

CONSERVATION
OF WORLD HERITAGE
SITES IN GUATEMALA



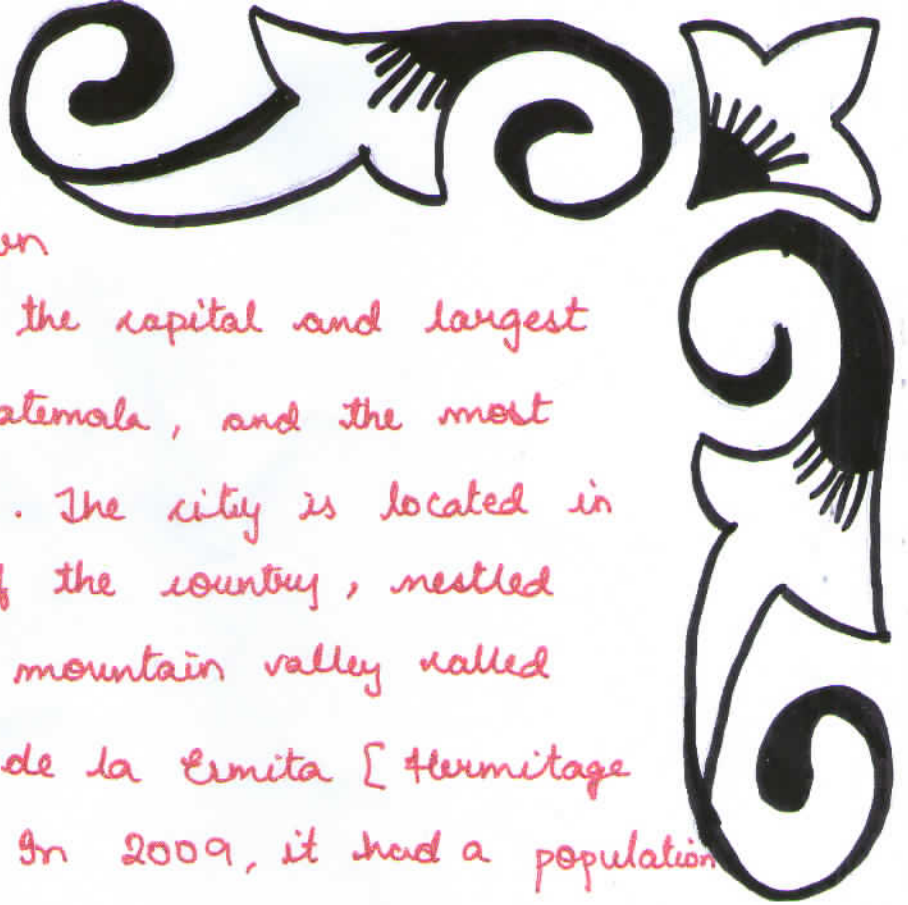


ROUTE

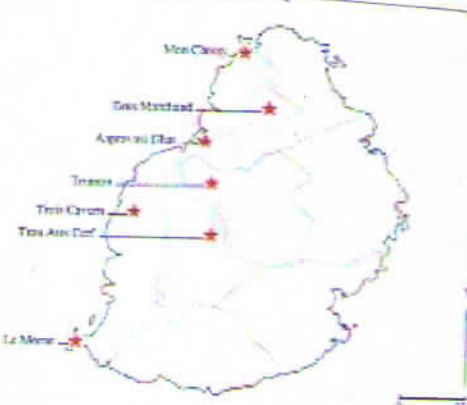
MAP OF

GUATEMALA

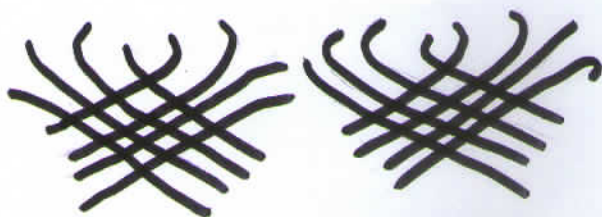
GUATEMALA



Guatemala city locally known as Guatemala or Guate, is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Guatemala, and the most populous in Central America. The city is located in the south-central part of the country, nestled in a mountain valley called Valle de la Ermita [Hermitage Valley]. In 2009, it had a population of 1,075,000. Guatemala city is also the capital of the local municipality of Guatemala and of the Guatemala Department.



Guatemala city is divided into 22 zones in accordance with the urban layout plan designed by Paul Aguilar Batres. Each zone has its own streets, avenues, facilitating navigation within the city. Zones are numbered 1 through 25. However numbers 20, 22, 23 have not been designed to zones, thus these zones do not exist within the city proper. Guatemala city relatively high altitude moderates average temperature. The city has tropical savanna climate.



