment to foster community development. This will be measured by a comparison of the following indicators:

- # of people reached in awareness campaigns. Goal: 3,000 households visited.
- # of trees planted. Goal: 1,000

Together, these three results/immediate objectives will contribute to the project's specific objective, which is to **empower women and girls to improve their living conditions in the Toledo District, Belize.** This will be measured by the following indicators:

- # of targeted women and girls who can name 3 ways that they have improved their health as a result of project activities. Goal: 150
- # of targeted women and girls who report greater access to nutritious food and more varied produce. Goal: 200
- # of targeted women who report that they are involved in a new and/or improved form of economic activity. Goal: 100
- # of schools with improved food production that provides small supply to school feeding program. Goal: 10
- # of women who have improved their weight and body fat %. Goal: 75
- # of women and girls who report that they have accessed government health assistance such as vitamins and/or supplements in the last 24 months: Goal: 150
- # of men and boys who participate in local actions. Goal: 100
- # of men and boys who report that the project has had a positive impact on their communities. Goal: 100

The project will also ultimately contribute to **build thriving communities in southern Belize**, which is its overall goal.

10. What makes your project innovative or different?

All of the following are unique, innovative and different approaches to development work in Belize:

- The "mother/girl clubs" strategy allows women and girls to participate in creating the best conditions for themselves and their children while also raising awareness among men and boys about the importance of greater gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Women and girls become the main implementers of the project and are empowered; they then teach men and boys to accept their empowerment. To support these efforts, men, boys, and other communities' members are simultaneously reached via community outreach and sensitization. This holistic and multi-pronged approach creates a more sustainable impact on both the targeted community members and future generations. It also engages women in practical sessions that provide them with hands-on learning via cooking demonstrations, construction of firewood saving stoves, gardens and handwashing facilities, information distribution, and community and school actions.

- The project is implemented with solid community-engagement, including direct input from local leaders and schools, which are sensitized, and which provide feedback and contribute to decision-making. The local leaders assist in strengthening community members' access to information, services and opportunities. They also continue to receive and distribute information and provide a channel for feedback.
- The project is implemented with direct participation and leadership of a range of community members, ensuring that development is driven by those most impacted by poverty despite differences in language, culture, geographic location, etc. This makes it different because the organization does not come to the community and provide financial assistance - which creates dependency of the people on the supporting agencies - but instead works with the communities. It is the communities themselves who thus have the responsibility to ensure that the project succeeds.
- The project creates a network with existing agencies - both government and non-government - to create a channel to share and access information in rural areas. The project links participants with local agencies working to address the issues that the communities face. This then allows the participants to know where to access necessary information, services or opportunities.
- The project utilizes local materials such as local wood, seeds, and clay to build infrastructure and it also promotes familiar produce to balance and enhance diets. This reduces costs significantly and allows participants to better maintain installed structures and sustain healthier diets. The local materials are readily available and affordable/free.
- The project is gender conscious and inclusive as it mobilizes women and girls, immigrants and indigenous populations. The project encourages no bias, discrimination or inequality in its activities and outreach and is also open to persons from all backgrounds, races or migrant situations. The project also conducts organized sessions and activities with boys, men, and community members to create greater project support and to promote greater gender equality.
- With the extensive use of peer training, club leaders are trained and provided with sufficient materials to lead sessions themselves. This creates local leadership and strengthens relationships among community members, who themselves provide education and support to others. Participants work together to ensure that everyone succeeds, and the project promotes collaboration and teamwork to create success.

11. Explain why your project is feasible.

As described above, the project builds upon existing programs and structures and the work of local and international agencies. It will extend information, services and opportunities to rural communities across the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts.

At technical level, club members will gain capacity to improve their income, health, wellbeing, and community environment. The team will work in partnership with relevant Government agencies to ensure that all work is complementary and that it leverages existing efforts and work.

At a policy level, the project will support the National Health Sector Strategic Plan, local Health and Nutrition Plans and the National Youth Development Policy of Belize.

At a social level, the project will deliver targeted key messages on nutrition, health, economic development, and environmental protection. Empowering and participatory methods for behavior change (establishment of clubs; peer-to-peer education) will increase capacity of target communities to access services. Moreover, the project has been designed to ensure that civil society partners and community members have the necessary blueprint, resources and skills to replicate and expand the actions of this project. Empowerment of women while collaborating with men will strengthen the project's activities and sustainability.

At an economic level, the project will train targeted women on micro-business financial management and income generation strategies. They will benefit from improved skills and be supported with start-up inputs; this will improve their financial outlook. And by also placing emphasis on youth empowerment and development, the project will ultimately benefit the social and economic development of the entire community.

12. Discuss potential challenges to the project and how your organization will address them.

Potential challenges and their mitigation strategies to the project include:

Risk: Men do not support the project and prevent women from engaging in activities.

Mitigation:

- Strong collaboration with local leaders from the project start throughout its implementation to ensure their support
- Community activities to educate and raise awareness about the importance of gender empowerment and the engagement of women and girls.

Risk: Attendance at project activities is low, as women and girls have home and school responsibilities and/or similar constraints.

Mitigation:

- Most of the group activities will be implemented during daytime/school hours or at an agreed-upon time based on the availability and desired times of the club members.

Risk: The chicken coops, greenhouses, and cement block raised vegetable gardens are damaged or items are stolen.

Mitigation:

- The roof structures will be built with zinc (not with leaves, as is the traditional practice).
- Cement will be used to protect raised vegetable beds from water.
- The backyard gardens will have a fence to protect the plants and produce from animals.
- Structures will be built close to homes with proper fencing and locks.

Risk: Group members do not understand the lessons and technical assistance provided by the project due to a lack of fluency in English and/or a feeling that their cultural traditions are not respected.

Mitigation:

- Activities will be spoken in/translated into Spanish and/or Maya.
- Due to their own cultural background and/or first-hand experience, the project officers are familiar with and will be respectful of the cultural traditions of the project participants.
- Project staff will encourage continuous feedback from community members to ensure that adjustments are made to meet community interests and demands as needed.

Risk: Public and private partners cease to collaborate in the implementation of project activities.

Mitigation:

- HPPBZ will monitor all inter-institutional relationships and collaborate continuously with key organizations (including but not limited to local and regional representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Health).
- With the training of two more officers in project implementation, HPPBZ will increase its in-house capacity to implement the project without external collaborators.

Risk: Natural disaster (hurricane, flooding) impedes access to communities and/or project activities.

Mitigation:

- HPPBZ partners with the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) to implement projects and closely monitors weather patterns and storms; based on weather, HPPBZ will adjust activities as needed.
- In the event of road destruction, river flooding, etc. that impede access or disrupt activities, HPPBZ will communicate with communities (via communication systems that it helped to establish; staff is thus well versed in its use) to re-schedule activities to accessible, safe locations.

13. How will your efforts continue after funding from the IAF ends?

The income-generating capacity and activities generated by the project will allow the women's groups to maintain and expand self-employment and income sources. After project completion, HPPBZ will continue to follow-up and provide technical support to the women's and girls' clubs for two years, using its own and other outside funding. Government partners will also provide support to groups after project end.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

PART 3: BUDGET

- Project budget must be in U.S. dollars. Please specify date and exchange rate used: Date: 20 February 2020 Exchange rate: 1.98BZD to 1USD
- List by line item the amount requested from the IAF as well as counterpart contributions that will be dedicated to the project.
 - "Proponent Counterpart" refers to contributions from the organization submitting the proposal.
 - "Beneficiary Contributions" refers to contributions from the people benefiting from or participating in project activities when different from the "Proponent;"
 - "Other Contributions" refers to resources raised from outside sources that are necessary for project implementation.
 - In-kind contributions (e.g. goods; services; office, meeting, storage or other space; land; etc.), must be ascribed a monetary value.
 - Use footnotes to detail the source of each counterpart contribution.
- Identify at least one lettered sub-item for each of the applicable numbered line items. A list of examples of sub-items is provided on the following page.
- Note that salaries should include employee benefits if required by local employment laws.

Line Items	Request IAF	Proponent Counterpart		Beneficiary Contributions		Other Contributions	
	Cash	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind
1. Administrative Expenses a. Rent b. Utilities c. Use of school/ community center d. Cellphone bills e. Office Supply f. Anti-virus programme g. Use of furniture h. indirect costs	3,552		39,930		12,000		
2. Construction a. etc.							
3. Dissemination a. T-shirts b. Social Media boosted post c. Promotional items d. Signage	7,060						
4. Equipment a. Computer b. Printer c. Bicycles d. Camera e. Cellphones f. Projector g. Tablets	11,750						
5. Human Resources – Salaries a. M+E data collection and analysis b. Employers Social Security c. Nutritionist d. Employee Social Security	32,213						
6. Human Resources - Contracted Services a. Government	9,750		5,400		11,700		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. personnel c. Local Health Workers d. International Development Instructors (allowance) e. Skills training f. Financial Audit 							
7. Human Resources - Contributed Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project Organizer b. Employers Social Security c. Project Leaders d. Employees Social Security e. Accounting f. Financial Manager g. Grant Administration h. Graphic Design i. Teacher coordinators j. Women group members etc. 			78,768		40,950		
8. Investment Capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. etc. 							
9. Loan Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. etc. 							
10. Materials/Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cooking Lessons b. Firewood Saving Stoves c. Printing of Manuals, membership cards and posters d. Training stationaries e. Tunnels with irrigation f. Soil g. Vegetable seeds h. Fencing i. Garden tools j. Backyard Garden k. Chicken coops l. School Actions m. Community Actions n. Health Examination o. Scale p. Supplements q. Trees r. Skills training materials s. Seed funding t. Open day u. Cleaning actions 	198,100				19,000	8,300	
11. Operational expenses							

a. etc.							
12. Other a. Quarterly Production Planning Session b. Stakeholder meeting c. Quarterly Newsletter	4,600						
13. Preliminary Activities a. Baseline Survey b. Evaluation etc.	18,500						
14. Real Property a. etc.							
15. Sub-Grant Fund a. etc.							
16. Training a. Development of Lessons and materials b. Refreshments for sessions/ community meetings etc.	13,500						
17. Travel a. Transport for club leaders b. Per diem for government personnel c. Per diem for project staff	10,200						
18. Vehicles a. Motorbikes with helmet b. Maintenance and fuel c. Insurance and license	29,680		19,350				
TOTALS	338,905		143,448		83,650	8,300	

Examples of budget line items

	Budget line items	Examples of sub-items
1	Administrative Expenses	Rent, public utilities, office supplies and furnishings, insurance.
2	Construction	Buildings, structural improvements.
3	Dissemination	Publications, printing, seminars, audio-visual media.
4	Equipment	Tractors and other farm equipment, cold storage and other equipment, machinery, computer or office equipment.
5	Human Resources - Salaries	Payments to permanent staff or people directly associated with the project, and legally required benefits and social security.
6	Human Resources – Contracted Services	Professional fees paid to consultants for technical assistance in areas such as production and marketing, or for conducting surveys, studies or evaluations.
7	Human Resources –	Donated time/services of staff or people associated with the project or consultants.

	Contributed Services	
8	Investment capital	Working capital, operating capital for an enterprise.
9	Loan fund	Revolving loan fund for production or marketing.
10	Materials/supplies	Fertilizers, seeds, medical and other supplies.
11	Operational expenses	Production, marketing, general or project maintenance.
12	Other	Miscellaneous expenses, organizational development, meetings.
13	Preliminary activities	Legal expenses, market study.
14	Real Property	Tangible and fixed assets related to land or buildings.
15	Sub-Grant fund	Support for small development projects.
16	Training	Teaching materials, supplies, publications, and printed matter.
17	Travel	Transportation, per diem.
18	Vehicles	Purchase or rental of cars, motorcycles, trucks, pickup trucks; insurance; fuel and lubricants; maintenance.

Please submit all applications via email to proposals@iaf.gov.

**Inter-American Foundation
1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 1200 North
Washington DC-20004**

**Tel: 202-360-4530
Website: <http://www.iaf.gov>**



INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
PART 1: COVER SHEET

Name of Organization:

Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology

Organization ACRONYM:

B.E.S.T

Project Title:

Small Enterprise Development for Marginalized Women in Belize

Project Summary: (Do not exceed 50 words.)

The latest Belize Country Poverty Assessment Report (2009) establishes that 43% of Belize's population is poor with 15.8% classified as indigent. Twenty percent (20%) of women are unemployed compared to 8% male. This project aims to create economic opportunities for marginalized women living in poor communities in the Belize and Cayo districts in the country of Belize.

Duration: 24 Months. The duration of the support requested should be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity.

Amount requested from the IAF: \$ 219,950.00 (in US dollars)

Proponent counterpart: \$ 63,600.00 (in US dollars) *

Other counterpart: \$ 12,500.00 (in US dollars) *

*Counterpart is a contribution from the proposing organization ("proponent") or third party. Counterpart may be in cash donations or in kind, including, but not limited to, land, supplies, infrastructure, labor, and office, storage and meeting space.

How did you hear about the IAF?

BEST received financing from the Inter-American Foundation in 1991.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Address:

Street Address: Mile 54 Hummingbird Highway

Postal Address (where applicable): P.O Box 35

City: Belmopan Province (Dept./State): Cayo District

Country: Belize Postal Code N/A

Office Telephone: 501 822-3150/ 822-3043
Country/area code Telephone Number

Cell Telephone: 501 602-2633
Country/area code Telephone Number

Fax: _____
Country/area code Telephone Number

Email: best@btl.net

Website: www.best.org.bz

Contact Person(s): Enter the name(s) of the person(s) primarily responsible for contact with the IAF.

Mr.:

Jones, Dennis, Managing Director
(last name) (first name) (position)

☐ **Mrs.**

Longworth, Michelle, Deputy Managing Director
(last name) (first name) (position)

Year Organization was Founded: 1985

Date of Legal Incorporation: 03 / 26 / 1985
Mon / Day /Year

Direct Beneficiaries: 100 women

Indirect Beneficiaries: **500:**

500

Funding History: Sources, years and amounts of previous funding received (excluding from the IAF) in US dollars.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	1994-1995	\$325,000.00
Social Investment Fund of Belize	1999 – 2002	\$750,000.00
Global Fund	2006 – 2010	\$2,403,677.00
European Union	2008 – 2010	\$285,033.00
World Bank	2013- 2018	\$2,800,000.00
MCCAP	2018 – 2020	\$100,680.00

Has the organization ever received funding from the IAF? Yes **If so, when?** 1991
Grant # (if known): _____ **Amount:** \$80,000.00

Annual Budget/Operating expenses for the last three years: \$217,658.00; \$252,476.00; \$250,300.00 .

Organizational Background: Brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission, structure (operating and governing), membership and achievements.

Mission (Do not exceed 100 words.)

Chartered in 1985, BEST is a private non-government, not for profit organization whose Mission is “***dedicated to poverty reduction and economic empowerment of the most vulnerable, low income individuals, families and groups***” in Belize.

BEST’s goal is to create economic and social benefits for the poor, at the same time facilitating capacity building of community-based enterprises to sustain their own development.

Governing Structure (Refers to the organization's form of leadership which might include a board of directors, general assembly, fiscal council and/or chief executive officer; also indicate how decisions are made, frequency of meetings, etc.) *Please list the board of directors by complete names and positions.*

BEST is governed by a seven (7) member Board of Directors which provides leadership and general policy direction to the organization. It meets, quarterly, to review work completed and to plan for future programs and project activities. The board is comprised of well respected and knowledgeable Belizeans coming from a broad range of business, government, developmental and community organizations. They all possess a sound knowledge of the socio-economic conditions of Belize, as well as the particular topical area in which they work.

The Managing Director, assisted by a three (3) member Management Committee, coordinate the daily operations.

Operating Structure (Refers to the division of labor within the organization which might include an educational team, a communications team, an administrative department, etc.)

BEST is operated by a reputable cadre of six (6) staff that brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to its clients. The staff has expertise in the areas of accounting, business management, economics, credit management, project management, community development and administration. Where additional expertise is required, consultants are recruited from a list of national consultants maintained by BEST.

The staff works out of its headquarters in Belmopan and a branch office in Belize City. The Management Committee comprised of the Managing Director, the Deputy Managing Director/ Credit Manager and the Accountant meet, bi-monthly, to coordinate daily operations.

Membership (Only for membership organizations; describe the members, criteria to joining, fees charged, etc.)

Not applicable

Organizational Achievements (Describe your organization's founding, history and past achievements)

Since 1985, BEST has provided technical assistance, training and micro credit to a wide range of individuals and client groups; from agriculture producers to micro business owners. It has provided these services to enterprises including indigenous operated tourist lodges, women's community banks and community development operations for refugees. Its community banking project financed over 600 individual loans to community banks countrywide. BEST achieved these successes using a methodology that emphasizes close working relationships with community based enterprises and the various civil and non-governmental organizations that serve them.

Project-related Experience (Describe your organization's experience in the proposed project area(s) or sector(s))

During its thirty-five (35) years of operation, BEST has managed several projects. These have included the strengthening of community based groups, primarily in southern Belize. These have been mainly in income generation, such as corn mill and rice hulling operations and small farming enterprises.

BEST also established a number of community banks, mainly for women, during the period 1990 and 1999. These banks were based on the Grameen Bank model. This program financed over six hundred and sixty (660) individual loans to thirteen (13) community banks across the six districts of Belize.

In 1994, with financing provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), BEST established a credit program for individual borrowers. This was later expanded with new injections of capital from donors and later, through the acquisition of loans.

In 2005, BEST was awarded a five-year contract for the management of a Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria project entitled "Strengthening of Belize's Multi-Sectoral response to HIV/AIDS. BEST was the Principal Recipient assessing project execution and providing oversight for seven sub-recipients executing this project.

In 2008, BEST was successful in a bid for a European Union funded project entitled Micro Enterprises for Poor Families. This was a two-year project which provided financing for the establishment of micro enterprises for poor families in rural communities. Two hundred and seven micro enterprises were established or expanded under this program.

In 2013, BEST was awarded the implementation of a World Bank funded project entitled "Promoting Sustainable Natural Resource-based Livelihoods in Belize". This project promoted viable and sustainable natural resource based livelihoods for communities adjacent to eight protected areas in Belize, thereby reducing anthropogenic pressures on the key natural resources.

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 2: NARRATIVE**

The application is the first step in developing a potential relationship with the IAF. This is your opportunity to share how you developed your ideas. Please address the following:

Context

1. Describe the community/communities expected to participate, including all characteristics you believe relevant.
2. How do the community members or constituents engage in your project?
3. Have you worked together in the past? How and why?
4. Identify the situation(s) you are addressing (the scope, nature, causes and social or economic impact).
5. How did you decide on the proposal focus and who participated in the decision?

This project will be implemented in communities in the two most populous districts of Belize namely the Belize and Cayo Districts. In the Belize District it will be implemented in pockets of very poor communities in Belize City as well as rural agricultural communities in that district. Some of these communities in Belize City include Yarborough, Port Loyola, St Martin de Porres and Belama Phase 4. These areas are populated by marginalized groups including squatters and immigrants from Central

American countries. They generally have limited access to basic infrastructure and services such as potable water, sanitary facilities, electricity, access roads and live in very poor housing conditions. Also, they have limited access to employment and income earning opportunities.

In the Cayo district, it will be implemented mainly in the outskirts of Belmopan which is home to many immigrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. It will also be implemented in Benque Viejo town which borders the Guatemala border and in the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena, for groups with similar characteristics. Rural communities will also be targeted. The target population will be marginalized women, especially female heads of households.

BEST has worked in all target communities in the past. The intended beneficiaries are all trying to improve their living conditions and publicly express these views in numerous focus group sessions and informal conversations when other projects are being implemented. An attempt to assist this target population was made by BEST but on a very small scale.

The latest Belize Country Poverty Assessment Report (2009) establishes that, 43% of Belize's population is poor, with 15.8% classified as indigent or very poor. As a response, the Government of Belize (GOB) has taken measures aimed at increasing employment opportunities as a first step in reducing poverty. As a corollary, the GOB is also taking measures to improve the country's economic infrastructure and the access of poor and marginalized individuals and families to social and financial services. For these measures to have significant impact on the living conditions of the poor, government, non-government and civil society organizations must work together. This goal, is difficult but must be achieved given the current state of the Belizean and the broader global economic and social context.

The need to address the needs of that part of the population considered "the poor" is most critical. Any injections of cash should be accompanied with opportunities to earn an independent living. This is the first step in reducing this severe economic vulnerability faced by the poor. The project that is proposed here, will allow poor women to invest time and resources in acquiring skills and in building the asset base on which enterprises will be anchored.

Project

6. Describe the activities you will undertake.
7. Explain in narrative form your work plan and provide a proposed schedule.
8. What partners are involved in this project and what are they committed to contributing?
9. Discuss anticipated outcomes, both immediate and long-term. How will you know if you have achieved them? How will you measure them?
10. What makes your project innovative or different?
11. Explain why your project is feasible.
12. Discuss potential challenges to the project and how your organization will address them.
13. How will your efforts continue after funding from the IAF ends?

Project Objectives:

The goal of this project is to contribute to the reduction of poverty and the establishment of sustainable livelihoods in Belize.

The specific objectives are the following:

- Deliver 100 micro-investments for business start-up or expansion to marginalized women;

- Increase the basic business management and micro-enterprise best practices of 100 female micro-entrepreneurs.
- Improve the standard of living of these households.

This project will be driven by the effective participation of the beneficiaries from the beginning. BEST will consult with relevant Government Departments such as the Women's Department and Non-government organizations such as Haven House, Habitat for Humanity, Cornerstone Foundation, Jane Usher Boulevard Neighborhood Association, and YWCA in order to get referrals on eligible beneficiaries. Specific eligibility criteria and a menu of projects will be developed to inform potential beneficiaries of the exact range of possibilities. Close collaboration will be maintained with relevant government departments, as well as these NGOs working in the geographic and thematic areas.

Micro investments of a maximum of US\$ 1,500.00 will be provided to eligible women for them to either establish a small enterprise or expand an existing enterprise. BEST's actual experience from other projects, suggest an average grant size of about US\$ 1,000.00. These grants will be used for either the start-up of a new business or expansion of an existing business. Grants may be used for working capital, the purchase of equipment, or a combination of both. BEST will ensure the purchase of all equipment and stock needed for the operation of the businesses. Therefore, beneficiaries will not receive any direct cash directly. Instead, they will receive the actual inputs or equipment needed to start the business. Each proposed enterprise will be assessed on its feasibility before an investment is made. Technical assistance in the basics of business management will be provided to the recipients over the course of the project. Female entrepreneurs will be encouraged, once the businesses become viable, to use their access to BEST's credit program for further growth and expansion.

