SAN IGNACIO, Cayo, Thursday, March 7, 2013:

Two male persons have been detained as the search continues for another two comprising a group of four young men suspected to have attacked and injured two men in separate incidents in the western village of Unitedville on the George Price Highway in the Cayo District.

In the first reported incident, Unitedville resident Rosa Macharro reported to the police that she was at home at around 8:30 pm on Sunday, March 3, 2013, when her husband, Miguel Macharro, arrived at home in a taxi from a trip to Guatemala City.

The husband was reportedly unlocking the gate to enter the yard when he was approached by a group of four young men one of whom is said to have asked him for a dollar. He reportedly ignored the request and this was when he was allegedly attacked with sticks and a machete by the group.

The wife’s desperate call for help alerted neighbors who rushed to the rescue but not in time to save the husband from a severe beating resulting in several cut wounds to the face. The group reportedly fled the scene and disappeared into the darkness.

The police investigation revealed that a group of four young men, fitting the description of those who attacked Miguel Macharro had, a few minutes earlier, likewise attacked another male villager who was later identified as Santos Vasquez, 36, Belizean, labourer also from Unitedville.

Vasquez alleges that he was attacked by all four men who administered a severe beating on him for no apparent reason. He emerged from the attack with a cut wound to the left side of the head for which he was treated at the Community Hospital in San Ignacio and later released after being kept under observation for several hours.

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Two Villagers Beaten In Separate Incidents In Unitedville

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The Second Victim, Santos Vasquez, 36

Vasquez, 36, Belizean, labourer also from Unitedville.

In a statement to the police Vasquez informed that he was walking on a back street in the village when he was attacked by four young men whom he was able to identify as Fidel, Carl, Chul and Bush Grabber.

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The UDP Getting Stronger And Stronger

SAN JOSE SUCCOTZ VILLAGE, Cayo, Sunday, March 3, 2013:

As this year’s round of village council elections draws nearer, the number of supporters seeking to contest these elections for the United Democratic Party (UDP) is growing exponentially.

This new phenomenon has resulted in the Party having to conduct an unprecedented number of conventions across the country.

Two recent such conventions were held over the past two consecutive weekends in the western villages of San Antonio in the Cayo Central Constituency and the other in the village of San Jose Succotz in the Cayo West Constituency.

In the San Antonio convention which was held between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on Sunday, February 24, an astonishing 601 villagers, of the 972 registered voters on the voters list for the village, flocked to the polls to cast their votes for one of two candidates seeking to contest the upcoming elections as the UDP Chairman candidate for their Village.

When the votes were counted, the incumbent Chairman, Cruz Mai, with 361 votes, was declared the winner.

Similarly, the village council elections in Bella Vista Village (Toledo East) next Sunday, March 17.

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Dear Editor:

It was a proud moment for me this Thursday evening having attended the official opening of the recently constructed Welcome Center in San Ignacio.

This spanking new facility is a clear testimony of that which can be achieved with strong leadership and clear vision.

It is a massive improvement from the outdated Coronation Park

many needed employment opportunities.

Hats of to all those with the vision and the will to bring this possibility to reality.

J. Aldana
San Ignacio

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First historic National Communication System installed

For the first time, the Ministry of Health has established a National Communications System to network with the Public Health providers across the country. Enhanced communications have already been established between Northern Regional Hospital, Southern Regional Hospital and Central Health Region since its installation last month.

This system will support real-time reporting and communication from incident site directly to the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) at the headquarters in Belmopan. It will also be useful during possible electricity downtime during disasters or emergencies.

Works will commence shortly to include connecting San Pedro Town and Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan. Regional Managers of the respective EOCs will be responsible to manage and maintain the equipment. The system was procured through technical cooperation with PAHO at a total cost of BZ$28,000.

Third Cohort of Field Epidemiology Training Program commences

The Ministry of Health has commenced on the third cohort in a basic level course in Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) for participants including, Public Health Inspectors, Public Health Nurses, Laboratory Technicians and Medical officers of the Ministry and from the Belize Defence Force.

Objectives of the program include building capacity for front line responders in the detection, surveillance, response, analysis and prevention associated with high priority public health problems.

