



## BIGAL RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT

### Table:

News	1
Activities	1
Activities	2
Activites	3
The bio- logical corner	4
Contacts and links	5
Thanks	5
Partners	5

### News

The Sumac Muyu Foundation would like to thank **Ecuador Experience** for its generous donation that will be used to purchase a 25 hectares area of primary forest for Conservation, thus expanding Bigal River Biological Reserve and securing more valuable habitat for wildlife.

From now on, 3% of each sells carried out by **Ecuador Experience** will be donated to the Foundation and inverted in the Bigal River Conservation Project's activities.

<http://www.ecuador-experience.com>



## Current activities

### Placement



The Project had the pleasure to welcome a French student from Agrocampus Rennes University for a 3 months stay. Twenty one years old Anaïs Graveleau has been successfully working on a reforestation project in a local community neighboring the Reserve and known as La Puyo.

Her work involved identifying and working with key local organizations to obtain plants, identify the areas and species to be used throughout the program, planning with local family members involved, and assist them in creating a basic greenhouse for the community.

10 families were involved in this reforestation program and the Sumac Muyu Foundation will carry on working with them in the future, along with one of Sumaco National Park's ranger, in order to establish ecological corridors, work against soil degradation, loss of water sources and climate change.



### Volunteering



Our special thanks to Yvon Blais from Quebec, who is designing our new website through the UN Program Volunteeronline. He is devoting a lot of time to make it more appealing, exhaustive, and easy to use. We will inform you when the website is available online.



"No seguim para para el hombre, no seguim para para el tapiro"

## Current Activities

### Entomological expedition

1st though 5th of November 2010

*Objectives:* Make a first inventory of jumping spiders (Salticidae) from the Reserve; find both male and female specimens of some target species; identify beetles in the family Carabidae; share scientific knowledge with the PCRB Team and local communities' members.

*Results:* **56** species identified (down to genus, lab work still needs to be performed)

*Expedition's Team:* Wayne Maddison (Arachnologist, University of British Colombia), David Maddison (Beetle specialist, family Carabidae, University of Oregon), Mauricio Vega (Graduate student, Universidad Católica de Quito), Marco Reyes (Herpetologist, Oscar Efren Reyes Foundation).

Many thanks to you all, we really had a wonderful time and have learnt a bunch!



## Activities

### Conserving the Cerúlean Warbler Winter habitat in Ecuador with “Local Support Groups”

#### Project’s introduction

October 18th of 2010—Sumaco National Park’s Interpretation Center - Loreto.

*General information:* A project is financed by **NMBCA (Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Fund 2000)** a law that establishes grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the U.S, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean to promote the long-term conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats. In our area the Project will be run by **Aves y Conservación** with the Help of the Sumac Muyu Foundation.

*Objectives:* A&C will implement monthly workshops aimed at teaching bird identification and long term monitoring techniques, and bird watching techniques to Help support ecotourism activities, and therefore Conservation, south of Sumaco National Park, where the cerulean warbler is found. At the same time, bird research will be carried out in the BRBR in order to extend our bird list which already reaches 325 birds .



#### Software and Computer Applications Workshop

20th, through 22nd of Octubre in Estación Experimental Central de Investigación de la Amazonía - San Carlos-

Conservación & Desarrollo and Mars Incorporated, within the USAID Program ICAA, implemented this workshop in order to help several local organizations to manage their cocoa production with new technologies. Mars Company sent a multi-national team of computer experts from the U.S, Belgium, Brazil, and England in order to teach the workshop. A brand new laptop was generously donated to each organization at the end the training.

We learnt a bunch! Thanks Michael Balsama, Jamie Head, Alan Troccoli, Cherie Thakrar, Andre Owens, Gina Calleo, Jose Martins, Nele Lievens, And Claro for his amazing spontaneous translations.



## The Bio-logical Corner

### Jumping Spiders



The **jumping spider** family (**Salticidae**) contains more than 5,000 species found in a wide range of habitats, making it the largest family of spiders with about 13% of all species. They have excellent vision which they use a lot for hunting and moving around. Thanks to a very developed internal blood pressure system they can control, salticid spiders can jump 20 to 80 their body length.



Jumping spiders appear to be normally diurnal and are easily recognized by their small size and the way their eyes are arranged (eight eyes arranged in two or three rows). Their colors and patterns vary widely but they are usually very cryptic and several species are ants, beetles, or pseudo scorpions mimics.

Jumping spiders don't build webs like orb weavers do but they use silk for various purposes. For instance, they always attach a filament of silk to the area they're standing on before jumping, just in case. They also weave small tent-like dwellings where females can protect their eggs, for night retreat or molting shelter.

Because they have tiny hairs on their claws, they are able to walk on glass, which most other spiders can't do. They have excellent vision specially thanks to their two huge front eyes which are able to create a focused image on the retina. Experiments have shown that they may have up to four different kinds of receptor cells, with different absorption spectra, giving them color vision and sensitivity to UV light. Nevertheless, as vision field is rather narrow (2-5 degrees), the eyes canals are able to move around in various directions, which is why sometimes, while looking into the eyes of a jumping spider, one can see them changing color.

Hunting Jumping spiders capture their prey by jumping on it from several inches away, and although most of them only eat other arthropods, it has been shown that some species actually include nectar and pollen in their diet.

Some jumping spiders may bite to protect themselves if disturbed. However, jumping spiders usually escape and hide, and will only bite if provoked and cornered. While the bite of a larger jumping spider can be painful, only a few species produce any other effects.



Jumping spiders use their vision in complex visual courtship displays. Males are often quite different in appearance than females and their bodies can have very fancy appearances, in particular their pedipalps which play an important role in mating. It is not unusual for the male to perform a complex dance to attract a female. Besides, it has been discovered that many jumping spiders use auditory signals as well, with amplified sounds produced by the males sounding like buzzes or drum rolls.



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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/](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