The expected Outcomes will be:

Immediate:

- 100 micro-investments/grants provided to 100 needed female;
- 100 micro-enterprises established or expanded;
- 100 jobs created or sustained;
- 100 entrepreneurs provided with training and technical assistance in business management

Long-term:

- Family income increased by 20%;
- 100 low income marginalized women employed;
- Increased economic activity in marginalized communities.

WORKPLAN

Activities	Year 1				Year 2			
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Activity One:								
1. Develop eligibility criteria for project participants.	X							
2. Liaise with Women's Department, YWCA, Haven House and other relevant organizations for referrals.	X							
3. Develop check list for use by project staff	X							
4. Begin to accept applications	X	X	X	X				
5. Review applications	X	X	X	X	X	X		
6. Approve micro-investments to qualified women.								

Activity Two:								
1. Negotiate agreements with supplier of inputs.	X	X						
2. Procure goods from qualified suppliers.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
3. Deliver goods and services procured to beneficiaries.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4. Monitor implementation of the enterprise.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Formal transfer of the assets to project beneficiaries.							X	X
Activity Three:								
1. Develop training modules in business management.	X	X						
2. Conduct training sessions.		X	X	X	X	X		
3. Provide hands-on technical assistance to established enterprises.			X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Prepare Quarterly reports.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Compile and Submit Final Report								X

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 3: BUDGET

- Project budget must be in U.S. dollars. Please specify date and exchange rate used: Date: 28/1/20 Exchange rate: BZ\$2.00 – US\$1.00
- List by line item the amount requested from the IAF as well as counterpart contributions that will be dedicated to the project.
 - "Proponent Counterpart" refers to contributions from the organization submitting the proposal;
 - "Beneficiary Contributions" refers to contributions from the people benefiting from or participating in project activities when different from the "Proponent;"
 - "Other Contributions" refers to resources raised from outside sources that are necessary for project implementation;
 - In-kind contributions (e.g. goods; services; office, meeting, storage or other space; land; etc.), must be ascribed a monetary value.
 - Use footnotes to detail the source of each counterpart contribution.
- Identify at least one lettered sub-item for each of the applicable numbered line items. A list of examples of sub-items is provided on the following page.
- Note that salaries should include employee benefits if required by local employment laws.

US\$

Line Items	Request IAF	Proponent Counterpart		Beneficiary Contributions		Other Contributions	
	Cash	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind
1. Administrative Expenses a. Utilities & Office supplies: \$300/months 24 months b. Office space etc.	7,200.00		9,600.00				
2. Construction a. etc.							
3. Dissemination a. etc.							
4. Equipment a. etc.							
5. Human Resources – Salaries a. Project Coordinator: \$1,500 x 24 months b. Mgmt & Admin Staff.: \$1,500 x 24 months.	36,000.00 36,000.00	12,000.00 36,000.00					
6. Human Resources - Contracted Services a. etc.							
7. Human Resources - Contributed Services a. etc.							
8. Investment Capital a. etc.							
9. Loan Fund a. etc.							
10. Materials/Supplies a.							

etc.							
11. Operational expenses a. etc.							
12. Other a. etc.							
13. Preliminary Activities a. etc.							
14. Real Property a. etc.							
15. Sub-Grant Fund a. Equipment, stock and construction material to be given to beneficiaries b. Labour	125,000.00				\$12,500.00		
16. Training a. Food & Snacks b. Training material, recording books. c. C. Facility Rental	2,250.00 500.00 1,000.00						
17. Travel a. Mileage: \$500.00/month x 24 months etc.	12,000.00						
18. Vehicles a. etc.			6,000.00				
TOTALS	\$219,950.00	\$48,000.00	\$15,600.00		\$12,500.00		

Examples of budget line items

	Budget line items	Examples of sub-items
1	Administrative Expenses	Rent, public utilities, office supplies and furnishings, insurance.
2	Construction	Buildings, structural improvements.
3	Dissemination	Publications, printing, seminars, audio-visual media.
4	Equipment	Tractors and other farm equipment, cold storage and other equipment, machinery, computer or office equipment.
5	Human Resources - Salaries	Payments to permanent staff or people directly associated with the project, and legally required benefits and social security.
6	Human Resources – Contracted Services	Professional fees paid to consultants for technical assistance in areas such as production and marketing, or for conducting surveys, studies or evaluations.
7	Human Resources – Contributed Services	Donated time/services of staff or people associated with the project or consultants.
8	Investment capital	Working capital, operating capital for an enterprise.
9	Loan fund	Revolving loan fund for production or marketing.
10	Materials/supplies	Fertilizers, seeds, medical and other supplies.
11	Operational expenses	Production, marketing, general or project maintenance.
12	Other	Miscellaneous expenses, organizational development, meetings.
13	Preliminary activities	Legal expenses, market study.
14	Real Property	Tangible and fixed assets related to land or buildings.
15	Sub-Grant fund	Support for small development projects.
16	Training	Teaching materials, supplies, publications, and printed matter.

17	Travel	Transportation, per diem.
18	Vehicles	Purchase or rental of cars, motorcycles, trucks, pickup trucks; insurance; fuel and lubricants; maintenance.

Please submit all applications via email to proposals@iaf.gov.

**Inter-American Foundation
1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 1200 North
Washington DC-20004**

**Tel: 202-360-4530
Website: <http://www.iaf.gov>**



**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
PART 1: COVER SHEET**

Name of Organization: Enter legal name of organization.

Love Foundation Belize

Organization ACRONYM:

N/A

Project Title:

ART FOR JUSTICE

Project Summary: (Do not exceed 50 words.)

Art for Justice will use mural arts and peace circles as a means of reducing conflict and building peace between children of rival gang communities with the ultimate goal of transforming individuals, victims and communities divided by the criminal justice system.

Duration: 18 Months. The duration of the support requested should be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity.

Amount requested from the IAF: \$109,672.50 (in US dollars)

Proponent counterpart: \$50,185.12 (in US dollars)*

Other counterpart: \$44,250.00 (in US dollars)*

*Counterpart is a contribution from the proposing organization ("proponent") or third party. Counterpart may be in cash donations or in kind, including, but not limited to, land, supplies, infrastructure, labor, and office, storage and meeting space.

How did you hear about the IAF?

Met with Sarah Stewart and Marcy Kelley.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Address:

Street Address: # 1 Baldy Beacon Street

Postal Address (where applicable): N/A

City: Belmopan Province (Dept./State): Cayo District Country: Belize Postal Code N/A

Office Telephone: 501 822-3577
Country/area code Telephone Number

Cell Telephone: 501 671-1272
Country/area code Telephone Number

Fax: N/A
Country/area code Telephone Number

Email: dsewell@lovefoundationbelize.org

Website: www.lovefoundationbelize.org

Contact Person(s): Enter the name(s) of the person(s) primarily responsible for contact with the IAF.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Ms.

Sewell,
(last name)

Deborah,
(first name)

Managing Director
(position)

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

(last name)

(first name)

(position)

Year Organization was Founded: 2012

Date of Legal Incorporation: 12/16/2011
Mon / Day /Year

Direct Beneficiaries (number of people who will directly participate in and/or benefit from project activities): 150

Indirect Beneficiaries: (number of people who will indirectly benefit from project activities): 1,200+

Funding History: Sources, years and amounts of previous funding received (excluding from the IAF) in US dollars.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Amount</u>
US Embassy Belmopan	5	\$619,000 USD
UNDP	2	\$120,000 USD
Canadian Commission	1	\$25,000 CAD
British High Commission	1	\$15,000 BP
German Commission	1	\$15,000 Euros

Has the organization ever received funding from the IAF? NO If so, when? _____

Grant # (if known): _____ **Amount:** _____.

Annual Budget/Operating expenses for the last three years: 155,358.50 (2019) ; 284,000 (2018); 220,000 (2017).

Organizational Background: Brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission, structure (operating and governing), membership and achievements.

Mission (Do not exceed 100 words.)

The overall goal of the Love Foundation is to inspire positive change in the lives of Belizeans by bringing passionate people and trusted resources together, creating lasting change in Belize. Together, our goal is to transform lives with love in Belize by eliminating disparities in income, education, employment, housing and health.

Governing Structure (Refers to the organization's form of leadership which might include a board of directors, general assembly, fiscal council and/or chief executive officer; also indicate how decisions are made, frequency of meetings, etc.) *Please list the board of directors by complete names and positions.*

The Love Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors, there are 12 members on the board, one seat is always reserved for a grassroots/community activist representing the population with whom we work.

Operating Structure (Refers to the division of labor within the organization which might include an educational team, a communications team, an administrative department, etc.)

Managing Director/Development Director

Chief Operating Officer/Assistant Director of Operations/Assistant Human Resource Director

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Director of Finance

Assistant Director PR/Community Affairs/Volunteer Recruitment & Communication

Membership (Only for membership organizations; describe the members, criteria to joining, fees charged, etc.)

N/A

Organizational Achievements (Describe your organization's founding, history and past achievements)

The Love Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the nation's largest media company. It's overall goal is to inspire positive change in the lives of Belizeans by bringing passionate people and trusted resources together to create lasting change in Belize. We do this by working in partnerships with existing organizations

and established governmental departments in an effort to maximize resources and increase impact. Since its inception, the Love Foundation has:

- Established the Media Arts Academy, an out of school program that provides children ages 8-13 with the opportunity to learn the behind the scenes operation of a media entity while integrating core subjects (ELA, Math & Science). A total of 1,200 children have graduated from the program since 2014, all are currently enrolled in school and 60 have received academic scholarships from the Love Foundation.
- Three hundred parents have graduated from our Parenting Academy and the National Council of Children and Families have adopted the curriculum and continued training for parents country wide.
- 275 Gang involved, single female head of households are now gainfully employed as a result of the LEAP Academy (Learning Earning And Parenting) established in 2016.
- 300 Youth ages 18-29 have received employment counseling, assistance with resume writing and interviewing skills from our one stop employment center since 2018.
- In the last 3yrs we have taken one of the most dangerous communities (Ghost Town) and restored it to a vibrant community that is now thriving economically. We continue to work with this community, to establish a community group that would seek to advocate for the needs of their community.
- Provided opportunities for training in cell phone repair, hospitality, cosmetology, home health aides and call center agents to 180 youth ages 18-29.
- Developed a curriculum in areas of Good governance, transparency and ethics which replaced the ethics course at Galen University.
- Provided training in Good Governance, Transparency and Ethics to 300 Public Service employees.
- Developed a multimedia campaign alongside youth ages 14-29 that addresses issues of corruption on various social media platforms.
- We partner with various corporate entities to build adequate housing or upgrade housing for the most vulnerable groups (senior citizens, women in domestic abuse situations, families living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions)
- Provide opportunities for children and youth with diverse abilities to have the resources they need to be successful in school.

Project-related Experience (Describe your organization's experience in the proposed project area(s) or sector(s))

Since the inception of the Love Foundation we have been working in five major gang communities in Belize City, namely, Ghost Town, Gungulung, Jungle, Jane Usher and Yabra. We have provided opportunities for therapeutic interventions for families, children and other individuals. We have also provided opportunities for educational

scholarships, access to government food pantries and employment opportunities. The Love Foundation has garnered a reputation of being trustworthy and reliable in these communities. We have also built relationships with local community organizations, schools, faith based organizations and grass root organizations in these communities.

Based on the relationships that we have built and nurtured over the last six years, we are very much aware of the tensions that exists in school and on the playground between the children from rival gang communities. More than 80% of fights are between the children who hail from rival gang communities. During intervention and mediation it is often unclear to the children why they harbor animosity towards each other and every time the question is asked the answer is always “because you are from Ghost Town “ or some other rival community.

We feel that we are best poised to implement this project because we are no strangers to these communities, we have developed a relationship with them, and they trust us. We have proven over the years that we are there to help them rise above poverty in a positive manner. Every employed person in those communities was a participant in the Love Foundation’s LEAP Academy or attended our One Stop Employment Seminars. Our job developer maintains constant contact with the employee and the employer and offers whatever resource necessary for them to be able to maintain employment.

We maintain close contact with the community through the various neighborhood watch committees and provide advice and guidance on how to access resources to improve, uplift and invest in their communities.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION PART 2: NARRATIVE

The application is the first step in developing a potential relationship with the IAF. This is your opportunity to share how you developed your ideas. Please address the following:

Context

1. **Describe the community/communities expected to participate, including all characteristics you believe relevant.**

Love Foundation is proposing **Art for Justice - uniting communities and transforming public spaces**. **Art for Justice** will be implemented in three schools located on Belize City’s Southside (St. Martin de Porres, Calvary Temple School, and Friends Boys School). It will be implemented as an out of school time program twice weekly during the hours of 3:00pm – 5:00pm, and on Saturdays from 1pm-3pm. We are targeting these specific schools because: **1)** they are all located in predominantly gang-affiliated communities and, **2)** according to reports from the Belize Police Department Community Policing Unit, there are high incidences of physical violence stemming from the intermingling of children from rival gang communities in these specific schools. Based on data collected in 2014 from KOLBE Foundation, and The Belize Census Bureau, 85% of these children have suffered the loss of a loved one due to violence (KOLBE, 2014), 62% live in a single parent household (Belize Census Bureau), and 100% are living two levels below the poverty guideline (Belize Census Bureau) (b) (6) (b) (6) and the administrators from the other schools all agree that there is a tremendous challenge in working with these children and correlate academic underperformance to exposure to everyday trauma which results in constant disruptive behavior and physical aggression towards peers and staff.

2. How do the community members or constituents engage in your project?

The concept for this project was initially proposed at a neighborhood watch committee meeting that was attended by parents, caregivers, members of the clergy, school personnel and members of the Belize Police Department, Community Policing Unit. Several meetings have been held since then to plan and design this specific project.

Community members and constituents will engage in the project by assisting in the recruitment process, engaging in Peace Circle training and activities such as workshops focused on leadership, parent education, advocacy, conflict resolution, mediation and civic engagement. School personnel will recruit students for the program and the school administrators will ensure that adequate space is provided for program implementation, and storage of supplies and materials. Students and caregivers will sign an agreement committing to the program for the entire eighteen months. Neighborhood watch groups will ensure that the community participates in the actual implementation process on all levels.

3. Have you worked together in the past? How and why?

The Love Foundation has actively been working in these communities for the past six years and, developed a relationship of mutual respect and trust. We have provided job development programs; recruitment drives for call centers and other employers, advocated on their behalf so that they could have access to food pantries and other economic and social support programs facilitated by the government. We implemented programs that provided academic enrichment and remediation for children who were underperforming, skills building workshops for parents and caregivers, access to therapeutic interventions, facilitated parenting academy workshops for parents and caregivers, job placement services and ongoing career counseling. The communities are well known for the violence and brutal murders, often time the families have very little resources to bury their loved ones, our relationship with the Kolbe Foundation has allowed us to be able to donate coffins for burials. Based on our history and relationship with these communities we believe that this project will prove successful and have a lasting impact and continuity in these communities.

4. Identify the situation(s) you are addressing (the scope, nature, causes and social or economic impact).

Too often children are caught in the crossfire of gang warfare in Belize City, the month of March 2020, (b) (6) was shot in her bed while she was sleeping- she died, the target was her father. The week before that, a family was shot claiming the life of both parents and their (b) (6), the (b) (6) received a gunshot to the knee and survived. (b) (6) (b) (6) went to the store to buy an ice cream with his uncle and both were shot and killed. (b) (6) was playing with his siblings in the front yard while his stepfather was working on his car when a gunman opened fire and killed (b) (6). The anger of losing a sibling or losing family members spills over into the playgrounds and in the classrooms. Children go to school everyday experiencing trauma- with no coping mechanisms, that anger eventually is unleashed on their schoolmates and sometimes even teachers and other school personnel. Eventually, this behavior leads to expulsion from school and ultimately prison.

This project will seek reduce conflict, provide alternative skills for problem solving, increase positive decision-making and promote civic pride. A recent study conducted by the Kolbe Foundation estimated that 40% of children who enter the 1st grade (Infant 1) between 2012 and 2018 only spent a total of six (6) years in school. Of that group, thirty seven percent (37%) dropped out due to economic reasons, and sixty three (63%) due to expulsion from school arising from displays of violent behavior. Research indicates that mural making can assist in developing social and communication skills, conflict resolution skills and result in a sense of accomplishment and enhanced self-esteem. According to Malchiodi (2012), "art therapy is based on the idea that the creative process of art making facilitates reparation and recovery and is a form of nonverbal communication of thoughts and feelings"(p. 1)

Art for Justice will promote peace and security with a focus on conflict prevention and building peace between the children of rival gang communities and by extension their parents. This project will engage one hundred and fifty (150) primary school children ages 8-14 who will be recruited from three different schools located in predominantly gang-affiliated communities located on Belize City's Southside.

To accomplish this the Love Foundation will

1) Partner with ROC Belize to introduce the concept of Peace Circles as a means to mediate conflict, repair relationships and bring about community and individual healing. Rhythm of Change (ROC) Belize is a non-

profit organization dedicated to promoting and implementing activities that bring forth individual, social and environmental changes in Belize. ROC Belize uses innovative approaches such as yoga, mindfulness and other forms of wellness to promote peace-building and equality between men and women, to mend broken families, in order to create better communities in Belize.

2) Identify 3 locations within the communities where murals with positive messages will be painted. These murals will seek to build self-esteem, instill civic pride, which will lead to advocacy for neighborhood cleanups, proper lighting and ongoing advocacy for community healing and peace treaties. Currently, these three communities, although only a 5 mile radius, are divided by imaginary gang lines and therefore currently presents a risk for children going to school or parents going to work or even just to the grocery store. This project will remove those barriers and merge these communities creating a safe environment for approximately 5,000 people.

5. How did you decide on the proposal focus and who participated in the decision?

The primary concern for these communities is PEACE- to that regard these communities have been battling with ideas surrounding the restoration of PEACE in their communities. The beneficiaries (parents, school personnel, religious and civic leaders in the community) were directly involved in the decision, planning and design of this project. Given the existing tensions between all communities involved, it was necessary to involve all members in the preliminary discussions as well as seek advice for the proper successful implementation. There is general consensus that unless there is a way to mediate the ongoing conflict, the current violence and stigma will lead to further economic depression that is occurring in these communities will only get worse.

The Community Policing Unit of the Belize Police Department insisted that the Love Foundation meet with the administrators of the three schools mentioned to discuss possible solutions to reduce the violence in the schools, assist in providing leadership workshops for teachers on how to deal with disciplinary issues and other disruptive classroom behavior. After several meetings we realized that the root of the issues stemmed from gang rivalries prevalent in the home- children were forming friendships based on their respective neighborhoods and creating conflicts with others from rival communities. This attitude was transferring into the classroom and disrupting the learning environment.

Administrators and other school staff indicated their challenges and the project idea was introduced to three neighborhood watch groups with representatives from all three school communities and was well received. Together we are all in agreement that this project is innovative and incorporates all the components necessary to promote peace and security across all communities.

6. Describe the activities you will undertake.

The goal of the project is to:

- Create opportunities for children ages 8-14 to develop coping mechanisms to identify “trauma triggers” and build resiliency in themselves and their peers.
- Provide teachers & other school officials with tools necessary to create Peace Circles in an effort to resolve conflicts.
- Use Art as a mechanism to promote civic responsibility while creating positive bonds between rival communities.

In order to achieve the project goals we will undertake the following activities

The main project activities are:

- Weekly workshops facilitated by ROC Belize for **3 Site Coordinators (1in each school), 6 teachers facilitators (2 in each school) and 50 students** from each school. Children will engage in workshops that will focus on trauma informed Yoga and Mindfulness for Youth and Teachers will be coached on using Peace Circles as means for resolving conflict.
- Saturday workshops for parents, care givers and other members of the community using the concept of Peace Circles to teach principles such as listening, hearing, communicating and healing, whereby building a community of activists and decision makers. s
- Local community artist will work with the children every Saturday using art as therapy and ultimately deciding on the mural, the message and a strategic location for the placement of their murals.
- One mural will be created in each community for a total of three (3) murals.

7. Explain in narrative form your work plan and provide a proposed schedule.

This project includes two main components:

- 1) Peace Circles as a means to address conflict holistically and solve problems through a collective group process which will lead to community healing; and
- 2) A series of three related murals on separate walls in three rival communities. Each of the three murals will contain a message of peace and community transformation.

Project Timeline:

September-December

- Meet with all stakeholders and beneficiary groups to discuss implementation
- Recruit, Interview & Hire all staff
- Signing of MOU (Press event)

January-February

- Peace Circle Workshops with school personnel, parents/caregivers and community groups

March-Ongoing

- Implementation of Peace Circle as means of conflict resolution, mediation and community healing (School & Community)
- Begin monitoring and evaluation

July- August

- Children work with local artists and develop concept art for the murals
- Hold weekly sessions open to the public for participation and input
- Gather material & have wall preparation done
- Secure written approvals from Belize City Council or property owners for use of proposed sites
- Get designs approved by communities
- Unveiling of Designs (Press Event)
- Print Concept Art
- Assign community day for sketching of the Concept Art & Begin Painting of the first mural
- Ongoing publicity & open invitation to all members of the community to join in the painting of the mural
- Celebrate the completion of first mural (Press Event)

September- December

- Print Concept Art
- Assign community day for sketching of the Concept Art & Begin Painting of the second mural
- Ongoing publicity & open invitation to all members of the community to join in the painting of the mural
- Celebrate the completion of second mural (Press Event)
- Begin Impact Assessment of the project- Monitor and Evaluator will visit schools, hand out surveys in the community, and interview participants.

January- March

- Print Concept Art
- Assign community day for sketching of the Concept Art & Begin Painting of the third mural
- Ongoing publicity & open invitation to all members of the community to join in the painting of the mural
- Celebrate the completion of third mural (Press Event)
- Monitoring & Evaluation Report
- Impact Assessment Report
- Graduation (Press Event)

8. What partners are involved in this project and what are they committed to contributing?

Belize Association of Planners will provide the Love Foundation with an office location in Belize City, this will be used as a base for the Program Director and M&E Consultant to be used for meetings and light administrative functions.

Belize City Council & Cisco Construction will ensure that there are regular garbage pick ups at the areas located near the mural site, mowing of grass on a regular basis at the mural site. Cisco Construction will ensure that bins are delivered to each community and retrieved for the deposit of garbage.

Neighborhood Watch Groups, Community volunteers, Belize Police Department, Community Policing Unit will ensure that all mural sites are ready, sanding, priming and plastering.

Community Groups will seek donations from private and corporate donors to provide snacks and refreshment for the participants and volunteers.

Schools will contribute dedicated space for storage of materials and workshop activities.

