

Community empowerment project for Belize and Guatemala wraps up



Environmentalists, journalists and diplomats visit Port Honduras Marine Reserve

PORT HONDURAS MARINE RESERVE, Toledo District, Thurs. July 27, 2017 (PGTV)

Environmentalists from Belize and Guatemala visited the Port Honduras Marine Reserve in the Toledo District earlier today, along with 8 Guatemalan journalists, who were accompanied by Belize's Ambassador to Guatemala, H.E. Alexis

Rosado and German Ambassador to Guatemala and Belize, H.E. Harald Klein, as a part of a tour of the area to mark the end of a multi-million-dollar community project financed by the KfW Fund, a German government agency.

Wil Maheia, founder of the Toledo Institute for Development and the Environment (TIDE), accompanied the group to the reserve, which the NGO helps to safeguard.

Also present was Marco Cerezo of FUNDAECO, the Guatemalan counterpart organization which also received funds to promote community empowerment on the



Wil Maheia (l) meets Marco Cerezo

Guatemalan side of the Sarstoon River.

Maheia said that through the initiative, TIDE, which received roughly \$1 million from the German funding agency, assisted the communities of Punta Negra and Monkey River, fishing communities which have traditionally fished in the area. A restaurant was built for Punta Negra while both communities received docking facilities.

The Guatemalan agency also built a restaurant on the Guatemalan side, but also issued the caveat that they should not purchase fish caught using gill nets.

(Story courtesy Wil Maheia and PGTV News.)