Presentation topics include Modeling and Measuring Diseases, Presenting Epidemiology data and Outbreak and Investigation Steps among others.

Coordinator for the FETP Module, Englebert Emmanuel anticipates that the training will further strengthen the technical leadership of all the participants who work directly with surveillance and investigation of diseases in Belize.

Twenty professionals have since graduated from the first and second Basic Module Training and four from the Advance Module since 2009.

World Cancer Day 2013

A Cancer Symposium was held at the Bliss Center in observation of World Cancer Day celebrated globally February 4th. It was a night of facts, statistics and survivor’s stories.

In the Caribbean, Central and South America, cancer remains as the second leading cause of death. Dr, Francis Morey, National Tuberculosis Coordinator, at the Ministry was among the presenters featured that night at the symposium. He mentioned that in Belize more than 10% of annual deaths are related to cancer. During the 5 year period, 2007-2011, there were a total of 857 cancer deaths and almost half of these occurred in persons less than 65 years of age.

While 80 percent of cancers are attributable to environmental, dietary, social and cultural risk factors, the Ministry is taking a leading role with the support of other organizations in the promotion of health and prevention of all types of cancers. Research shows that a third of most cancers can be prevented and that is why the Ministry is also working on greater collaboration in data collection to direct and develop guidelines, norms and policies World Cancer Day was celebrated under the theme, “Cancer, Did you know? Get the Facts!”

Nutrition Unit conducts training to improve Dietary Services at Hospitals

In an effort to improve on Dietary Services within the regional and district hospitals across the country, the Nutrition Unit of the Ministry hosted a Dietary training session at Southern Regional Hospital Kitchen with cooks, dietary aides and dietary supervisors to improve on the quality of food preparation in hospitals.

During a short theory session, participants were educated on specialized diets and the importance of nutrition care and the quality of foods served at patients. A practical session was conducted in the preparation of nine commonly used recipes. These recipes included Corn, Oatmeal, Squash and Rice Porridges, whole wheat Johnny cakes and tortillas, soy milk and preparing herbal seasonings mixture.

The session also allowed staff to address weakness in the dietary unit of their respective hospitals. Nutritionist Robyn Daly encouraged the staff to commit to a more nutritious menu including a daily diet of more fruits and vegetables, and preparing foods low in fat, sugar and salt. A commitment was also made on behalf of the Ministry to assist the kitchens to becoming more equipped with the necessary utensils and training as a means to enhance food quality.

For More Information
Contact The Ministry of Health
Belmopan
Tel: 822-2325
Or: 822-2363
Vacancy exist at **Sacred Heart College** for the post of

**Temporary Counselor**

(April 1, 2013 to May 31, 2013)

A professional background in education and/or High School Counseling experience would be an asset.

**Minimum Qualification:**

**Bachelors Degree**

**Deadline for Application:**

March 22, 2013

Please send application to:

**Secretary**
Board of Governors
Sacred Heart College
P.O. Box 163
San Ignacio

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**moneY lenders application**

Notice for the publication in newspaper of application for a moneylender’s certificate

I, **Werner Urs Kolliker**, hereby give notice that I have applied to the Magistrate Court, at one of its sitting in San Ignacio Town during the month of March 2013, for a certificate to be granted to me under the Moneylenders Act, Chapter 260 to authorise me to carry on business as a moneylender in the name of **SWITA** at #7 Simpson Street, San Ignacio, Cayo

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**Protect Our Rivers and Watersheds!!! Water For Life, Not For Death!**

BELPO, Belize Institute of Environmental Law & Policy

International Day of Action for Rivers

MARCH 14

BELPO joins with groups from countries around the world in celebrating International Day of Action For Rivers on 14 March. The aim on this Day of Action for Rivers is to bring awareness about the importance of our rivers to our lives.

BELPO’s struggle against destructive dams and the current model of water and energy management is a struggle against a social order that puts profits before people. BELPO rejects the spread of dam projects that threaten our rivers and the downstream communities; BELPO rejects the promotion of intensive mineral and oil exploitation in our watersheds.

Every year BELPO joins millions across the world to celebrate victories such as river restoration, dam removal and the prohibition of the building of dams. It is a day to educate one another about the threats facing our rivers, and learn about better water and energy solutions. Above all, it is a day to unite – by acting together, we demonstrate that these issues are not merely local, but global in scope.

