



**Climate Adaptation
and Protected Areas
Initiative**



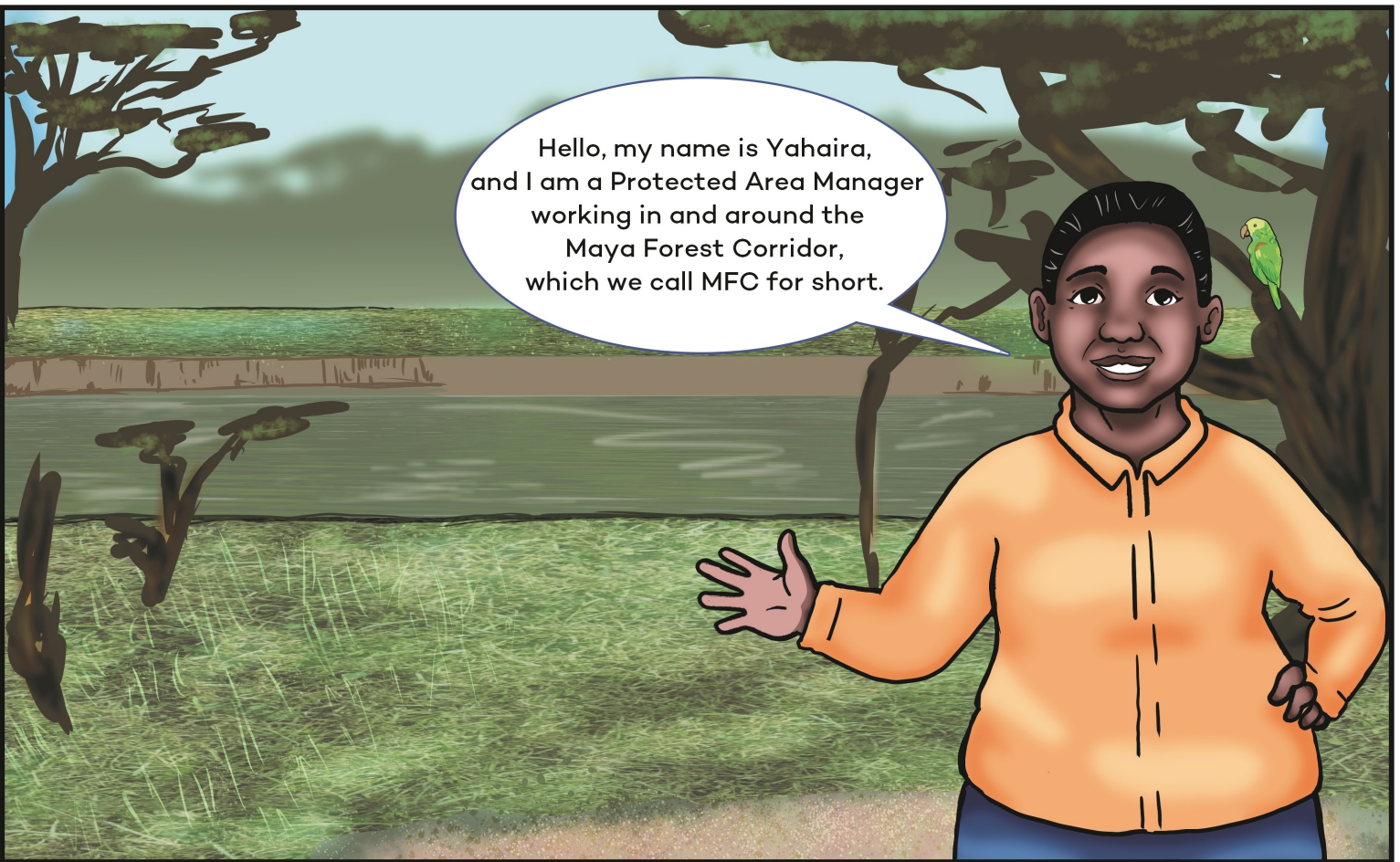
A Day in the Life of a Terrestrial Protected Area Manager

