



Ecotourism and Benefits to the Destination

EcoTourism International

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“Ecotourism”



“Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.”

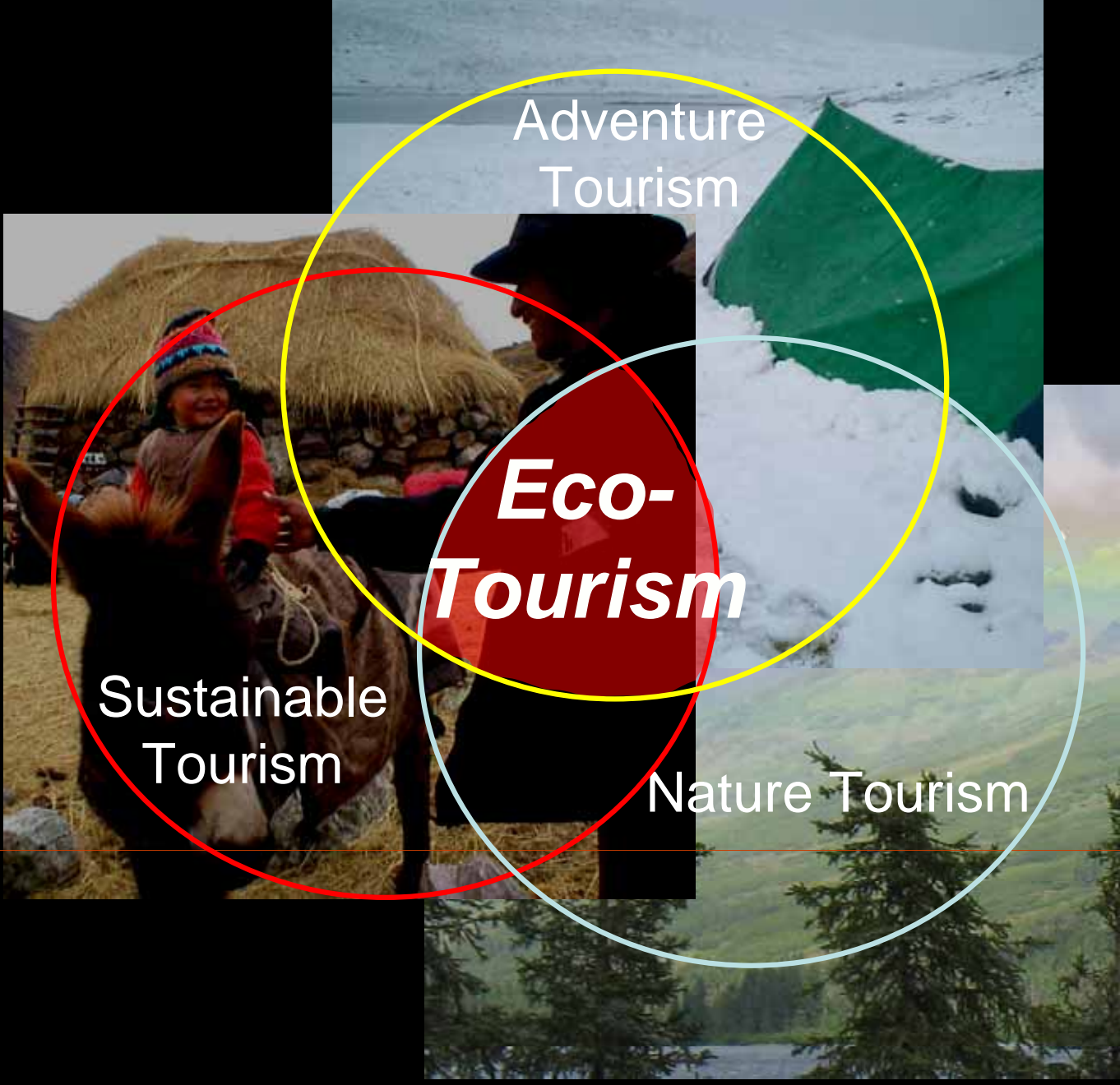
Adventure
Tourism

**Eco-
Tourism**

Sustainable
Tourism

Nature Tourism

Elements



BENEFITS: NATURE CONSERVATION

- Direct Land Acquisition: Private Nature Reserves
- Entrance Fees to National Parks and Preserves
- Research and Education Support
- Incentive for Locals to Protect their Natural Heritage

BENEFITS: ECONOMIC

- Direct Employment
- Human Capital Development (employee training)
- Local Procurement
 - need to minimize “leakage”
 - also minimize adverse environmental impacts
- Technology Transfer