Join us in honoring our rivers by using dance, film, music and fun to connect with your community and encourage everyone to share in the celebration. Things you can do:

- Paddle down a river
- Dance beside a river
- Jump into a river
- Have kayak events
- Clean up along the rivers
- Hold a ceremony at the river

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**Clean Master**

We Specialize In:

- Car Detailing
- Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
- Car Polishing
- Wash, Vacuum, Armorall & Engine Wash

Our Home Services Include:

- Tile Cleaning & Polishing
- Sofa Cleaning

As well as Pressure Washing Outside of Houses

We are located off Joseph Andrews Drive, near the Falcon Field in San Ignacio Town. Call us at 824-2076 or 610-0408.

E-mail: cleanmasterbz@yahoo.com

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**Larry’s New Look Barber Shop**

“A Touch of Perfection”

“Barbershop & Salon”

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**STaR Newspaper**

“The Newspaper that cares and dares to bring out the truth”

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or at

www.guidetobelize.info/star

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Hon. Gasper Vega
Deputy Prime Minister
&
Minister of Natural Resources and Agriculture

Wishes to take this opportunity to wish Belizeans everywhere, especially residents of Orange Walk North a very safe and happy National Heroes & Benefactors Day 2013!!!

“Celebrating past and present Heroes & Benefactors”

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.
St. Ignatius Students Expressing Their Views

Relocation Of Gang Members

I am honored to express my perspective, through your renowned newspaper, about the situation whereby the Government has decided to relocate some gang members of Belize City. As a concerned citizen of Belize, I hope to shed some light on the absurd distribution of numerous, dangerous gang members across our country.

On January 8, 2013, a massacre was committed in the heart of a gang territory known as George Street. This unfortunate incident caused the citizens of Belize, especially Belize City, to become afraid assuming that the George Street Gang (GSG) would respond to this incident by terrorising civilians. As a result, the Government had a meeting with the gang members. Among all the solutions found to alleviate this situation, the one that struck me the most, was the idea of relocating gang members.

“The key leaders of George Street have left the city under an arrangement with the security forces and their location is one in which we expect them to continue to be over the next few days.”

These were the words coming from our beloved Prime Minister in a press conference addressing the GSG massacre. The idea of relocating these men and possibly distributing them across the country is ridiculous. Because of these people, Belize City is known as a hotspot for crime. By relocating them, the government is simply putting the whole country of Belize in danger because they could eventually form ‘cults’ of their own, luring our youths into a lifestyle of – Guns, Drugs, and Murder.

This is not something to be underestimated, as you read this a GSG member could be moving into the house next to yours….nowhere is safe, and we Belizeans should make our voices be heard concerning this issue. My suggestion is to deal with the problem at the root because branching it off will only make it bigger. Leave these people in their territories, and try to control them there.

~Anonymous

Dear Editor;

While conducting business this week in San Ignacio and Santa Elena, my attention was drawn to Town Council workers installing new and impressive directional signs around town.

While the signs are impressive, they likewise provide effective direction to locals and visitors alike.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to take care these signs. Let us be mindful that our tax dollars was used to pay for and erect these signs. Let us therefore take care of that which is rightfully ours.

Regards, Alicia Lopez

BTL partners with ROTARY BELIZE to host 18TH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

BTL is proud to champion the work of the Rotary Clubs of Belize and its members who give selflessly of their time, resources and energy for the realization of the club’s causes and projects. Over the years, BTL has solidified its partnership with Rotary Belize in support of their ongoing projects that impact the areas of education, scholarships, health, sanitation and water purification.

BTL’s most recent contribution of $6000 enlisted the Company as a Gold Sponsor for the 18th District Conference for Belize, Guatemala and Honduras: a four day event which was held from 27th February – 2nd March at the San Ignacio Resort Hotel. Event organizers hosted some 300 Rotarians hailing from the United States, Canada and Central America. During the course of the conference, Rotary Belize showcased their projects and developed new meaningful partnerships. When not in meetings, event organizers hosted conference attendees to a number of social events and day trips that promoted the beauty of Belize.