TIKAL

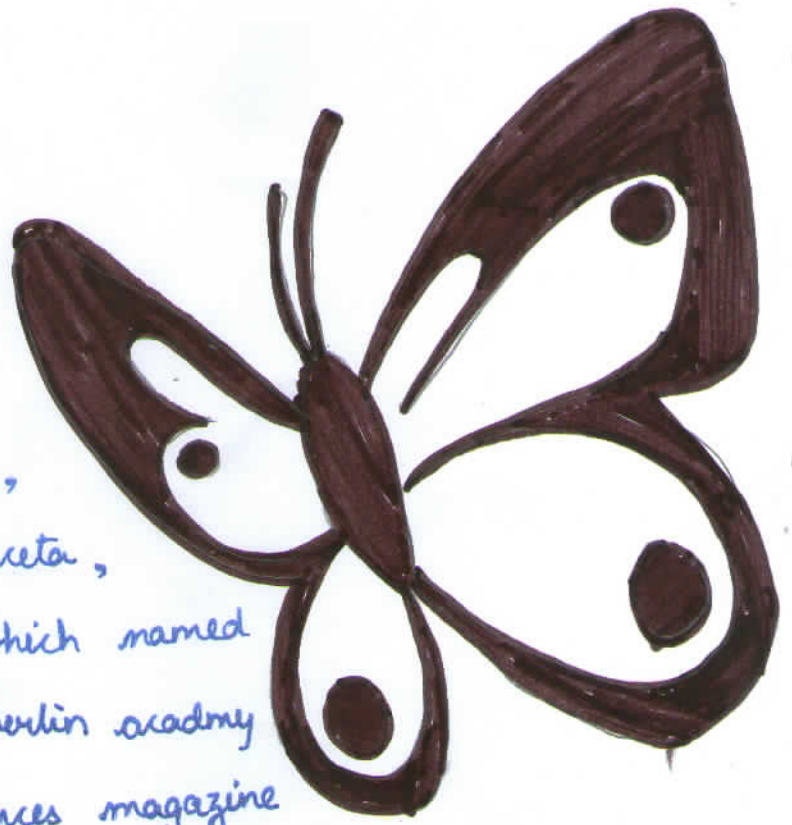
Tikal is the ruins of an ancient city found in a rainforest in Guatemala.

Ambrosio Tut, a gum-sapper, reported the ruins to *La Gaceta*, a Guatemalan newspaper, which named the site "Tikal".



of sciences magazine republished the report in 1853, archaeologists and treasure hunters began visiting the forest. Today tourism to the site may help protect the rainforest. Situated in department of El Peten, the site is part of Guatemala's **TIKAL NATIONAL PARK** and in 1979 it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Tikal is the best understood of any of the large lowland Maya cities, with a long dynastic ruler list, the discovery of the tombs of many of the rulers on this list and the investigation of their monuments, temples and places.



ANTIQUA

Antigua is a small city surrounded by volcanoes in southern Guatemala. It's renowned for its Spanish colonial buildings, many of them restored following a 1773 earthquake that ended Antigua's 200 year reign as Guatemala's colonial capital. Notable architectural examples include baroque La Merced, a squat, yellow and white church. It's an integral part of the city's famous Semana Santa, a holy week with parades and rituals.



Visitors can explore the life of 18th century monks in the well-preserved ruins of Capuchinas convent, featuring courtyards, gardens, bathing halls and private cells. Outside the city, guided hikes ascend Pacaya, an active volcano rising 2,552 meters. Other outdoor pursuits in the area include mountain biking, horseback riding and rock climbing.





DEGRADATION OF THESE SITES

Guatemala is highly dependent on natural resources for growth, employment, exports and subsistence. Air and water pollution account for a significant share of the burden of disease. Environmental degradation such as deforestation increase existing vulnerability for natural resources i.e. disasters from extreme weather; hurricanes, droughts and flooding.


Deforestation not only threatens biodiversity but also the ecosystem capacity to store water and avoid soil erosion and land slides during heavy rains. Climate change is expected to cause increased frequency of weather events in central america like hurricanes, rains and drought.

Globally, deforestation is one of the major cause of CO_2 emissions. Thus there are multiple reasons to ensure that Guatemala's forest resources are managed sustainably.





CONSERVATION OF THESE SITES.



Community cloud forest conservation alleviates poverty and protects forests through education, reforestation, community development, leadership scholarships, and ecological improvements to agriculture. CCFC believes that holistic human / community development through education and capacity development building is the key to conservation and peace building in Guatemala's central highlands. Education, especially for young women, is the key to the healthy and sustainable development of this region.

