

The  
***Establishment of the Consultative Council***  
and Initial  
***Implementation of the Strategic Plan***  
for  
***El Pilar***

Project executed from March 2001 to July 2001



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Belize, July 2001

**PROARCA/CAPAS**

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## **About this publication**

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## Presentación

CAPAS es uno de los componentes del Programa Ambiental Regional para Centroamérica (PROARCA), que responde a la necesidad de apoyar la agenda de la Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD) y es financiado por la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID). Por sus siglas en inglés, CAPAS significa Sistema Centroamericano de Áreas Protegidas.

En Centroamérica la responsabilidad de conservar y manejar adecuadamente los recursos naturales de la región recae tanto en entidades de gobierno así como en organizaciones de la sociedad civil. Se ha comprobado que las organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONGs) mantienen protagonismo constante en propuestas y acciones para conservar los recursos del área.

Consciente de este esquema y como parte fundamental del proyecto, PROARCA/CAPAS tiene como uno de sus objetivos fortalecer la participación de organizaciones, profesionales y comunidades -que conforman el sector ambientalista y social no gubernamental de Centroamérica- en actividades que benefician a la conservación y el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales de la región. Para alcanzar este objetivo, PROARCA/CAPAS a partir de 1997 ha brindado a las ONGs financiamiento bajo el esquema de pequeñas donaciones.

Para el período 2000-2001, PROARCA/CAPAS por medio de un proceso de competencia seleccionó a 12 ONGs de la región centroamericana para la ejecución de proyectos específicos. Dichos proyectos cubren uno o más de los siguientes temas:

- áreas protegidas
- ecoturismo
- CITES
- tierras privadas
- agricultura y forestería proambiental
- coordinación transfronteriza
- cambio climático

Para PROARCA/CAPAS es de mucha satisfacción presentar el informe **The Establishment of the Consultative Council and Initial Implementation of the Strategic Plan for El Pilar** entre los informes técnicos finales presentados por las ONGs. PROARCA/CAPAS desea agradecer a todas las organizaciones y personas que participaron en la elaboración de este trabajo.

Pequeñas Donaciones  
**PROARCA/CAPAS/USAID**

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## **I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Our ardent efforts to construct a strong model of trans-boundary cooperation at El Pilar have begun to bear fruits. Many individuals and institutions have shown keen interest in this process. Within the context of the territorial dispute between Belize-Guatemala, this project is one of the outstanding examples of peaceful collaboration.

The communities of Bullet Tree Falls, Melchor de Mencos, Santa Rosa and Santa Teresa La Zarca are involved through their respective members and visionaries who now demand respect for their participation in the process and recognition of their rights to access the natural resources. This time, however, it is from the perspective of productive conservation through the gradual but permanent assumption of responsibilities and commitments.

Some government agencies of both countries have become much involved in supporting the process. They have no doubt discovered its potential and comparative value.

The NGO sector has been involved from the initial stages and continues to strengthen the leadership of community-based organizations. We wish to recognize our counterpart, Canan K'aax, for their support of AdEP Guatemala and for their collaboration, commitment, and interest in this process. At the same time, universities have played a vital role by presenting to the world the historical and scientific value of the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve, and supporting the community process.

The successes achieved to date are owed to the genuine collaboration and support of individuals and institutions such as PROARCA/CAPAS for placing trust in the El Pilar initiative and investing in its development. Without their support, the way forward would have been more difficult and time consuming. Within PROARCA/CAPAS we owe our debt of gratitude to Teresa Robles, Hilda Rivera, and the efficient CAPAS team whose strong support was felt throughout this project.

We recognize the collaboration of Mr. George Thompson (Archaeological Commissioner, Belize), Mr. Oswaldo Sabido (Chief Forest Officer, Belize), and Mr. Anselmo Castaneda (Belize Country Coordinator for the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor) for the valuable time they contributed to accompany us through this slow and tedious process. Their support gives us the energy to continue forward.

To Licenciada Julia Flores Ortiz, Regional Director of INGUAT in Guatemala – a new friend of El Pilar who lends enthusiasm and imagination -- we say thanks for her assistance and support and for showing keen interest in this initiative.

