

FOOTPRINTS!

/by Charlene Brown

It wouldn't be wrong to believe Belize was in Central America, because it is backed up against Guatemala and Mexico to the north. But, it would be safer to say you were heading to the Caribbean for a trip down Mayan memory lane.

Facing the Caribbean Sea, and across the stream from Jamaica, Belize boasts the most beautiful barefoot-ing beaches imaginable. Okay, please set down your suitcase and finish the story first, you might need to repack.

Belize is called a rainforest for many reasons, with the most densely forested region in the West Indies. During the rainy season, millions of gallons of torrential sprinkles fill its fresh water aquifers and estuaries to keep its natural habitats flourishing year-round.

But the dampening cold mountain morning dew that keeps vegetation lush and green, begs you to head to the beach in sweatsuits rather than swimsuits.

In terms of real estate, location, location, location! Aside from the largest natural barrier reef on the continent. If mother nature was issuing authority for clean carbon credits, Belize already comes certified.

Striking a balance between attracting more footprints in the sand while maintaining a low carbon footprint, the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) drafted plan to consolidate and constrain development along its barrier reef while expanding development inland.

If realized, the plan would increase hotel room occupancy from 10,000 in 2021 to 14,000 by 2030. Revenues from deep pockets cruising the barrier reef island would increase five-fold to more than \$12 Million in annual hotel room revenues by 2030.

Building those high rise rooms could mean ripping deep down into some of its most pristine paradiscal limestone and coral sedimentations along the north coast, unmolested by human development, until now.



TOKENIZING THE CLEAN CARBON CREDIT CARIBBEAN PARADISE OF BELIZE

The concept of capturing clean carbon credits from undeveloped regions is not new, but it is quite novel for Belize and a new vehicle to drive sustainability regionally..

The Belizean government rightly insists on holding on to ownership of its sovereign lands, rather than sell it off for a lump sum.

Certifying the acreage into clean carbon credits, annualizing that value and tokenizing each credit on the blockchain, then trading those tokens on the carbon credits market is genius.

One low-carbon footprint project, being developed by a friend you met in this edition of TOKENS Magazine, will not only be maintained offgrid, with anaerobic digester septic system, solar, self-filtering rainwater catchment systems, it's off the chain!

Hidden beneath a thick canopy of mahogany and bluish-purple logwood stained soil, is the 88-acre cabana resort outside Belize City. Let's call it The Black Orchid for lack of a better brand.

The Black Orchid project is being completely funded with proceeds from tokens traded on the blockchain.

It is projected that tokens acquired at say a \$100 value yesterday, for example, would garner a valuation of at least \$300, when completed in just a few short years.

The jungle resort is especially suited for medical tourism a high-value tourism model, more like a vaca-lessent resort than a convalescent home.

Besides owning equity tokens at The Black Orchid, occupancy tokens and cash flow tokens are possibly another vehicle being minted on the blockchain.

Tokenizing its barrier reef, its beaches, its mangrove and marine reserves, and its rainforests into clean carbon credits, Belize would earn an untethered revenue stream in perpetuity. Belizeans, like Alaskans, would in turn collect a monthly return or stipend.

Pardon me, I'm pulling my straw hat over my eyes, taking in the soothing sounds soon to be drowned out by the melodious mating calls of jungle creatures. Happy tokenizing!