9. Discuss anticipated outcomes, both immediate and long-term. How will you know if you have achieved them? How will you measure them?

Immediate anticipated outcomes of this project are as follows:

- Decrease in number of reported playground violence within the first 3months
- Teachers will report success in resolving conflicts and decrease in disruptive classroom behaviour within the first three months.
- Children will no longer view each other as a rival but will be willing to work cohesively to develop their art project.
- Increase in community participation and civic pride, and the ability to cross gang lines without fear of harm by the end of the program year.
- 150 rival gang children and their families will be able to work together to complete community murals and establish positive relationships.

Long term outcomes:

- Territorial gang lines will cease to exist due to participant of all communities
- It will promote a sense of identity, belonging and attachment for all to the three communities
- Promote civic pride and civic responsibility through ongoing active curation of mural site and surrounding area which will lead to decrease in public dumping and vandalism.

10. What makes your project innovative or different?

This project is innovative because it is a first time, structured approach at using art to address the reduction of conflict in these gang communities. These murals are community beautification projects which will lead to advocacy for massive neighborhood cleanups, proper lighting and ongoing advocacy for community preservation. It was designed by the beneficiaries, and beneficiaries will be include in all stages of implementation. It has the buy in of all community, grass roots, faith-based and school based organizations. Neighborhood watch groups and the Belize Police Department, Community Policing Unit have all committed to ensuring the success of this project.

11. Explain why your project is feasible.

This project is feasible for the following reasons:

- 1) There is community buy in on every level
- 2) The time frame of 18 months is adequate to conduct pre and post evaluations and impact assessments
- 3) The Love Foundation and its partners ROC Belize have a proven track record in these communities.

12. Discuss potential challenges to the project and how your organization will address them.

Potential challenges to this project will be the ability for schools to provide a dedicated space for the program as well as safe storage of materials and supplies, this is an operational risk which could result in sporadic attendance and low participation not to mention additional expense for having to replenish materials and supplies on a continuous basis. In order to mitigate this risk we plan to work with the school principal of each school to identify five teachers in each school who will receive training on how to establish Peace Circles. We will use the classrooms of these specific teachers and provide them with a stipend to assist with the purchase of supplies and incentives, which will be used in effecting the Peace Circles. This will allow for dedicated classroom space and an ongoing commitment from those teachers.

13. How will your efforts continue after funding from the IAF ends?

This project is a community led project, from the inception the key stakeholders and beneficiaries have been involved. The Love Foundation will provide ongoing capacity building workshops on how to identify needs and gaps in services

in the community. We will also be available to provide guidance on how to access the technical resources needed to develop concept notes and apply for additional funding for ongoing projects. We will provide each community with \$25,000 worth of promotional airtime on any of our three radio stations for promotion of community events etc.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 3: BUDGET

- Project budget must be in U.S. dollars. Please specify date and exchange rate used: Date: April 12,2020
Exchange rate: BZD \$2.00 = \$1. USD
- List by line item the amount requested from the IAF as well as counterpart contributions that will be dedicated to the project.
 - "Proponent Counterpart" refers to contributions from the organization submitting the proposal;
 - "Beneficiary Contributions" refers to contributions from the people benefiting from or participating in project activities when different from the "Proponent;"
 - "Other Contributions" refers to resources raised from outside sources that are necessary for project implementation;
 - In-kind contributions (e.g. goods; services; office, meeting, storage or other space; land; etc.), must be ascribed a monetary value.
 - Use footnotes to detail the source of each counterpart contribution.
- Identify at least one lettered sub-item for each of the applicable numbered line items. A list of examples of sub-items is provided on the following page.
- Note that salaries should include employee benefits if required by local employment laws.

Line Items	Request	Proponent		Beneficiary		Other	
	IAF	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind
1. Administrative Expenses a. Office Rent b. Utilities etc.							\$9,000.00 \$3,600.00
2. Construction a. Sanding & Prep of Mural Spaces (Donation supplies by Cisco Construction) b. Snacks donated by Cisco Construction						\$1,620. \$330.	
3. Dissemination a. Flyers/Posters b. Printing of Concept c. Media Airtime	\$ 1,500.00 \$ 225.00		\$25,000				
4. Equipment a.N/A etc.							
5. Human Resources – Salaries a. Program Director b. Site Coordinators(3) c. Teacher/Facilitators d. Executive Dir e. Admin. Asst.	\$21,600.00 \$21,600.00 \$25,920.00	\$18,000.00 \$ 3,600.00					
6. Human Resources - Contracted Services a.ROC Belize b. Mural Artist c. Monitor/Evaluator	\$18,000.00 \$ 5,400.00 \$ 9,450.00						
7. Human Resources - Contributed Services a. Community Volunteers & Snack Preparers					\$24,300.		
8. Investment Capital a. etc.N/A							
9. Loan Fund a. N/A etc.							
10. Materials/Supplies a.Paint for 3 murals	\$1,200.00						

b. Paintbrushes	\$ 500.00						
c. Paint trays	\$150.00						
d. Roller sponges	\$ 75.00						
e. Rollers	\$180.00						
f. Extender poles	\$ 60.00						
e. Sidewalk Chalk	\$ 40.00						
f. Spray Paint	\$ 120.00						
11. Operational expenses a. General upkeep of mural site and surrounding areas. Includes mowing of grass and garbage disposal/removal.					\$5,400.00		
12. Other a. etc.							
13. Preliminary Activities a. Planning Meetings							
14. Real Property a. N/A etc.							
15. Sub-Grant Fund a. N/A etc.							
16. Training a. Construction Paper b. Notebooks c. Coloring pencils d. Yoga mats e. Flip Charts	\$135.00 \$1,000. \$157.50 \$2,000.00 \$360.00						
17. Travel a. Travel between Belmopan & Belize City b. Travel between sites for Project Coordinator		\$1,905.12 \$1,080.00					
18. Vehicles a. N/A etc.							
TOTALS	\$110,472.50	\$24,585.12	\$25,600.		\$29,700.	1,950.00	12,600.

Budget Narrative:

1. Administrative Expenses

Office Rent- The Love Foundation offices are located in Belmopan, this project will take place in Belize City. The Belize Association of Planners have agreed to provided the Love Foundation with an office space in Belize City for this project.

- a. Monthly rental of \$500/month X 18months = \$9,000
- b. Utilities (Electricity, Water & Security) of \$200/month X 18 months = \$3,600

2. Construction

- a. Mural spaces will require sanding, plastering and priming at minimum. This will be done by community residents, partners and volunteers in each community.
Rental of Cement Sander \$75/hour X 4hrs/site X 3 sites = \$900
2 gals of primer/site @ \$40/gal X 6 gals X 3 sites = \$720
Light refreshments for volunteers (Water, juice & sandwiches)
20 people per site X 3 sites X \$5.50/person = \$330.

3. Dissemination

- a. Flyers/Posters
3,000 flyers to inform the community of the various activities
- b. Printing of Concept which will be used as a stencil to sketch on the mural surface
3,000 flyers X .50/flyer= \$1,500

- c. 3 Concept Art Printed X \$75. Each = \$225.
Promotional airtime
Love Foundation will donate \$25,000 in Promotional airtime for promotion of future events, press coverage etc. for ongoing activities after IAF funding has been exhausted.

4. Equipment
N/A

5. Human Services- Salaries

- a. Program Director Full Time
The Program Coordinator will work closely with the M&E Consultant, liaise with all partners, community groups, municipal government officials etc. This person will also be responsible for the day to day running and implementation of the program ensuring that program requirements are being adhered to, targets are being met, and submission of weekly reports. He/She will be the point of contact for the Monitor/Evaluator and will assist with collecting the necessary data needed, in the event where the Monitor/Evaluator is having difficulty accessing participants, the Program Coordinator will assist in securing access. This person will be responsible for attending all community meetings, working with various groups to sign MOU, assist in identifying site location for murals. Recruit volunteers, all communication with volunteers and community partners. Work with school personnel to coordinate program, liaise with school officials and ROC Belize staff on all aspects of implementation. The program coordinator is responsible for PR and organizing all press events and will also work closely with Monitor/Evaluator to ensure that there is access to information and participants.
Salary \$21,600.
% of time on program 100%
Cost to Program: $\$21,600K/18months = \$1,200$ (inclusive of Income tax & Social Security taxes)
- b. Site Coordinators (3) Part Time
The Love Foundation will hire three site coordinators, each will be assigned to one school and will be responsible for assisting the Program Coordinator with recruitment of children, maintaining contact and attendance for the program. The site coordinator will work with the daytime school staff ensuring that there is a smooth transition from the day time program to the out of school time program. This person will also serve as an assistant to the Program Coordinator and assist with the implementation of the project in their specific schools.
Salary $\$21,600/3$ site coordinators = \$7,200 each
% of time spent on project 50% $\$7,200/18month = \$400/month$ each
Cost to Program: \$21,600
- c. Teachers as Facilitators (6) Part Time
The Love Foundation will identify two (2) teachers in each school who will spearhead the Peace Circle initiative, since there are not school counselors in these schools, these teachers will serve as mediators and will implement use Peace Circles as a means to resolve conflict and deal with other disciplinary issues in the school. These teachers will be trained as trainers by ROC Belize and will be responsible for coordinating and providing training for other members of the staff until all staff members are trained and the entire school is using Peace Circles as an alternative to punitive disciplinary measures. The Love Foundation will provide them with a stipend to assist with the purchase and storage of supplies and materials, their classrooms will also be used as dedicated program space.
Salary $\$25,920/6$ teachers = \$4,320 each
%of time spent on project 25% $\$4,320/18months = \$240/month \times 6$ teachers $\times 18month = \$25,920$
Cost to Program: \$25,920
- d. Managing Director (25% of her time)
The Managing Director is responsible for the overall management of the program and will ensure that all partnership obligations are met, work closely with Program Director and M&E consultant to ensure program efficiency and effectiveness as well as develop a plan to ensure longevity and sustainability of program. The managing director will draft all MOU's liaise with executive leadership from the Ministry of Education and Municipal government to get program buy in.
Executive Director Salary $\$39,600/12$ months = \$3,300/mo
%of time spent on project 25% $\$3,300 \times 25\% = \$825 \times 18months = \$14,850$
Cost to Program: \$0.00
Cash from Counterpart: \$14,850
- e. Administrative Assistant (25% of his time)
The program will require the assistance of an administrative assistant and a bookkeeper who will work on assisting with all clerical and logistical aspects of the program. The administrative assistant/bookkeeper will provide support in areas such as photocopying, receiving and making phone calls, coordinating meetings, scheduling interviews and preparing all documents relating to participant registration attendance, financial reports to be submitted on a monthly basis to the accountant.

Annual Salary \$22,800/12 months = \$1,900/mo
 % of time on spent on project 25% \$1900 X 25% = \$475 X 18months = \$8,550
 Cost to Program: \$0.00
 Cash from Counterpart: \$8,550

6. Human Resources- Contracted Services

- a. Monitor & Evaluator
 The M&E will be responsible for all program monitoring and evaluation, develop questionnaires and indicators for monitoring the program and staff performance. This person will also support project design and assist with the development of a plan for sustainability, and produce quarterly reports. Once the project is over, the person will provide Love Foundation with a comprehensive report including impact assessment and feedback on sustainability plan.
 Contracted rate \$35/hour not to exceed 15 hours/month
 $\$35/\text{hr} \times 15\text{hrs}/\text{mo} \times 18\text{mo} = \$9,450$
- b. ROC Belize
 ROC Belize will provide training on the introduction and implementation of Peace Circles in a school setting as well as in a community setting. There will be two cohorts 1) School personnel and 2) Community participants, parents/caregivers. Workshops will focus on topics such as what is a Peace Circle, how does it work, what is the process, roles & skills of facilitators and keepers etc. ROC will provide workshops 2X per week for school personnel and 1x weekly for community participants and parents/caregivers.
 Contracted rate \$25/hr not to exceed 40hrs/month
 $\$25/\text{hr} \times 40\text{hrs}/\text{mo} \times 18\text{mo} = \$18,000$
- c. Mural Artist
 The mural artist will spend 3 hours per week and will take the children on neighborhood walks which will help determine the optimal site for the mural based on the message they wish to send, hold weekly workshops on social and civic responsibility, weekly art workshops aimed at developing the final concept. Development and submission of final concept, sketch the final concept on the sites of the murals, overseeing the painting of the mural by the community.
 Contracted rate \$40/hr total of 12hrs per month
 $\$25/\text{hr} \times 12\text{hr}/\text{mo} \times 18\text{months} = \$5,400/3 \text{ sites} = \1800 per mural

7. Human Resources- Contributed Services

- a. Community volunteers
 Community volunteers will assist with logistics for community meetings, procurement of chairs, tents, tables needed for events related to the project, solicitation of donations for snacks for program & preparation.
 Snacks: 150 children X .75/child X 12 times monthly X 18months = \$24,300

8. Investment Capital

N/A

9. Loan Fund

N/A

10. Materials/Supplies

- a. Paint for 3 murals
 Average is 200sqft per gallon X 8 of colors
 8gallons of paint/per mural X \$50/gal X 3murals = \$1,200
- b. Assorted paint brushes \$500. (reusable can be used at multiple sites)
- c. Paint Trays \$150. (reusable can be used at multiple sites)
- d. Roller sponges \$75. (reusable can be used at multiple sites)
- e. Rollers \$180. (reusable can be used at multiple sites)
- f. Extender poles \$60. (reusable can be used at multiple sites)
- g. Sidewalk chalk \$40. Needed to sketch out initial art
- h. Spray paint – 10 cans assorted colors \$12/can \$12 X 10cans = \$120.00

11. Operational Expenses

- a. General upkeep of mural site and surround areas. Includes mowing of grass and garbage disposal/removal
 Belize City Council will provide large bins for dumping \$ 75/bin X 3 locations X18 months =\$4,050
 Cisco construction will transport large bins for dumping \$ 25/hr to move a bin X 3 locations X \$18 months= \$1,350

12. Other

N/A

13. Preliminary Activities

N/A

14. Real Property
N/A

15. Sub-Grant Fund
N/A

16. Training

Training materials needs for workshops and Peace Circle activities.

- a. Construction Paper 60 sheets X .75/each X 3 schools = \$135.
- b. Notebooks 400 Notebooks X \$2.50 each = \$1,000.
- c. Coloring pencils/crayons 15 boxes per school X \$3.50/box X3 schools = \$157.50
- d. Yoga mats – Yoga mats can be transported between sites \$50 each X 50 = \$2,500
- e. Flip Charts – Used for Workshops and Peace Circle activities \$12./flip chart X 10 each site X 3 sites =\$360.

17. Travel

Program Coordinator and M&E Consultant will be expected to travel between sites, transporting materials and supplies. The Love Foundation will provide them with travel reimbursement at the following rates:

M&E Travel Mileage From Belmopan-Belize City RT =98mls X .27/mile= \$26.46/trip X 4 trips/mo X 18 months = \$1,905.12

Program Director taxi/Bus service \$5.00/trip X 12 trips/month X18months = 1080.00

18. Vehicles
N/A

Examples of budget line items

	Budget line items	Examples of sub-items
1	Administrative Expenses	Rent, public utilities, office supplies and furnishings, insurance.
2	Construction	Buildings, structural improvements.
3	Dissemination	Publications, printing, seminars, audio-visual media.
4	Equipment	Tractors and other farm equipment, cold storage and other equipment, machinery, computer or office equipment.
5	Human Resources - Salaries	Payments to permanent staff or people directly associated with the project, and legally required benefits and social security.
6	Human Resources – Contracted Services	Professional fees paid to consultants for technical assistance in areas such as production and marketing, or for conducting surveys, studies or evaluations.
7	Human Resources – Contributed Services	Donated time/services of staff or people associated with the project or consultants.
8	Investment capital	Working capital, operating capital for an enterprise.
9	Loan fund	Revolving loan fund for production or marketing.
10	Materials/supplies	Fertilizers, seeds, medical and other supplies.
11	Operational expenses	Production, marketing, general or project maintenance.
12	Other	Miscellaneous expenses, organizational development, meetings.
13	Preliminary activities	Legal expenses, market study.
14	Real Property	Tangible and fixed assets related to land or buildings.
15	Sub-Grant fund	Support for small development projects.
16	Training	Teaching materials, supplies, publications, and printed matter.
17	Travel	Transportation, per diem.
18	Vehicles	Purchase or rental of cars, motorcycles, trucks, pickup trucks; insurance; fuel and lubricants; maintenance.

Please submit all applications via email to proposals@iaf.gov.

**Inter-American Foundation
1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 1200 North
Washington DC-20004**

**Tel: 202-360-4530
Website: <http://www.iaf.gov>**



**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
PART 1: COVER SHEET**

Name of Organization: Enter legal name of organization.

Our Circle

Organization ACRONYM:

OC

Project Title:

Strengthening the LGBT Community by Fostering a Greater Sense of Community

Project Summary: (Do not exceed 50 words.)

The community sees the need for our LGBT Resource Center; however, it has not been consistent or staffed to fully cater to their needs. OC has developed the capacity to design and implement the needs of the community, but not the resources. This project allows OC to revamp and re-introduce demanded programs in a safe and accessible manner to the LGBT community.

Duration: 24 Months. The duration of the support requested should be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity.

Amount requested from the IAF: \$104,480 (in US dollars)

Proponent counterpart: \$57,548 (in US dollars)*

Other counterpart: \$92,370 (in US dollars)*

*Counterpart is a contribution from the proposing organization ("proponent") or third party. Counterpart may be in cash donations or in kind, including, but not limited to, land, supplies, infrastructure, labor, and office, storage and meeting space.

How did you hear about the IAF?

Previous Grantee

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Address:

Street Address: 14 New Road (l/f)

Postal Address (where applicable):

City: Belize City

Province (Dept./State):

Country: Belize

Postal Code: BH

Office Telephone: Country/area code Telephone Number

Cell Telephone: 501-623-6062
Country/area code Telephone Number

Fax: Country/area code Telephone Number

Email: ourcirclebze@gmail.com

Website: www.ourcirclebze.weebly.com

Contact Person(s): Enter the name(s) of the person(s) primarily responsible for contact with the IAF.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Ms.

Castillo-Salazar
(last name)

Derricia Jael
(first name)

President/Co-Founder
(position)

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

(last name)

(first name)

(position)

Year Organization was Founded: 2014

Date of Legal Incorporation: Jan/15/2017
Mon / Day /Year

Direct Beneficiaries (number of people who will directly participate in and/or benefit from project activities): throughout the two years, approximately 300 LGBT persons and their families will be engaged by the Resource Center and the programs being implemented.

Indirect Beneficiaries: (number of people who will indirectly benefit from project activities): Indirectly, with the outreach portion of the project we are hoping to engage an additional 200 persons from the wider Belizean population. With our frequent social media campaigns, the entire Belize and beyond will be able to view and engage in discussions around our work.

Funding History: Sources, years and amounts of previous funding received (excluding from the IAF) in US dollars.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CoC Netherlands	2015-2018	\$USD 153,000
PlanetRomeo	2016	\$USD 5,532.50
UNDPBelize	2016-2018	\$USD 14,563
Maria Chang Limited	2018-2020	\$USD 163,000
Caribbean Vulnerable Communities	2019	\$USD 6,000
British High Commission Belize	2019-2020	\$USD 15,000

Has the organization ever received funding from the IAF? Yes **If so, when?** March 2018-October 2019
Grant # (if known): BE-117 **Amount:** \$47,200 USD.

Annual Budget/Operating expenses for the last three years: \$15,000USD; \$15,000USD; \$18,000 .

Organizational Background: Brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission, structure (operating and governing), membership and achievements.

Mission (Do not exceed 100 words.)

The mission of Our Circle is to be a community-led initiative committed to awareness and empowerment of the LGBT community through active outreach and participation, in order to initiate affirmative change in the Belizean society. In support of this mission, members of the LGBT and allied communities work together to reach the same goal of creating inclusion and visibility for LGBT citizens in Belize. Our Circle facilitates and coordinates the efforts of the communities to work together on a number of programs and activities.

Governing Structure (Refers to the organization’s form of leadership which might include a board of directors, general assembly, fiscal council and/or chief executive officer; also indicate how decisions are made, frequency of meetings, etc.)

Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present is the act of the Board of Directors, unless the Articles of Association or these Bylaws require a greater percentage or different voting rules for approval of a matter by the Board. The officers of Our Circle are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Regular meetings of the Directors will be determined at the last Board meeting. A quorum will be considered as two-third (2/3) of serving members of the Board of Directors. Our Circle has no fewer than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) directors serving at any time.

Operating Structure (Refers to the division of labor within the organization which might include an educational team, a communications team, an administrative department, etc.)

Our Circle is a voluntary group of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and allies, therefore, operations are split amongst the volunteers under the guidance and assistance of OC’s working Board of Directors.

Membership (Only for membership organizations; describe the members, criteria to joining, fees charged, etc.)

An active member is any LGBT person who has formally registered with Our Circle by completing and submitting an “Our Circle Membership/Volunteer Form”. An active member must participate and/or organize a minimum of two (2) or more official Our Circle events. To date, OC has 34 active members. Participation in Our Circle is automatic to any Belizean identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). There is no fee for making application for membership, nor any dues.

Organizational Achievements (Describe your organization’s founding, history and past achievements)

In our 2017 project entitled, “Strengthen LGBT Families Against Social Inequality” we managed to host the first gathering of LGBT families in Belize to discuss the issues surrounding the integration of our

families into the Belizean society. We were also able to produce from this meeting and our continued engagement with the LGBT families across the country, Belize's first LGBT Legal Guidebook.

In our Sexual Acceptance For Everyone projected (mainly funded by IAF) we were able to not only capture much needed information surrounding LGBT families in Belize, we were able to publish the first baseline data supporting the existence and data analyzed priorities of LGBT persons in Belize. Also, under this project we were able to initiate our first sustainability initiative Belize's first PRIDE Store.

Outside of our projects, OC was the founding organization to deem a PRIDE Week and is proud to say that the other organizations have decided to come together and take ownership of the PRIDE week and this year we held a community coordinated PRIDE Festival.

We have been able to increase our stakeholder engagements by 79% over the past three years and look forward to growing that rate. Insights into our work can be found at <https://ourcirclebze.weebly.com/resources.html>

Project-related Experience (Describe your organization's experience in the proposed project area(s) or sector(s))

We have been successfully operating for the past 5 years (6 in October) and we have been able to manage effectively, all our grants as it relates to community engagement, stakeholder engagements and proper financial management. The proposed project is nothing we haven't done before, it's just a more structured and community decided direction that we are proposing, in order to increase the confidence in Our Circle and allow the Resource Center to meet its mandate of providing a safe and accessible hub for the LGBT community to take ownership in improving their way of life, as well as community members to come in and improve their knowledge about local LGBT related issues.