In Guatemala, we acknowledge the support provided by CONAP, IDAEH, and Ing. Horacio Valle Delgado of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. Their support is indispensable to the success of this initiative.

With much appreciation, we recognize the overwhelming support received from the BRASS/El Pilar team representing the University of California in Santa Barbara. In particular, we salute Dr. Anabel Ford, winner of the prestigious Rolex Award 2000, for her positive outlook, energy, and perseverance.

## II. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The El Pilar Archaeological Site for Maya Flora and Fauna stands as a beacon of hope and survival for communities living near the reserve. Over the years, much has been said and done in terms of protection and enhancement of the cultural and natural resources at the site. The time is upon the communities to draw lessons of survival from their ancestors. We are now at the threshold of addressing how to create innovative livelihood opportunities for the people of today's Maya Forest.

Over the last three years, Help for Progress has had the privilege of providing consistent support to these communities through Amigos de El Pilar (AdEP). PROARCA/CAPAS has been firmly assisting our efforts since 2000. The process is now at a critical juncture. The goal of this project, with grant funds from PROARCA/CAPAS, was to establish a Consultative Council for El Pilar (CoCEP). Activities focused on the El Pilar institutional framework and strategies in the Resolución Mansión Pájaro Serpiente of the III Mesa Redonda El Pilar. These strategies included team building, strengthening the AdEPs in Belize and Guatemala, and promoting El Pilar as a tourism destination.

Since the "Mesa Redonda" process (Mexico 1997, Belize 1999, and Guatemala 2000), great strides have been made on the integrated research, development, and management design in the *Vision Futura El Pilar* (1998). With the management plans for El Pilar endorsed in both Belize and Guatemala, a unified plan for one El Pilar was the next critical step. As mandated by the III Mesa Redonda El Pilar, the goal is strategic management for one unified El Pilar across the two countries.

One of the bedrocks of this process is the critical issue of community capacity building. This grant by PROARCA/CAPAS, therefore, aimed to strengthen and organize Amigos de El Pilar for the eventual co-management of the area.

As an example, Amigos de El Pilar Lakin and Chikin worked arduously to plan and implement Fiesta El Pilar 2001 with the theme: *ROAD TO THE MAYA FOREST & ITS PEOPLE!* This one-day event held in April had as its objective to promote the culture and traditions of the Maya people and El Pilar as a tourist destination. It is noteworthy to mention that the Fiesta captured the attention of 2000 visitors. Of special note, for the first time the fiesta was truly co-sponsored by AdEPs from both Belize and Guatemala. The latter was very prominent in the cultural aspects of the event.

With the recent formal constitution of CoCEP, it is clear that the El Pilar team can now visualize co-management as an achievable goal. Amigos de El Pilar worked hard to recruit more members, carry out needs assessments, attend training sessions, and

participate in fifteen work sessions. Furthermore, new officers took positions in the executive committees of both AdEPs, bringing new leadership to the associations.

Partly because of the assistance from PROARCA/CAPAS, El Pilar is attracting the interest of new partners such as the British High Commissioner, Raleigh International, Canada Fund, PACT, Ford Foundation, Friends for Conservation and Development, Peace Corp Belize, the Belize Jesuit Volunteer Corp, and the newly formed Consultative Council comprised of several organizations. Secondly, PROARCA/CAPAS was instrumental in linking Help for Progress in Belize with Canan K'aax in Guatemala to provide parallel support for the AdEPs of the two countries.

### **III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

With the grant from PROARCA/CAPAS, this project had as its general objective:

*To formally establish the necessary organizational structure for the sustainable management of El Pilar as a model for conservation of nature and culture, in which the participation of civil society and the Belize and Guatemalan governments become committed to work jointly through a Consultative Council that supports the implementation of the El Pilar Strategic Plan.*

The specific objectives were to:

1. Initiate and formalize the Consultative Council for El Pilar (CoCEP) as stipulated by the III Mesa Redonda and the Strategic Plan El Pilar.
2. Initiate a protection programme for the protected area to support the implementation of the Master and Management Plans for El Pilar.
3. Set up effective systems for the management and administration of resources at El Pilar in Belize and Guatemala.
4. Initiate activities to formally establish El Pilar as a tourist destination in both countries.
5. Develop co-management capabilities of community-based organizations (AdEP's) in conformity with the Master and Management Plans.
6. Establish regulations and policies for the use of the El Pilar site.
7. Increase capacity of community-based organizations to deliver basic tourism services.