Project partners

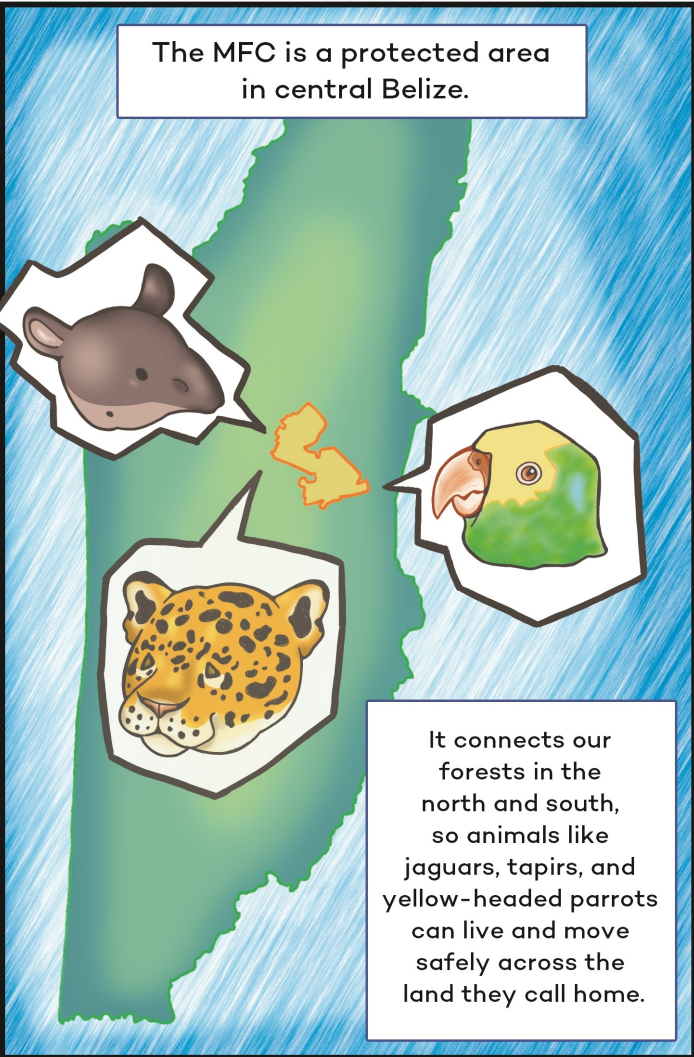


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Hello, my name is Yahaira, and I am a Protected Area Manager working in and around the Maya Forest Corridor, which we call MFC for short.



The MFC is a protected area in central Belize.

It connects our forests in the north and south, so animals like jaguars, tapirs, and yellow-headed parrots can live and move safely across the land they call home.

I work with park rangers to make sure that the forests and rivers of the MFC are healthy and working well, so that, in addition to protecting our plants and animals, they can provide benefits to our communities, like clean water, fresh air, and protection from floods and droughts.



Today, we're going to patrol the northern part of the MFC and check in with some community members from Coconut Cove Village.

Oh no! It looks like another wildfire broke out last night.
I wonder if someone from the community can give me more details on what happened here...



It looks like there was a fire here. Do you have any idea what happened?

Yes! The longer dry season this year has made wildfires harder to control. Crops were lost and fences were damaged. Hopefully the howler monkeys and other animals in the forest managed to escape.





Thankfully, our community's bucket brigade helped put the fire out.

But wildfires aren't the only problem. We've also been dealing with floods in the Belize River Valley during the wet season. The river is washing away the banks, and farmers have lost their harvest because the soil is too wet. Farm animals are getting sick too.

