

## Creating Opportunities, Conserving Nature

### *Programme for Belize provides educational opportunity to youths*

This Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the Programme for Belize office was full to capacity as the organization celebrated opportunities for youths and the conservation of nature in a short ceremony where Programme for Belize provided high school scholarships to seven students from communities neighboring the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area.

The Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA) was established in 1988 to conserve biodiversity and demonstrate that sustainable development is possible. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has been involved since the creation of the reserve and has continued to support the Programme for Belize in the protection and management of the protected area.

The RBCMA has a high diversity of wildlife, including 320 species of birds. Twenty percent of the birds migrate from the United States to the RBCMA to spend the winter and return to the United States for breeding. Therefore the collaboration between the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Programme for Belize ensures that these migratory bird species are protected in the United States and in their wintering grounds, the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area. It is through this collaboration that Programme for Belize provided high school scholarships, worth BZ\$4,000.00, to seven high school students from communities adjacent to the RBCMA. The scholarship recipients included, Leann Pott of Rancho Dolores, Jayvan Anthony of Lemonal, Aldair Chan, Roany Tuz and Gloria Soliz of August Pine Ridge, Ed Canizalez of San Felipe and Julio Cesar Perez of San Carlos Village.

Programme for Belize is glad to provide this educational opportunity to these youths and hopes that it will open opportunities for future careers that will reduce their dependence on the natural resources and reduce the pressure on the RBCMA.



*Programme for Belize - 2019 Pfb Scholarship Recipients and Staff*