## **IV. PROJECT RESULTS**

Below we report accomplishments in relation to each of these seven objectives.

### **1. Initiate and formalize the Consultative Council for El Pilar (CoCEP)**

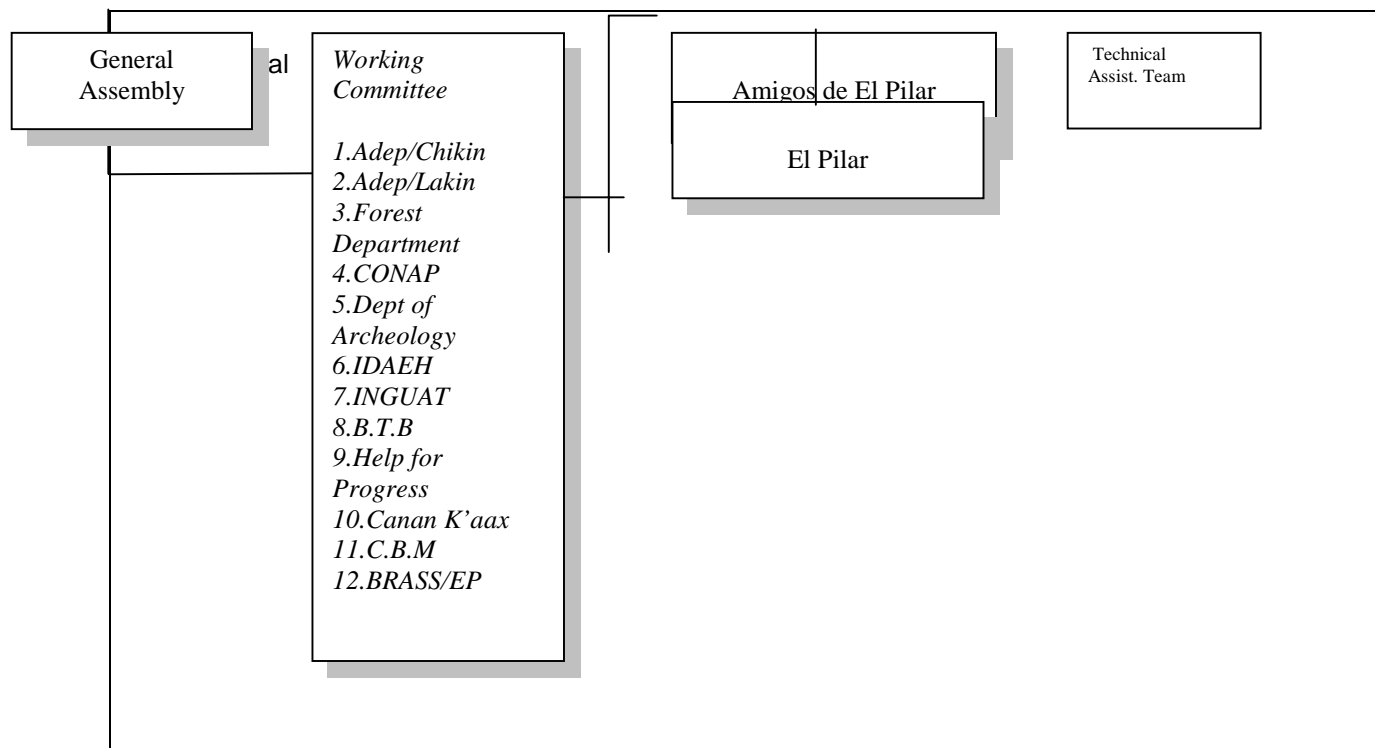
The Resolution of the Mansion del Pajaro Serpiente that emanated from the III Mesa Redonda mandated the formation of a Consultative Council (CoCEP), see Appendix I.