In addition to the monetary contribution, attendees had access to complimentary Wi-Fi powered by BTL. Rotary organizers also streamed the conference online with broadband provided by the Company. Knowledgeable and friendly BTL representatives were on site to lend assistance to conference guests.

BTL is certainly proud of this partnership as it allowed the Company to play a key role in the wider scope of Rotary’s projects which are socially conscious and undoubtedly impact those that need the support. We look forward to a continued collaboration with Rotary Belize for the benefit of Belize and Belizeans.
ARIES: March 22 to April 20
Things in the love department may be looking up for you but beware that you aren’t getting pushed around. Your partner could feel the need for more freedom in the relationship, while you are hoping to find more commitment. Take it one day at a time. Don’t get ahead of yourself by projecting scenarios that may not come to fruition. You’re only setting yourself up for disappointment. Lucky numbers: 08, 19, 25.

TAURUS: April 21 to May 21
You may find that you are indecisive when it comes to issues concerning love and romance. For some reason, you have a tendency to pull one way and then the other, yet neither way seems very rewarding. Don’t feel like you have to take concrete action at this time. In fact, if you do, this commitment may cause you more frustration later. Lucky numbers: 11, 36, 56.

GEMINI: May 22 to June 21
Try to get more grounded in your actions regarding love and romance, Gemini. You may need to take a more reserved approach in your actions in order to get where you need to go. At the same time, however, your freedom-loving, adventurous side may feel the need to roam more freely. This is a tough combination of energies to work with, so do your best to find a balance. Lucky numbers: 21, 45, 89.

CANCER: June 22 to July 23
You are quite sure of yourself and solid about many things except one. When it comes to romantic relationships, you feel a bit unsure and inadequate, Cancer. It could be that you are indecisive about how to proceed. There’s a strong urge to take charge, but also a tendency to slow things down and let others take the lead. Figure out your needs before you make long-term plans with others. Lucky numbers: 30, 51, 90.

LEO: July 24 to August 21
When it comes to love and romance, things are definitely in your favor. The thing to be aware of this week is that there might be some manipulation on the part of someone close to you. Take care that someone else’s need for freedom isn’t negatively affecting your relationship. Communication is key in order to maintain a healthy romance at any level. Lucky numbers: 33, 72, 85.

VIRGO: August 22 to September 21
Things regarding love and romance may be a bit dicey for you. You may find that you have to make a few adjustments in order to remain on the same page as your loved ones. Neither one of you may feel like taking the lead at this time, causing some hesitation in the relationship. While each of you is trying to second-guess the other, confusion is likely to reign. Lucky numbers: 14, 26, 48.

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23
The more tightly you try to hang onto something, the more likely it is it will want to slip through your fingers. Grab what you want, but don’t squeeze too hard. Maintain an important balance between showing someone you care by taking them under your wing and allowing them the freedom to be their own person. Sensitive feelings are operating this week, so proceed with care. Lucky numbers: 03, 60, 75.

SCORPIO: October 24 to November 21
Matters involving love and romance might not go exactly the way you’d like. You could be waiting for your partner to make the next move, since you are unsure of which way the relationship is progressing. At the same time, it may be that your partner is the one waiting for you. Keep the lines of communication open and stop playing confusing mind games. Lucky numbers: 20, 55, 63.

SAGITTARIUS: November 22 to December 21
Things should be going well for you in the love and romance department, but you could find that this week things get a bit tenuous. While you want things to be clear and planned out, it could be that your partner longs for more freedom and spontaneity. Tension may result if either party becomes too set in their ways. The tension may arise when neither partner wants to take the lead. Lucky numbers: 10, 26, 41.

CAPRICORN: December 22 to January 20
People may be wondering how to proceed while you are off doing your own thing. Don’t go in one direction and leave someone else behind. In matters regarding love and romance, you may have to slow down and communicate with your partner. Take the lead and try not to get slowed down by other people’s indecisiveness. You know which direction to go, so go there. Lucky numbers: 47, 69, 97.

AQUARIUS: January 21 to February 19
Recent events in the love and romance department may have you feeling like you aren’t getting your needs met. Remember that other people aren’t mind readers the way you are. If someone’s behavior isn’t right with you, say so. Romantic partnerships should uplift and support your dreams, not something you make personal sacrifices for just to maintain. Lucky numbers: 02, 44, 77.