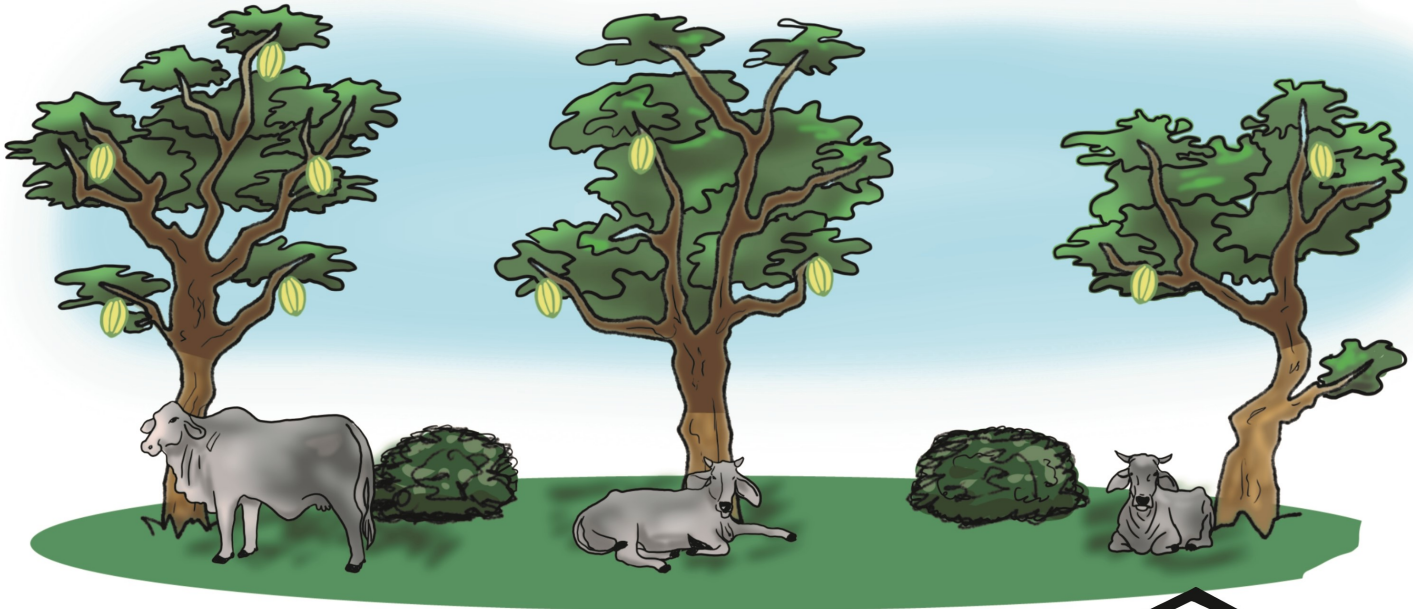




Of course! Agroforestry is a great example.

This is a farming approach that combines trees, shrubs, and other plants with crops or livestock.

It can help to address flooding and drought impacts by increasing soil quality, fighting erosion, regulating water, protecting crops from heavy rains, and providing shade to animals during hot weather.



They also offer farmers extra income by introducing something new to sell, like timber, fruit, or honey.



For nature-based solutions to really help, we need to work with communities to better understand how different people are affected by climate change, and what they would prioritize in terms of solutions. We also need to consider how culture and roles can affect someone's ability to take part in these actions.