On 24 April 2001, a meeting was held in Yaxha, Peten to plan the CoCEP. This was attended by government and non-government organizations from Belize and Guatemala, including AdEP. This resulted in the creation of a Steering Committee (Comite Operativo El Pilar) for follow-up. The Steering Committee met 15 May at Plaza Duende, El Pilar, with government officials to discuss a Letter of Intent and a list of organizations to form the CoCEP.

On 14 June, the first CoCEP Assembly was held at the San Ignacio Resort Hotel. Presentations addressed: (i) the evolution of CoCEP, by Help for Progress; (ii) archaeological commitments at El Pilar, by the Department of Archaeology; (iii) the History of El Pilar, by BRASS/El Pilar; (iv) the development of the Master, Management and Startegic Plans for El Pilar, by Canan K'aax; (v) El Pilar and the regional vision, by the Belizean Country Coordinator of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor; and (vi) community participation, by Help for Progress (see Appendix II).

On 22 July, at the Mansion del Pajaro Serpiente in El Remate, Peten, a Letter of Intent was signed by the following organizations: AdEPs, Canan K'aax, INGUAT, IDAEH, Help for Progress, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, and the Belize Forest Department (Appendix III). At this meeting an organizational structure was designed for CoCEP. It has an Executive Committee and a Technical Assistance Team. The AdEP took the opportunity to petition for support and institutional strengthening through the CoCEP.





## 2. Initiate a protection programme

The management activities supported by PROARCA/CAPAS and other partners of this initiative began to show results before the end of this project. Among the protection activities that were initiated during this period were:

1. At the request of CoCEP, BRASS/El Pilar initiated the clearance and cleaning of the boundary lines around El Pilar, and also designed a transect to monitor wildlife. In both activities, the field workers are members of AdEPs Lakin and Chikin.
2. Regarding capacity building, a request was made to INGUAT and INTECAP to provide specialized training to members of the AdEPs. Secondly, Canan K'aax provided sixteen hours of training in management of protected areas to the AdEPs.
3. AdEP/Guatemala initiated actions with CONAP and the Municipality of Melchor de Mencos to relocate two families squatting in the El Pilar Reserve. The municipality is being requested to identify lands to resettle these two families. As a result, CONAP conducted two visits to the site to confirm the AdEP report.
4. AdEP/Guatemala, through the Municipality of Melchor de Mencos, has acquired a parcel of land in the vicinity of the Immigration Office, adjacent to the Mopan River, to establish a booth for tourist information and arts and crafts.

5. The AdEPs of Belize and Guatemala made a formal commitment to work together for the protection and co-management of El Pilar by signing the Declaration El Pilar International Community Cooperation. This occurred at a special conference sponsored by PROARCA/CAPAS in San Ignacio, 30 March 2001 (Appendix IV).

### **3. Set up effective systems for the management and administration of resources**

A draft document proposes CoCEP regulations on the role, membership, responsibilities, and protocol of this body. This proposal should be signed before year-end (Appendix V).

A top-level meeting was held to inform Belizean government representatives of the El Pilar Programme, and to solicit their support. Participants were the Prime Minister of Belize (Hon. Said Musa), the Minister of Tourism & Archaeology (Hon. Mark Espat), the Archaeological Commissioner (Mr. George Thompson), Help for Progress, BRASS/El Pilar, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, and the Resident Tutor of the University of the West Indies. The results were as follows:

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs agreed to assign a top-level official to participate in the CoCEP.
2. The Government Press Office will provide free access to its webpage to disseminate information on El Pilar.
3. The Prime Minister requested that we keep him abreast of major developments at El Pilar.

### **4. Initiate activities to formally establish El Pilar as a tourism destination**

The annual Fiesta El Pilar, co-sponsored by the AdEPs, is an effective tool to promote the site as a tourist destination. However, the future of El Pilar for tourism depends on infrastructure and legal agreements.