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 2: NARRATIVE**

After six years of coordinated consideration and analysis, a broad coalition has endorsed this proposal to maintain and expand our independent, staffed, funded LGBT center in Belize City as part of Our Circle's commitment to diversity. While the LGBT community has worked and continues to work closely with other elements of the broader community, it is the widely-held opinion of all affected that this constituency shares unique—and potentially life-threatening—concerns that simply cannot be managed by non-specialists under a broader 'diversity' cloak.

Visibility, voice, resources, and emotional support are important considerations in making the Resource Center safe for LGBT persons in Belize. The currently operating Resource Center has created bridges to LGBT families, friends, allies, and donors; however, not having a fully staffed and equipped Resource Center has limited the consistency of the programs being offered to the LGBT community. During the initial granting period, it was highlighted by the community members we engaged that there was a need for the Resource Center to be professionally staffed with adequate administrative support and space and is centrally located to answer the critical needs as identified by the LGBT community and their families.

Our Circle has been able to introduce the first LGBT-owned Resource Center which efficiently gathered and organized resources and has become the focal point for LGBT programming, services, education and outreach. LGBT persons in Belize bring unique characteristics and concerns that may affect their daily lives. These concerns include but are not limited to: the coming out process, the development of an identity in a heterosexually biased and gender stereotyped environment without appropriate role models. One must consider the impact of oppression, social isolation and alienation that can occur and lead to higher rates of depression, substance abuse and suicide in LGBT's. As a safe space, the logical remedy for non-accepting and frequently hostile responses to LGBTs in society is through education. This education mission would be fulfilled by having a fully accessible safe "drop-in" space; developing programming in support of visibility, education, and outreach; expanding our LGBT library; providing advice, referral, and counseling; and maintaining stability and continuity in developed programs.

To date because of not being fully staffed, The Resource Center has not been able to fully achieve its mandate of conducting educational and outreach programming; providing access to a library of materials to help to resolve controversy over LGBT issues through education; support advising, counseling, and mentoring for the LGBT community. With this proposal, Our Circle sees the need to hire professional staff to provide stability and continuity in programming; and exist as an independent unit separate from the other LGBT and Human Rights organizations, but whose activities will be coordinated with these and other entities whenever possible.

The current space used by Our Circle is being operated by volunteers which provide limited office hours. All funding being acquired by the Our Circle for the operation of the Resource Center did not allow for staff to ensure the operability and sustainability of the Resource Center. This still leaves the need for an accessible place where questioning individual can comfortably and safely seek resource information and support, in the form of fellow LGBT persons, allies and mentors. Even when considering LGBT individuals, who have been "out" for a number of years, there is sometimes a need to be in a place where one feels safe and supported. This therefore, limits the place for LGBT persons and their family to congregate where acceptance of LGBT status is guaranteed. For non-LGBT community members, there is also limitations on the Resource Center in being that place to ask questions about LGBT issues or concerns.

The LGBT Resource Center aims to serve as a "Safe Space" in which people of all sexual orientations and gender identities feel welcome and supported in exploring LGBT issues and utilizing its resources and programs. To fulfill this role, a thorough understanding of issues and concerns related to sexual orientation and gender identity has informed our development. Having gathered a better understanding of LGBT experience yielded specific, critical ramifications to the expansion of our support space and services for individuals dealing with orientation or identity development issues. Similarly, from the last funding cycle we gathered from our constituents that in order for our LGBT Resource Center to meet the needs of the community we must be accessible, recognized as a support provider and space and provide a sense of security and safety.

Programming

In order to provide programming which supports visibility, education and outreach, the Resource Center will provide consistent visible, educational, and outreach programs that will provide support for the LGBT community and educational forums for the community to engage in dialogue. With having a staffed LGBT Resource Center, our yearlong programming will include:

- a. Workshops, forums, conferences and training
- b. Community outreach
- c. Arts and culture
- d. Socials
- e. Advising, Counseling and Mentoring

All the above mentioned programs have already existed; however, because of lack of continuity and accessibility, were not sustained. The existing programs meet some of the needs of the LGBT community, however, their continuation is often hampered by a lack of central planning and by other responsibilities of these programs. As part of the LGBT Resource Center's operational plan to provide resources to the wider community, it is recommended that many of the responsibilities currently held by volunteers would be shifted to the hired staff of the LGBT Resource Center.

Staffing

- 1. **Advisory Board**
The Our Circle Board of Directors will advise the Director on broad policy issues, strategic planning and fund raising / outreach efforts. The advisory board would build alliances to provide greater visibility for the Resource Center. It is expected that the board would participate in the selection and performance review process of the Center Director.
- 2. **LGBT Resource Director**
The Director has full functional responsibility for planning, directing, controlling, and evaluating LGBT programs, services, budget, staffing, and facilities. The Director conceptualizes, implements, and assumes overall responsibility for a wide range of program offerings intended to maximize use of the LGBT Resource Center by the LGBT community.
- 3. **Administrative Assistant**
Provides administrative and secretarial assistance to the Director.

Of all seven recognized LGBT organizations in Belize, Our Circle is the only organization which houses an LGBT resource center. Based on the years of operating as an NGO as well as having the Resource Center open, we see the need for our programs to be revamped, expanded, and re-funded to cope with the growing needs articulated by a new generation of LGBT persons who require visible, safe institutional support to perform at their competitive best. Therefore, after six years of coordinated consideration and analysis, a broad coalition has endorsed this proposal to maintain and expand our independent, staffed, funded LGBT center in Belize City as part of Our Circle's commitment to diversity.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 3: BUDGET

Date: 12th September, 2019

Exchange rate: 1USD = 1BZD

Line Items	Request IAF	Proponent Counterpart		Beneficiary Contributions		Other Contributions	
	Cash	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind
1. Administration							
a. Rent	\$10,800	\$2,400					
b. Utilities	\$7,200	\$500					
2. Construction							
Not applicable							
3. Dissemination							
a. Publications	\$18,000						
b. Printing	\$840						
c. Workshops	\$5,160	\$3,000					
d. Outreach Activities	\$34,800	\$9,000					
4. Equipment							
a. Projector	\$600						
b. Laptop	\$700						
c. Computer supplies and software			\$6,000				
d. Printer/Scanner			\$350				
e. Educational Supplies			\$12,678				
5. Human Resources-Salary							
a. Resource Director	\$12,000	\$5,000					
b. Administrative Assistant	\$960	\$340					
6. Human Resources – Contracted Services							

a. Consultant	\$3,600			\$6,400			
b. Facilitator	\$5,400			\$4,600			
7. Human Resources – Contributed Services							
a. Managing Director						\$20,345	
b. Communications & Advocacy Officer						\$18,675	
c. Working Board of Directors						\$34,200	
8. Investment Capital							
Not applicable							
9. Loan Fund							
Not applicable							
10. Materials/Supplies							
Not applicable							
11. Operational expenses							
a. Production		\$13,000		\$8,000		\$16,000	
b. Marketing			\$480		\$260		
c. Yard Maintenance		\$4,000					
d. Center Maintenance		\$800		\$3,000			
12. Other							
a. Working Board Meetings				\$2,400			
b. Personal Development Series	\$7,020			\$1,245			
c. Social Events	\$10,800			\$3,600			
d. PRIDE Week Events	\$4,200			\$5,000		\$1,500	
13. Preliminary Activities							
Not applicable							
14. Real Estate							
Not applicable							
15. Subgrant Fund							
Not applicable							
16. Training							
Not applicable							
17. Travel							
Not applicable							
18. Vehicles							
a. Purchase	\$12,000			\$2,000		\$800	
b. Maintenance	\$7,200			\$1,600		\$250	
c. Fuel	\$2,400			\$900		\$600	
d. Licensing & Registration	\$500			\$150			
TOTALS	\$104,480	\$38,040	\$19,508	\$38,895	\$260	\$92,370	

Please submit all applications via email to proposals@iaf.gov.

Inter-American Foundation
1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 1200 North
Washington DC-20004

Tel: 202-360-4530
Website: <http://www.iaf.gov>



INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
PART 1: COVER SHEET

Name of Organization: Enter legal name of organization.

Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development

Organization ACRONYM:

SACD

Project Title:

Supporting a sustainable, rights-based traditional fishery and sustainable livelihoods in northern Belize

Project Summary: (Do not exceed 50 words.)

Working towards a common vision of community-based management in Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS), supporting a sustainable, rights-based traditional fishery and community-led tourism development, to provide economic opportunities, while improving the livelihoods of the local communities that are dependent on the natural resources in northern Belize.

Duration: 48 Months.

Amount requested from the IAF: \$399,548.00 (in US dollars)

Proponent counterpart: \$582,597.00 (in US dollars)*

Other counterpart: \$1,815,002.00 (in US dollars)*

*Counterpart is a contribution from the proposing organization ("proponent") or third party. Counterpart may be in cash donations or in kind, including, but not limited to, land, supplies, infrastructure, labor, and office, storage and meeting space.

How did you hear about the IAF? SACD received a notification (invitation), from the foundation's representative for Belize and Honduras, to submit a project application for consideration.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Address:

Street Address: Lagunita Street, Sarteneja Village

Postal Address (where applicable): N/A

City: Corozal Province (Dept./State): Corozal

Country: Belize Postal Code N/a

Office Telephone: +501 6711440
Country/area code Telephone Number

Cell Telephone: +501 6205404
Country/area code Telephone Number

Fax: _____
Country/area code Telephone Number

Email: info@sacdbelize.org/ed@sacdbelize.org

Website: www.sacdbelize.org

Contact Person(s): Enter the name(s) of the person(s) primarily responsible for contact with the IAF.

☐ Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

Kyne, Autumn, Development Officer
(last name) (first name) (position)

☒ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

Verde, Joel, Executive Director
(last name) (first name) (position)

Year Organization was Founded: 2008

Date of Legal Incorporation: 18 /09 /2008
Mon / Day /Year

Direct Beneficiaries (number of people who will directly participate in and/or benefit from project activities): _____

Indirect Beneficiaries: (number of people who will indirectly benefit from project activities): _____

Funding History: Sources, years and amounts of previous funding received (excluding from the IAF) in US dollars.

Source	Years	Amount
MAR Fund/KfW/German Cooperation	5 (2015–2019)	\$581,552.00
Summit Foundation	1 (2016)	\$35,000.00
Summit Foundation	1 (2017–2018)	\$45,000.00
Summit Foundation	1 (2018-2019)	\$45,000.00
Summit Foundation	1 (2019-2020)	\$45,000.00
OAK Foundation	3 (2013-2016)	\$150,000.00
OAK Foundation	3 (2017-2020)	\$150,000.00
Protected Areas Conservation Trust	1 (2017-2018)	\$50,000.00

Protected Areas Conservation Trust	3 (2019 -2022)	\$400,000.00
New England Biolabs Foundation	1 (2015-2016)	\$7,500.00
New England Biolabs Foundation	2 (2018 -2020)	\$17,200.00
British High Commission	1 (2019-2020)	\$9,170.00
GEF – Small Grants Programme	1 (2015-2016)	\$50,000.00
GEF – Community Base Adaptation Programme	1 (2014-2015)	\$39,829.50
GEF – Small Grants Programme	1 (2017 -2018)	\$50,000.00

Has the organization ever received funding from the IAF? NO **If so, when?** _____
Grant # (if known): _____ **Amount:** _____

Annual Budget/Operating expenses for the last three years: \$197,050.85 ; \$225,037.04; \$285,447.50 .

Organizational Background: Brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission, structure (operating and governing), membership and achievements.

Mission (Do not exceed 100 words.)

The Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD) is a community-oriented NGO, established in September 2008 and dedicated to ensuring the effective management and good stewardship of Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary as an important biological component of larger transboundary seascape (Belize/Mexico) known as the Northern Belize Coastal Complex (NBCC). This is being carried out in partnership with the stakeholder communities, through engagement and participation of traditional fishers and community groups, and the promotion of conservation actions that benefit biodiversity and people.

Governing Structure (Refers to the organization's form of leadership which might include a board of directors, general assembly, fiscal council and/or chief executive officer; also indicate how decisions are made, frequency of meetings, etc.) *Please list the board of directors by complete names and positions.*

The Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development is governed by a Board of Directors with a membership laid out in the organization's Memorandum of Association. This dictates that SACD's Board of Directors shall not have less than five (5) or more than (10) officers, representing the following sectors, groups and /or areas of expertise: Corozal Bay Advisory Committee, local business sector, education sector, tourism sector, conservation sector, financial expertise, legal expertise and Sarteneja village (SACD's founding community). The Board of Directors is currently composed of five (5) persons.

The Board of Directors is the highest authority within the organization, and provides oversight, as well as guidance to the Executive Director, who also sits on the Board as an ex-officio member. Ordinary meetings are held every quarter (4 times a year outside the annual general meeting. Extraordinary meetings are based on need, for attending to urgent matters that require fast decisions. The President and Secretary of the Board are the authorized signatories for all banking, including authorizing and signing cheques, providing oversight of the day to day expenditures.

The current Board of Directors are as follows:

- a) President – Ms. Carolie Verde (Business Sector)
- b) Secretary – Mrs. Zoe Walker (Conservation Sector)
- c) Treasurer (acting) – Mr. Jorge Flores (Education Sector)

- d) Director – Mr. Leobihildo Tamai (Sarteneja Village)
- e) Director – Mr. Evanier Cruz (Corozal Bay Advisory Committee – representing stakeholder sectors)

Operating Structure (Refers to the division of labor within the organization which might include an educational team, a communications team, an administrative department, etc.)

As most protected area managers in Belize, the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development operates under four (4) main programme areas, composed of a number of sub-programmes.

Administration: Composed of a team of four (4) - The Executive Director, Finance Officer, Development Officer and Administrative Assistant. The Administrative Team is responsible for planning and proposal writing, general management, financial administration and partnerships. Under this programme, SADC also does much of the infrastructure and fleet operations management with the assistance of the relevant programme managers where available. The Finance Officer oversees the accounting and financial management (including project finances) under the supervision of the Executive Director.

Natural Resource Management Programme: Composed of a team of four (4) - the Natural Resources Programme Manager, a Head Ranger and two Rangers. This programme focuses on surveillance and enforcement, zoning and boundaries, fishery management and habitat and species management. The patrol team is in charge of all the patrol operations including collaborative system level and transboundary patrols. The NRM Programme manager is responsible for case files for arrests in coordination with the relevant authorities. The two rangers report to the head ranger and the head ranger reports to the programme manager. The programme manager reports to the Executive Director.

Research and Monitoring Programme: This programme is led by the Natural Resource Programme Manager with the assistance of (five) 5 part time community researchers. The programme focuses on monitoring of the protected areas's conservation targets (seagrass, mangroves, fish larvae, water quality, nesting birds, and manatees), preparation of reports and dissemination of results. Technical data and laboratory analysis are normally outsourced to universities and research institutions.

Outreach and Education Programme: composed of a team of two (2), supported by the Executive Director and other programmes where relevant. The programme is focused on environmental education, public outreach and information, income diversification and community capacity building. The key community development work is managed under this programme. We are also in the process of recruiting a community liaison officer to strengthen community engagement and to ensure success with the community income diversification projects.

Membership (Only for membership organizations; describe the members, criteria to joining, fees charged, etc.)

The Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation is not considered a membership organization, however, under the legal requirement of the country a membership structure has to exist. As prescribed by the Articles of Association, SADC does not follow the conventional process of open membership based on a subscription and/or membership fee, but members are restricted to members of the Board of Directors. The current members can nominate persons considered to be in good standing and fit the different sectors, groups or expertise prescribed by the Articles of Associations. with direct invitations and proper screening by the active and registered members. The minimum number of members under which the Organization can operate is five (5) and the current membership has the power to register an increase or decrease of members whenever required. If more than one person is nominated for a specific sector, group or expertise, then via elections of the current members, one person is elected and then invited to become a member. Those new persons can then contest for a position in the board of directors in the annual general meeting.

The members can also prescribe an annual subscription fee to be paid by each member, however, it is not a requirement at this point in time.

Organizational Achievements (Describe your organization's founding, history and past achievements)

The Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development was originally established as an alliance of local community organizations and registered as non-profit, community-based organization (CBO) on September 18, 2008, under the Belize Company's Registry. In 2012, SADC signed a formal co-management agreement for the Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS), in partnership with the Belize Forest Department (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development). SADC registered as a fully compliant Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) on September 2019 under the Attorney General's office. This new status gives SADC the highest level of accountability and transparency in terms of its operations and financial management. In the first decade of existence, SADC focused on not just the management of the CBWS, but also on strengthening the ecosystem-based conservation of the river to reef Northern Belize Coastal Complex seascape, stretching from the New River to the reef at Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve (part of Belize's World Heritage Site) and Hol Chan Marine Reserve, recognizing that protected areas cannot be managed in isolation. SADC has grown over the years, ensuring engagement and participation of its stakeholders and providing an enabling environment for economic diversification and community development. It has become well-respected, both in Belize and internationally, for its work in conservation and with communities in northern Belize. In 2019, in the most recent National Management Effectiveness Evaluation Assessment, SADC and its work was able to place CBWS in the top twelve best ranked national protected areas in Belize, with a score of 84.2% using the comparative indicators, and 77.5% using the revised National Assessment Tool that aligns with the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA) framework. SADC at its core has the goal of "bringing people together to promote conservation and sustainable development". SADC is known for its work with three of the biggest fishing communities of Belize (Chunox, Copper Bank and Sarteneja), with a record of supporting more than 75 youths with scholarship, internships and through community researchers programmes, 90 youths in acquiring training for becoming tour guides, invested in a homestay programme and micro loan system that have benefited 19 families, invested in a local Pesca Tours initiative that involves 8 traditional fisher's families that rely on the protected area, among other community programmes that have indirectly benefited indefinite numbers of individuals.

Project-related Experience (Describe your organization's experience in the proposed project area(s) or sector(s))

SADC has been able to maintain a good track record with funding partners for project management, with successful implementation of projects ranging from \$7,500.00 to \$500,000.00. SADC has developed a stable portfolio of long term funding partners that have consistently supported the work of the organization, with investment in increasing capacity of the organization to manage and implement projects that combines conservation with the needs of the people, with successful outputs and outcomes.

SADC currently has a staff of 10 members (7 full time, 2 contracted and 1 part time) that are fully committed to the work of SADC, and are the first community people to be the stewards of the natural resources and promoters of Sustainable development around their communities. Most of the staff have been with SADC for more than 5 years, with the Executive Director completing his 10th year in October 2020. Most originate from Sarteneja. The Organization has over 10 years of experience working with communities and community development as part of the greater conservation work within one of Belize's largest marine protected area. In 2009, SADC implemented its first community support project, with 19 families benefiting from the establishment of the Sarteneja Homestay Group – a community initiative, led and driven by women, that is still operational up to this date. More recently SADC supported 3 community projects including a "Pesca Tours" tourism initiative that promoted best fishing practices and has benefited 8 families, x% of the traditional fishing families that use the Wildlife Sanctuary to support their livelihoods.

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 2: NARRATIVE**

Context

1. Describe the community/communities expected to participate, including all characteristics you believe relevant.

The key participants are local fishermen and the tourism groups of Sarteneja, supported by the NGO, Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), the implementing agency, and its tourism arm, Corozal Bay Eco-Adventures CBEA). Sarteneja (Pop. 3,000), the primary stakeholder community of Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS), is the largest fishing village in Belize, with the highest dependence on Belize's marine resources. The majority of fishers free dive for conch and lobster outside CBWS, and are not targeted by this project, but are equally benefited from the outcomes of the project. The local traditional fishers of CBWS, supply their families and community with fish, and are the primary participating members of the project.

CBWS is the second largest marine protected area in Belize (178,000 acres). Traditional sustainable fishing practices have been integrated into management strategies, in collaboration with local fishers, to reduce pressures on the resources, supported by strategies for income diversification into tourism. Sarteneja benefits from the rich biodiversity and beauty of the Wildlife Sanctuary, and has traditions and practices unique to the Mestizo / Yucatec Maya fishing culture. However, with poor agricultural soils, income diversification opportunities are limited, with tourism as the logical option for moving forward. This is supported by the current Government-backed sustainable tourism initiative which identifies Sarteneja as the primary nature-based tourism destination in north east Belize.

2. How do the community members or constituents engage in your project?

SACD is based on collaborative community partnerships primarily with the Sarteneja Tour Guide Association (STGA), Sarteneja Beach Traps Pesca Tours Association (Pesca

Tours), and the Sarteneja Women's Homestay Group. The fishers and tour guides have been fully engaged and participatory in not only project development, but also the wider decision-making process for management of CBWS, the development of the sustainable fishery framework, and of community-based environmentally sustainable tourism.

The collaboration between SADC and the CBWS fishers has been strengthened during the preparation of the sustainable fishery framework. The project will assist the fishers in protecting their traditional rights, and implementation of the surveillance and enforcement they and SADC consider essential to protect CBWS from incursions by non-traditional fishers. It also provides training opportunities identified by the Pesca Tours and STGA to improve the professionalism of tours and visitor hosting in Sarteneja, and marketing of the tours and community as a destination by SADC, towards improving success of the transition of the community into tourism.

3. Have you worked together in the past? How and why?

SADC was established in 2008 as an alliance of community-based organizations (SADC, the Sarteneja Fishermen's Association (SFA) and STGA and representatives from the education, business and conservation sectors of the community), working towards a common vision of establishing a community-based management presence in Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (CBWS), with a sustainable, rights-based traditional fishery and community-led tourism development that reflects the traditions and culture of Sarteneja, supports the economic needs of the community people but also ensures sustainability of the natural resource asset derived from the protected area.

SADC partnered with the tour guides in 2009, bringing together the community to develop the Sarteneja Tourism Development Plan, identifying goals strategies and key limitations faced in achieving sustainable tourism development (limitations in accommodation and restaurant options, availability of tours, marketing and poor accessibility). SADC and STGA

have been implementing the plan since then, addressing the challenges through supporting the women-led Sarteneja Homestay Group, increasing guest accommodations, the establishment of the STGA-managed water taxi, improving access, and the establishment of Pesca Tours, owned and managed by the traditional fishing families from Sarteneja, providing tourism activities. This has been strengthened by providing equal opportunity capacity building in business and financial management and tour guide trainings, with certification for participating fishers, women, and youths.