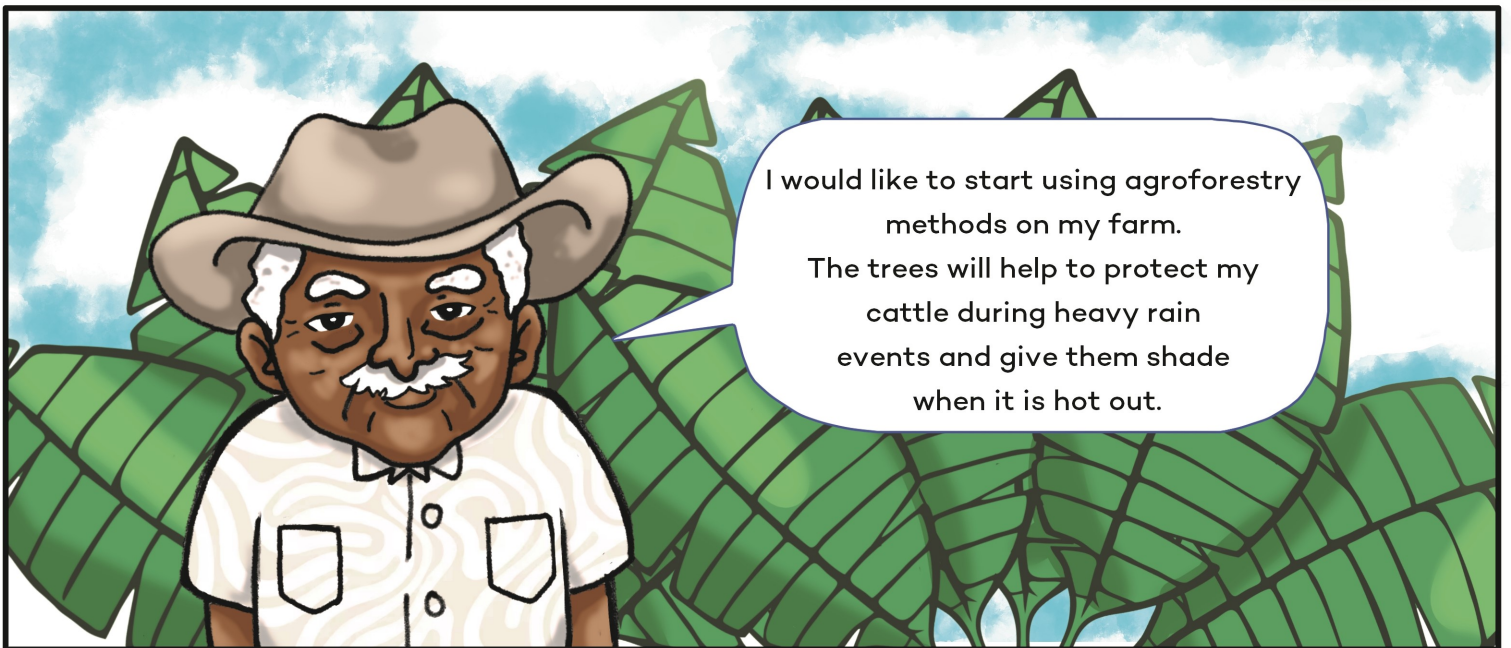
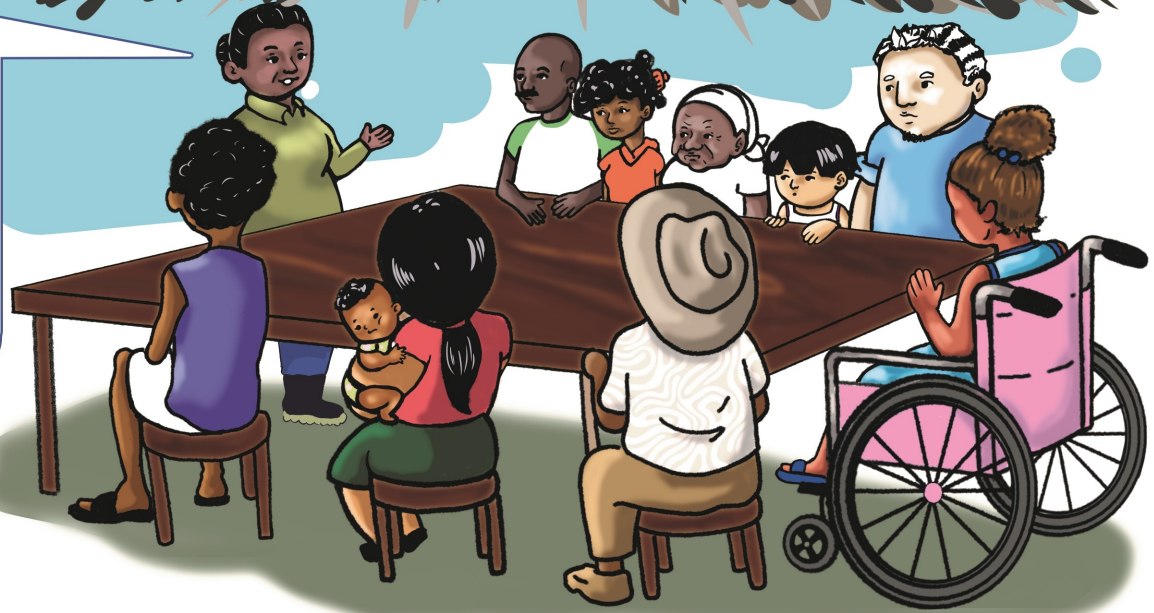
That's why it's important to engage with people who are sometimes left out, like women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.

I agree!
For this to work,
it really needs to
involve everyone.



A FEW DAYS LATER

Thank you all for sharing your ideas! Many of those are actually nature-based solutions for adaptation, which can help to reduce the impacts of climate change. Which ones would you like to prioritize?



I would like to start using agroforestry methods on my farm. The trees will help to protect my cattle during heavy rain events and give them shade when it is hot out.



I'd like to prioritize a mixed home garden for my family because we often struggle to afford food when local farms are impacted by drought and flooding. By growing a variety of crops in our backyard using sustainable methods that can withstand climate change, we can make sure there's always food on our table.



That sounds great!
I'll also be working on a tree planting project in the area that was burned down by the fire. This will help prevent soil erosion, protect the land and community from flooding and future wildfires, and restore homes for birds and other animals. I will be monitoring the trees' growth and survival to keep you updated.



**LET'S START WORKING ON
OUR ADAPTATION PROJECTS
NOW!**

A FEW MONTHS LATER...