1. AdEP/Guatemala has begun meeting with the proper authorities to improve the access road to El Pilar, and has requested INGUAT to consider El Pilar in its work plan for the year 2002.
2. At the second CoCEP meeting in El Remate, Peten, both AdEPs presented a petition to their respective governments to make suitable Immigration/Custom arrangements to allow access to tourists visiting both sides of El Pilar without the need to travel to Melchor de Mencos for a visa permit (Appendix VI).

### **5. Develop co-management capabilities of the AdEPs**

A strong component of the grant by PROARCA/CAPAS was the capacity building by Canan K'aax for the communities through the Amigos de El Pilar. The training followed

an initial assessment to identify the level of preparation of the AdEP members. The assessment included: family income, source of income, information about El Pilar, expectations about El Pilar, personal training needs to manage El Pilar, types of support expected from AdEP, capacity building needs for co-management of El Pilar, and prioritization of urgent issues affecting El Pilar.

The results of this assessment determined the content and depth for the modules, and the teaching materials to be used. Three training modules were developed: organization and process, resource administration, and management of protected areas. After the training cycle was completed, a final evaluation indicated the level of learning obtained and determined future training needs.

## **6. Establish regulations and policies for use of El Pilar**

A process was initiated to formulate a draft set of rules and regulations for the use of the El Pilar site. This component will be completed with the support of the Ford Foundation. It will include a series of workshops using the Management, Master, and Strategic Plans as resource materials. The regulations and policies will specify things that can and cannot be done in the site, as well as the areas that are accessible for public use.

## **7. Increase the capacity of the AdEPs to deliver basic tourism services**

The grant to Help for Progress project gave Fiesta El Pilar 2001 a new boost and more visibility. This activity is a principal marketing tool for the site. The event this year was principally sponsored by the AdEPs of Belize and Guatemala, with support by the Belize Tourism Board, INGUAT (Guatemala tourism board), and PACT (Protected Areas Conservation Trust, of Belize). One of the positive results was the record of 2,000 visitors from Belize, Guatemala, and other countries who attended the Fiesta.

With the support of Lic. Julia Flores of INGUAT and Ramon Pinelo of INTECAP, work has begun to prepare a training programme in tour guiding for AdEP members.

## **V. CONCLUSIONS, CONSTRAINTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The process to establish the CoCEP has served well in broadening the networking base for all key players at El Pilar. It has been an opportunity for confidence building among communities, NGOs, and government institutions in Belize and Guatemala. As a regional management model of shared natural resources, the El Pilar Archaeological strategy is no doubt a feasible plan in the minds of government planners in both Belize and Guatemala.

Communities are now taking increased responsibility and leadership at El Pilar. However, they require technical guidance on issues related to management of protected areas. Also, the AdEPs need resources for entrepreneurial activities. This need is particularly evident in the case of AdEP/Guatemala, who are yet to implement any income-generating activity. In the case of AdEP/Belize, the benefits are limited to women. The initial establishment of family enterprises geared to tourism services in Bullet Tree Falls is encouraging.

The grant from PROARCA/CAPAS met important needs. However, we confronted certain constraints during the execution of this project, as follows:

1. There was a setback in the preparation and approval of our grant proposal, which resulted in funds arriving later than expected.
2. The territorial dispute between both countries obliged all players to be cautious, which no doubt slowed our work.
3. The recent wave of violence that hit Peten was irresponsibly magnified by the press, and that generated fear in some officials to participate in events programmed for Guatemala.
4. Some public officers showed the traditional mistrust to take innovative initiatives that combine programs among different agencies.

Regarding future priorities, we recommend a second phase of institutional strengthening to address the following areas:

1. Project identification and project proposal writing (30 hours)
2. Report writing, requests, and administration of projects. (15 hours)
3. History of El Pilar and Mesoamerica (20 hours)
4. Management of protected areas (30 hours)
5. Study workshops of the Master and Management Plans (4 days)

6. Formation of park rangers and tour guides
7. Financial administration and book-keeping (20 hours)
8. Team-building activities (10 hours)
9. Human relations (10 hours)
10. Executive meetings and communications (10 hours)
11. Basic ecology, botany and biology (4 days field work visiting the whole site)
12. Identification, design and implementation of small tourism enterprises (5 days)
13. Agro-forestry techniques (4 days)
14. Management and basic concepts of archaeology and restoration (20 hours)
15. Rural participation surveys (5 days in communities)
16. Marketing, promotion and business publicity