PISCES: February 20 to March 21
Be careful that you aren’t manipulating a romantic situation so your partner loses any power. You may think your actions are noble and well meaning, but you may be creating a scenario that has no basis in reality. People could be impressionable, but that doesn’t mean you should take advantage of this by promoting your own interests at the expense of another’s. Lucky numbers: 06, 60, 86.
Hugo Chavez's Body To Stay On Display In Venezuela

The body of the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is to be embalmed and put on display after his funeral, Vice-President Nicolas Maduro says.

The decision reflects the huge crowds queuing to pay their respects in Caracas, where he is lying in state. Mr Chavez's body will be moved to a military museum after the state funeral on Friday, Mr Maduro said. Hugo Chavez, who led Venezuela for 14 years, died on Tuesday after a long battle with cancer.

More than two million mourners have already filed past his body at the military academy in Caracas, queuing for hours to see him lying in state. Leaders from Latin America and beyond are gathering in Caracas for his funeral on Friday, and Mr Maduro said the ceremony would go ahead as planned.

His body would be embalmed "like Lenin and Mao Zedong", and put on display for at least another seven days, Mr Maduro added.

Venezuela's government says the crowds of mourners have exceeded all expectations.

TEACHING VACANCY

San Antonio United Pentecostal School has a vacancy for a temporal post of teacher for this current school year.

We are looking for a teacher with a Bachelor’s Degree in Primary Education but teachers with Associates Degree in Primary Education and teaching experience will be considered. Please note that all applicants must be in possession of a valid teacher’s license. Send a letter of application, related documents and résumé, NO later that 15 March, 2013 to:

Mr. Bryant Tzib
General Manager
United Pentecostal School
San Antonio, Cayo

For more information you can call Cell: 661-8106 or 665-7249.
Hon. Rene Monter
Minister of Works & Transport

Takes this opportunity to encourage all Belizeans at home and abroad to be heroes in their community, lend a helping hand to those in need, you may never know when you will be on the receiving end of kindness.

On March 9, 2013, we pause to salute past and present Heroes and Benefactors who have and still play a huge role in the development of our beautiful country.

I encourage all Belizeans to take advantage of the day and lend a helping hand to someone who may be in need.

“Hand in Hand we build a Stronger and safer Belize”

“Hard times don't create heroes.
It is during the hard times when the 'hero' within us is revealed.”
The young lady looked at his serious manner. Finally the young lady said, "You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you been with a woman?"

"1955, ma'am."

"Well, there you are. No wonder you're so serious. You really need to chill out! I mean, not having been with a woman since 1955!"

She took his hand and led him to a private room where she proceeded to "relax" him several times. Afterwards, panting for breath, she leaned against his bare chest and said, "Wow, you sure didn't forget much since 1955."

The Sergeant Major said in his serious voice, after glancing at his cardboard tag, "You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you been with a woman?"

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The Sergeant Major said in his serious voice, after glancing at his watch, "I hope not; it's only 2130 now."

Eventually, the aunt wakes up, "After I've sucked the chocolate off, I don't care for them anyway."

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"1955, ma'am."

"Well, there you are. No wonder you're so serious. You really need to chill out! I mean, not having been with a woman since 1955!"

She took his hand and led him to a private room where she proceeded to "relax" him several times. Afterwards, panting for breath, she leaned against his bare chest and said, "Wow, you sure didn't forget much since 1955."

The Sergeant Major said in his serious voice, after glancing at his watch, "I hope not; it's only 2130 now."

Eventually, the aunt wakes up, "After I've sucked the chocolate off, I don't care for them anyway."
Dear Editor;

I work hard and I oftentimes play hard. I sometime visit clubs to loosen up while enjoying myself with relatives and friends.

Of late however I have been noticing that an increasing number of such recreational spots are fitted with video cameras.

I might be mistaken but I am not at all comfortable in the knowledge that someone might be taping and keeping records of my actions especially when I am seeking to have a nice time.

In protecting myself against what I consider to be an invasion of my privacy, I have now developed the habit of scouting for video cameras in these places.

