



Cacao production in an agroforestry system
Photograph by Ya'axché

Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve

Size of Protected Area
36,000 Acres

Species found in Protected Area
**Scarlet Macaw, jaguar,
Yucatan Black Howler Monkey,
Baird's Tapir**

Sustainably grown crops
**Cacao & Coffee-based
agroforestry**

Ecosystems found in Protected Area
17 Ecosystems

DON'Ts in Protected Area
**Extraction, Agriculture,
Camping without permit,
Fire**

DOs in Protected Area
**Sustainable planned extraction,
Agriculture, Education, Tourism**

Threats to Protected Area
**Wildfire, Overhunting,
Agricultural expansion,
Illegal logging**



A multiple use site for protected area innovation

This beautiful yet highly threatened forest reserve is managed by Ya'axché along with the Belize Forest Department since 2015.

Connecting to Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary and Bladen Nature Reserve, the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve shares much of the high biodiversity of its neighbours, but faces much greater levels of disturbance. As a Forest Reserve, sustainable extraction of forest products are permitted and have allowed Belize's first agroforestry concession and longterm timber harvesting concession.

Combined with Bladen and Cockscomb, MMNFR forms the majority of the upper catchment of the Monkey River Watershed which supplies water to thousands of Belizeans and the commercial banana industry. This underlines the need for effective protection against deforestation and provides the impetus for the groundbreaking development of Belize's first agroforestry concession. This concession permits shade grown cacao and coffee under an agroforestry system that can provide the economic incentive necessary to curb illegal slash and burn agriculture.



Ya'axché tree (*Ceiba pentandra*), also referred to as Cotton Tree
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Rosewood (*Dalbergia stevensonii*) a highly prized hardwood
Photo: Maximiliano Caal



Geoffroy's Spider Monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*)
Photo: Erik Hammar