



The Association:

Amigos de Sian Ka'an, A.C. was founded June 5, 1986 as a channel for the private sector's conservation efforts to conserve the natural resources of the state of

Quintana Roo in general and the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve specifically.

It is a private, non-profit Mexican organization which works closely with the municipal, state and federal governments, as well as with the local inhabitants of the area.

It pursues its objectives via four areas of action:

- Identification and comercialization of sustainable natural resources in benefit of the local inhabitants.
- Development of Management & Zoning Plans for the operation of Protected Areas, and in support of tourism development, forestry practices, fisheries and water use.
- Community and institutional support, which includes regional development, environmental education programs, in addition to creation of new conservation NGOs.
- Self-sufficiency program for the Association, which includes the sale of conservation related articles, ecotours and memberships, as well as putting on special events and provide related technical services.

Donations to Amigos de Sian Ka'an are tax deductible both in Mexico and U.S.A. (latter for \$100.00 U.S. dollars or more).

JOIN THE EFFORT TO CONSERVE THE
SIAN KA'AN BIOSPHERE RESERVE:

ITS CORAL REEFS, COASTAL
WETLANDS, TROPICAL FOREST AND
MAYA CULTURE.

JOIN "AMIGOS"!



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SIAN KA'AN

BIOSPHERE RESERVE

(Maya for "Where the sky is born")

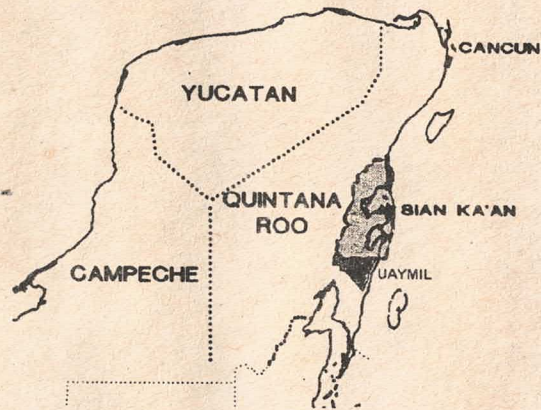


amigos de sian ka'an a.c.

Our Mission:

To make the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve an example of conservation and rational use of natural resources in Mexico.

THE SIAN KA'AN BIOSPHERE RESERVE:



Sian Ka'an was established as a biosphere reserve in 1986 and incorporated into UNESCO's list of natural world heritage sites in 1987. Adjacent to its southern border, the Area for Protection of Flora and Fauna UAYMIL was established in 1994. Covering together over 1.5 million acres along the central coast of the State of Quintana Roo, they comprise one of the largest protected areas in Mexico.

The Reserve is composed equally of semi evergreen tropical forest, wetlands and savannas and marine habitat.

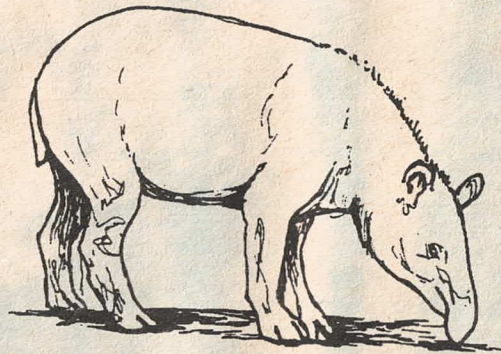
It is home to more than 345 species of birds, including over one million wintering migratory song birds from the U. S. and Canada and the rare Jabiru Stork.

All of the endangered cat species of southern Mexico are found in Sian Ka'an

including jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay, and the jaguarundi, along with spider and howler monkeys, white-lipped and collared peccary and tapir.

The wetlands and marine habitats shelter the endangered Morelet's and American crocodile as well as manatee and provides habitat for the green, loggerhead, hawksbill and leatherback sea turtles.

Two large bays, a unique fresh water wetland system and 60 miles of pristine coral reefs is the enduring landscape used by the ancient Maya civilization over two thousand years ago, as attested to by the remains of approximately 27 Maya sites found within the Reserve today.



Tapir

The Local Inhabitants:

Less than 1% of the Reserve is composed of private land holdings located in the coastal Buffer Zone, where sustainable use of natural resources is permitted.

Of the less than 1,000 inhabitants living within the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, most are concentrated in the two fishing villages at Punta Allen and Punta Herrero, which depend primarily upon the spiny lobster fishery.



Jabiru

Native Maya communities border the terrestrial side of the Reserve in the Cooperative Zone, dedicated to forestry practices and subsistence farming and hunting.

The Challenge:

- Promote rational and sustainable use of the natural resources which is compatible with the conservation of the Reserve and at the same time beneficial to the local inhabitants
- Integrate environmental policy in regional development planning.
- Involve the public throughout the State into the Sian Ka'an project, with special emphasis on maintaining an active relationship with educational centers.
- Strengthen Amigos de Sian Ka'an as an institution so that it can accomplish the objective for which it was created.