



Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education

PRESS RELEASE

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Sixth Annual Hicatee Awareness Month

The Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE), Turtle Survival Alliance and Hicatee Ambassadors throughout Belize are excited to celebrate the **6th Annual Hicatee Awareness Month**. Hicatee Awareness Month brings attention to the critically endangered Central American River Turtle through outreach messaging and community involvement. By engaging more Belizeans in Hicatee conservation, it is our shared hope that we will have a long-term impact on the status of the species in Belize and throughout its range.

For the sixth consecutive year, BFREE, with support from the Hicatee Awareness Month Planning Committee, has distributed educational resource packets directly to 50 schools and electronically to 542 schools throughout Belize, reaching students in all six districts.

This year, we are asking Belizeans across the country to care not only about the Hicatee but also about the habitat where they live. Healthy rivers and watersheds with forested edges that are free from litter are essential to thriving ecosystems which are home to Hicatee and other native wildlife like fish, river otters, and crocodiles. Clean and healthy rivers benefit all of us.

This October, we encourage you to join us in our conservation efforts and take action in one of the following ways:

- Follow BFREE on social media for updates and news about Hicatee Awareness Month.
- Be a Hicatee Hero: make the Hicatee promise and spread the word.
- Do your part to keep rivers and other waterways healthy for humans and other wildlife.
- Take time to be a part of (or lead!) a river cleanup campaign.
- Post pictures of your conservation activities and share them on social media using #savethehicatee.

To access the educational resources and for more information on how you can take action, please visit www.bfreebz.org/hicatee-resources/
For more info, visit www.bfreebz.org

Save the Hicatee, my sweet Belize!

End of Release