



The 29th James A. Conservation Award presented to Dr. Elma Kay of the University of Belize, Environmental Research Institute

Dr. Elma Kay was honored with the prestigious James A. Waight Conservation on February 16th, 2016 at the Best Western Belize Biltmore Plaza, Belize City.

Dr. Elma Kay is a Belizean scientist and co-founder of the University of Belize Environmental Research Institute, the UB ERI. She is the Administrative Director and Science Director (Terrestrial) for the Institute. Dr. Kay is also a Professor in the Natural Resources Management Program at the University of Belize, the Chairperson of the Belize Scientific Authority for the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, CITES, and represents the University in various national committees and boards including the National Climate Change Committee. Dr. Kay has authored several peer-reviewed publications and technical reports and has supervised numerous undergraduate and graduate student research projects.

At the award ceremony Dr. Kay accepted on behalf of all the people who helped her to become who she is today. Dr. Kay was born and raised in Progresso Village in Northern Belize and

recalls that at that time women in her community did not venture out to pursue academics. In her own words, " I want to take this moment to thank all those persons who helped me become who I am today. My parents were able to see that even though I was a mere girl, there was more out there in the world I could be doing. They recognized my spirit- my potential and sent me to school".

The Board, staff and members of the Belize Audubon Society once again congratulate Dr. Elma Kay a Belizean Scientist and Conservationist on this remarkable achievement and we wish her much success in her future expeditions and adventures.

The James A. Waight conservation award is named after the Society's first president and is given annually on the anniversary of his birthday, February 16th, to organizations or individuals in recognition of outstanding work in the protection and enhancement of Belize's environment.