



PRESS RELEASE

Conclusion of APAMO/PACT Renewed Strategic Partnership

Belmopan, Belize, February 26, 2025 – On February 25, 2025, the Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations (APAMO) concluded negotiations with the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) for a strategic partnership agreement which culminated in a signing ceremony today. The drawn-out engagement between both parties was ongoing since 2023; therefore APAMO is pleased to have finalized this agreement that will enable mutual commitment to primarily strengthen the management effectiveness and operational capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs) that co-manage Belize's protected areas.

Under this agreement, PACT has pledged funding to the APAMO Central Resource Center, to continue providing technical and financial support and mentorship to its local community member organizations.

This partnership underscores a collective responsibility to ensure the sustainable management of Belize's protected areas. By strengthening the capacity of the non-governmental partners, it aims to enhance conservation efforts, empower small community-based NGOs, and maximize the active participation of local communities that depend on these ecosystems.

APAMO continues to serve as a unified voice for both large NGOs and smaller CBOs co-managing protected areas across Belize. APAMO extends its gratitude to Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño for his support and commitment to conservation efforts in Belize and his response to APAMO's call to action.

Additionally, APAMO acknowledges all 17 member organizations and the APAMO Central Resource Center (ACRC) for their dedication and commitment during one of the organization's most challenging periods.

The agreement's official signing was conducted by Dr. Kenrick Williams, Chairman of PACT's Board of Directors, Mr. Eli Miller, APAMO's Vice Chairman, Mr. Abil Castañeda, PACT's Executive Director, and Mr. Jose Perez, APAMO's Executive Director.

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