In 2016, SACD established the Corozal Bay Advisory Committee (CBAC), with representation from community leaders, local fishers and the tourism sector, to improve community participation and stakeholder input into protected area management decisions, project development and sustainable use of the protected area), further improving the working partnerships with SACD and its stakeholders. SACD has partnered with local traditional fishers to establish a sustainable fishery framework that is now ready to roll out in CBWS, to benefit both the fishers and CBWS. It has assisted local fishers in organizing as the Pesca Tours group, equipping them, matching tourism with their traditional fishing methods, and bringing their families and culture into the tourism experience. Tour guide training has resulted in more than sixty licensed tour guides licensed in Sarteneja, who currently commute to work in Belize City in the cruise ship industry, as there is currently insufficient tourism in Sarteneja to support independent tourism business development.

4. Identify the situation(s) you are addressing (the scope, nature, causes and social or economic impact).

Sarteneja is identified nationally as the community with the highest reliance on fishing, with limited options for alternative opportunities or income diversification. Barriers include poor agricultural soils, low level of education and literary skills (most adults leave school after primary level) and the language barrier (Spanish is the primary language in an English-

speaking country). Sarteneja is located in Corozal District, which has the second highest poverty levels in Belize, and the greatest increase in poverty (19.9% to 46.5% between 2002 and 2010). It is also highlighted as at greatest risk of climate change impacts (increasing drought, unseasonal rains and declining reef health). CBWS, with its scenic beauty, high biodiversity values and iconic manatees, provides the most viable options for income diversification, based on tourism that takes into consideration the traditions and livelihoods of the people and the sustainability of the natural resources.

5. How did you decide on the proposal focus and who participated in the decision?

The project has two objectives. 1) the successful roll-out of the sustainable fishery framework, with activities identified from direct input from CBWS traditional fishers and the CBAC, 2) strengthening the framework for income diversification, supporting local tourism product development and improving employment opportunities in tourism, as identified by the Pesca Tour, STGA and Homestay Group participants. The two objectives are aligned with the CBWS Management Plan (2020-2024) which focuses 'on effective conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of CBWS, supported by engaged and resilient communities that demonstrate good environmental stewardship, and benefit from the protected area. They also consider the recommendations of the SADC Northern Fishing Communities Engagement and Investment Strategy (2019 – 2023).

Project

6. Describe the activities you will undertake.

Objective One: Strengthen SADC operations in CBWS to ensure successful roll out of the sustainable fishery and tourism frameworks

Activity One: Purchase equipment and vehicle for surveillance operations and the supporting outreach activities.

Activity Two: Support operational costs (fuel, maintenance, licensing and insurance of vessels and vehicles) and contribute to salaries for key personnel.

Activity Three: Construct and equip a ranger outpost to accommodate 4 rangers for effective surveillance and deployment in a key conservation zone conflict area.

Objective Two: Improving income diversification opportunities for Sarteneja stakeholders and financial sustainability for CBWS through the establishment of a Sustainable Tourism Programme.

Activity One: Strengthen the capacity of SACD and partner organizations in providing professional tours and support via seed funds and revolving loans programmes. This includes seven training sessions for 30 participants from SACD / CBEA staff, Pesca Tours, STGA, Women's Homestay Group, local tour guides and boat captains: 1) Customer Service 2) Hospitality 3) Basic first aid training and advanced first aid emergency response 4) Food Handling Certification 5) Presentation skills 6) Site specific tour guide training 7) Fly fishing training;

Activity Two: Conduct two 3-day exchange visits to established eco-tourism businesses 1) TIDE / Punta Gorda, Belize 2) Sian Ka'an community tours, Mexico, to evaluate successful tour packages, build partnerships, and learn from other NGO experiences.

Activity Three: Construct and equip an accommodation unit for hosting educational expeditions of up to 20 persons, meeting Belize environmental standards. This will include 1) contract for construction 2) equipping of bedroom and kitchen facilities (dining furniture, kitchen and catering equipment).

Activity Four: Build the capacity of SACD-CBEA for marketing Sarteneja tourism products in Belize and overseas. This will include 1) hiring a business manager to develop the marketing framework and strategies, 2) inclusion of the tourism products in the BTB / BTIA marketing strategies, 3) branding of the company - logos and promotional items 4) design

of the CBEA website 5) marketing at international level relevant school and year-out groups in the USA and UK.

7. Explain in narrative form your work plan and provide a proposed schedule.

The project will be implemented within 48 months (four years) and will focus on two components. The first objective and activities are projected to be implemented within the first and second years. This will include the construction of infrastructure and the acquisition of equipment. The ongoing operational support for the establishment of the 'sustainable fisher framework' is to be spread throughout the duration of the project. The second objective and activities will be implemented in the second and third years. The construction of the facility, however, would likely be undertaken during the first year considering the co-financing timeframe. The remaining activities will take place during year two and three, with the fourth year focusing mainly on operational expenses with the operations of the eco-tourism services.

8. What partners are involved in this project and what are they committed to contributing?

Belize Forest Department (FD): The government authority for CBWS, with a co-management agreement with SADC. FD has committed to supporting the legal establishment of the fishery framework and the establishment of the tourism development best practices framework in CBWS.

Belize Fisheries Department (FiD): The government authority responsible for management of fisheries resources. FiD is supporting the roll out of the sustainable fishery framework and prosecution of fishery related infractions.

Belize Tourism Board (BTB): The government authority responsible for management and marketing of Belize's tourism. BTB is contributing to the promotion of the north east Belize tourism product and has committed to assist with training.

Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA): Belize's private sector tourism umbrella organization. BTIA has committed to marketing the tourism products.

Sarteneja Beach Trap "Pesca Tours" Association (Pesca Tours): A registered community-based group of 18 beach trap fishers and their families, committed to supporting the sustainable fishery through participation in CBWS fishery meetings, and in income diversification trainings and development of the tourism packages.

Sarteneja Tour Guide Association (STGA): A registered community-based group of over 60 STGA members based in Sarteneja. STGA will be participating in capacity building and best practices trainings and workshops. They will also benefit from the employment opportunities under the CBEA tour packages.

Sarteneja Homestay Group: A registered women-led community group of 13 families providing cultural homestay / guesthouse experiences. They are committed to supporting the establishment of the tourism packages and will benefit from the employment opportunities and increased visitation to the area.

Corozal Bay Advisory Committee (CBAC): A committee of representatives of key community and user stakeholders of CBWS, committed to supporting the sustainable fishery and tourism frameworks in their communities and sectors as they are rolled out. They will also be participating in project evaluation of implementation and outputs.

9. Discuss anticipated outcomes, both immediate and long-term. How will you know if you have achieved them? How will you measure them?

Objective One: An established sustainable fishery, recognized by the legal authorities and implemented by SADC in partnership with the local fishers. Measures of success include 1) Number of fishers per year that have site-specific permits for CBWS, 2) Fisher engagement - number of meetings, attendance per year, 3) compliance records - number of infractions

related to unsustainable / illegal fishing per year. 4) number of meetings of the local fishery management committee / attendance per year.

Objective Two: A shift towards a more diversified income base in Sarteneja, improving jobs in tourism, with equal opportunities for men and women. Measures of success include 1) number of people (men / women) generating an income from tourism supported by this project, per year; 2) number of active community-based tourism options per year. 3)

Average visitor satisfaction per year (post trip survey, trip advisor)

SACD- CBEA is effectively marketing Sarteneja tourism services. Measures of Success include: 1) Number of tours / individuals booked through CBEA for local operations per year. 2) % of income earned by independent tourism operations (e.g. Pesca Tours, Homestay) from tourism per year; 3) SACD infrastructure; 4) Number of groups/individuals hosted by SACD-CBEA per year 5) Number of people employed as tour guides, hospitality workers, cooks, etc by CBEA., per year

SACD will reduce its current 100% dependency on grant funding by a minimum of 10%, through investment of profits from CBEA. Measure of success – SACD annual income statement form.

10. What makes your project innovative or different?

This project is built on strong long term partnerships between SACD and Sarteneja community groups, supported by the government authorities, collaborating to improve the environment for tourism development to enhance the livelihoods of people, and promoting the sustainable use of the natural resources. The project is built on experience - SACD has seen short term community projects fail because local people haven't been part of the planning process, and are not interested in building new skills or wanting to be entrepreneurs, but are more comfortable with what they know -fishing, tour guiding, cooking etc. The projects often leave newly formed business operations with resources but no

capacity for marketing or business management for long term sustainability. SADC is based in Sarteneja, and provides the supporting capacity building, marketing and business management aspects of tourism development, while also ensuring best practices and sustainable uses, and comes with a commitment for the long term mentoring of new businesses, to ensure a greater chance of success.

11. Explain why your project is feasible.

This project builds on groundwork for the roll out of the sustainable fishery framework for CBWS, with full support from the Advisory Committee, local fishers, tourism sector and government authorities. SADC has trained, experienced personnel in place for the continued surveillance and enforcement, and outreach for support of the final steps in rolling out the rights-based sustainable fishery – this project contributes to identified gaps. In terms of tourism, all project participants recognize the importance of this project in the marketing of the tourism products to a wider, global audience, to increase visitation to a level that will be more effective in supporting income diversification. SADC has already successfully piloted science-based expeditions, and has developed a long-term partnership with a large education expedition company, with future bookings that will use the local tourism services.

12. Discuss potential challenges to the project and how your organization will address them.

Post Covid-19 has brought about many uncertainties. We are seeing increased illegal fishing from non-traditional fishers during national lockdown, with the sustainable fishery framework not yet being in place. The timing of this project is very important, as it will maintain an enforcement presence in the area during the roll out of the framework, as well as provide the investment in outreach material to ensure knowledge of the new rules, regulations and zones as it moves into the transition period.

The global economic crises and pandemic will result in reduced international travel, with uncertainty as to how long the crisis will last before tourism can start to regenerate. There will be challenges in achieving the tourism-focused results in the short term, but the project will provide a strong foundation for the future. The outputs associated with the tourism component are feasible in the short term, and indicators are based on the direct, short-term project outputs rather than outcomes. We are confident that even if the economic benefits derived from tourism are not achieved during the project timeframe, it will prepare Sarteneja for when Belize's tourism bounces back.

13. How will your efforts continue after funding from the IAF ends?

SACD recognizes the importance of improving financial sustainability, and has established the tour operator - Corozal Bay Eco-Adventures (CBEA) as a for-profit revenue generation mechanism for the NGO, to support management of CBWS and reduce dependence on grant funding, and designed to provide a platform for supporting community tourism initiatives into the future through mentoring and marketing. The investment in infrastructure and equipment will provide the start-up from which SACD and its community partners will be able to launch the sustainable tourism programme. With these initial costs covered, it is projected that the initiative will start generating a profit by the end of the third year, based on pre-Covid-19 projections. The project is designed to be self-sustaining in the long term and supportive of community tourism initiatives, providing both financial and social sustainability in the medium to long term.

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 3: BUDGET**

- Project budget must be in U.S. dollars. Please specify date and exchange rate used:
Date: May 1st, 2020 Exchange rate: BZE\$2.00 to USD\$1.00
- List by line item the amount requested from the IAF as well as counterpart contributions that will be dedicated to the project.
 - "Proponent Counterpart" refers to contributions from the organization submitting the proposal;
 - "Beneficiary Contributions" refers to contributions from the people benefiting from or participating in project activities when different from the "Proponent;"
 - "Other Contributions" refers to resources raised from outside sources that are necessary for project implementation;
 - In-kind contributions (e.g. goods; services; office, meeting, storage or other space; land; etc.), must be ascribed a monetary value.
 - Use footnotes to detail the source of each counterpart contribution.
- Identify at least one lettered sub-item for each of the applicable numbered line items. A list of examples of sub-items is provided on the following page.
- Note that salaries should include employee benefits if required by local employment laws.

Line Items	Request IAF	Proponent Counterpart		Beneficiary Contributions		Other Contributions	
	Cash	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind
1. Administrative Expenses							
a. Insurance	\$4,435.00	\$2,748.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,437.00 ¹	\$0.00
b. Office Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$3,426.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,176.00 ²	\$0.00
c. Subscriptions	\$1,000.00	\$1,480.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00 ³	\$0.00
d. Utilities	\$2,000.00	\$3,862.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,672.00 ⁴	\$0.00
e. Licenses	\$1,000.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00 ⁵	\$0.00
f. Office Furnitures	\$2,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2. Construction							
a. Hosting Facility	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00 ⁶	\$0.00
b. Boat Ramp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00 ⁷	\$0.00
c. Docking Facility	\$12,858.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,642.00 ⁸	\$0.00
d. Ranger Station	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00 ⁹	\$0.00
e. Solar System	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
f. Wastewater Tmt.	\$13,025.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3. Dissemination							
a. printing material	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00 ¹⁰	\$0.00
4. Equipment							
a. Laptops	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00 ¹²	\$0.00
b. Patrol Vessels	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$203,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00 ¹³	\$0.00
c. Tourism Vessels	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135,431.00	\$0.00	\$112,569.00 ¹¹	\$0.00	\$0.00
d. Kitchen and bedding	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
e. Tours equipment	\$7,196.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

¹ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

² Protected Areas Conservation Trust

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¹⁰ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

¹¹ Sarteneja Beach Trap Pesca Tours Association

¹² Protected Areas Conservation Trust

¹³ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

f. Ranger equipment	\$4,695.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. Human Resources – Salaries							
a. Executive Director	\$18,818.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,391.00 ¹⁴	\$0.00
b. NRM Manager	\$19,927.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,884.63 ¹⁵	\$0.00
c. Education Officer	\$17,193.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,895.00 ¹⁶	\$0.00
d. Finance Officer	\$10,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,586.00 ¹⁷	\$0.00
e. Head Ranger	\$13,637.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,730.00 ¹⁸	\$0.00
f. Admin Assistant	\$8,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,051.00 ¹⁹	\$0.00
g. Ranger 1	\$11,184.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,380.00 ²⁰	\$0.00
h. Ranger 2	\$10,970.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,984.00 ²¹	\$0.00
i. Ranger 3	\$10,540.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,203.00 ²²	\$0.00

¹⁴ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

¹⁵ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

¹⁶ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

¹⁷ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

¹⁸ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

¹⁹ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

²⁰ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

²¹ Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

²² Protected Areas Conservation Trust and Summit Foundation

6. Human Resources - Contracted Services							
a. Business manager	\$10,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Artwork	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7. Human Resources - Contributed Services							
a. BoD time	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Partners Time	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,400.00 ²³	\$0.00	\$0.00
c. (BTB)Tourism Board	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00 ²⁴
8. Investment Capital							
a. Seed Capital	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9. Loan Fund							
a. Revolving loan	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10. Materials/Supplies							
a. Promo Material	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00 ²⁵	\$0.00
b. operating supplies	\$3,525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11. Operational expenses							
a. Patrol fuel	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,783.00 ²⁶	\$0.00
b. Research fuel	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,920.00 ²⁷	\$0.00
12. Other							
a. Sian Kaan visit	\$2,790.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00 ²⁸	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. TIDE Tours Visit	\$745.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00 ²⁹	\$0.00	\$0.00
13. Preliminary Activities							
a. Business Plan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Willingness to Pay	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
c. Sustainable Fishery Plan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14. Real Property							
a. Land	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15. Sub-Grant Fund							
a. Pesca Tours	\$0.00	\$14,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Water Taxi	\$0.00	\$18,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16. Training							
a. Hospitality	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$1,875.00 ³⁰	\$0.00	\$0.00
b. Food Handling	\$425.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$625.00 ³¹	\$0.00	\$0.00
c. Customer service	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$1,875.00 ³²	\$0.00	\$0.00
d. site Specific	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00

²³ Sarteneja Beach Trap Pesca Tours Association, Homestay Association and Sarteneja Tour Guide Association

²⁴ Belize Toursim Board

²⁵ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

²⁶ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

²⁷ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

²⁸ Community Participants

²⁹ Community Participants

³⁰ Community Participants

³¹ Community Participants

³² Community Participants

e. Presentation skills	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$1,875.00 ³³	\$0.00	\$0.00
d. First Aid					\$1,875.00 ³⁴		
f. Fly fishing	\$4,135.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,575.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$1,000.00 ³⁷
					\$1,800.00 ³⁵		
					\$13,125.00 ³⁶		
17. Travel							
a. Travel allocation	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00 ³⁸	\$0.00
18. Vehicles							
a. Vehicles	\$24,500.00	\$0.00	\$89,425.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,075.00 ³⁹	\$0.00
b. Vehicle License	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00 ⁴⁰	\$0.00
c. Vehicle Insurance	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00 ⁴¹	\$0.00
d. Maintenance	\$3,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00 ⁴²	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$399,548.00	\$50,716.00	\$531,881.00	\$0.00	\$150,919.00	\$252,509.63	\$13,000.00

Examples of budget line items

	Budget line items	Examples of sub-items
1	Administrative Expenses	Rent, public utilities, office supplies and furnishings, insurance.
2	Construction	Buildings, structural improvements.
3	Dissemination	Publications, printing, seminars, audio-visual media.
4	Equipment	Tractors and other farm equipment, cold storage and other equipment, machinery, computer or office equipment.
5	Human Resources - Salaries	Payments to permanent staff or people directly associated with the project, and legally required benefits and social security.
6	Human Resources – Contracted Services	Professional fees paid to consultants for technical assistance in areas such as production and marketing, or for conducting surveys, studies or evaluations.
7	Human Resources – Contributed Services	Donated time/services of staff or people associated with the project or consultants.
8	Investment capital	Working capital, operating capital for an enterprise.
9	Loan fund	Revolving loan fund for production or marketing.
10	Materials/supplies	Fertilizers, seeds, medical and other supplies.
11	Operational expenses	Production, marketing, general or project maintenance.
12	Other	Miscellaneous expenses, organizational development, meetings.
13	Preliminary activities	Legal expenses, market study.
14	Real Property	Tangible and fixed assets related to land or buildings.
15	Sub-Grant fund	Support for small development projects.
16	Training	Teaching materials, supplies, publications, and printed matter.
17	Travel	Transportation, per diem.
18	Vehicles	Purchase or rental of cars, motorcycles, trucks, pickup trucks; insurance; fuel and lubricants; maintenance.

Please submit all applications via email to proposals@iaf.gov.

³³ Community Participants

³⁴ Community Participants

³⁵ Community Participants

³⁶ Community Participants

³⁷ Belize Tarpon Turst

³⁸ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

³⁹ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

⁴⁰ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

⁴¹ Protected Areas Conservation Trust

⁴² Protected Areas Conservation Trust

**Inter-American Foundation
1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 1200 North
Washington DC-20004**

**Tel: 202-360-4530
Website: <http://www.iaf.gov>**



INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
PART 1: COVER SHEET

Name of Organization: Enter legal name of organization.

Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management

Organization ACRONYM:

SATIIM

Project Title:

Scaling Up IAF Pilot Project to Document Maya Lands and Usage in Southern Belize

Project Summary: (Do not exceed 50 words.)

SATIIM will replicate the IAF mapping model in other Maya villages, and expand and publicize the Maya Lands Registry to inform the Belize government's court-ordered tenure process.

Duration: ____36____ Months. The duration of the support requested should be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity.

Amount requested from the IAF: \$ ____293854____ (in US dollars)

Proponent counterpart: \$ ____14097____ (in US dollars)*

Other counterpart: \$ ____209400____ (in US dollars)*

*Counterpart is a contribution from the proposing organization ("proponent") or third party. Counterpart may be in cash donations or in kind, including, but not limited to, land, supplies, infrastructure, labor, and office, storage and meeting space.

How did you hear about the IAF?

The IAF supported the pilot project that will be scaled up in this project.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Address:

Street Address: ____Sunflower Street Indianville____

Postal Address (where applicable): _____

City: _____ Punta Gorda Town _____ Province (Dept./State): _____ Toledo District _____
Country _____ Belize, CA _____ Postal Code _____ n/a _____

Office Telephone: _____ 501 _____ 615-8536 _____
Country/area code Telephone Number

Cell Telephone: _____ 501 _____
Country/area code Telephone Number

Fax: _____
Country/area code Telephone Number

Email: _____ fetzalam@gmail.com _____

Website: (new beta version) _____ https://satiim.wixsite.com/satiim-news?fbclid=IwAR3uOqM_5zvMl8KlvGUP3sWJM5hwP2laiqoJBGTRot3nrWbmVUqqaEYVx

A _____ current: www.satiim.org.bz _____

Contact Person(s): Enter the name(s) of the person(s) primarily responsible for contact with the IAF.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. x ☐ Ms.

_____ Tz'alam _____, _____ Froyla _____, _____ Executive Director _____
(last name) (first name) (position)

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

_____, _____, _____
(last name) (first name) (position)

Year Organization was Founded: _____ 1997 _____

Date of Legal Incorporation: _____ 11 _____ / _____ 15 _____ / 1999 _____
Mon / Day / Year

Direct Beneficiaries (number of people who will directly participate in and/or benefit from project activities):

_____ 3000 _____

Indirect Beneficiaries: (number of people who will indirectly benefit from project activities): _____ 20,000 _____

Funding History: Sources, years and amounts of previous funding received (excluding from the IAF) in US dollars.

Source	Years	Amount
Oak Foundation	2011 to present	1878892.68
Swift Foundation	2013 to present	300000

European Union	2013-15	3461390.63
Caribbean Development Bank	2019 -20	300000
IFAD	2013	40000
Ramsar Convention	2013	45000
New England Biolabs	2011 to present	65000
PACT Trust	2012, 2019	250000
EU/Caribbean Policy Development Centre	2017-18	9414

Has the organization ever received funding from the IAF? yes **If so, when?** 2015
Grant # (if known): BE115 **Amount:** 49400
Annual Budget/Operating expenses for the last three years: 179789; 205530; 202731.27

Organizational Background: Brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission, structure (operating and governing), membership and achievements.

Mission (Do not exceed 100 words.)

The Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management was created by the Maya communities of southern Belize to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, safeguard the ecological integrity of the Sarstoon Temash region, and promote the sustainable use of its resources for their economic, social, cultural, environmental, and spiritual wellbeing.

Governing Structure (Refers to the organization's form of leadership which might include a board of directors, general assembly, fiscal council and/or chief executive officer; also indicate how decisions are made, frequency of meetings, etc.)

The Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management is an NGO created by Maya communities in the southern district of Toledo, the region with the highest Maya population, to serve as their liaison with the government and external world. As such, SATIIM is led and run by the Maya of this region. Its board is composed of leaders from the five communities affected by the government's 1994 imposition of a protected area, the Sarstoon Temash National Park, onto their lands. Every two years these communities meet in a General Assembly to decide SATIIM's general workplan. SATIIM's specific activities are determined by community requests, which are defined in a community resolution signed by every village leader.

Operating Structure (Refers to the division of labor within the organization which might include an educational team, a communications team, an administrative department, etc.)

- The Executive Director leads SATIIM's administration and programs. She serves as SATIIM's spokesperson and primary advocate in Belize civil society. She is also head of SATIIM's new Women's Program.
- The Community Officer coordinates SATIIM activities with the villages, collaborating closely with all members.
- The Finance Officer is responsible for the organization's financial administration.
- The Communications and Development Officer ensures the sustainability of SATIIM's activities through diverse support and maintains its international profile.