BENEFITS: SOCIO-CULTURAL

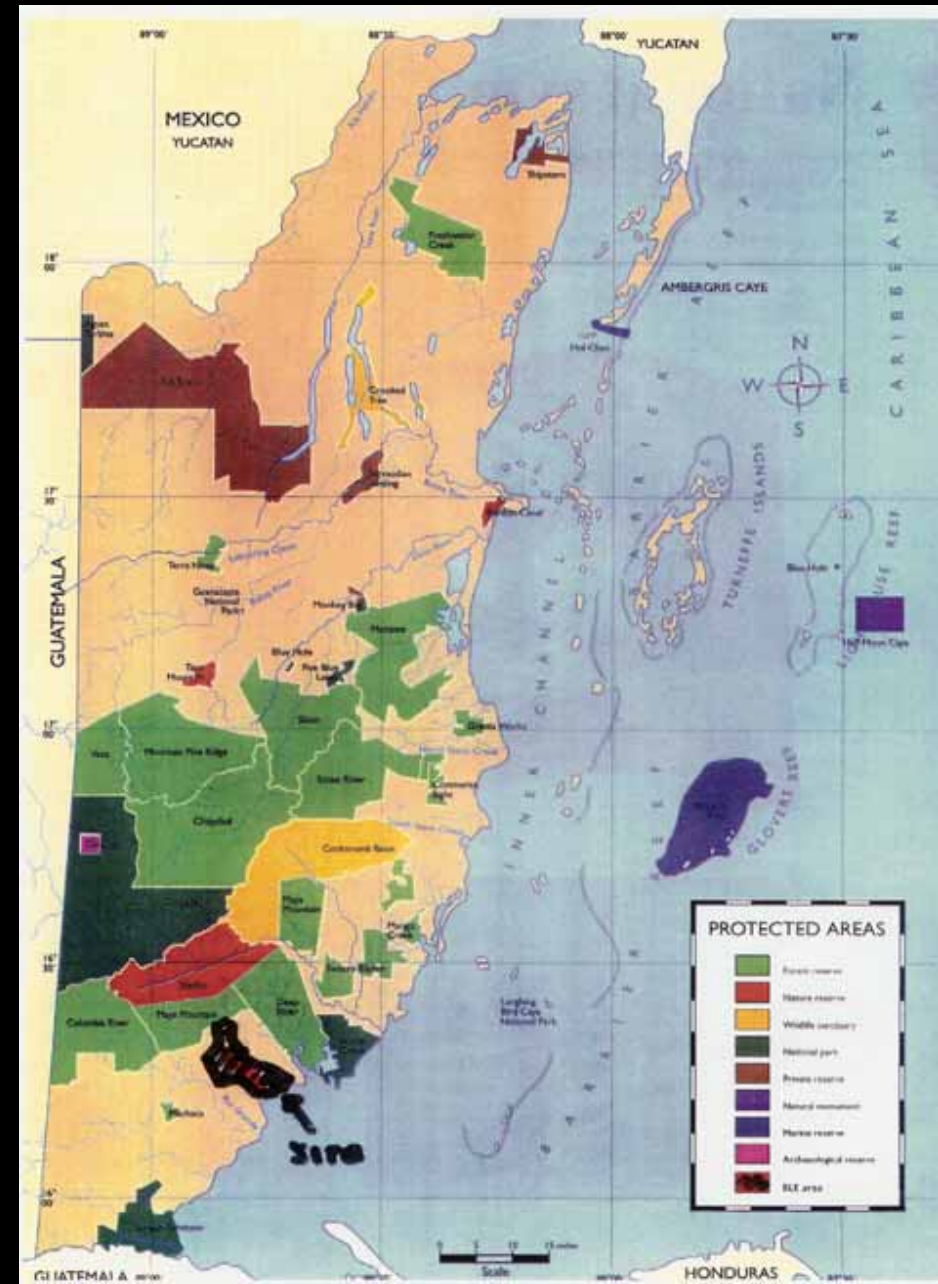
- Cultural Pride
- Historic Preservation
- Service Vacations
- Traveler's Philanthropy

CASE STUDY: BELIZE LODGE AND EXCURSIONS

- Belize Lodge and Excursions (BLE) is a World-Class Conservation Project Supported by Ecotourism
- 3 Inter-connected Lodges Showcase all the Major Natural and Cultural Attractions of the Country
- All Located in a 13,000 acre Private Nature Reserve and adjacent Protected Marine Zone
- Provides multiple conservation and economic benefits

