

ATIBT TRADE MISSION TO FOREST COMMUNITIES IN SELVA MAYA, JUNE 2023

Selva Maya

The forests of the southeastern region of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize make up the Selva Maya, the largest tropical rainforest north of the Amazon. This tropical rainforest is internationally recognized for its forest management that is carried out at the community level, from ejidos in Mexico to forest concessions in Guatemala. Furthermore, Selva Maya is home to vast amounts of biodiversity, carbon storage and the livelihoods and culture of thousands of local and indigenous communities. It is also the location of some of the world's most valuable archaeological sites.

Over the last three decades, Rainforest Alliance has collaborated La Selva Maya in Mexico and Guatemala, with a number of indigenous and non-indigenous communities. The aim of the Rainforest Alliance work has been to reduce the levels of deforestation and expand forest conservation by improving the economic viability using responsible forestland management. At the same time, we strive to improve the livelihoods of those who live and depend on the forest. This has been partially achieved by improving business and technical capacities of forest community-based enterprises to manage their forestlands more sustainably and productively. In addition, they are now managing their businesses more profitability and competitively and have gained access to investment and incentives through expanding partnerships with the public and private sector for sustainable supply chains.

In addition, Selva Maya tropical timber community enterprises have suffered from lack of visibility to equitable market pricing for timber. It is critical that this gap be reduced, and our forest community partners are equipped to supply the global tropical timber markets and collaborate at a regional level to strengthen their technical, business and trading capacities.

**RAINFOREST
ALLIANCE**



Selva Maya Trade Mission

As part of the joined efforts between Rainforest Alliance and ATIBT, a trade mission to the Selva Maya will take place in June 2023, where participants will meet key actors in Tropical Timber value chain in the Selva Maya in Mexico and Guatemala, from community enterprises, private sector and government bodies and find out more about the community enterprises' offerings, from tropical timber to ecosystem services, and their commercial potential.

Trade Mission participants will also take part in the two-day **Selva Maya Tropical Timber Business Summit, Tulum 2023**, to be held in Tulum, Quintana Roo, from 15th – 17th June, an event that will bring together key players in the Yucatan Peninsula Tropical Timber industry aiming to promote and facilitate commercial agreements between community enterprises of the Selva Maya in Mexico and the private sector.

Goals and Objectives

- To get to know the level of development and transformation capabilities of Rainforest Alliance tropical timber enterprises' partners in the region.
- To meet key actors in the tropical timber supply chain in the region.
- To learn more about Selva Maya community enterprises offerings (tropical timber commercial species, lesser-known species, and ecosystem services opportunities).
- To strengthen strategic alliances to accelerate the commercial development of the Selva Maya between private sector, government agencies and forest communities.
- To explore joint fundraising opportunities to expand ATIBT's members tropical timber sourcing and further support tropical timber community enterprises' development.
- To determine formal strategic partnerships and around sourcing, marketing and promoting of tropical timber and other services from Selva Maya Forest Communities.



Key information

Dates: 14th - 26th June 2023

Selva Maya proposed visits: Quintana Roo, Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico & the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala

Total number of participants: 19 people

ATIBT participants: 10-12 people

Rainforest Alliance participants: 7-9 people

Budget per person in euros (approximate costs)

| Transport | Cost |
|--|---------------|
| Return flight – Europe-Cancun | 1,043€ |
| Return Flight – Cancun, MX – Flores, GT | 280€ |
| Accommodation | Cost |
| Tulum, MX – hotel to be confirmed - 3 nights | 300€ |
| Aires Bacalar, Bacalar, MX – 3 nights | 243€ |
| Hilton Garden Inn, Cancun Airport – 2 nights | 260€ |
| Villa Maya, Flores, GT – 4 nights | 374€ |
| Total | 2,500€ |

ITINERARY (14th – 26th JUNE 2023)