As soon as I sense that my privacy is compromised by the presence of a video camera, I make a hasty retreat never to soon return to any such establishment.

David Gonzalez
San Ignacio

Brazil's Bruno Fernandes Jailed Over Ex-lover's Murder

Brazilian football star Bruno Fernandes has been given a 22-year prison sentence for ordering the murder of a former girlfriend.

He was also found guilty of hiding the body of Eliza Samudio and kidnapping their baby son in 2010.

The ex-Flamengo goalkeeper admitted to knowing that Ms Samudio had been strangled and her remains fed to dogs, but denied ordering the killing.

He said two other defendants in the case carried out the murder.

The murder has attracted intense media interest in Brazil where it has been compared to the OJ Simpson trial in the US.

Fernandes, who was hugely popular with fans, had been tipped to play for Brazil in the 2014 Fifa World Cup finals.

Complex case

One of his friends, Luiz Henrique Ferreira Romao, and a former policeman, Marcos Aparecido dos Santos, were also charged with Ms Samudio's murder.

She was killed after demanding that Fernandes pay child maintenance for their baby son, prosecutors said.

According to police reports, she was then strangled, her body cut up and parts were fed to dogs. It has never been recovered.

Last November, Romao was jailed for 15 years after admitting his involvement in the crime but maintained that Fernandes had ordered its execution.

Mr Santos is accused of torturing Eliza Samudio and dismembering the woman. He is yet to be sentenced.

Ms Samudio was lured to a hotel in Rio de Janeiro in June 2010 on the pretext of obtaining a DNA test to prove the married footballer was the father of her baby.

She and her son were then abducted and taken to Fernandes' home in Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais state.

The baby was found a fortnight later in the home of friends of Fernandes's ex-wife, Dayanne Rodrigues.

Ms Rodrigues, who was also arrested in connection with the case, has been acquitted on charges of abduction involvement in the plot.

Fernandes was jailed for four-and-a-half years in December 2010 after being found guilty in a separate trial of abducting and assaulting Ms Samudio the previous year.

Sacred Heart College Is Asking Once Again For Your Kind And Generous Assistance Call For Info
It is difficult to put on paper the beauty of watching the sun rise over the ocean while heading out to sea for a day on the water. I have seen Belize's extensive biodiversity while snorkeling off of the cayes, including a variety of sharks and stingrays. The United States and Belize have long worked hand in hand to protect our natural heritage, especially in the sea.

Sharks and manta rays are important to ocean ecosystems, and the United States is concerned about the conservation status of species that are increasingly affected by international trade. These species are all biologically vulnerable to overexploitation, as a long-lived, low productivity species. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a valuable tool to address the threats posed by unsustainable global trade in shark and manta ray parts and products, including fins, meat, and gill plates.

CITES lists species according to the level of protection each species needs. Listing decisions are made at meetings of CITES member countries that are present and voting is needed to adopt a proposal. While this might seem difficult to achieve, the protection of hundreds of species is testament to the fact that with concerted effort, we can trade natural resources sustainably.

Some argue that CITES is not needed because some of the species proposed for listing are already managed under regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). Yet these regional agreements alone cannot ensure that the survival of these species is not threatened by international trade – marine species swim thousands of miles, crossing countless international borders. This is where CITES comes in. Listing species in CITES will complement RFMO measures by regulating international trade of these species at sustainable levels.

Our oceans are under increasing pressure from human exploitation, but listing hammerhead sharks (smooth, scalloped, and great), porbeagle sharks, and manta rays under CITES will go a long way in making the trade of these species sustainable. These species play an important role in preserving the health of unique ocean ecosystems upon which millions of people around the world depend.

Belize is a valuable stakeholder in CITES and has shown its care for its marine preserves through its designated protected areas, announcing its newest and largest in late 2012. I encourage Belize to continue to show the world its environmental leadership by supporting these proposals.
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Carlos Slim Tops Forbes Rich List For Fourth Year

Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim has topped Forbes magazine’s list of the world’s richest billionaires for a fourth year.

The magazine estimates that Mr Slim, whose business interests range from telecommunications to construction, is worth $73bn (£49bn).

He is followed by Microsoft founder Bill Gates on $67bn.

