

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Punta Gorda

Toledo, Belize



Building financial capacity of local women's groups

Ya'axché Conservation Trust's work in southern Belize has focused on empowering communities since 1998. As part of the organization's ongoing work of building capacity for local community-based organizations, Ya'axché has offered trainings in topics such as leadership, teamwork, finances, and cooking to several local women's groups over the years.

Through a recently-secured 4-year project from EuropeAid, 12 women from groups in Indian Creek and Golden Stream villages are currently participating in financial management and book-keeping training workshops to increase the capacities of these community-based organizations. The participants are members of established women's groups who provide catering services and Maya cultural experiences and sell arts and crafts made from non-timber forest products.

The content of the training sessions was tailored to the needs of the groups through continuous dialogue with the women. The expectation is that these trainings will enable the groups to better manage their businesses, increasing the benefits for the women and their families.

More trainings workshops will continue into next year, involving other community-based organizations in the Toledo District.

END.