Membership (Only for membership organizations; describe the members, criteria to joining, fees charged, etc.) --NA

Organizational Achievements (Describe your organization's founding, history and past achievements)

In 1997 Maya and Garifuna communities in southern Belize formed the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management after they discovered the government had turned their ancestral lands into a park and planned to drill for oil – without their knowledge or consent. They created SATIIM to first negotiate with the government on a park co-management agreement. Later a Strategic Plan defined SATIIM's role to protect both human rights and the environment, and to promote sustainable community development.

SATIIM coordinated the first participatory biodiversity assessment of the STNP; this indigenous-led data collection resulted in the park's recognition as a wetlands of international importance under the RAMSAR Convention. A case study of our communities' work was cited in the World Bank report, *The Role of Indigenous People in Biodiversity Conservation*, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/995271468177530126/pdf/443000WP0BOX321onservation01PUBLIC1.pdf>) as well as in *Advance Guard: Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation, Mitigation and Indigenous Peoples*, of the Traditional Knowledge Initiative of United Nations University (see p. 8 http://www7.dev.nau.edu/itep/main/orca/Downloads/3146_ORCA.pdf)

SATIIM has developed into an internationally recognized pioneer in Indigenous rights, as well as Indigenous-led environmental defense and sustainable development. In 2004, the organization won support of the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility to develop the first comprehensive parks management plan between the government and Indigenous peoples in Belize. The World Bank later recognized SATIIM with its prestigious Marketplace prize – the first awarded to an Indigenous entrepreneur — for its Community Sustainable Forestry plan.

In 2006, SATIIM embarked on a long history of legal precedents and victories. It temporarily saved the STNP from dynamite when the Supreme Court demanded an Environmental Impact Assessment. It then won a landmark judgement affirming Maya Customary Land titles. This case was the first domestic application of the United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples -- just one month after its adoption.

In 2013 SATIIM again set an historic precedent when the Supreme Court ruled that an oil exploration permit for the STNP park violated the right of local communities to Free, Prior and Informed consent. SATIIM's legal precedents set the stage for the 2015 Caribbean Court of Justice order that the government establish Maya communal land titles. In response to this ruling, SATIIM is working with Maya communities to demarcate their lands and create a biocultural model of sustainable development. In 2016 the Belize Coalition to Save Our Natural Heritage recognized SATIIM's 'tireless efforts in both conservation and human rights.' In 2017, SATIIM established the Maya Lands Registry and presented the first community maps to the Attorney General.

<p><u>Project-related Experience</u> (Describe your organization's experience in the proposed project area(s) or sector(s))</p>
--

As a Maya-run organization, over two decades SATIIM has developed participatory methods of data collection, mapping and documentation based on Maya community cultural and scientific practices. We create sustainable programs through peer-to-peer training that strengthens community capacity, self-determination, and biocultural resilience to the challenges of climate change. We are the only organization in Belize with experience in mapping Maya lands. For 25 years, we have built capacity of isolated, impoverished Maya communities to stand up for their communal land rights, as well as the respect of diverse international partners, from bilateral donors, such as the European Community (three major grants) to long-term relationships with private funders, such as the Oak and Swift foundations.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION PART 2: NARRATIVE

The application is the first step in developing a potential relationship with the IAF. This is your opportunity to share how you developed your ideas. Please address the following:

Context

1. Describe the community/communities expected to participate, including all characteristics you believe relevant.

Ever since the Belize government secretly formed a national park on their lands, the communities that created SATIIM have been fighting for legal recognition of their communal tenure. While the courts repeatedly affirm their right to their collective land titles, the government has ignored almost 20 years of rulings.

For example, even after the government reached a settlement with the Maya before the Caribbean Court of Justice, the prime minister walked into a press conference and called them “squatters.” Therefore, the prospect of waiting for the government to develop with a fair and just system of land titles is not promising. As a result, these communities asked SATIIM to help them create a Maya-led, community participatory mapping process to inform the government’s Maya Lands Commission. (Privately, the Commissioner has acknowledged the need for SATIIM’s model.) With IAF support, SATIIM first created a replicable model of culturally-based participatory mapping that resulted in the first entry into the Maya Lands Registry. Due to its success, other villages have asked to map their lands and enter the Registry.

Toledo District is home to the largest indigenous and traditional populations in Belize. By all human rights indices, they rank the lowest in the country: by income, health, education and social standing. Without documentation, they stand to lose everything, not just their communal lands (which is exactly what happened to many Maya communities across the border in Peten, Guatemala) but also their language and culture. These communities –and the biodiversity they protect – stand on the brink of extinction.

2. How do the community members or constituents engage in your project?

Like the IAF-supported pilot project, this project uses a fully participatory process based on extensive community consensus-building process. All SATIIM projects begin with a village resolution signed by every community member. As a participatory project, the community implements and ‘owns’ it. They are trained by their peers, and later train other community members. They then map their own resources, learn how to conduct land-use surveys and populate the maps themselves. With SATIIM’s support, they present their maps to other communities and, importantly, to the Maya Lands Commission and the Attorney General.

3. Have you worked together in the past? How and why?

These are the communities that created SATIIM. They requested this project. For 25 years, we have worked in each community on preparation for legal cases, human rights workshops, education about oil drilling proposed on their land, learning exchanges with Guatemalan peers, training in forest inventories, cultural revitalization with youth, and sustainable community development, such as communal forestry and agricultural practices to reduce deforestation.

4. Identify the situation(s) you are addressing (the scope, nature, causes and social or economic impact).

In Guatemala, too many Mayan communities fell to governmental pressure to map their communities in a colonized manner through grids of private plots, resulting in a significant loss of communal lands. In Peten department alone, almost 50 percent of Indigenous plots were lost. Without their lands, some Maya communities entirely disappeared.

In contrast, in southern Belize the Maya still live by ancestral customs rooted in strong communal land governance. These norms include collective control over land use; sustainable agriculture founded in cultural values; forest gardening; and reciprocal obligations of land and community stewardship.

Similar to what happened in Guatemala, Maya villages in southern Toledo are under pressure to parcel their communal land into a uniform grid of private plots. With SATIIM’s technical assistance, these communities first chose a legal strategy to establish communal land rights once and for all. While it took more than ten years in court, they finally saw victory with a Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) ruling that the government legalize Mayan communal land title.

True to form, immediately following the CCJ ruling, Belize’s Prime Minister told the press that there would be no communal land titles. Without confidence in the government to comply with the ruling, Maya villages asked SATIIM to help them map their lands and create a Maya Communal Land Registry to inform the titling process.

With IAF support, SATIIM laid the groundwork for a participatory mapping process to be replicated throughout Belize. Crique Sarco was the pilot village that developed this process with SATIIM, along a team of consultants, including IAF-Guatemalan Maya partner APROBASANK and the renowned professor of land rights and participatory community mapping, Dr. Anthony Stocks.

SATIIM coordinated logistics and planning, extensive community education, training and consultation, mapping workshops, and map production. This pilot project established and tested the first model of Maya participatory mapping in Belize, an historic achievement. The impact of this project cannot be underestimated: It will provide the documentation necessary for the government's eventual adherence to the Caribbean Court of Justice order. It also protects Maya customary land tenure -- the foundation of economic, cultural and social well being.

5. How did you decide on the proposal focus and who participated in the decision?

Maya community leaders determined the focus of this project, along with its development. Any SATIIM project is requested by the communities themselves.

Project

6. Describe the activities you will undertake.

Over three years, SATIIM will replicate the IAF pilot model in other Maya villages; facilitate community land use workshops and natural resource planning; and lay the groundwork for negotiations with the Belize government through legal training and targeted advocacy with government officials and civil society allies.

Activities include:

- Replication of Participatory Mapping Model
- Advocacy with targeted government leaders
- Technical Assistance
- Map entry into the Maya Land Registry
- Presentation of Maps to the Attorney General and the Maya Lands Commission
- Media outreach to increase national awareness of the role of the Maya Land Registry in the CCJ land tenure process
- Advocacy with key government leaders through field visits to mapped areas and the STNP Visitors Center

7. Explain in narrative form your work plan and provide a proposed schedule.

SATIIM's second IAF proposal will scale up these efforts in anticipation of the government's eventual response to the Caribbean Court of Justice ruling.

Over three years, SATIIM will replicate the model in other Maya villages, develop trainings in community land use workshops and natural resource planning, and lay the groundwork for negotiations with the Belize government through legal training and advocacy with targeted officials and civil society leaders.

This proposal represents a unique opportunity to empower the 20,000 Maya across Toledo District with a template for communal land titling and community natural resource management.

The first objective is to identify community land with the consent and participation of villages and their neighbors (for boundaries) by 2021. The pilot community of Crique Sarco will take the lead in sharing best practice and lessons learned. The second objective is to achieve signed boundary agreements with neighbors by 2020. The third objective is that the communities will use the maps to advocate with government officials and civil society leaders to replicate SATIIM's mapping model for all 41 Maya communities in southern Belize.

In order to adhere to a Maya communal power dynamic -- unlike projects led by external organizations or the government -- this project will openly recognize the value of the time dedicated by community leaders and elders to identify lands and negotiate boundaries with neighbours. All Maya in these communities have full time 'jobs' as farmers, and, in the case of women, weavers, fisherfolk, childcare providers, and forest gatherers. One of the key lessons learnt from the pilot was that the amount of time it takes to come to a consensus is very intensive. Being compensated to contribute to community goals is vital to maintain momentum of activities that fall at key times of the agricultural cycle, for instance. Many times, the leaders need to contract someone else to take over their work while they volunteer their time in a project. Therefore, honorarium will be paid to community leaders when they take time out from their days to meet with other communities, conduct ground truthing, set up the boundary markers, and act as mediators. Elders are needed to recall traditional boundaries that have long been forgotten and reclaimed by the forest. As a Maya-run organization (and unlike the more colonial hierarchy of industrialized NGOs) SATIIM needs to provide full transparency, accountability and equality to its communities. We Maya do not have a concept of 'beneficiaries' -- we all work together for a common goal.

2019 – 2020

The first IAF grant created the first participatory community mapping method and initial maps of the pilot village's lands. SATIIM will work with a second village to complete its community map. Last year SATIIM worked with Conejo and Midway villages to map its lands in the STNP park. This phase will complete the map and the land use survey.

*Technical assistance on identifying boundaries with other neighbours and legalizing communal land titles (GIS/GPS training)

* Community training in natural resource management planning, including documentation of family plots to formalize stewardship and inheritance

*Documentation of detailed Land Use, such as sacred sites, watershed, traditional fishing and hunting sites, and medicinal and household collection areas to layer onto the community maps

*Contracting a Surveyor to align community 'sketch' map with cadastral survey (using NAD27 to feed into national land data system.)

Replication of Participatory Mapping Model

From January 2020 - December 2020, SATIIM will replicate the model in a second village.. First we will hold community meetings about the process, and after they have fully discussed it, every resident signs a formal Community Resolution that they are contracting SATIIM to coordinate it. This is our free prior and informed consent process and forms the basis of an MOU with the community. SATIIM finds this process a vital framework that defines roles and responsibilities between the organization and the community.

SATIIM will establish an in-community mapping team who will lead the process with guidance from SATIIM's Project Manager and Project Officer.

The process will produce two kinds of maps:

- 1) Participatory GPS mapping by the community for border settlement
- 2) Community Surveying- Collect the names of local hills, creeks, sacred sites, etc.

When the boundary is established after negotiations among villages (usually between 4 to 5 surrounding communities), they will have clear evidence of where their land begins and ends. At that point, SATIIM will need to contract a professional surveyor, and use pillars or trees to mark boundaries. SATIIM will produce Banner Maps for the new community for them to display in their village center.

In the first phase, SATIIM will conduct up to 30 workshops:

- *consensus building on resolving border disputes,
- *developing strategy to manage and ensure boundaries
- *community land rules identified, documented
- *drafting community by laws on land use .

In the second phase SATIIM will:

- *train community leaders in GPS mapping technology
- *train community surveyors on traditional land names, sacred sites and land use
- *coordinate community mapping teams
- *facilitate educational meetings and trainings with bordering communities.
- *coordinate information input into maps
- *Produce, print and laminate community map for distribution
- *Facilitate presentation of community map to Belize government for legalization of communal land titles.

2021 – 2022

Replicating Participatory Mapping in Third Village

From January 2021 to December 2020, SATIIM will replicate this process with a third village (see process explained above.)

2021- 2020

Advocacy to Replicate the Maya Mapping Model throughout Toledo District

At this time we anticipate SATIIM will need to ramp up its legal support for community negotiations with the government on implementation of the Caribbean Court ruling. It is expected that as early as March 2020 SATIIM will provide technical assistance and direct legal advice from experts in both customary and national law for those villages who have mapped their lands to collectively negotiate with the government. In addition, SATIIM will reach out to key government departments to garner support for the process by including them in regular updates. SATIIM will coordinate field visits of key officials and civil society leaders to visit the communities where they will explain their process, their maps and advocate for support to use this model to map the rest of Maya communal lands in Toledo District. SATIIM will support these visits with media outreach, as well as a public exhibit documenting the mapping process and the maps themselves in the Sarstoon Temash Visitors Center. SATIIM Executive Director Froyla Tz'alam and community leaders will conduct interviews with leading national television and radio stations.

8. What partners are involved in this project and what are they committed to contributing?

Partners include renowned expert in indigenous mapping, Dr. Anthony Stocks, who provides land demarcation expertise and map-making skills. (Stocks, who speaks Q'eqchi, worked on the IAF pilot project) as well as the Belize Network of Nongovernmental Organizations (BNN) and Guatemalan Maya IAF collaborator, APROBASANK, for Q'eqchi-language GIS expertise. As SATIIM is the co-manager of the Sarstoon Temash National Park (one of 103 Protected Areas), the PACT (Protect Areas Conservation Trust) is also a partner. Effective management of the STNP includes supporting the mapping of indigenous Maya Lands.

9. Discuss anticipated outcomes, both immediate and long-term. How will you know if you have achieved them? How will you measure them?

The outcomes in the immediate term include an expansion of the Maya Lands Registry, and empowered communities who present detailed maps of their lands to the Maya Land Commission, the Attorney General, civil society and the Belize public. The longer-term outcome is that the government is influenced to support this mapping model, which is community-led, culturally appropriate and accurate. Measures include documentation of the process itself (workshop attendance, photos and videos), the maps themselves and the Maya Land Registry, as well as media coverage of their presentation to the government and Maya Lands Commission.

In addition, strengthened community capacity in effective natural resource management will contribute to the protection of the STNP by protecting its biodiversity. This can be measured by incursion rates monitored by SATIIM community STNP patrols.

10. What makes your project innovative or different?

No other organization is mapping Maya and traditional lands. To our knowledge, there is no similar model developed by indigenous and traditional communities that they develop themselves, that includes not only physical characteristics but also land usage, cultural significance and traditional land rules. This is a uniquely Belize Maya innovation.

11. Explain why your project is feasible.

We know it is feasible from our experience with the IAF pilot project and the work we have continued since it ended. We know that it is urgently needed from our discussions with the Maya Land Commissioner. The maps and boundary agreements produced by the IAF pilot project are still respected by Crique Sarco's four neighbours -- despite not having legal recognition by the Belize government. Community ownership over the process means that the communities respect those boundaries because they were involved intimately as a community -- not just a few people.

12. Discuss potential challenges to the project and how your organization will address them.

Negotiations are always a delicate process; they require the most time: from boundary negotiations between communities about basic agreed-upon borders, to negotiations with the government on accepting a Maya-led process of mapping and communal titling. The biggest challenge is that, aside from the IAF pilot project, this has never been attempted in Belize. However, we are making the road by walking slowly -- through the consensus built in the communities. While there are mapping models all over the world, this is based in Maya cultural practices, which means it is not rushed, there is deep reflection and many, many discussions. In the IAF pilot project, it took 57 meetings to build agreement at each stage. (Since SATIIM has continued to hone the practice, we anticipate fewer for the upcoming villages. Land conflict resolution does take repeated meetings -- often long walks in high boots through tropical wetlands to a disputed border where a meeting is facilitated right there.) As we wrote in our IAF grant report, "As part of the process, each side was prepared separately. It became apparent that the role of the facilitator was key. In this instance, he was seen as knowledgeable, impartial and wanted the best for each side."

13. How will your efforts continue after funding from the IAF ends?

As an indigenous-run organization, created by the communities it protects, SATIIM's programs are implemented at the request of the communities themselves, who each sign a resolution committing to doing the work. In that sense, this project is fully sustainable: it is truly owned and implemented by the Maya people for their future generations. This project will result in community mentors who will be capable of training other villages; they will be able to replicate it for their peers. This is an indigenous community of practice model.

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 3: BUDGET**

- Project budget must be in U.S. dollars. Please specify date and exchange rate used:
Date: _____ 9/16/19 _____ Exchange rate: _1 Belize Dollar = .50 US dollar_
- List by line item the amount requested from the IAF as well as counterpart contributions that will be dedicated to the project.
 - "Proponent Counterpart" refers to contributions from the organization submitting the proposal;
 - "Beneficiary Contributions" refers to contributions from the people benefiting from or participating in project activities when different from the "Proponent;"
 - "Other Contributions" refers to resources raised from outside sources that are necessary for project implementation;
 - In-kind contributions (e.g. goods; services; office, meeting, storage or other space; land; etc.), must be ascribed a monetary value.
 - Use footnotes to detail the source of each counterpart contribution.
- Identify at least one lettered sub-item for each of the applicable numbered line items. A list of examples of sub-items is provided on the following page.
- Note that salaries should include employee benefits if required by local employment laws.

Line Items	Request IAF	Proponent Counterpart		Beneficiary Contributions		Other Contributions	
		Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind
1. Administrative Expenses							
2. a. Rent		a.1237	a.12711				
b. Utilities etc.	a.3090					b.8036	
3. Construction							
a. etc.							
4. Dissemination							
a. Village Boundary Maps	a.1090						
b. Visibility: Donor & Project	b.2860						
5. Equipment							
a. 8 GPS units	a.1816						
b. 2 Computers	b.1211						
6. Human Resources – Salaries			a. 1				
a. Financial Oversight (AFID, AUDIT)	a.5811	a.7500	7			a15853	
B. Project Manager	b.33140	b.3000	6			b.69827	
C. Finance Officer	c.16569		1			35664	
7. Human Resources - Contracted Services							
a. Project Officer	a.36318						
b. Community cartographer	b. 20580						
c. GIS Technician							
d. Legal consultant	c.7264						
e. Communication Officer	d. 40857						
f. Outreach worker per village (3 villages)	e. 25536						
g. Land Dept. Research Map. (3 Villages)	f. 7566						
h. Community Technician. GPS.	g.1513						
i. Community Mediator	h.4540						
j. Cadastral Survey Technician	i.1816						
k. Socio economic Survey Collection	j.4035						
l. Negotiation Consultants	k.3914						
						D.40857 E, 8512	

	15132						
8. Human Resources - Contributed Services a.Site verification, Ground Truthing validation b. Neighbor Community mtgs c. Community Consultations d. Boundary agreements e. Negotiation. Com. Contribution f. Dialogue with the state com. Contribution					1091 990 2542 1211 9079 726		
9. Investment Capital a. etc.							
10. Loan Fund a. etc.							
11. Materials/Supplies a. etc.	504						
12. Operational expenses a. etc.							
13. Other a. Refreshment for Gathering b. Border Markers ground truthing, validation and construction c. Honorarium for village leaders/elders negotiation team Pilot community mentors d. accommodation	a.1614 b. 4741 c.25978 d.378						
14. Preliminary Activities a. etc.							
15. Real Property a. etc.							
16. Sub-Grant Fund a. etc.							
17. Training GPS and socio economic training sessions.	3874						
18. Travel a. fuel for local travel for consultant b international Travel for consultant Community leaders to boundary c. local travel – mediation/arbitration training d. local travel- socio economic survey e– Flights – Media/state officials f. Bus to Punta Gorda g Per diem - \$40 per day for 14 people	a.4388 c 2422 c.1211 d.303 e.1453 g.1059					b.3026 f.2179	

Per diem- dialogue with the state h-Travel to government office. Map submission	g.1130 h.605	h.605					
19. Vehicles a. Vehicle Cost: Mtce b. Fuel for field staff	4388 8699	1755				11411 9647	
Total	293854	14097	14472		15639	209400	

¹Please submit all applications via email to proposals@iaf.gov.

**Inter-American Foundation
1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 1200 North
Washington DC-20004**

**Tel: 202-360-4530
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¹ Other counterpart contributions provided by PACT, European Union, Oak and Swift foundations



INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
PART 1: COVER SHEET

Name of Organization: Enter legal name of organization.

Ya'axche' Conservation Trust

Organization ACRONYM:

Ya'axche'

Project Title: Enhancing biodiversity awareness of indigenous communities and Belizeans citizens through a citizen science model platform.

Project Summary: (Do not exceed 50 words.)

This project promotes the principles of citizen science to engage approximately 4000 people in the indigenous communities of the Maya Golden Landscape in biodiversity monitoring. Through a web-based platform it will also engage over 10,000 people to contribute towards the protection of wildlife in protected areas.

Duration: __18__ Months. The duration of the support requested should be consistent with the nature and complexity of the proposed activity.

The length of the project accommodates for the creation of the web-based platform, the media campaign and community outreach workshops.

Amount requested from the IAF: \$__172,444__ (in US dollars)

Proponent counterpart: \$__39,574__ (in US dollars)*

Other counterpart: \$__11,125__ (in US dollars)*

*Counterpart is a contribution from the proposing organization ("proponent") or third party. Counterpart may be in cash donations or in kind, including, but not limited to, land, supplies, infrastructure, labor, and office, storage and meeting space.

How did you hear about the IAF?

Ya'axche' has previously received funding from the IAF for a previous project supporting cacao agroforestry.

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Address:

Street Address: _20A Main Street, Punta Gorda, Belize_____

Postal Address (where applicable): _____

City: _Punta Gorda _____ Province (Dept./State): _____

Country _____ Belize _____ Postal Code _____

Office Telephone: _____ 501 _____ 722-0108
Country/area code Telephone Number

Cell Telephone: _____ 501 _____ 669-0919
Country/area code Telephone Number

Fax: _____
Country/area code Telephone Number

Email: _____ christina.garcia@yaaxche.org _____

Website: _____ www.yaaxche.org _____

Contact Person(s): Enter the name(s) of the person(s) primarily responsible for contact with the IAF.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☒ Ms.