## **APPENDIX I**

# **HELP FOR PROGRESS MEETING TO ESTABLISH CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL EL PILAR**

## **EVOLUTION OF THE EL PILAR MODEL & THE CREATION OF CoCEP**

Elias A. Awe

Ladies & gentlemen, it is with much pleasure that we welcome you to this the first meeting of what we trust will be a vibrant Consultative Council for El Pilar which we refer to as CoCEP.

We express our appreciation and recognize the sponsors of this event - the Central American Regional Environmental Programme (PROARCA) and the Central American Protected Areas System (CAPAS) or PROARCA/CAPAS a USAID financed programme based in Guatemala City.

In this brief presentation, I will be speaking of the evolution of the El Pilar Model and how we arrived at the creation of CoCEP.

It is recalled that since 1997, this process has held three Mesa Redonda (Round Table Conference) in Mexico, Belize and Guatemala, respectively addressing issues related to the management, protection and enhancement of El Pilar. At these three meetings we had the participation of community through the association of Amigos de El Pilar, NGO partners, government and the international research team – the Belize River Archaeological Settlement Survey referred to as BRASS/El Pilar and legal professionals from Belize and Guatemala. As you are no doubt aware, the El Pilar Archaeological Site is a contiguous park shared between Belize and Guatemala and at the III Mesa Redonda held at El Remate, Guatemala in June 2000, an instrument creating a Consultative Council was drafted and negotiated. That instrument is referred to as the “Resolution of the Mansion Pájaro Serpiente” The intention is for the Consultative Council to serve as a Technical Advisory Body to provide direction to the management entities in both countries sharing El Pilar, on matters dealing with proper monitoring, protection, evaluation, harmonization of standards, i.e. within the legal and policy framework of each country, representation before regional and international organizations, and in securing logistical and financial resources for the site. In other words, we foresee CoCEP as a support arm in the planning process and a proactive voice and ally in the development of El Pilar.

At the III Mesa Redonda, participants named themselves as the ad hoc Consultative Council for El Pilar, as set forth in the instrument creating the Consultative Council, for purposes of advancing the goals and objectives of the III Mesa Redonda. This ad hoc

group remains effective until such time as the Consultative Council is formally convened in accordance with the instrument creating said body.

It was agreed that CoCEP would be comprised of a bi-national advisory team involved in and responsible for the areas of community development, research, archaeology, tourism, natural resource management and other related areas.

Throughout the three Mesa Redonda's, the collective vision was to establish mechanisms for the management of one El Pilar to be developed as a single unit. It is for this reason that we refer to El Pilar Lakin and Chikin which in Maya are the cardinal points for East and West, respectively.

The communities targeted to assist in the co-management of El Pilar are those adjacent to the reserve, namely: BELIZE: Santa Familia, Bullet Tree Falls, Calla Creek and San Ignacio. In Guatemala: Santa Rosa Las Zarcas, Suchitán and Melchor de Mencos. Currently, there are two Associations called Amigos de El Pilar in Belize and Guatemala who are beneficiaries of training programmes in areas of community advocacy, micro-enterprise management, leadership skills and protected areas management. Funding agents that have assisted in supporting these activities are: Canada Fund, PROARCA/CAPAS (USAID Guatemala), the Protected Areas Conservation Trust PACT, and the Ford Foundation.

During the year 2000, members of Amigos de El Pilar, the NGO community, Archaeology Department, Forestry Department and BRASS/El Pilar met on three occasions with their counterparts from Guatemala at Jaguar Creek Resort to develop a Strategic Plan using the Belize Management Plan and the Guatemala Plan Maestro for El Pilar as a guide to adopt joint activities for implementation over a three year period. Participants at the III Mesa Redonda reviewed and refined the document entitled the Process of Strategic Planning for El Pilar. This document is designed to serve as the basis for joint activities executed by the administrative authorities in support of the approved management plans in each county for a period of three years. The Plan addresses issues in participatory planning, co-management at the regional level, delegation of co-management to community participants and the integration of long-term planning and CoCEP concerns. Some activities are now being implemented by Amigos de El Pilar Belize and Guatemala, for example the Fiesta El Pilar which has as its objective to promote the culture and traditions of the Maya People and the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve as a tourist destination. As we speak, training activities for Amigos de El Pilar from both countries are currently underway.

