



Ambassador's Fund For Cultural Preservation

The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) supports the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects, and forms of traditional cultural expression in more than 100 developing countries around the world.

Background

Established by Congress in the fall of 2000, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) awards grants for the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects and collections, and forms of traditional cultural expression, such as music, dance, and language in more than 130 countries around the world. Administered by the Cultural Heritage Center, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and funded from Diplomatic and Consular Program funds, the AFCP offers the U.S. a meaningful opportunity to show its respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

Memorandum of Understanding Cultural Artifacts

In February 2013, the governments of Belize and the United States entered into a bilateral agreement to protect categories of archaeological material from the Pre-Ceramic Period to the late Colonial Period. Reports from Belize had indicated that despite the strict provisions of its national heritage legislation, the monitoring by its national and community authorities, and the efforts of its law enforcement officers, archaeological sites have been and continue to be vulnerable to pillage, causing serious jeopardy to the cultural heritage of the country. The agreement provides for import restrictions making it illegal to import protected cultural objects from Belize into the U.S., commitments by both parties to publicize the agreement, and, on the part of the U.S., to facilitate technical assistance in cultural resources management and security to Belize and, by Belize, to continue its efforts to prevent illegal export of cultural patrimony. These workshops represent a first step towards implementing these provisions of the agreement in an interactive forum and with appropriate public participation and media coverage.

Belize Awards

2013 Benque Archaeological Site Conservation Project - \$55,062. To support the conservation of the site from further destruction and preserve its culture.

2012 Conservation of the Ancient Maya Ruins of Chetumal at Santa Rita Archaeological Site - \$50,000. To support the conservation of several ruined structures at Santa Rita Archaeological Site, the original location of the Pre-Columbian Maya city of Chetumal.

2009 Conservation of the Early Classic Maya Mask Temple (Structure N9-56) in the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve - \$60,900. To support the conservation of a rare stucco portrait mask of an Early Classic Maya ruler, the only large mask of its type known to exist in Belize.

2009 Restoration of Government House, an Early 19th-Century Landmark in Belize City \$53,400. To support the first phase of a multiyear restoration of an important early 19th-century colonial building and maritime landmark in Belize City.

2007 Preservation of Serpon Historical Park, the Site of a 19th-Century Sugar Mill \$55,000. To support the development of an archaeological and historical park on the site of a unique 19th-century sugar mill.

2006 Conservation of Historic Buildings in Lamanai Archaeological Reserve \$54,340. To support the conservation of significant buildings in the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve.

Digital Resources

Website: <http://belize.us.embassy.gov>
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