



Making Tourism Benefit Communities Adjacent to Archaeological Sites

PRESS RELEASE

Handing Over Ceremony of Construction Equipment and Tools

The Government of Belize has received counterpart funding from the European Union via the Belize Rural Development Program II (BRDP II) to finance a project entitled “Making Tourism Benefit Communities Adjacent to Archaeological Sites:” Co-financing for the project is being provided by the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Tourism and Culture represented by the Belize Tourism Board and the National Institute of Culture and History. The project is being implemented by the Belize Tourism Board and the National Institute of Culture and History through a Project Execution Unit housed at the Belize Tourism Board offices.

The objectives of the project are:

- ***To improve economic opportunities in rural communities and contribute to the reduction of poverty;***
- ***To enhance the tourism experience through improvements in tourism infrastructure and services at selected sites.***

The project intends to achieve three main sets of results:

- **Results One: Improve the monitoring systems at archaeological sites;**
- **Results Two: Improve health and safety provisions and infrastructure at archaeological sites;**
- **Results Three: Enhance the diversification of community based tourism products and services offered at archaeological sites in Belize.**

The Project targets communities adjacent to the following nine archaeological sites:

Xunantunich
Barton Creek
Actun Tunichil Muknal

Nohoch Che'en (Caves' Branch)
Altun Ha
Lamanai

Nim Li Punit
Lubaantun
Blue Creek

In achieving its objectives, a part of the proceeds of the project was used for the purchase of Construction Equipment and Tools to be utilized by the Institute of Archaeology to assist in the upcoming infrastructure improvements at archaeological sites. These Construction Equipment and Tools will also be valuable after the completion of the project as the Institute of Archaeology will use for ground maintenance at sites. The Construction Equipment and Tools were handed over to the Institute



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of Archaeology at a brief **HANDING OVER CEREMONY** on Monday, September 30, 2013 at the Museum Building, Culvert Road, City of Belmopan.

The project was launched in March 2013 and is made possible with grant funding of BZ\$2.75m from the European Union and BZ\$1.25 contribution from BTB and NICH for a total estimated cost of BZ\$4 million. It is being implemented over 24 month period and scheduled to be completed in November 2014.

For more information, please contact:

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