It is important to say that since 1994, historic steps have been taken supported by local, regional, and international donors and participants, these are:

- 1) The first regional meeting of CCAD in 1994.
- 2) The first Mesa Redonda held in Mexico City in 1997 which developed the El Pilar Vision. (Ford Foundation).
- 3) The II Mesa Redonda in 1998 held in Placencia, Belize that set a framework for the Management Plan (CAPAS and Ford Foundation).

- 4) Important Mobile Workshops held in 1999 with Amigos de El Pilar examining culture and nature at several archaeological sites in Belize and Guatemala. (Canada Fund).
- 5) The III Mesa Redonda held in El Remate, Guatemala to devise the Consultative Council and delegation agreements. (PROARCA/CAPAS).

As mentioned earlier, a model Strategic Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been adopted which seeks collaboration with Government and Non Government Organizations operating with national management processes and designed to promote the El Pilar Model.

It is envisaged that CoCEP members will meet as necessary to assess progress for El Pilar plans which will address issues of community, management, tourism and research.

Besides, a steering committee called CEP or Comité Operativo will meet at least four times per year and will focus on activities in the management and strategic plans and in promoting community participation in the process.

As to the way forward, we will continue to strengthen collaborative efforts between the AdEPs through capacity building and the establishment of a model forest garden concept to address livelihood opportunities.

We see it as imperative to

- 1) build a Financial Plan to support community and eco-archaeological tourism;
- 2) develop a promotional strategy for integrated cultural and natural conservation designs; and
- 3) Promote educational designs for wider participation at El Pilar and in the Maya Forest.

And finally, it is necessary to build a consensus document to guide the Consultative Council as we see the role of CoCEP within a regional framework charged to promote the model at El Pilar and beyond. We cannot over emphasize that the full participation of the Consultative Council is crucial to institutionalize the El Pilar Model.

Once again, I welcome you on behalf of the El Pilar Team and we look forward to a fruitful meeting today.



## APPENDIX II

### **Carta de Intención Para el Establecimiento del Consejo Consultivo El Pilar Letter of Intent Establishing the Consultative Council El Pilar**

**Considerando:**

Que el Pilar es un sitio del Maya Ancestral que representa un recurso cultural y natural compartido entre dos naciones contemporáneas,

**Considering:**

That the ancient Maya Center of El Pilar represents a single cultural and natural resource shared by two modern nations,

**Considerando:**

Que las comunidades que rodean a El Pilar, son los custodios de este recurso cultural y natural y desean preservarlo y a la vez disfrutar de un desarrollo económico sostenible,

**Considering:**

That the communities around El Pilar are custodians of this natural and cultural resource and wish to preserve El Pilar and its rich cultural heritage while enjoying sustainable economic development,

**Acuerdan/It is therefore agreed:**

**Artículo 1. Objeto.** Establecer el Consejo Consultivo El Pilar con el objeto de apoyar la administración desde Belice y Guatemala con el desarrollo de un plan estratégico, establecer mecanismos para la resolución de diferencias, dar ejemplos estandarizados armonizados, realizar estudios compartidos.

**Article 1. Objective.** To establish the Consultative Council El Pilar in order to assist the administrators from Belize and Guatemala with the development and implementation of the strategic plan for El Pilar, develop mechanisms for the resolution of differences, provide examples of harmonized standards and carry out joint studies.

**Artículo 2. Atribuciones.** El Consejo Consultivo El Pilar tendrá las siguientes atribuciones:

**Article 2. Duties.** The Consultative Council El Pilar will have the following duties:

1. Contribuir y asesorar sobre los planes estratégicos de El Pilar.
1. Contribute to and provide advice concerning the strategic plans for El Pilar.
2. Coordinar y velar por la implementación de un sistema conjunto de monitoreo y evaluación.

