

Development (1 of 2)
became a reality on the 8th of December. On this day a section was opened at the library in Santa Elena with books about wild animals, forests, land and water. Miss Juliette Vera who recorded and fixed all the books with the help of Mrs Patricia Flores and the Librarian said that this environmental corner would help students and teachers to learn more about the beautiful wonders found in Belize.

The signing of the agreement between *Friends for Conservation and Development* and

Fisheries and Cooperatives, Honourable Daniel Silva. In the

be handled with proper care. Also it was agreed that the 200

Rafael Manzanero, President of go to pg. 3

THE BELIZE ZOO THREATENS TO CLOSE

For many schoolchildren and adults alike who have visited The Belize Zoo, they will agree that this is one of the most educational places in Belize, but this may soon disappear. The reason why Tony Garel, Manager of the Tropical Education Center believes that the zoo may close its door under the care of Sharon Matola is because of

GARBAGE. This may seem strange but the Government of Belize has been studying areas in the country for garbage landfills for more than two years and one of the ar-



Zoo resident

the zoo.

Landfills are areas where garbage is collected and settled properly in a fashion which is safe for human health. It also tries to prevent any further pollution on the natural environment. Everyone

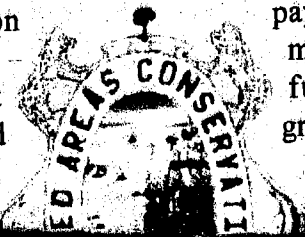
reas recommended for the landfill is just about 1 mile from

agrees that garbage is a problem go to pg. 3

P.A.C.T FOUNDATION IS STARTED

On the 15th of December the Protected Areas Conservation Trust announced the beginning of their Foundation. By creating this Foundation the Protected Areas Conservation Trust hopes to search and obtain funds from other countries in

mals. PACT presently obtains most of its funds from tourists leaving the country. Each tourist when departing the country pays to the Government \$7.50. These funds are then granted to conservation groups but after they submit



DON ELIJIO PANTI NATIONAL PARK IS PROPOSED

For some weeks now the people of San Antonio village have been meeting to create a Committee in their community. The purpose of the Committee is to find out ways where possi-

sick by using medicinal plants. He died in 1997. And because of Don Elijio's great work, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Honourable Daniel Silva wishes to sup-

...ment (E) and on
the 4th of December in the
Mountain Pine Ridge.

Fourteen members of FCD traveled early that morning and throughout the day became engaged on various activities that led to the development of FCD's strategic plan. This was important for the group since a new year was about to start and they needed to find out new conservation activities for the following year. By the end of the day many proposed tasks were brought up and accepted. These ideas will be implemented on February 2000 to February 2001. Among the ideas proposed are

MELINDA FOREST STATION HELD FIRST OPEN DAY

On Tuesday, 14th of December the Melinda Forest Station in Stann Creek District held an open day for the general public. The reason for holding the open day was in

training of environmental leaders and members of the group; and helping community members to better protect their environment.

All members present for the strategic planning session felt that the meeting was very successful because by the time the day finished there was a clear understanding of the work ahead. These ideas will now be discussed and several members will be responsible for executing these tasks. The facilitator for this planning meeting was Mrs Virginia Vasquez from the University of the West Indies in Belize City.

dren from Holy Angels School of Pomona and Gales Point Manatee learned the important work of the Forest Department in protecting and caring for the wonderful natural wonders of the Stann Creek District.

Pedro Columbia was opened to the public over ten years ago

Cerros in order to exhibit our country's rich maya culture.

THE BELIZE ZOO THREATENS TO CLOSE

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which needs to be taken care of and the landfill is one of the best options for Belize. But Tony Garel as well as villagers of La Democracia and other nearby community members are concerned.

On one hand, the Chief Environmental Officer, Mr Ismael Fabro has stated that all the necessary studies will be considered before making a decision on the site. Ms Matola and others, however are concerned

that the landfill may still take place nearby the zoo eventhough it may pollute the Sibun River and create a tremendous bad odour at the zoo and nearby villages.

On the last meeting of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee held on December it was noted that all the other possible sites must be investigated before the Government makes a decision on where to put this garbage landfill.

WELCOME TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LIBRARY

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FCD and Mr Wiezsman Pat, Vice President of FCD while Mr Hector Mar, Chairman of the Library Committee and Mrs Norberta Pulido, Assistant Librarian signed for the Library Committee.

Now that the environmental corner is opened, the schoolchildren, college students and teachers are encouraged to visit the San