Famed investor Warren Buffett has dropped back to fourth place, with third spot going to Amancio Ortega, the founder of the Zara fashion chain.

Record profits, and a resulting surge in the share price of the holding company Inditex that he owns, has propelled Mr Ortega into fifth place, leapfrogging Mr Buffett.

In contrast, the “Sage of Omaha” admitted last week that his Berkshire Hathaway investment company had a “sub-par” year in 2012, underperforming the S&P 500 index of US share prices for only the ninth time in its 48-year history.

Mr Buffett, 82, was one of seven over-70s in the 10 wealthiest people on the list, with the average age of the top 10 reaching 74 this year.

Besides Mr Ortega, another fast riser has been Larry Ellison, the Oracle tycoon, whose software firm has risen 20% on the stock market over the last year.

There have been mixed fortunes in the French luxuries sector. Bernard Arnault, the man behind Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessey, saw his stock fall last year, dragging him down from fourth spot to 10th.

That put him one place behind 90-year-old L’Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt, whose estimated $30bn fortune has been put under the custody of her daughter after a long legal battle.

The two Koch Brothers, who own a giant US industrial conglomerate and have helped bankroll the Republican Tea Party movement, came in joint sixth place, with $34bn apiece.

Li Ka-Shing has held onto the eighth position and remains the highest-placed Asian, with $31bn.

The Hong Kong-based owner of Hutchison Whampoa and Cheung Kong Holdings is the world’s biggest operator of container terminals.
Sausages, ham, bacon and other processed meats appear to increase the risk of dying young, a study of half a million people across Europe suggests.

It concluded diets high in processed meats were linked to cardiovascular disease, cancer and early deaths.

The researchers, writing in the journal BMC Medicine, said salt and chemicals used to preserve the meat may damage health.

The British Heart Foundation suggested opting for leaner cuts of meat.

The study followed people from 10 European countries for nearly 13 years on average.

**Lifestyle factors**

It showed people who ate a lot of processed meat were also more likely to smoke, be obese and have other behaviours known to damage health.

However, the researchers said even after those risk factors were accounted for, processed meat still damaged health.

One in every 17 people followed in the study died. However, those eating more than 160g of processed meat a day - roughly two sausages and a slice of bacon - were 44% more likely to die over a typical follow-up time of 12.7 years than those eating about 20g.

In total, nearly 10,000 people died from cancer and 5,500 from heart problems.

Prof Sabine Rohrmann, from the University of Zurich, told the BBC: "High meat consumption, especially processed meat, is associated with a less healthy lifestyle."

"But after adjusting for smoking, obesity and other confounders we think there is a risk of eating processed meat."

Health benefits

She said if everyone in the study consumed no more than 20g of processed meat a day then 3% of the premature deaths could have been prevented.

The UK government recommends eating no more than 70g of red or processed meat - two slices of bacon - a day.

A spokesperson said: "People who eat a lot of red and processed meat should consider cutting down."

However a little bit of meat, even processed meat, had health benefits in the study.

Ursula Arens from the British Dietetic Association told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that putting fresh meat through a mincer did not make it processed meat.

"Something has been done to it to extend its shelf life, or to change its taste, or to make it more palatable in some way... and this could be a traditional process like curing or salting."

She said even good quality ham or sausages were still classed as processed meat, while homemade burgers using fresh meat were not.

"For most people there's no need to cut back on fresh, red meat. For people who have very high intakes of red meat - eat lots of red meat every day - there is the recommendation that they should moderate their intake," she added.

Ms Arens also confirmed that the study's finding that processed meat was linked to heart disease was new.

Mr Roger Leicester, a consultant surgeon and a member of the Meat Advisory Panel, said: "I would agree people should eat small quantities of processed meat."

However, he said there needed to be a focus on how meat was processed. "We need to know what the preservatives are, what the salt content is, what the meat content is... meat is actually an essential part of our diet."

Dr Rachel Thompson, from the World Cancer Research Fund, said: "This research adds to the body of scientific evidence highlighting the health risks of eating processed meat."

"Our research, published in 2007 and subsequently confirmed in 2011, shows strong evidence that eating processed meat, such as bacon, ham, hot dogs, salami and some sausages, increases the risk of getting bowel cancer."
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