BELIZE

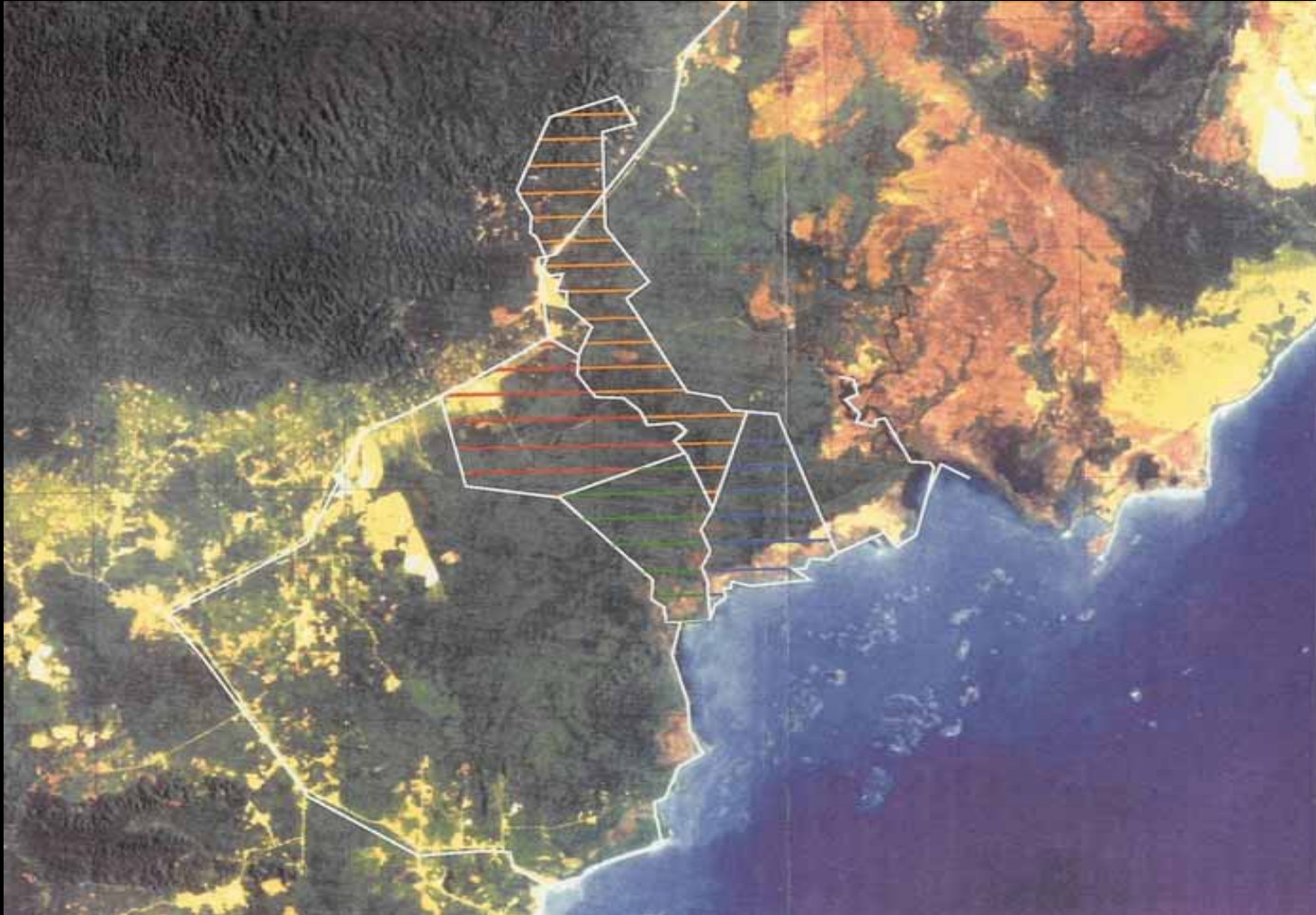
- Size of Massachusetts
- 350,000 people
- 1/3 of Country is protected area
- But gaps in protection



BLE: CONSERVATION BENEFITS

- How To: Build Public Private Partnerships
 - BLE created a 20 square mile private nature reserve
 - Helped develop and fund an adjoining Belizean non-profit land trust (24 square miles)
 - TNC orchestrated a debt for nature swap (10 square miles)
- Protects the last stretch of tropical forest connecting mountains to the coast in Belize

