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**BTB Gives \$10,000 to FCD Park Rangers Program**

**Belize City, Belize-October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014** – The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is pleased to announce that on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the organization donated ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to the Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) Park Rangers Program, through its telethon. Over the weekend, the FCD held the telethon to raise much needed monies to fund twenty rangers at a cost of twenty four thousand dollars per ranger.

BTB's Director of Cruise and Regional Initiatives, Valdemar Andrade, said that, "the BTB is privileged to be a part of this step in the right direction. The FCD has invested time and effort working to protect a part of our national heritage. We know that the challenges they face are numerous and the sustained threats in the Chiquibul warrant the implementation of increased security measures. Action must be taken in order to preserve our forest for future generation of Belizeans, as well as for visitors coming to experience our country. Working along with organizations such as the FCD will bring us closer to achieving this."

Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that co-manages the Chiquibul National Park, one of the protected areas inside the Chiquibul Forest. The Forest, which is over four hundred thousand (400,000) acres and represents 7.7% of Belize's landmass, also provides water to forty percent of Belize's population and is home to rich biodiversity, as well as the world-renowned archaeological site of Caracol.

The BTB congratulates the Friends for Conservation and Development and the telethon organizers for a successful event that raised over three hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$320,000). The BTB wishes Executive Director Rafael Manzanero and the FCD all the best in their endeavours and stand ready to dialogue and engage with partners to ensure that the Chiquibul Forest is protected.

For more information on how you can pledge donations and lend support to the FCD, contact them at [fcdtelethon@gmail.com](mailto:fcdtelethon@gmail.com) .

**About the Belize Tourism Board**

The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is a statutory body within the Belize Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Civil Aviation and it is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation. The BTB works in conjunction with members of the private sector - including the Belize Hotel Association, Belize Tourism Industry Association and Belize National Tour Operators Association - and is dedicated to building tourism in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner. As a part of its responsibilities, the BTB promotes Belize as a premier tourism destination to both in-country and international consumers. Among its outreach to the international travel market, the BTB markets the country's unique attractions to travellers, members of the travel trade industry and media outlets in key markets. The BTB is also dedicated to developing and implementing tourism programs that will help strengthen and grow the Belizean tourism industry; promote good destination stewardship; and instill high quality standards for accommodations and travel experiences. For more information on the BTB and its services, visit [www.travelbelize.org](http://www.travelbelize.org).