_____ Garcia _____, _____ Christina _____, _____ Executive Director _____
(last name) (first name) (position)

☒ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

_____ Gutierrez _____, _____ Said _____, _____ Science Director _____
(last name) (first name) (position)

Year Organization was Founded: _____ 1998 _____

Date of Legal Incorporation: _____ 03 _____ / 23 _____ / 1998 _____
Mon / Day / Year

Direct Beneficiaries (number of people who will directly participate in and/or benefit from project activities):

_____ 150 _____

Indirect Beneficiaries: (number of people who will indirectly benefit from project activities): 14,000 _____

Funding History: Sources, years and amounts of previous funding received (excluding from the IAF) in US dollars.

Source	Years	Amount
Protected Areas Conservation Trust (Conservation Investment Strategy)	2019-2021	\$1,000,000
Protected Areas Conservation Trust (Secondary Investments)	2019 (7 months)	\$99,966

Overbrook	2019-2020	\$80,000
PACT-BNCF	2019-2020	\$37,997.88
Disney Conservation Fund	2018-2019	\$50,000
European Union	2016-2020	\$480,000

Has the organization ever received funding from the IAF? yes **If so, when?** July, 2014
Grant # (if known): BE-113 **Amount:** US\$184,805.
Annual Budget/Operating expenses for the last three years: \$1.279 million; \$1.468 million; \$1.486 million.

Organizational Background: Brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission, structure (operating and governing), membership and achievements.

Mission (Do not exceed 100 words.)

Ya'axche' is a Belizean organisation which aims to maintain a healthy environment with empowered communities by fostering sustainable livelihoods, protected areas management, biodiversity conservation and environmental education within the Maya Golden landscape.

Governing Structure (Refers to the organization's form of leadership which might include a board of directors, general assembly, fiscal council and/or chief executive officer; **also indicate how decisions are made, frequency of meetings, etc.**)

- Board of Directors**-There are between seven to nine (7-9) board members who are selected and appointed by existing Board of Directors members. The board meets quarterly. Up to six (6) Board of Directors members will be appointed based on expertise criteria. *The expertise targeted by Ya'axche' include:* a. Gender awareness b. Business expertise or experience c. Legal expertise d. Community development experience e. Sustainable development/protected area expertise f. Knowledge of government operations g. Expertise in international fundraising and partnerships. A chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer are elected from amongst the Board of Directors for two-year terms. They form the Executive Committee. *Function and responsibilities of the board:* 1. Ensure the mission is carried out 2. Set policies for Ya'axche's operations to ensure that the provisions of the organization's Articles of Association/ Memorandum of Understanding and the law are being followed 3. Enforce laws, especially in conflict resolutions internally and externally 4. Set Ya'axche's overall programs from year to year and engage in longer range planning to establish its general course for the future 5. Establish fiscal policy and boundaries, with budgets and financial controls 6. Ensure that Ya'axche' is financially sound; show a commitment to fundraising 7. Contribute to Ya'axche's bottom line (provide expertise other than time) 8. Maintain professional and ethical standards 9. Maintain board confidentiality 10. Recognize conflict of interest 11. Respect and support staff 12. Maintain appropriate lines of communications 13. Understand and maintain separate roles 14. Respect other board members 15. Develop and maintain a communication link to the community, promoting the work of Ya'axche' 16. Recruit other volunteers for the board 17. Select, evaluate, and if necessary, terminate the appointment of the Executive Director 18. It is important to understand that the board is not to: a. Engage in the day-to-day operation of Ya'axche' b. Make detailed programmatic decisions without consulting staff.

- **Management team (MT)**-A Management Team (MT) is established by the Executive Director to support management decision-making and planning at the staff level. The membership of the MT is selected from senior management.
- **Executive Director (ED)**-Ya'axche' will be managed by an Executive Director who will have overall responsibility for implementation of operational and program activities, for supervising staff, and for coordinating resource mobilization. As such the Executive Director manages the IGM program area. The Executive Director will be the Ya'axche' staff's liaison with the Board of Directors and sit on the Board of Directors with no vote.
- **Program Directors (PD)**- The PD will have overall responsibility for supporting program development, for implementing all planned activities under the program and for supervising staff in the program. PDs report directly to the Executive Director.
- The **Leadership Committee (LC)** is made up of all Program Directors and the Executive Director. The LC meets once a week to discuss important organizational matters and queries where they make decisions on a consensus basis. The LC meetings are also for the review and updating of project activities.

Operating Structure (Refers to the division of labor within the organization which might include an educational team, a communications team, an administrative department, etc.)

Community Members-These are residents of Ya'axche' communities who are automatically made members of Ya'axche' on their application. Community members can participate in Ya'axche' through community representation on the Board of Directors, through program sub-committees, and on special community-based thematic or interest groups related to Ya'axche'.

Program Staff- These staff members will support the Program Managers in the implementation of program activities. The three programs within the organisation are the Protected Areas Management, Community Outreach and Livelihoods and Science programs.

Operational Support Staff-These staff members will support the Executive Director in the management of the IGM program and support the implementation of program activities.

Volunteers-Ya'axche' will make creative and realistic use of volunteers to support the work of the organization and to fill posts that have insufficient funding support.

Consultants-Ya'axche' will use consultants to support the organization's work in cases where external expertise is needed, staff time is not available and when funding is secured.

Community Interest Groups-While community interest groups do not form an official part of the Ya'axche' governance structure; however, they play a key partnership and supporting role in the implementation of Ya'axche's programs. Community interest groups are encouraged to share priorities and ideas to Ya'axche' through community representatives on the Board of Directors, through participation on sub-committees and through Ya'axche' field staff.

Special Members-These are non-residents of Ya'axche' communities who have an interest in the organization or are identified by the Board of Directors as potential members. The Board of Directors decides on their membership based on application or invitation. Special members can serve on Ya'axche's program sub-committees.

Membership (Only for membership organizations; describe the members, criteria to joining, fees charged, etc.)

The Ya'axche' membership program has four different options, each with different membership rewards acquired for different contributions.

1. The "Tapir" membership option is for anyone wishing to donate 25 USD/yr. This option entitles the member to bimonthly updates and a digital annual report on the organisation.
2. The "Scarlet Macaw" membership option is for those who wish to donate 100 USD/yr and entitles the member to bimonthly annual updates, digital annual reports and a complimentary Ranger for a Day Tour.

3. The "Harpy Eagle" option is for a donor contributing \$250 USD/yr and entitles the member to bimonthly updates, digital annual reports, a complimentary Ranger for a Day Tour and Ya'axche' merchandise.
4. The "Jaguar" option is for someone wishing to donate \$500 USD/yr and entitles the member to bimonthly updates, digital annual reports, a complimentary Ranger for a Day Tour, Ya'axche' merchandise and Belizean Chocolate.

Organizational Achievements (Describe your organization's founding, history and past achievements)

In 1998, a guild of local community leaders appealed to Fauna and Flora International (FFI) to acquire 15,441 acres of land for protection within the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL) that is now the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP). These leaders expressed concerns about its potential exploitation by interested citrus and cattle ranch investors. The GSCP is home to 17 different ecosystems, including a host of species of biological, medicinal and cultural significance. This effort led to the establishment of Ya'axche' Conservation Trust, and initiated our mission toward conservation through protected areas management and community outreach.

Ya'axche' Conservation Trust (Ya'axche') 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 MGL. The Maya Golden Landscape (MGL) is a 770,000-acre mosaic of public and private protected lands and communities. The MGL forms the primary southern biological corridor for Belize, which is the only remaining broadleaf forest link between the Maya Mountains and the forested coastal plains of southern Belize. This link is critically important on both a national and regional scale as part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. The MGL is hailed as a site of significant global biodiversity importance and provides protection to a myriad of rare and endangered species, such as the harpy eagle, Baird's tapir, and all five wildcat species endemic to the region. Ya'axche' manages three protected areas within the MGL, in collaboration with the Government of Belize (GOB) and buffer communities. The Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP) is a 15,000-acre preserve owned and managed by Ya'axche' that forms part of the link between the Maya Mountain Massif and the coastal ecosystems of the Caribbean Sea. The Bladen Nature Reserve (BNR) is a 100,000-acre strictly protected nature reserve (IUCN Category 1a), owned by the GOB and co-managed by Ya'axche' since 2008. The Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (MMNFR), a key biodiversity area, is a 36,000-acre forest reserve that serves as a model for sustainable use and development within Belize's protected areas system. The work of Ya'axche' plays a vital role in maintaining and biodiversity of wildlife and plants that are vital for community livelihoods in the Toledo District and the World Heritage Belize Barrier Reef.

Ya'axche' utilizes an integrated management approach with two main programs at the core of our operations. The Protected Areas Management (PAM) program, and the Community Outreach and Livelihoods (COL) program work in tandem to achieve our mission of biodiversity protection and empowered communities. Ya'axche's PAM program focuses on enforcement to monitor and combat illegal activities within the protected areas we manage. The PAM program also conducts biodiversity monitoring through its Science Department, which trains our enforcement rangers as "parabiologists" to continuously collect data on the health of biodiversity within these protected areas.

Ya'axche's COL program is responsible for outreach to communities and the key aspects of human development within the MGL communities we work with. The COL team works on a daily basis with farmers from eight communities within the MGL to transition local farms to climate-smart farms, and develop efficient practices for sustainable livelihoods. The Science team collaborates with the COL team to conduct biodiversity monitoring on farms to ensure that our work within protected areas is cohesive with our outreach, and beneficial for buffer communities and the protection of natural resources. This integrated management system, which incorporates the collaboration of the PAM, COL and Science programs has proven to be an effective approach to achieving our mission of "harmony between nature and human development for the benefit of both."

Since 1998, Ya'axche' Conservation Trust has been conserving biodiversity and empowering communities in southern Belize. Much of the organization's efforts have focused on improving farming practices to help protect nature, improve food sovereignty and increase incomes of farming families. In the transition to climate-smart farming practices, Ya'axche' provides materials, training, technical and field support to farmers from eight communities within the Maya Golden Landscape. The climate-smart farming practices promoted include cacao and coffee based agroforestry, beekeeping, Inga alley-cropping and organic farming techniques. Ya'axche's farmer training program implements peer to peer learning where farmers receive training through visits to various demonstration farms and get a hands on experience on the benefits of these climate-smart techniques. The

technical support to farmers in the MGL has fostered connectivity between these communities through an integrated farming system.

Farmers have responded greatly to learning from Ya'axche's COL team made up of four local farmers who serve as technical advisors, as well as learning from their peers. Ya'axche' has supported a total of 84 farmers in national and international exchanges to other agroforestry farms and apiaries, to increase the capacity of local farmers and the quality of productivity of farms to aid sustainable development. This has resulted in a greater impact through cooperation of these communities in stewardship of protected areas and co-existence with nature. Perhaps one of the most impactful projects to date has been the formation of Belize's first cacao-based agroforestry concession within a protected area. In 2012, Ya'axche' supported 31 farmers from the Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Association (TFCGA) in gaining access rights within the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (MMNFR). In 2014, the Government of Belize (GOB) granted a 15-year permit to TFCGA to implement a cacao-based agro-forestry concession within the protected area. This community agricultural concession exists on 936 acres within the MMNFR and provides a sustainable alternative to the traditional slash and burn technique previously used by farmers in the Trio village. This agro-ecology concession provides security to indigenous community livelihoods while protecting the biological values of the MMNFR such as watershed and water catchment function, timber and wildlife resources. The MMNFR agro-forestry concession highlights the success and value of community-led integrated management approaches to biodiversity conservation and sustainable community development. The Community Outreach and Livelihoods program at Ya'axche' currently reaches 1,600 farmers in the Maya Golden Landscape with many of these residing in buffer communities of Belize's most biodiverse protected areas, Bladen Nature Reserve and Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve. The outreach work of the COL team continues to impact the 4,000 community members centred around agricultural livelihoods in these MGL communities, and aims to instill a greater sense of forest stewardship through the implementation of sustainable development and agricultural practices.

Belize has limited resources for the management of the network of protected areas in the country. Ya'axche' has pioneered the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in patrolling the three protected areas it manages. SMART allows the collection of accurate and current information on the distribution in time and space of different threats, patrol efficiency, wildlife poaching, hunting camps, tracking of arrests, detentions and ranger performance, in order to make informed decisions on how and where to deploy limited resources. The information generated has also served to engage government agencies and other conservation NGOs in discussing effective management strategies at a country level. This has led Ya'axche' to successfully lobby for implementing SMART nationally so that managers and decision makers have better access to information that enables results in strategic planning for effective protected areas management throughout the country.

Prior to the declaration of the preserve, resource extraction in the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP) occurred unmonitored and at an unregulated rate. This is partly due to the fact that arable land is scarce in forest communities such as Golden Stream. This caused infringement into the GSCP area in order to access the medicinal plants and bush sticks that were utilized traditionally. Ya'axche's promotion of sustainable livelihood practices in the Maya Golden Landscape (MGL) buffer communities incited the conceptualization of managed sustainable extraction zones. This led to the eventual designation of extraction zones in the GSCP based on a high density of harvestable trees/plants, and ease of access for the Tambran, Golden Stream, Medina Bank and Indian Creek communities, now called Sustainable Use Zones (SUZ). The management of the GSCP by Ya'axche' ensures that resource extraction occurs sustainably in order to secure traditional livelihood practices for approximately 1,300 residents in these buffer communities through the creation of these SUZ. This approach to protected areas management Communities ensures that the needs of buffer communities shape the strategies utilized in conservation.

Ya'axche's mission of conservation of Belize's most diverse forests is strengthened through cooperation with indigenous buffer communities. The active involvement of communities in protected areas stewardship and management has fostered a move toward sustainable livelihoods of indigenous buffer communities while ensuring food sovereignty, community empowerment and gender mainstreaming. Ya'axche' hopes to empower southern Belize communities to actively support, protect and manage native resources for the enrichment of livelihoods in the future.

Project-related Experience (Describe your organization's experience in the proposed project area(s) or sector(s))

Ya'axche's Science team ensures that all organizational efforts support the conservation of biodiversity by various scientific research analyses. Camera trap monitoring grids are present in all three protected areas managed by

Ya'axche', the MMNFR cacao agroforestry concession, and the agroforestry and jaguar friendly farms within Ya'axche's network. These grids monitor the movement and abundance of target mammal and bird species. The diversity and growth of several target tree species is also monitored within the three protected areas. Open access annual biodiversity reports inform the public of the biodiversity trends within these areas, and serve to inform better management practices in the future. The Community Outreach and Livelihood Program ensures community engagement as a vital component of Ya'axche's work in the Maya Golden Landscape. Ya'axche's Community Liason Officer conducts regular school visits for education outreach and coordinates and facilitates community workshops and forums in eight target communities in the Maya Golden Landscape. In these school outreach visits, students learn about the importance of balanced ecosystems and Ya'axche's work to maintain this. Students learn about the protected areas in the Maya Golden Landscape that Ya'axche manages and the wildlife and flora that exists in these areas. Students also learn about conservation efforts such as protected areas management, SMART patrols, agroforestry and climate smart farming, and human-jaguar conflict mitigation strategies. In farmer workshops and community forums, members of communities buffering protected areas are involved in collaborative efforts to reduce threats to biodiversity in the Maya Golden Landscape. These forums inform communities of the prevalence of illegal logging, hunting, fishing, burning and clearing within protected areas. Communities and farmers work with Ya'axche's Community Outreach and Livelihoods team to implement solutions to address these threats such as Sustainable Use Zones for traditional plants in forest preserves, implementation of climate smart agriculture in buffer villages, ecotourism ventures to support sustainable livelihoods.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION PART 2: NARRATIVE

The application is the first step in developing a potential relationship with the IAF. This is your opportunity to share how you developed your ideas. Please address the following:

Context

1. Describe the community/communities expected to participate, including all characteristics you believe relevant.

Ya'axche's current reach is focused on indigenous communities of southern Belize. These communities are the villages of Trio, Golden Stream, Indian Creek, San Miguel, Big Falls, Medina Bank, Silver Creek and Bladen. These eight targeted communities have developed increase biodiversity awareness through the outreach of the Community Outreach and Livelihoods program at Ya'axche'. To date, 1,600 farming families have received training on climate-smart agricultural practices, fostering sustainable development of these communities while protecting valuable natural resources and ensuring a balance with biodiversity. Ya'axche' hopes to extend its reach for raising biodiversity awareness in Belize.

A citizen science online platform approach would serve to effectively target Ya'axche's online network of followers to engage more actively in biodiversity research and in turn, raise awareness on biodiversity conservation in protected areas and buffer communities. An accompanying biodiversity awareness education campaign will target indigenous youth in southern Belize to disseminate ecological data on the health of Maya Golden Landscape ecosystems and strategies for conservation. A citizen science online project has the potential to involve community members from all regions of the world who have an interest in wildlife, conservation, ecology, protected areas and forest biodiversity, and access to the internet. As an online platform, the potential reach is broad and can immediately engage the 10,000 community members who follow Ya'axche's work on our website, and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Targeting this audience for a citizen science platform allows us to

engage citizens with an exhibited interest in conservation and environmental awareness. Through our interaction with this audience, citizens from this cohort have been identified as already having a vested interest in the work that Ya'axche' is doing to promote natural resource management and climate-smart agriculture. To involve these citizens in more active participation of research has the potential to build environmental awareness and stewardship in a large cohort of Belizean citizens who can remain environmental activists in the long run, and affect social change by promoting sustainable environmental practices countrywide.

Technology has made it easy to engage people with an interest in conservation, and Ya'axche' has utilized this ease of access to increase awareness about protected areas and biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and climate-smart agriculture. Our Facebook page is managed by our Communications and Marketing Manager who has created active engagement posts that regularly involve our local and international followers on a weekly basis. Our popular Facebook activity posts such as TreeTuesday, WildWednesday and PhotoFriday utilize diverse strategies to engage followers and increase their biodiversity and conservation awareness. TreeTuesday highlights a different forest or agricultural tree species each week, giving followers a brief summary of their biology, habitat and ecological importance as well as quick identification tips. WildWednesday presents our followers with photos of various wildlife species that have been photographed either by our staff or from our camera trap monitoring grids within the protected areas and farms we work with. This includes a summary of the species' biology, characteristics and ecological importance as well, and promotes the value of wildlife conservation. Photo Friday, our most popular social media post is Ya'axche's weekly interactive Facebook post where followers are asked to guess the wildlife species from a photo that has been zoomed in to one area of an important wildlife species. Followers comment with their guesses each week, and the answer is revealed the next Monday along with the original photo of the wildlife species and an informational summary on its ecological importance.

Ya'axche's social media presence has increased greatly following our community engagement posts, and there is evidence of community engagement from the followers who actively respond to our weekly posts. This leads us to believe that an online platform for a citizen science project will be well-received, and will effectively engage this target community of online followers to continue to promote the core values of the organization. Most of the participants in our current social media platforms are Belizeans, but through our network of past volunteers, interns and alumni, we also engage with an international community. This extends the potential reach of this project, and participants from the larger global conservation community interested in tropical ecology will be able to remotely participate in research that aids in the conservation of tropical broadleaf forests and its associated species.

The accompanying education outreach program will target youth from MGL communities from the ages 10-35. Primary school students (Standard 4-6) will be targeted for school visit outreach sessions where they will participate in interactive information sessions on biodiversity conservation. The school will also receive training on how to access and use the citizen science research platform. In the past, Ya'axche' has targeted farmers in the MGL to promote climate-smart agriculture techniques. The transformation of these farmers to implement these sustainable farming methods has fostered biodiversity awareness. Most of these farmers are over 35 yrs old, and the obstacle of engaging younger farmers has remained a constant challenge in our community outreach mission. This project will target the youth from MGL agricultural families to participate in workshops and forums that promote biodiversity conservation, research and sustainable development. In addition, our annual Bioblitz and Summer Camp events will concentrate awareness efforts to disseminate educational concepts and research techniques to youth from target communities between the ages of 8-18. Educating and raising awareness within the youth cohort of these indigenous communities has the potential to drive sustainable development in the future, and ensure the conservation of natural resources for the benefit of all Belizeans.

2. How do the community members or constituents engage in your project?

The project will be an online, interactive tool that allows citizens to contribute to Ya'axche's ongoing biodiversity monitoring program. Following a model of citizen science, where community members contribute to data analysis, participants will be directly involved in the identification of wildlife from Ya'axche's actual camera trapping data set. By simply logging into the project website, participants can browse through a gallery of camera trap photo files and submit positive identifications for any mammal, bird or herpetofauna seen in the photo. The results of these submissions will contribute to the actual analysis of annual biodiversity trends within the Maya Golden Landscape. These results will be published in the annual biodiversity report which analyzes the presence and abundance of wildlife found in certain habitats within Ya'axche's managed farms and protected areas. This active collaborative community participation brings awareness to the importance of protected areas, conservation zones, forested landscapes and sustainable farming techniques to the survival and movement of wildlife in Belize. As citizens are actively involved in cataloging of animals from Ya'axche's camera trap monitoring grid, they have made a direct contribution to the analysis of raw data and Ya'axche's research within the MGL. The project also establishes long term engagement with the public. Most awareness campaigns are single outreach events making it difficult to measure long term interest or engagement. The interactive nature of this project and accessibility makes participation easy for community members at any time of the day, encouraging long term engagement and involvement with Ya'axche's ongoing mission.

Through the outreach programs, youth will participate in interactive learning forums about the importance of biodiversity conservation in forested communities. These forums will not only share results of our online citizen science camera trapping program, but will also include a training on how to participate in this platform. Youth will also be taught the principles of biodiversity research, forest biodiversity conservation, and climate-smart farming techniques such as agroforestry, inga-alley cropping, and organic farming and beekeeping. At the Bioblitz and Summer Camp events, students will get hands on experience with tools and techniques for biodiversity research such as tree identification, bird identification, microscope skills, map reading, compass use and GPS orienteering skills. Through Summer Camp field trips, youth will get the opportunity to visit terrestrial and marine protected areas to learn about the importance of biodiversity conservation to ecological balance and human livelihoods. This is important for youth living in agriculture based households. It will instill sustainable practices and environmental stewardship in a cohort that influences the sustainable practices and development of forest communities for future generations.

3. Have you worked together in the past? How and why?

Ya'axche' works with farmers in the Maya Golden Landscape to collect camera trapping data from their farms; however, this has been limited to data collection and not analysis. There is a great need to create awareness and involve the wider public in Ya'axche's biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts. The current target network of Ya'axche's conservation work is made up of residents of the Maya Golden Landscape, as these communities directly depend on forest resources. Ya'axche's conservation mission is aided by diverting these communities away from harmful agricultural practices (such as slash and burn, and use of chemical pesticides) to climate-friendly agricultural techniques. This supports a healthy environment for the biodiversity and inhabitants of the Maya Golden Landscape, and works toward the long term harmonious balance between humans and nature.

