



PR#445

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Field Visit to Flood Prone Areas in San Ignacio and Santa Elena Towns to Request Funding from the GCF**

*Belmopan. September 3, 2021. 5:00 p.m.*

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, as the National Designated Authority to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Taiwan's International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF), Galen University and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC) participated in a field trip organized by the San Ignacio/Santa Elena (SISE) Town Council to flood prone sites in the Twin Towns on September 2, 2021.

The field visit was part of the due diligence process for the SISE Town Council's application through the CCCCC as the accredited entity to the GCF for a US\$10 million-dollar grant for flood mitigation in the towns. The grant will cover infrastructure improvements of drains and culverts to climate-resilient levels, a disaster risk management community education campaign, and a review of necessary relevant policy and planning corollary actions to protect the Macal River. The CCCCC will submit a Project Preparation Facility Request to the GCF at the end of September 2021 to complete the designs for the infrastructure improvement, the disaster risk management education campaign, and the necessary policy revisions.

It is the vision of Dr. Osmond Martinez, CEO and the National Designated Authority (NDA) in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, along with PACT as the accredited entity, to submit a similar proposal to address issues at the New River in Orange Walk Town.

Present on the field trip were Leroy Martinez, Ministry of Economic Development; Vanessa Figueroa, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management; Ryan Zuniga and Ian Morrison, CCCCC; Jason Duan, Taiwan ICDF; and Dr. Sherry Gibbs, Galen University. The SISE Town Council was represented by Mayor Earl Trapp, Deputy Mayor Matthew Preston, councilors Aaron Mai, Shirlene Neal, Bernadette Figueroa, and Omar Rodriguez, and Town Administrator Geraldo Flowers.

#### **Ends**

For more information, please contact:

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## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

About Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment: The Ministry of Finance Economic Development and Investment (MFEDI) in Belize formulates and recommends national development policies, strategies and programmes to promote macroeconomic stability, sustainable socioeconomic development and the reduction of poverty. In June 2015, it was appointed, through a Cabinet decision, as Belize's Nationally Designated Authority (NDA) to the GCF.

About the Green Climate Fund: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a global fund created to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF helps developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. It seeks to promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development, taking into account the needs of nations that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. It was set up by the 194 countries who are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010, as part of the Convention's financial mechanism. It aims to deliver equal amounts of funding to mitigation and adaptation, while being guided by the Convention's principles and provisions. To date, the GCF has raised USD10.3 billion in pledges from 48 countries/regions/cities, including 9 representing developing countries.