

## Corozera Remains between El Tigre and El Caoba, Peten



Drone Pilot and Aerial Photos, May 2, 2025: Carlos Elgueta

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From these helpful aerial views with the FLAAR Mavic 3 drone, piloted by Carlos Elgueta, you can see that in this cattle field or agricultural area that there was clearly a corozera here (between El Tigre and El Caoba) in past decades.

Since the watering pond for the cattle is perfectly round, I estimate it was made by the owner of the ranch.

Although obviously we prefer to study pristine preserved corozeras, it also helps botanists, ecologists, soil scientists and archaeologists to know where lots of other corozeras existed.

These ranches are in the Reserva de la Biosfera Maya (RBM) so deserve to be studied. It was very helpful that the owner of this property left all the corozo palms growing.

El Tigre is the name of a Classic Maya site to the west/northwest of Nakum. From the top of its main pyramid you can see the temples of Tikal on the horizon.

There is a lumber concession facility a kilometer or so west of the site. Here the road changes from deep ruts, mud, and in areas almost impassable even for a 4x4 (due to the deep ruts causing the entire pickup truck to sink and the middle of the road scrapes off parts of the motor. But past El Tigre the road has been improved significantly and maintained by the local lumber concession, so you don't need 4x4 to reach their facility.

There is also a pital in the El Tigre site area. There used to be a place to overnight near El Tigre but I don't know if it still exists since not many tourists get anywhere near this site with the amazing view of Tikal—similar to the view from El Zotz pyramid where you can also see Tikal to the east.

Do not confuse the Maya site of El Tigre (west of Nakum) with the Tigre Complex of the giant Maya ruins of El Mirador, far north. Also do not confuse with Laguna del Tigre, which is a separate national park in RBM.

The team of archaeologists from Poland have evidently started an archaeological field work project at El Tigre.

El Caoba is on the paved highway from El Remate that goes north to Tikal.







# Credits and Acknowledgements

We visited with Mario Vásquez (CONAP for PNYNN area) while passing through San Benito/Santa Elena en route to the corozera areas.

The field trip concept and initial itinerary was initiated by Nicholas Hellmuth.

Norma Estefany Cho and Byron Pacay, FLAAR Mesoamerica, prepare all the photography, drone, and camping equipment, plus assist every day the entire week of the field trip. Byron also drives the VW Amarok—he knows all the roads from years of experience. Byron and Teco prepare the maps that show where the drone pilot accomplished photography each day.

Edwin Solares did video and ground photography. He is also very experienced in video editing.

Carlos Elgueta is a professional drone pilot, aerial photographer, and photographer with his Sony camera. He was recommended by Haniel when Haniel himself had other projects so was not available the first week of May.

Vivian Hurtado prepares the daily menu and oversees the organization of all field work and research projects. Since there is not space in the pickup trucks she works from her home office.

Teco, the nickname for Moises Daniel Perez Diaz, park ranger at PNYNN for 23 years so has impressive experience on flora, fauna and ecosystems of this part and also of surrounding areas.

Franklin Baudilio Perez Mendez helped as general assistant setting up camp at each base camp and helped as porter carrying needed things during each day's hike. He is the son of Teco.

Rubelsin Ariel Recinos Orellan, driver of the decades old Toyota 22r that survived all the ruts and gullies washed out across the roads because this Toyota was “raised” so the underside of the motor did not get scraped.

Perfecto Matus is a driver who transported our equipment to the camp of Naranjo Sa'al, in his Toyota 22r.

Daniel Ramirez Mendez, driver of the Ford Ranger.

Daniel Alexander Recinos Corrales, driver of the Izusu DMA.

Maria Isabel Jacome Franco has assisted as a cook on several FLAAR field trips. There are obviously no hotels or restaurants at Nakum or Naranjo, but there are cooking areas that the local park personnel make available to research teams who have permission from the park administrators to camp in those areas.