Ya'axche's reach thus far has not gone beyond the eight target communities of the MGL, particularly farmers who receive technical support from our staff, and primary school children who receive outreach and attend Ya'axche's annual Bioblitz and Summer Camp events. The wider Belizean public is made aware of Ya'axche's conservation work through our social media platforms, where members receive updates and information, and are able to interact on some level through our online quizzes. This project serves to further engage the wider public and target communities in direct contribution to data analysis as citizen scientists with the hope of raising the level of national conservation awareness. In addition, a

focus on youth ages 10-35 for awareness campaigns and education outreach will serve to build biodiversity and conservation awareness within Ya'axche's target communities beyond climate-smart agricultural practice and incorporate biodiversity awareness and biodiversity research concepts that drive conservation.

4. Identify the situation(s) you are addressing (the scope, nature, causes and social or economic impact).

Ya'axche' conducts annual camera trap biodiversity monitoring on agroforestry and inga alley farms where we serve as technical advisors to implement climate-smart agriculture techniques in indigenous Maya farming communities. The monitoring programme measures the impact of these climate-smart farming techniques on biodiversity. Ya'axche' also has monitoring grids to monitor the presence and movement of wildlife across the southern biological corridor which runs through the Maya Golden Landscape. The Golden Stream Corridor Preserve, Bladen Nature Reserve and Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve all host camera trap monitoring grids. These camera trap grids measure the abundance of wildlife in protected areas and allow the science team to perform comparative studies between these areas and the agricultural farms we manage to better inform management practices and the advice we provide to farmers. The nature of camera trapping means that in a single season, researchers must go through thousands of photo data files in order to perform analysis. A single camera trap can collect up to 1,500 photos in one month and an entire monitoring grid consists of up to 20 camera traps. A thorough trapping season is ideally at least 3 months long. This has limited the expansion in number of monitoring grids as well as the addition of other types of research experiments to Ya'axche's research program. Involving a large community of potentially 10,000 participants would allow citizens to assist Ya'axche's Science team in the analysis of this vast data set.

As a quickly growing organization, the expansion of our reach and scope of conservation work would ideally be accompanied by other types of research experiments and monitoring activities to complement our work on the ground. Ya'axche's core programs promote the implementation of climate-smart agricultural techniques in rural indigenous forest communities, and educational awareness on biodiversity conservation. In addition to this, we manage three protected areas in the Maya Golden Landscape. There is a need to utilize our research department to evaluate different social and biological components of our work, but with limited in house capacity we have not yet been able to move past baseline camera trapping studies. Ya'axche' also hopes to increase the impact of our conservation work nationally, and spread awareness on the value of biodiversity conservation for all Belizean citizens. Citizen science has been used worldwide by conservationists as a way to engage communities in participatory and collaborative research efforts with scientists. It is a particularly effective way of gathering or analyzing both large datasets and data that must be gathered across large regional scales. For this reason, citizen science has become increasingly utilized for camera trapping data through involving community members in installing camera trap grids, or analyzing camera trap data. Besides the obvious benefit of aiding scientists in analyzing large datasets, involving communities in research has also proven to have other social and ecological impacts. One of the most important impacts of citizen science is the promotion of increased awareness within communities. It is thought that public participation in science research fosters scientific thinking in volunteers which is important for improving ecological literacy in modern society and affecting modern decision-making (Jordan et al., 2012). Other research has found that participation in collaborative, community-based monitoring results in increased trust between scientists, managers and the wider public (Fernandez-Gimenez et al., 2008). As a grassroots organization, trust between Ya'axche' and its target communities is a vital component of achieving conservation objectives. Ya'axche' works in an advisory role with eight communities in the Maya Golden Landscape on a daily basis. Communities must be able to trust that Ya'axche's intentions are genuine, its recommendations are supported by evidence and its actions are benefitting their immediate environment. By introducing a citizen science project, Ya'axche' can increase its reach and impact across the country. The effects of all the cumulative impacts resulting from this citizen science project would lead to a greater outcome toward increasing conservation awareness and influencing environmentalism in citizens across Belize. The accompaniment of a targeted education campaign to MGL youth on biodiversity awareness fosters the same conservation awareness within forest communities and indigenous agricultural families. The potential of these communities to conserve natural resources for future generations is an invaluable benefit and a necessary component of ensuring sustainable development in a developing nation like Belize.

These social benefits will promote sustainable economic growth especially in southern agricultural households by instilling the value of conservation practices that drive sustainable development. The promotion of practices like climate smart agriculture in farming households contributes to food sovereignty and security to combat the current agricultural threats in an age of climate change. In addition, forest communities will benefit from conserving the natural resources that they depend on in their daily lives. Education of both indigenous communities and the wider Belizean population is vital to fostering sustainable economic growth. Economic theory suggests that education is vital to development, and no country can achieve sustainable development without investment in human capital through education (Ozturk, 2001).

5. How did you decide on the proposal focus and who participated in the decision?

The project was developed by Ya'axche's Development Team to address a need to strengthen the organization's conservation awareness program and foster participatory engagement of Ya'axche's target communities and the wider Belizean public. A citizen science approach was chosen to be the most effective avenue to address this need. An opportunity was identified where citizens could participate in Ya'axche's research and monitoring program. The Science team spends most of its time processing and analysing the data from the camera trap grids currently set in Bladen Nature Reserve (BNR), Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (MMNFR), Golden Stream Corridor Preserve (GSCP), the agroforestry concession in MMNFR, and various agroforestry and cattle farms across the MGL. With each camera trap holding up to 1500 photos and a trapping season of up to three months, our Science team spends most of the year sorting and analysing this data. This project was developed as a way to get the broader Belizean public engaged in Ya'axche's research, while freeing up time for the research team to monitor other aspects of Ya'axche's conservation work. The project development included Ya'axche's core staff to harmonise objectives across its two core programs and align with the broader organisational mission. The development process included the Development Team, Executive Director, Science Director, Community Outreach and Livelihoods Director, Marketing and Communications Manager and Finance Director. Brainstorm sessions resulted in the addition of an education awareness campaign to accompany the online citizen science platform to strengthen community engagement and environmental awareness impact.

Project

6. Describe the activities you will undertake.

The proposed project will incorporate a citizen science approach involving followers of Ya'axche's online platforms and other online users with ecological interests.

1. The first activity is to employ a software consultant to create an online database to make Ya'axche's camera trapping dataset available for analysis to users.
 - a. The software consultant would be in charge of encrypting images so that they are not pirated or stolen when they are made available to the public.
 - b. The program must also be able to sort the dataset by region and grid. Users would be able to log in online and select what region of data they would like to analyse (e.g. data from Bladen National Park for the month of February). Users would then be able to scroll through photos from that dataset and submit identifications for any wildlife species (mammal, bird or herpetofauna) that they can positively identify within the photos, and skip past images where they are unable to positively identify the wildlife.
 - c. The main program would allow users to create an online account in order to access camera trapping files for identification. Within this online program, user profiles will include account statistics to track frequency of log in, accuracy of identification and number of files identified. In addition, users can be ranked by most correct identifications, allow them to graduate to new levels of "researchers". A user that has high statistical accuracy in identification can then receive certain photo files that contains an animal that other users have been unable to identify. This gives users the incentive to strengthen their skills through regular participation of the online program. It acknowledges users that have increased their skills, or who have contributed numerous times to research analysis.

- d. A measure of accuracy will be incorporated into the program by making images inaccessible once 3 users have submitted the same identification for an image. These triple verified files will then be saved in a folder that is only be accessible by Ya'axche'' researchers who can choose to further verify the images that have been positively identified.
- e. The program assist Ya'axche''s research team in analysing biodiversity camera trap data, and will also allow community followers to directly contribute to that data analysis. Ya'axche''s research team will be able to post analysis results of these studies on the website at the end of every year where users can see the how their contribution has helped to describe the biodiversity trends within the Maya Golden Landscape (eg. Abundance of pacas in Bladen Nation park has increased from 2020-2021). The interactive nature of the project will allow community followers to be more involved in biodiversity research by facilitating participation at any time, as long as there is access to the internet. This will serve to engage more people in scientific activities that help build their awareness in the areas of wildlife and biodiversity conservation. People will be able to see evidence of wildlife that exists in the Maya Golden Landscape and how human activities and conservation affects these species.
2. The education awareness campaign will consist of targeting schools and youth in communities for participation in workshops and school visits.
 - a. For schools, visits will be made to 4 target schools in the Maya Golden Landscape. Students between the ages of 8-18 will participate in a training on how to use the citizen science online platform. They will also receive a presentation on the importance of biodiversity conservation, biodiversity research and ways Ya'axche' is working in the MGL to achieve this (agroforestry, protected areas management etc.).
 - b. Similar workshops will be organized for youth in MGL farming families, but will be tailored for older participants (18-35) and will focus on climate-smart agriculture and biodiversity research. The objective of the workshops for community youth is to instill a greater conservation awareness to the population with the most potential to influence sustainable development in indigenous agricultural households.
3. The Bioblitz event is a one day event where students visit Ya'axche''s Golden Stream Field Station and get to learn hands-on biodiversity research techniques. Students from schools within the Maya Golden Landscape get to practice birding, animal track ID, macroinvertebrate ID and orienteering and tree ID in the Golden Stream Corridor Preserve.
4. The Summer Camp event is a two week long event for older students of the Maya Golden Landscape, who will also receive hands on learning, but also receive more in depth lessons on conservation concepts that Ya'axche' promotes such as protected areas management, monitoring and enforcement, climate-smart farming, land restoration and biodiversity biodiversity research. Students attending the summer camp also get the opportunity to travel to both marine and terrestrial protected areas to see conservation management practices in action and how it impacts the Belizean environment.

7. Explain in narrative form your work plan and provide a proposed schedule.

The first five months of the project would be dedicated to program development. This includes hiring a consultant and working closely with that consultant to develop all the components of the online program and the incorporation of Ya'axche''s data. This would also involve creating a security measure so that files can be encrypted against data piracy. The sixth month will involve training of the Science Department by the consultant in loading data files to the online program, accessing files for analysis, and uploading analysis results to the program website. The consultant will be present for the launch of the project in the sixth month in order to troubleshoot any bugs and provide improvements to the online program that need to be made. The sixth to tenth month of the project will be dedicated to an education campaign where Ya'axche''s Communications and Science Department will travel to national television

and radio shows as well as certain schools to inform citizens of the new online program where they can contribute to Ya'axche's scientific analysis. The campaign will mainly involve training on how to access and use the online program, but will also inform target groups about the importance of biodiversity data to conservation. Two schools will be visited in the sixth to twelfth month and two will be visited in the twelfth to eighteenth month for biodiversity outreach. In addition community forums for target community youth will be held to promote climate-smart agricultural techniques and highlight the value of biodiversity research. One of these will happen in the sixth to twelfth month and two will happen in the twelfth to eighteenth month. The annual Bioblitz event usually occurs in between March to May of the year depending on the national curriculum, and the summer camp occurs in either July or August of the year. The last 9 months of the program will complete the pilot phase of the project and will include the first publication of the first season's data analysis.

7. What partners are involved in this project and what are they committed to contributing?

One partner is the wider online community that will contribute by submitting positive identification of wildlife from Ya'axche's camera trapping data. There is no commitment required as the potential users of the project are vast and there should be no shortage of voluntary participants. The hope is that community participants will find this type of active research participation enjoyable, and the flexibility of commitment will attract them to return numerous times for contribution of data. The MGL youth from agricultural households will be a second partner committed to attending workshops/forums on biodiversity conservation, research and climate smart agriculture. The other partner that will be directly involved is the consultant who will develop the software for the online program. Under a paid contract, the consultant will be committed to the development and troubleshooting of the program in the first six months of the project. Ya'axche's Science and Communications teams will be long term project managers as the program will become an ongoing integrated part of Ya'axche's science and community engagement platforms.

8. Discuss anticipated outcomes, both immediate and long-term. How will you know if you have achieved them? How will you measure them?

The outcomes of the project are:

- Collaborative participation of Belizeans in contribution to scientific research. This can be measured again by traffic numbers on the website. Consistent activity on the website will be an indicator of this participation in this citizen science project.
- An ecological description of biodiversity on agroforestry farms, and Ya'axche's managed protected areas in the Maya Golden Landscape. These will be measured through analysis of the positively identified wildlife by the public from camera trapping data files. At the end of each year, the results presented both on the website and on Ya'axche's biodiversity monitoring report will be an indicator of achieving this outcome.
- Increased awareness on biodiversity value in target communities of the Maya Golden Landscape and Belizean Public. These will be measured in target communities through number of participants and students reached through our education campaign. For our online program it will be measured by traffic on the website. Public awareness is difficult to measure, however annual surveys can appear on the website that frequent participants can fill in to test their level of biodiversity value awareness. Similarly, target schools can be returned to and surveyed as an indicator of increased awareness.

9. What makes your project innovative or different?

Most camera trapping projects incorporating citizen science involves sending entire datasets to individuals for analysis, and is usually incorporated into a school program or single community project. This means these projects usually have a limited reach for impact and require a certain level of commitment by participants. The real-time online platform of this project allows Ya'axche' to reach a large number of

participants including approximately 10,000 followers of our online platforms (website and social media). The impact outcomes of this project can reach thousands of citizens contributing to major influential behaviour changes toward environmental stewardship and increased scientific awareness. The program is user friendly and does not limit the age or background of participants. Anyone with an interest in wildlife, nature, or biodiversity can participate and contribute to data analysis. The project therefore has the potential to continuously increase Belize's social awareness of biodiversity conservation. The online platform also opens the program to international participants which contributes to increasing Ya'axche's global reach and impact. It is also the only camera trapping study of its type in the country, and the only citizen science platform available for participation by the wider Belizean public. This serves as an introduction to several citizens to biodiversity research and the benefits of conservation.

10. Explain why your project is feasible.

Citizen science projects in general are feasible as they require little financial input beyond initial investment, and produce great impact through their outcomes. For this project in particular, the only large financial investment required would be in the first year of the project. Besides increasing biodiversity awareness of Belizeans, it also assists our Science Department by reducing the time for processing camera trapping data. This allows expansion of the organisation's research efforts to areas that will require monitoring with the growth of the organisation and its increasing program efforts. The effect of involving the public in data analysis will enhance public environmental stewardship which benefits all Belizeans and contributes in the long term to Ya'axche's conservation mission. The development of environmental stewardship in buffer communities of protected areas ensures sustainable development of rural communities in order to secure fruitful livelihoods and protect Belize's natural resources in the long term.

11. Discuss potential challenges to the project and how your organization will address them.

The main challenge would be creating a user friendly online program to make it accessible to participants of all ages and backgrounds. Ya'axche' will address this by working closely with a software consultant and involve that consultant in the troubleshooting pilot phase.

Another challenge would be crashing of the website if there are too many users. This will be addressed by purchasing a large server to accommodate capacity of traffic on the website. This will also be discussed with the software consultant to make sure the program can handle multiple users at once.

The Science team may have difficulty in uploading and downloading data from the website program. This will be addressed by having thorough training session with the Science team before the program is launched.

12. How will your efforts continue after funding from the IAF ends?

The IAF funding is required for the startup of this project. After the pilot year, the only funding that will be required to continue the project is the salary costs for the research team performing analysis, and to continue outreach in schools and communities. Salaries will be covered through development fundraising for Ya'axche's core costs. The payments for domain name of the website will also be covered by Ya'axche's communications core costs funding. Outside of funding, the project will be incorporated in the annual work plan of the Science Department and the responsibility of the uploading/downloading of data for analysis will be the responsibility of the Research Assistant with supervision by the Science Director. With increased exposure about the program, participants should remain constant, but if there is a notable decrease in website traffic, funds will be acquired by Ya'axche's Development Team to address this through a marketing and communication campaign. The education outreach component of this project continuously receives funding under various donors for other projects, as Ya'axche' includes biodiversity education outreach as a component of most of its projects.

**INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION
PART 3: BUDGET**

- Project budget must be in U.S. dollars. Please specify date and exchange rate used: Date: __April 03, 2019__ Exchange rate: _1 US Dollar to 2.02 Belize Dollars__
- List by line item the amount requested from the IAF as well as counterpart contributions that will be dedicated to the project.
 - "Proponent Counterpart" refers to contributions from the organization submitting the proposal;
 - "Beneficiary Contributions" refers to contributions from the people benefiting from or participating in project activities when different from the "Proponent;"
 - "Other Contributions" refers to resources raised from outside sources that are necessary for project implementation;
 - In-kind contributions (e.g. goods; services; office, meeting, storage or other space; land; etc.), must be ascribed a monetary value.
 - Use footnotes to detail the source of each counterpart contribution.
- Identify at least one lettered sub-item for each of the applicable numbered line items. A list of examples of sub-items is provided on the following page.
- Note that salaries should include employee benefits if required by local employment laws.

Line Items	Request IAF	Proponent Counterpart		Beneficiary Contributions		Other Contributions	
	Cash	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind	Cash	In-Kind
1. Administrative Expenses a. Utilities b. Rent	a. b.\$9,000	a.\$3,600 b.\$2,500					
2. Construction a. etc.							
3. Dissemination a. Media Appearances ¹ b. Awareness Campaign ² c. Website hosting/domain	a.\$675 b.\$8,780 c.\$481						
4. Equipment a. Videography ³ Equipment b. Equipment Rental (Bioblitz)	a.\$6,242					a. b.\$450	
5. Human Resources – Salaries a. Community Liason Officer b. Research Assistant c. Science Director d. Marketing and Communications Director e. Webpage troubleshooting-Marketing and communication assistant f. Finance Director g. Executive Director	a.3,500 b.\$7,500 c.\$8,500 d.\$7,046 e. f.\$3,300 g.	a.\$1,500 b.\$1,500 c.\$5,000 d. e.\$4,500 f.\$1,500 g.\$10,918					

¹ This includes stipend, lodging, food and air time costs.

² This includes materials and supplies (printing), design costs, social media costs and a promotional video.

³ This includes shipping and handling

6. Human Resources - Contracted Services a. Consultant-Software Developer ⁴	a.\$96,000						
7. Human Resources - Contributed Services a. Farmer time ⁵ b. Staff per diem ⁶					a.\$175	b. \$350	
8. Investment Capital a.Server							
9. Loan Fund a. etc.							
10. Materials/Supplies a.Community Forum Materials b.School Visit Education Package	a. b.\$400	b.				a.\$300	
11. Operational expenses a. Audit b. Monitoring and Evaluation	a.\$7,500 b.\$1,500	a. b.\$3,000					
12. Other a. Contingency (5%)	a.\$8,211						
13. Preliminary Activities a. Development Meetings ⁷ b. School Visit Logistics Meeting ⁸ c. Project Coalition Meetings ⁹	a. b. c.	a. b. c.	a.\$690 b.\$180 c.\$1,130				
14. Real Property a. etc.							
15. Sub-Grant Fund a. etc.							
16. Training School Visits (4) Biodiversity Conservation a. Snacks ¹⁰ b. Fuel ¹¹ Community Forums (3) Biodiversity Conservation a. Lunch ¹² b. Fuel ¹³	a.\$500 b.\$562 a. b.\$422	a. b.	a. b.			a.\$840	

⁴ Contracted for 6 months

⁵ 20 Farmers @ \$8.75 for half a day

⁶ 10 Staff members @\$17.50/day for two days

⁷ Staff time for Development team and Finance Director

⁸ Staff time for Community Outreach and Livelihoods Liason Manager

⁹ Staff time for Project Coalition Team

¹⁰ Snacks @\$5 for 100 students

¹¹ Fuel @1.755 for 320 miles

¹² Lunch @\$10 for 84 pp.

¹³ Fuel @\$1.755 for 240 miles

c. Venue Rental ¹⁴ Summer Camp (1) a. Food ¹⁵ b. Fuel ¹⁶ c. Bus/van Charter ¹⁷ d. Boat Charter ¹⁸ Bioblitz(1) a. Lunch and Snacks ¹⁹ b. Van Charter ²⁰ c. Venue Rental ²¹	c a. b. c. d. a. b. c.	c. a.	c.\$300 a.\$35			a.\$1600 b.\$180 c.\$950 d.\$600 a.\$1450 b.\$1500 c.\$500	
17. Travel a. Fuel for media appearances ²²	a.\$976.00	a.	a.\$35				
18. Vehicles a.Maintenance b.Depreciation (vehicle) ²³ c.Depreciation (motorbike) ²⁴	a.\$1,350 b. c.	a. b. c.	a. b.1,750 c.1,506				
TOTALS	\$172,444	\$34,018	\$5556		\$175	\$10,950	

Examples of budget line items

	Budget line items	Examples of sub-items
1	Administrative Expenses	Rent, public utilities, office supplies and furnishings, insurance.
2	Construction	Buildings, structural improvements.
3	Dissemination	Publications, printing, seminars, audio-visual media.
4	Equipment	Tractors and other farm equipment, cold storage and other equipment, machinery, computer or office equipment.
5	Human Resources - Salaries	Payments to permanent staff or people directly associated with the project, and legally required benefits and social security.
6	Human Resources – Contracted Services	Professional fees paid to consultants for technical assistance in areas such as production and marketing, or for conducting surveys, studies or evaluations.
7	Human Resources – Contributed Services	Donated time/services of staff or people associated with the project or consultants.

¹⁴ Rental @\$75/day for 3 days

¹⁵ Lunch for 16 pp @\$10/day for 10 days

¹⁶ Fuel @\$1.755 for 103 miles

¹⁷ Bus/Van charter @\$95/day for 10 days

¹⁸ Boat Charter at \$600/day

¹⁹ Lunch @ \$7.50 for 200 students

²⁰ 3 vans @\$500 each

²¹ Venue Rental @\$500/day

²² Fuel @\$1.755 for 576 miles

²³ As per operational manual

²⁴ As per operational manual

8	Investment capital	Working capital, operating capital for an enterprise.
9	Loan fund	Revolving loan fund for production or marketing.
10	Materials/supplies	Fertilizers, seeds, medical and other supplies.
11	Operational expenses	Production, marketing, general or project maintenance.
12	Other	Miscellaneous expenses, organizational development, meetings.
13	Preliminary activities	Legal expenses, market study.
14	Real Property	Tangible and fixed assets related to land or buildings.
15	Sub-Grant fund	Support for small development projects.
16	Training	Teaching materials, supplies, publications, and printed matter.
17	Travel	Transportation, per diem.
18	Vehicles	Purchase or rental of cars, motorcycles, trucks, pickup trucks; insurance; fuel and lubricants; maintenance.

Please submit all applications via email to proposals@iaf.gov.

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