2. Coordinate and support the implementaion of a joint system of monitoring and evalulation.
3. Apoyar la estandarización, dentro del marco legal e institucional de cada país, de las investigaciones, el monitoreo y la administración en El Pilar.
- 3 In accordance with the legal and institutional framework of each country, support the standardization of research, monitoring and administration in El Pilar.
4. Promover proyectos de desarrollo sostenible conjuntos.
- 4 Promote projects of joint sustainable development projects.
5. Búsqueda de recursos financieros y logísticos para proyectos conjuntos.
5. Look for financial and logistical resources for joint projects.
6. Apoyar la resolución de diferencias técnico-administrativas en El Pilar.
6. Support the resolution of technical/administrative differences in El Pilar.
7. Promover la capacitación de técnicos y comunitarios.
7. Promote training for technicians and representatives from the community.
8. Convocar a una Mesa Redonda cada dos años.
8. Convene a mesa redonda every two years.
9. Participar en eventos afines a las atribuciones de este Consejo.
9. Participate in events in support of the duties of this Council.

**Artículo 3. Integración del Consejo Consultivo.** Se invita a las siguientes instituciones a integrar el Consejo Consultivo El Pilar, debiendo designar un representante.

**Article 3. Composition of the Consultative Council.** The following institutions are invited to become members of the Consultative Council El Pilar through the designation of a representative:

Por Guatemala/ By Guatemala:

1. Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas, CONAP
2. Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala, IDAEH
3. Organización No Gubernamental (coadministrador del area protegida).
4. Municipalidad de Melchor de Mencos
5. Asociación de Amigos de El Pilar ~ Chikin, Guatemala

**Por Belice/ By Belize:**

1. Departament of Archaeology
2. Departament of Forestry
3. Non Governmental Organization (Co-administrator of the Protected Area).
4. Representateive of Bullet Tree Falls Village/Town Board Cayo
5. Amigos de El Pilar ~ Lakin, Belize

Asi también se podrá invitar a la Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo, CCAD.

The Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD) is invited to participate in the meetings and activities of the Council.

**Artículo 4. Presidente y Secretario.** Al tener su primera reunión el Consejo Consultivo El Pilar elegirá entre sus miembros un presidente y un secretario, quienes desempeñarán sus cargos ad-honorem y por un período de dos años, pudiendo ser reelectos.

**Article 4. President and Secretary.** Upon convening its first reunion the Consultative Council for El Pilar will elect among its members a president and a secretary who will serve without remuneration for a period of two years, and who can be reelected.

**Artículo 5. Reuniones.** El Consejo Consultivo se reunirá por lo menos una vez cada semestre, alternando en cada país. Sus decisiones serán tomadas por concenso y se considera que habrá quorum con la presencia de la mitad más uno de sus miembros.

**Article 5. Meetings.** The Consultative Council will meet at least once every six months, alternating the venue each year. The Council's decisions will be taken by consensus and a quorum will be considered present upon the attendance of half of the members of the Council plus one.

**Artículo 6. Asesores.** El Consejo Consultivo El Pilar, cuando lo considere conveniente, podrá hacerse asesorar de consultores y especialistas según la materia requerida.

**Article 6. Advisors.** The Consultative Council for El Pilar, when it considers it to be necessary, can retain advisors, consultants and specialists in accordance with the expertise it may require.

**Artículo 7. Transitorio.** Cuando ambos países nombren a sus administradores para cada sector, éstos pasarán a integrar el Consejo Consultivo El Pilar.

**Article 7. Procedure for Establishing the Consultative Council.** *When both countries have named administrators for each sector, these entities will establish the Consultative Council.*

Firmamos el presente documento, en dos originales de igual tenor y validez, redactados en inglés y español, en El Remate, Peten, Guatemala el día \_\_\_\_\_ del mes de \_\_\_\_\_ del año 2001.

Signed in two equally identical originals written in English and Spanish at El Remate, Peten Guatemala this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2001.