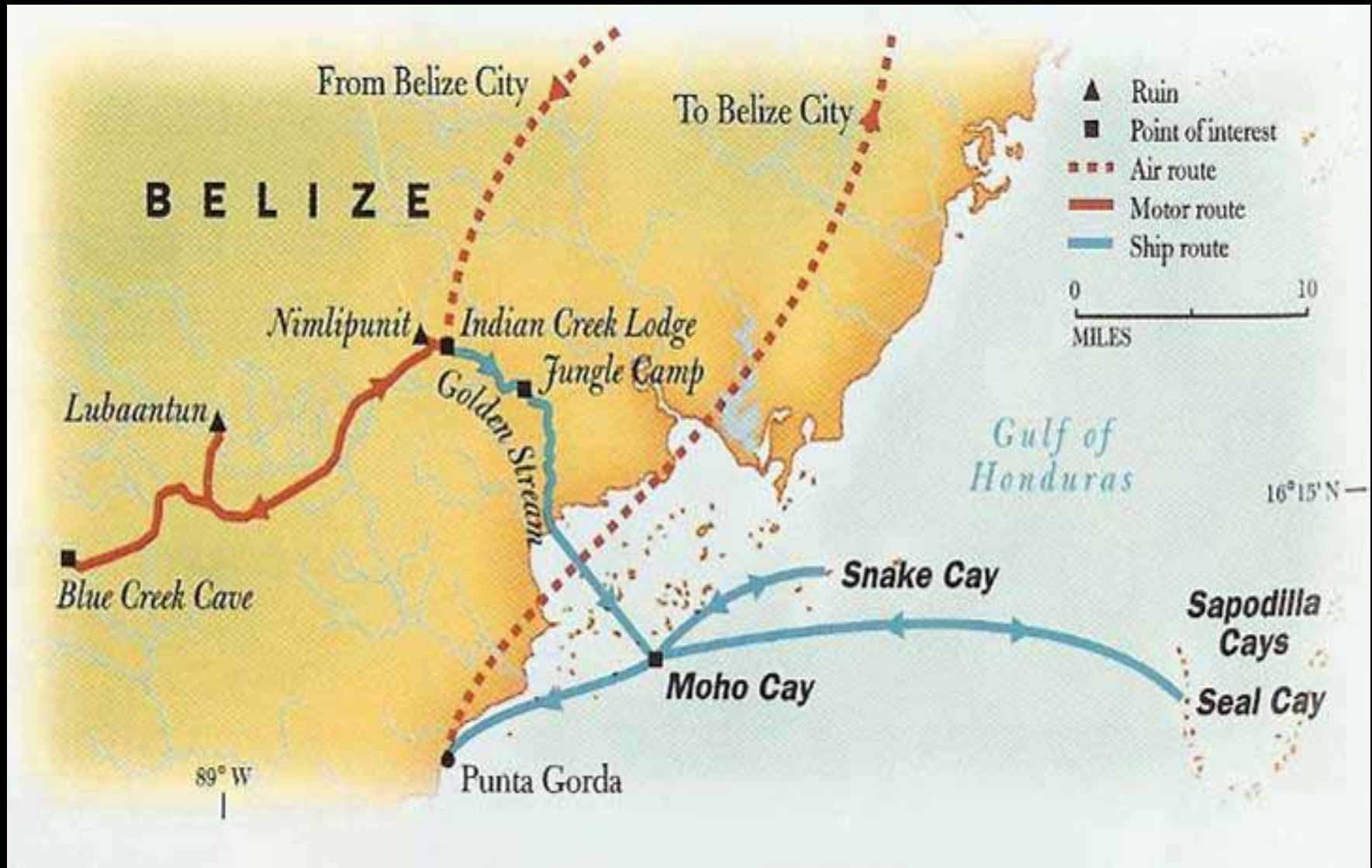
BLE's Conservation Corridor



BLE: SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- How To: Generate Jobs and Local Income
 - BLE largest employer in remote Toledo district (100+ jobs)
 - Sourced most building materials locally
 - Sources most foods locally, but sustainably
- How to: Support Local Community
 - Donated 60 acres to local village to consolidate services
 - Protects local Mayan archeological sites and attractions through entrance fees

BLE's FAMILY OF LODGES



BLE: LESSONS LEARNED

- Conservation Benefits
 - Takes time and patience to build public/private partnerships
 - Conservation NGOs essential to the process
- Socio-Economic Benefits
 - Do not raise unrealistic expectations in local community
 - Sourcing locally requires care to avoid adverse impacts
 - Special challenges in traditional communities