



News

Table of Contents

News	1
Activities	1
Activities	2
Events	3
The eco-logical Corner	4
Contacts and links	5
Thanks	5
Our Partners	5



The Bigal River Biological Reserve's team is proud to announce some significant improvements in its infrastructure, which include more trails, more signs for our visitors to follow the trails on their own and without getting lost, the improvement of the main structure (kitchen, eating area, camping spots on the first floor, and even an additional floor for some privacy), new dry ecological toilets, and more...

Additionally, two bamboo cabins have been built around the main building using an original design with hardly zero impact on the forested surroundings, and a stunning elevated location which will make any stay at the Reserve truly unique. It's like sleeping in a tree, but more comfortable! Those cabins will shortly be fully equipped as bedrooms and will be available for our visitors to use.

Special thanks to Rodrigo and Oskar from the community of 8 de Diciembre for their hard work and motivation on the building work.

We also would like to stress that all this work would have been impossible without the help of Ecuador Experience who is giving 3% of its incomes to the Project. <http://www.ecuador-experience.com/>



Activities

Volunteering

Many thanks to the last volunteers who stayed at the Reserve and helped with various activities:

- ◇ Kristy and Brent Denny (New Zealand) who spent a month on the Reserve's trails to perform a monitoring of the different species of monkeys. A good quantity of valuable data could be gathered in relation with the 6 species of monkeys which are known to live in the Bigal area. Kirsty and Brent were also of great help in the making of new signs for the Reserve's trails. Again thanks to both of them for the awesome work.
- ◇ Guillaume Marfaing (France), spent two weeks at the Reserve and helped improve the infrastructure. Thanks Guillaume, we hope you'll be back soon.



Butterflies and Moths Expedition

November 2011, Bigal Reserve Biological Reserve. Elevation between 900 and 700 meters. A team from the Florida Natural History Museum and the Mc Guire Center, Gainesville, Florida, USA.

Objective: Come up with new species records for the Reserve and teach about identification and monitoring techniques for butterflies and moths, with a focus on two families: Riodinidae and Sphingidae. More than 1000 specimens could be observed, of which more than 400 Riodinidae (metalmarks). We're still waiting on some of the material to be processed and will publish the results in the next bulletin.

Thanks to JD. Turner, Patricio Ponce, Craig Segebarth, Matt Standridge, and Aquito Kawahara for their visit.

Also many thanks to Court Whelan for choosing **BRBR** for its expeditions. <http://www.expeditiontravelonline.com/>



Activities

Butterfly Expedition (Family Hesperiiidae—Skippers—)

October 2011

Shirley Sekarajasingham and Richard Lindstrom.

Main Goal: Perform a survey and come up with new species of skippers for the Bigal River Biological Reserve, using simple traps and photography. Thanks to this excellent work, 30 species new to the area could be added to the 70 species of skippers already known to wander around at the Reserve. We now know that, all families included, no less than 500 species of butterflies (Rhopalocera) call the Reserve their home.



Environmental Education Workshops



Main Goal: Prepare the children of San José de Payamino's Primary School for Loreto's Expo Feria. Thanks Paul Bamford for dealing with the logistics and make this workshop come true.

Expo feria in Loreto with the Local Support Group (GAL):

Main Goal: Let the local communities become aware of the importance of conserving the winter habitat of the Cerulean warbler, a critically endangered migratory species of bird, and also other national endangered species' habitats. Thanks to the "Local Support Group", formed mainly of young local people from surrounding quichua communities and dedicated to Conservation and eco tourism.





Rinconcito Eco-lógico



HELP OUR CONSERVATION EFFORTS WITH JUST \$35 PER YEAR !!!

As you probably know already, the Sumac Muyu Foundation (SMF), an ecological non-profit Organization, was created in July 2008, by Marion Hiruois, Thierry Garcia, and Javier Amigo, under the authority of the Ministry of Environment in Ecuador.

Since then, SMF has been working in an area of primary tropical rainforest located on the Andean foothills (higher Amazonian basin), and has implemented various conservation projects with the purpose of preserving the region's incredible and unique biodiversity.

During the past three years, through the initiative known as "Bigal River Conservation Project", SMF managed to collect sufficient funds to execute many activities with local communities. Thanks to the creation of the Bigal River Biological Reserve, various scientific research expeditions could draw attention to the fact that the place was a true biodiversity hotspot (so far, more than 400 species of birds, 38 species of great mammals, 58 species of amphibians, 59 species of reptiles, 500+ species of butterflies, etc., are known to call the Reserve their home).

The current area fully protected as BRBR encompasses 200 hectares (495 acres) and the lands that surround it are still composed of pristine primary rainforest. Sadly, most land owners in the area are willing to exploit their properties for logging or cow pasture, or want to sell them. In other words, if nothing is done urgently, this unique ecosystem is bound to disappear forever in a very short period of time.

In order to purchase some more land surrounding the Reserve and expand the area to be protected, SMF is currently trying hard to gather funds through new memberships and donations. It is important to stress that the price of one hectare (2.5 acres) of primary forest in this area currently costs about \$ 300, a ridiculous amount indeed if we consider what's at stake.

Your membership or donation can make a huge difference! Thanks in advance.

Contact us via email: sumacmuyu@gmail.com



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We're on the Web!

<http://reservadelriobigal.googlepages.com>

Membership:

You can join our cause by becoming an institutional or benefactor member,

Contact us:

sumacmuyu@gmail.com



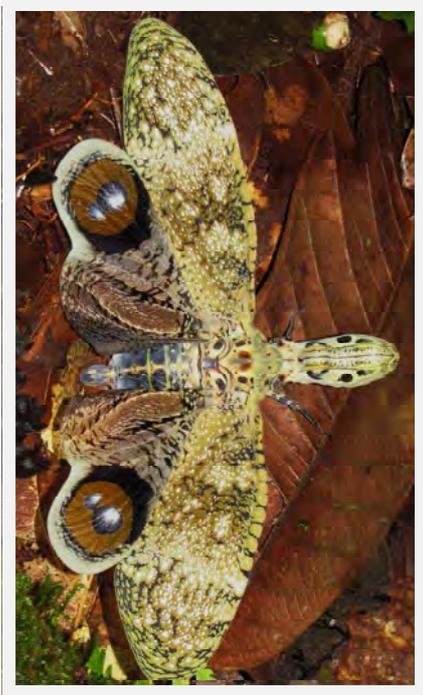
No less than 1800 species photos from the Reserve are visible on Flickr.com.

Visit the following link and Help the BRBR:

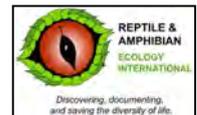
http://www.flickr.com/photos/bigal_river_conservation_project_ecuador/sets/

Thanks

Many thanks to the following organizations for their generosity and support:



Our Partners



Fundación Gustavo Orces