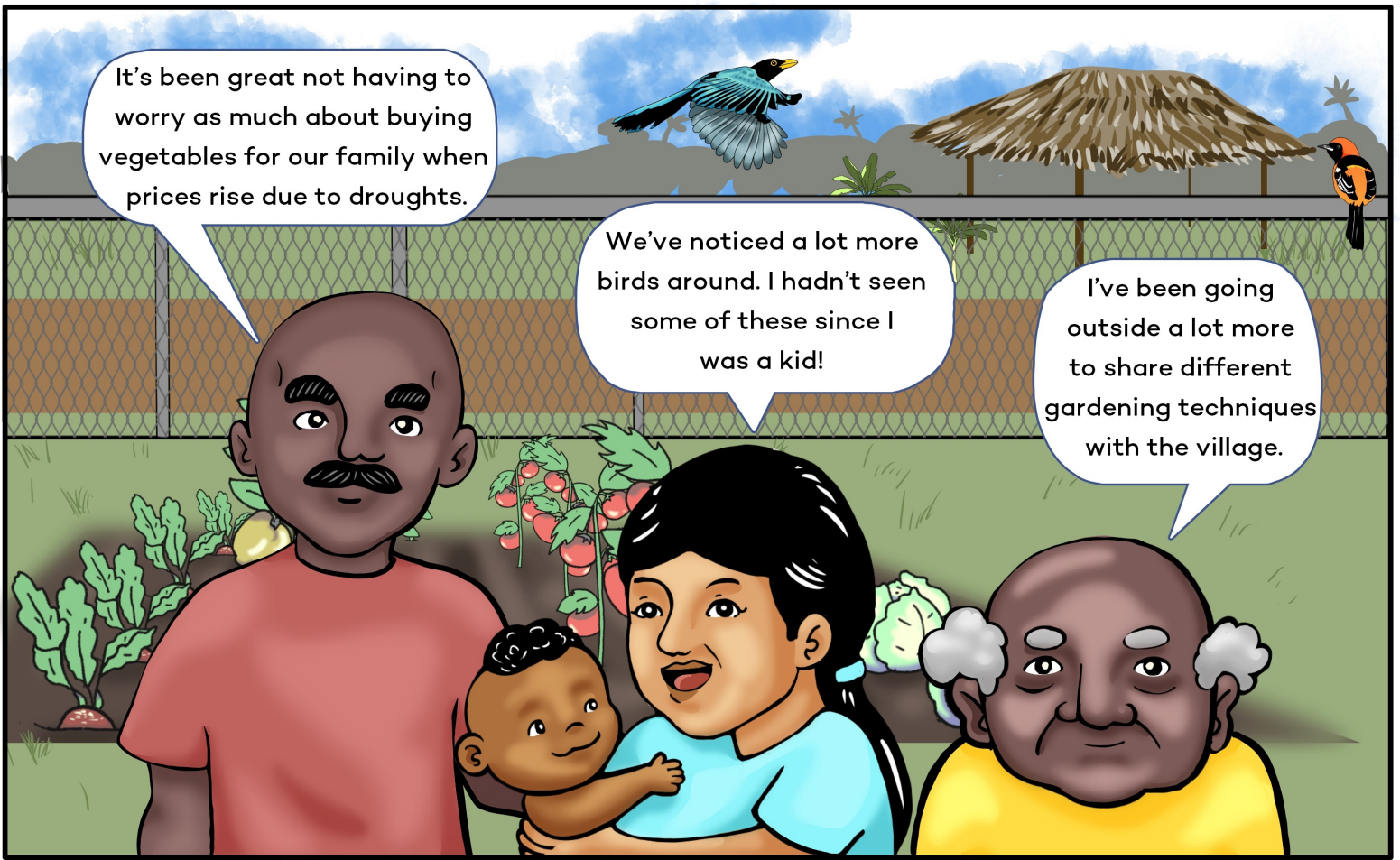
That's the last one!
I can't wait to see these
trees grow over time.

FOREST
RESTORATION
PROJECT

...I should go check in on
the community members.

Wow, this looks great!

Come and see how
much we've been able to
grow in our
home garden.



It's been great not having to worry as much about buying vegetables for our family when prices rise due to droughts.

We've noticed a lot more birds around. I hadn't seen some of these since I was a kid!

I've been going outside a lot more to share different gardening techniques with the village.



Working with nature really has its benefits. It is great for us and the environment.



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