

**Strengthening Governance in Guatemala through Public Participation:  
the Maya Biosphere Reserve Multi-Sector Roundtable**

*Success stories on the ground from the  
Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas Initiative*

Inter-American Development Bank  
Room Andres Bello 1  
September 27, 2013

**Dear Colleague:**

The Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) is Guatemala's largest protected area, and is part of the largest block of intact habitat north of the Amazon Basin. This wilderness area is home to numerous endangered species and thousands of ancient Maya archaeological sites. The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of State, and the Inter-American Development Bank are working closely with the Government of Guatemala, civil society organizations, and the private sector to protect the MBR, including from the negative impacts of trafficking activities.

Please join us at **1:00 pm on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** to hear first-hand the experiences from key participants of the Maya Biosphere Reserve Multi-Sector Roundtable and those engaged in broader conservation efforts of this protected area.

RSVP by Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> to [MartirTorresMC@state.gov](mailto:MartirTorresMC@state.gov).

**Preliminary Program**

- 12:45 p.m. Registration
- 01:00 p.m. Welcome Remarks
- Dan Reifsnnyder, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (TBC)
  - Lori Faeth, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
- 01:15 p.m. The Maya Biosphere Multi-Sector Roundtable
- Cynthia Perera, Deputy Director, US DOI-ITAP
  - Benedicto Lucas, Executive Secretary, Guatemala's National Park Service
  - Roan McNab, Director, WCS in Guatemala
  - Bayron Castellanos, Executive Director, Asociacion Balam
  - Rafael Manzanero, Executive Director, FCD in Belize
  - Claudia Rosales, Executive Director, Foundation for Cultural and Natural Maya Patrimony
- 02:00 p.m. Multilateral Efforts to Protect the Maya Biosphere Reserve
- Teresa Robles, USAID/Guatemala
- 02:10 p.m. Open Discussion