



The Garden - Historical facts

- **Established in 1993 by Mr. Ken duPlooy**
 - A need for conservation of native plants particularly Belizean Orchids and palms.
 - As an experiment in growing organic tropical fruit.
 - To show appreciation for birds and wildlife.
 - A place of beauty for local and international visitors to enjoy.
- **1997-Board of Directors formed.** Officially registered as a non-for-profit organization with the GOB.
 - **Mission Statement**
 - *“To protect the floral biodiversity of Belize by existing as an information resource for the community, government, industry and science and to be a place of beauty for all visitors to enjoy. We also aim to cultivate, promote, research and enable the research of tropical flora and its conservation with an emphasis on our native species and their habitats.”*

Presently

- Involved in research, conservation, education, and sustainable community development.
- Home to outstanding native flora, collections of orchids, palms and heliconia, medicinal trails, exotic tropical fruit trees, and tropical flora from around the world.



- Has recreated habitats such as savanna, wetland, and rainforest.



- An attraction for local school groups, families, foreign visitors and researchers.



Research and Conservation

- Involved in research, conservation, cataloguing and study of native plants since 1993.
- In 1997, worked with the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland in orchid flora research.
- Published 22 new Orchid Records for Belize.

- Established an orchid collection at BBG for research and education.
- Published a “Guide to the Orchids of Belize”.
- Also published a gardeners guide to using native plants: “Grow Native Belize”.
- Partnered with the Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation to combat climate change.

A Belize Botanic Gardens booklet

grow
native
Belize



A gardener's guide to using native plants



GUIDE to the
ORCHIDS
of BELIZE



BRENDAN SAYERS
BRETT ADAMS

- Planted approximately 400 trees with project “Trees for Belize” in deforested areas around Belize.
- *Xate* (*Chamaedorea elegans*, *Chamaedorea oblongata*, *Chamaedorea ernesti-agustii*) research project sponsored by the Darwin Initiative Fund and British Natural History Museum.
- Partnered with University of Edinburgh through the Darwin Initiative -Conservation of the Lowland Savanna Ecosystem of Belize.

Goals of the Savanna Conservation Project

To document the Savanna species in Belize, provide better vegetation mapping of these areas, work with local Belize institutions (eg. BBG, University of Belize, Program for Belize, Belize Forest Department, Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center). To use, make available and interpret the information obtained for science and the public.



Education at BBG

- Since inception, involved in Educational Programs mainly in the Cayo District.
- In 2001, - initiated an in-depth conservation education programme for primary & secondary schools.
- Develop dynamic educational programmes to have a lasting impact on conservation perceptions and values.
- 54 schools targeted
- Information spread by producing and distributing outreach brochures.

- Programme provided on site tours that focus on the plants and natural habitats of Belize.
- Students learned about native plants and habitats; attended lecture on the importance of environmental conservation.
- Questions ask to encourage critical thinking; students encouraged to ask questions.
- Staff trained to conduct educational programmes.

Savanna Conservation & Education at BBG (2009-2012)

- Funding from Darwin Initiative Fund- collaboration with University of Edinburgh
- Undertook a 3 year project entitled “ Conservation and Education of Lowland Savanna
- First Year- Creation of an interpretive trail.



- Second Year- More planting and maintenance of Savanna trail.
- Educational materials developed.



- Third Year- (School year 2011-2012) – Invitation letter sent to primary & secondary school in the Cayo District to visit the Savanna.
 - 22 Schools participated.
 - 1016 students and 88 teachers participated.



- Working with Moody Gardens in Rainforest Restoration .
- Local Junior Colleges involve in monitoring plots.
- Work with International Palm Society to establish a palm display at the garden.
- Collaboration with Montgomery Research Institute & Gemini Botanic Gardens.

Sustainable Community Development

- Professional Gardeners' Training Program-10 participants in each rotation-March 2012
 - 34 Month project aimed at reducing poverty level by teaching specialized gardening skills.
 - Target Rural Productive Poor particularly in the Cayo District.
 - Comprise of 3 levels Practical/Theory Sessions (1- Introductory, 2- Intermediate, 3 Advance level Horticulture Training Course)



- Also includes: Nursery Establishment in food plant & trees, Cut-Flower Growing and Marketing, Organic Vegetable & Herbs Growing, Floral Arrangement , and Craft Workshop.



- The first group of 10 participants completed all 3 levels of training, including all workshops. They graduated on October 5th 2012.



On-The-Job Training Programme

- 12-week training programme
- 2 participants (1 male/1 female)
- They worked directly with garden staff (mulching, pruning, nursery maintenance, mowing, potting and other assigned tasks).



• Plant & Bird Identification Training

- 1 week Plant & Bird Identification Training
- Aimed at people interested in becoming tour guides
- 42 participants attended the training





BIRD CHECKLIST

OF DUPLOOY'S JUNGLE LODGE AND BELIZE BOTANIC GARDENS

*Checklist of birds recorded within 5-miles of duPlooy's
Jungle Lodge and Belize Botanic Gardens since 1988.*



*Funded by the European Union's Belize Rural Development Project II
& Duplooy's Jungle Lodge.*

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*Funded by the European Union's
Belize Rural Development Project*

Bird and Plant Identification Training Course
Belize Botanic Gardens & duPlooy's Jungle Lodge



Royal Flycatcher - male



Royal Flycatcher - female

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Others

- All training is conducted by BBG Belizean Staff
- Exception- Level 3 Advance Level Horticulture- Garden Design was taught by outside experts
- BBG Trainers attend L3 training to be able to conduct future L3 Advance Level Training.

Who do we work with?

- Annual Scientific Collection Research permit obtained from the Forest Department .(Plants, importation/Exportation of seeds)
- Belize Tourism Board sanction our Bird & Plant training for tour guides. Have express interest to recruit BBG trainers to conduct training in floral and ornithology

Internship/Volunteer Opportunities

- Available for both local and International students
- Or any other interested person.

****THANK YOU****

