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<i>Thanks</i>	5	Thanks to this purchase a huge quantity of unique biodiversity is now safe from habitat destruction and poaching. You too can help preserving more areas of primary forest in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Please, contact us for more information on the subject.
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Current activities

Bettering the Reserve's infrastructure

From December 2010 through January 2011, members of the community known as «8 de Diciembre» and the FSM team worked very hard to build a second camp facility for the Reserve! The working area, the sleeping platform, the kitchen, the bar, dining area, and the dry ecological toilets are ready to use. Besides, more trails are now available to explore the virgin wilderness around the new camp. Just a few more additions (rain collection system, showers) and the building will be ready to welcome scientists, volunteers, interns, and members of the surrounding communities.



Current Activities

Participative Bird Monitoring

22nd, 23rd, and 24th of November 2010 - Bigal River Biological Reserve.

15th, 16th and 17th of January 2011- Bigal River Biological Reserve.



Objectifs : - Identify bird species and increase bird list.

- Train future community bird guides for Sumaco NP southern buffer zone
- Check for the presence of the Cerulean Warbler, an endangered migratory species.

Activités : - Following a 2km trail within the Reserve limits, performing bird watching and identifying Bird species with the help **Aves y Conservación Corporation** members.



Local Support Group (GAL) meeting and workshops:

Main objective: Conserve the Cerulean Warbler's winter habitat in Ecuador through participatory monitoring process

25th of November 2010– Sumaco National Park Information Center – Loreto -.

6th and 7th of December 2010—Sumaco NP Park Ranger Station – 8 de Diciembre -.

18th and 19th of January - Waskila Yumbo Community —25 participants from 7 different local communities.

GAL Activities Planning:

- Planning of several community action plans to be implemented

Workshops Activities:

- Revision of subjects previously studied and discussed.
- Presentation of 2 bird families: Trochilidae et Thraupidae
- Exercises: birds description and identification, ecology, etc.
- Field morning watching (observation and identification training)



A Visit to the kichua Community of San Jose de Payamino

31st of January through the 4 of February 2011, Thierry Garcia, representing the Sumac Muyu Foundation, joined an expedition to the native community of San José de Payamino, also located in the southern buffer zone of Sumaco National Park. This event aimed at exploring the territory with a GPS in order to map the area, and discovering the way of life and culture of this indigenous community. It also was the opportunity to lay the foundations for a future alliance in order to plan activities in common and help the community to develop education, volunteer, placement and eco touristic programs.



More importantly, gathering conservation and sustainable development efforts in two of the most important protected areas south of Sumaco National Park will hopefully help preserve habitats integrity and create ecological corridors indispensable to maintain biodiversity as a whole in the area.



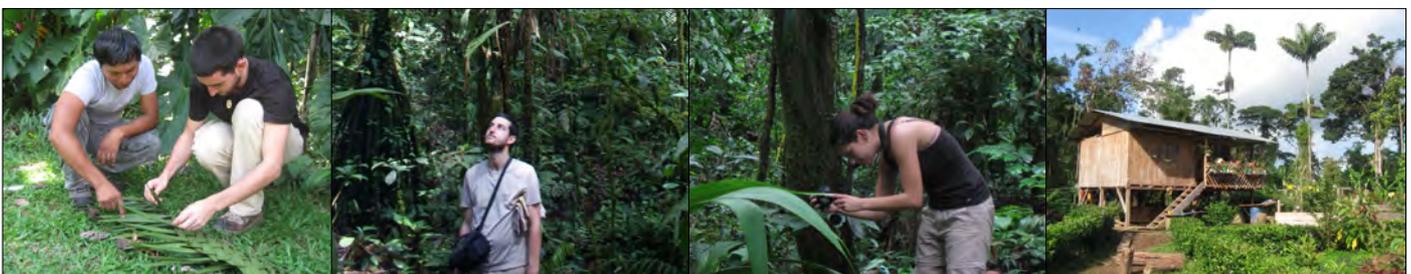
Placements: January 2011 through April 2011.



Sumac Muyu Foundation receives 2 interns from France, Thibaut GIROIR et Marie Ange, 2 students in Agronomy from Agrocampus Ouest University (Rennes, France).

Thibaut joined the Project's programs related to arthropods observation - with a focus on butterflies -, reptiles, amphibians and birds monitoring. Guided by FSM members he is also learning taxonomy and identification techniques. One of the most crucial part of his work consists in redacting PDF guides for each animal group photographed in the Reserve so far, synthesizing in such a way three years of field work and biodiversity data base elaboration.

Marie Ange is working with the community known as *8 de Diciembre*— a « colonos » population - and *San José de Payamino*— a native community. The goal is to generate a data base through a surveying process in order to gather information on agricultural methods and potential conflict with local native fauna. This first stage should enable her and the communities to establish eco friendly practices that will help protect crops as well as native fauna and flora.





The Bio-logical Corner

The spectacled Bear *Tremarctos ornatus*

The spectacled Bear, Tremarctos ornatus, is currently the only bear species registered on the Andes mountain range and in all South America. It also happens to be the only species in the Tremarctinae subfamily. Classified as vulnerable by the IUCN, its conservation is seen as a priority in the few countries where it still roams freely. Recently, an important conservation program aiming at reintroducing specimens illegally retained in captivity was established. Habitat fragmentation and habitat destruction are the main causes for the spectacled bear's scarcity. Nevertheless, poaching and hunting only come next.

Of medium size in comparison to most other bear species (1,3 à 2,1 m, weighing as much as 200 kg for the biggest males). Its fur is plain black with a short light brown muzzle and whitish spots around the eyes and nose which can extend as far as the animal's chest (variable according to specimens). The body reminds this of large apes, probably a co-evolutionary characteristic indicating the species adaptation to the type of habitats where it lives (dry forests and rainforests). Its habits are diurnal and it appears to be a solitary animal, at the exception of mothers that can often be found with 1 or 2 cubs. In spite of an omnivorous diet, it mainly feeds on plants (bromeliads, fruits, leaves, ...). Its claws and legs are perfectly adapted to tree climbing which allows the bear to get most of its food supplies. Very often the bear can be spotted on the trees where it builds small platforms from which it can reach food and get shelter. Like some other bear species it can stand on its back legs to watch the surroundings or adopt a threatening posture when faced with a potential enemy. Hibernating behaviors haven't been recorded yet.



Back in the days, this species suffered heavy losses due to hunting for sport and superstitious beliefs, although many ethnic groups used to consider it as a sacred animal, which saved the species from extinction to a certain extent. Today, its ecological importance as seed and pollen disperser and predator is widely accepted. In addition the species is known from clearing wide areas in the forest for feeding purposes which allows vegetation to grow back providing space for different and important species.



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We're on the Web!

<http://reservadelriobigal.googlepages.com>

MEMBERS:

You can join us
as a Institutional
or
Benefactor member,
Just contact us.



More than 1600 species photos of the Reserve available on Flickr.com.

Visit the following link and Help the BRBR:

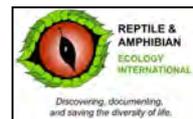
http://www.flickr.com/photos/bigal_river_conservation_project_ecuador/sets/

Thanks

We thank the following organizations for their generosity and support:



Our Parters



Fundación Gustavo Orces