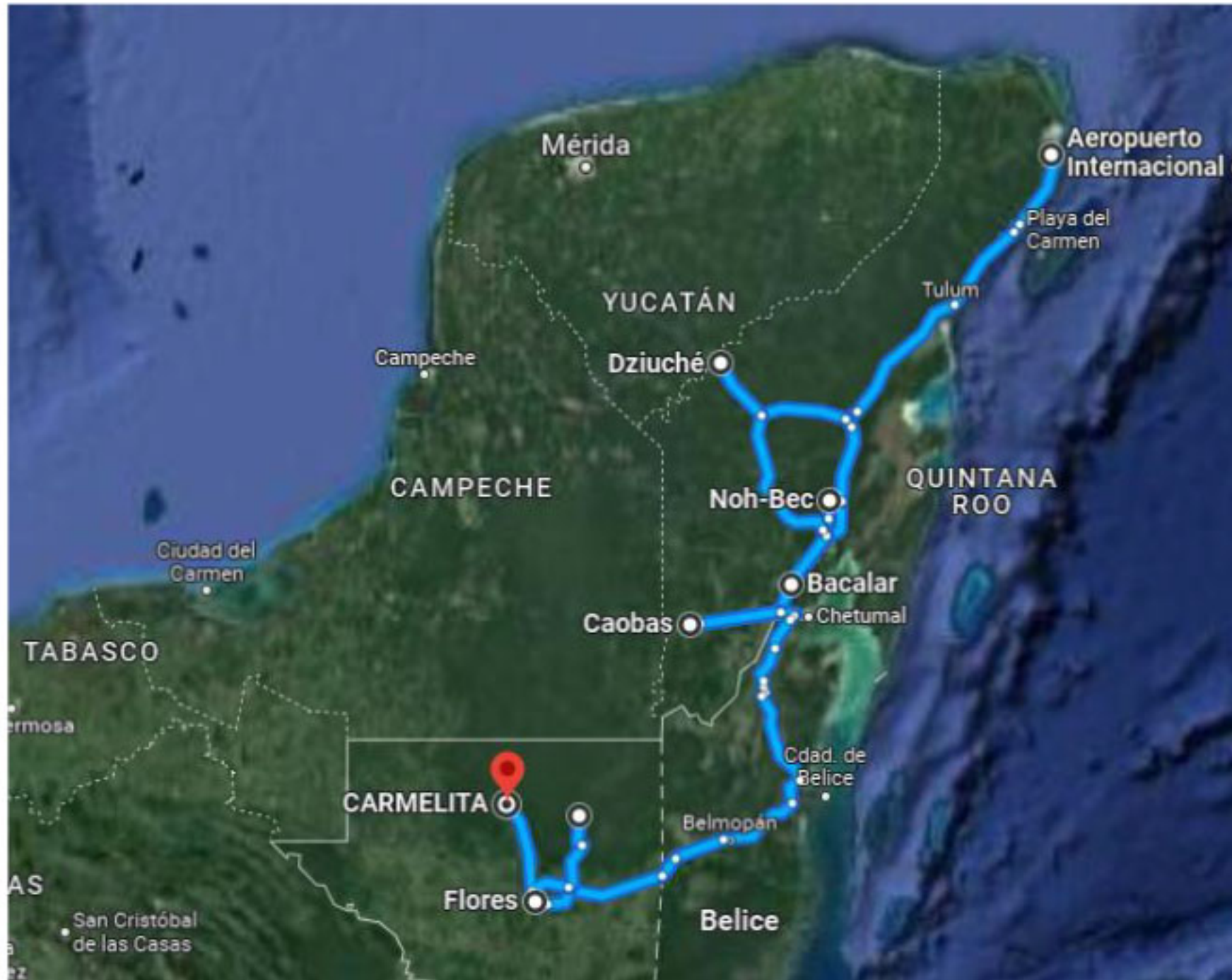


Figure 1. **Proposed visits:** *Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico:* Tulum, Bacalar, Noh Bec, Dziuché. *Mayan Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala:* Flores, Peten, Tikal, Uaxactún and Carmelitas.

ITINERARY SELVA MAYA TRADE MISSION

JUNE 2023

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 14-jun | 15-jun | 16-jun | 17-jun | 18-jun |
| Town | | | Tulum, Mexico | Tulum, Mexico | Tulum, Mexico | Bacalar, Mexico | Bacalar, Mexico |
| Hotel | | | To be confirmed | To be confirmed | To be confirmed | Aires Bacalar | Aires Bacalar |
| Transport | | | To be confirmed | Minibus | Minibus | Minibus | Minibus |
| Activity | | | Arrival at Cancún airport in Mexico | Selva Maya, Tropical Timber Business Summit, Tulum 2023 | Selva Maya, Tropical Timber Business Summit, Tulum 2023 | Visit Noh Bec, Quintana Roo, Mexico | Visit Dziuché, Quintana Roo, Mexico |
| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| | 19-jun | 20-jun | 21-jun | 22-jun | 23-jun | 24-jun | 25-jun |
| Staying in | Bacalar, Mexico | Cancun, Mexico | Flores, Guatemala | Flores, Guatemala | Flores, Guatemala | Flores, Guatemala | Cancún, Mexico |
| Hotel | Aires Bacalar | Hilton Garden Inn | Villa Maya | Villa Maya | Villa Maya | Villa Maya | Hilton Garden Inn |
| Transport | Minibus | Minibus | Flight Cancun-Flores,Peten 07:40 hrs | Minibus | Minibus | Minibus | Flight Peten, Flores-Cancún 17:50 hrs |
| Activity | Meetings with key Tropical Timber Actors | Travel to Cancún + free day | Fly to Flores, Petén, Guatemala + Visit Tikal archeological site | Visit to Uaxactún forest concession & FORESCOM, Guatemala | Meetings with key Tropical Timber Actors | Visit Carmelitas forest concession, Guatemala | Fly to Cancun airport + free day |
| | Monday | | | | | | |
| | 26-jun | | | | | | |
| Town | Cancun, Mexico | | | | | | |
| Hotel | No stay | | | | | | |
| Flight | | | | | | | |
| Activity | Fly back home | | | | | | |