



FORESTS AND ECONOMIES SYMPOSIUM AGENDA



Friday, March 20th, 2026
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

OPENING REMARKS

9:00 AM

Ms. Victoria Chi, Forest Officer

SESSION 1: COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND LOCAL ECONOMIES

CA CAO UNDER THE CANOPY: THE ECONOMICS OF SHADE GROWN CACAO

9:20AM-9:40AM

Mr. Marvin Vasquez
Mr. Ernesto Pop
Ya'axche Conservation Trust

INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIES

9:40AM-10:00AM

Mr. Elodio Rash
Julian Cho Society

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST ECONOMIES INDIGENOUS LIVELIHOODS

10:00AM-10:20AM

Ms. Maya Choc
Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management

COFFEE BREAK

10:20AM-10:45AM

SESSION 2: INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

DEMONSTRATING RESPONSIBLE TIMBER PRODUCTION: DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH WHILE SAFEGUARDING FOREST - THE RIO BRAVO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AREA CASE.

Mr. Edilberto Romero, MSc
Programme for Belize

10:45AM-11:05AM

FROM HARVEST TO HABITAT: HOW SILVICULTURE RESTORES AND STRENGTHENS FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Mrs. Nidia Panti Valdez
Bulridge Limited

11:05AM-11:25AM



MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



Protected Areas Conservation Trust





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SESSION 3: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION, ECOTOURISM, AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST ECONOMIES.

FROM FOREST TO LIVELIHOOD: HOW COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION DRIVES LOCAL ECONOMIES

11:25AM-11:45AM

Hon. Ms. Jessie Young
Community Baboon Sanctuary

LUNCH BREAK

11:45AM- 12:45 PM

SESSION 4: FOREST HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

THE ECONOMIC COST OF DEFORESTATION AND FIRES IN BELIZE

Ms. Karlene Williams
Activity Data Lead Officer
Forest Department

12:45 PM-1:10 PM

JAGUARS AND ECOSYSTEM BALANCE: WHY FOREST HEALTH MATTERS FOR ECONOMIC STABILITY

Ms. Victoria Chi
Wildlife Program
Forest Department

1:10 PM-1:30 PM

PRESENTATION OF TOKENS

1:30PM-1:45PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Mercedes Valdez, Forest Officer

1:45PM-2:00PM



MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

