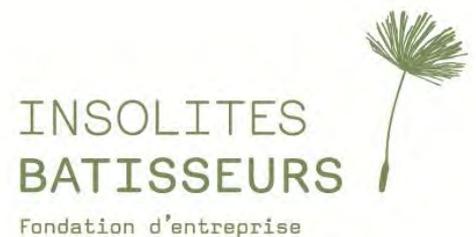




## BIGAL RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT

### Table of contents: News

<i>News</i>	1	The French Foundation “Insolites Bâtisseurs”, gathered sufficient funding sources in order to support Conservation Projects around the World.
<i>Activities</i>	1	
<i>Activities</i>	2	The Bigal River Conservation Project was lucky enough to receive Insolites Bâtisseurs’ financial support for an amount of 2000 euros for the year 2011. The money is being used to help with Bigal River Biological Reserve’s (BRBR) vigilance and maintenance project, allowing us to hire two local park rangers for 2011.
<i>Activites</i>	3	
<i>The bio– logical corner</i>	4	
<i>Contacts and links</i>	5	
<i>Thanks</i>	5	
<i>Partners</i>	5	



### Current activities

#### Butterfly Survey—20th through 25th of April 2011, RBRB

*Goal:* Increase the number of butterfly species on the current Reserve’s list.

*Activities:*

- Take as many butterfly photos as possible and ID them.
- Update BRBR’s butterfly list.

*Results:* About 50 new species identified for a total of 500 butterfly species now recorded within the limits of the BRBR.

Many thanks to **Kim Garwood, Kristine Wallstrom, and Bill Berthet** for visiting us and for performing such a wonderful surveying work. We really enjoyed their stay and sharing this unique experience with them.



## Current activities

### Compost Toilets use and construction Workshops.

February the 18th 2011– *San Jose de Payamino*

March the 4th and 11th— *8 de Diciembre*

#### Goals:

- Help community members to become aware of the benefits associated with the daily use of compost toilets.
- Lowering wastes production, generate a more healthy environment by reducing the odds of disease spreading, prevent soils and watersheds pollution.
- Teach how to build simple and effective compost toilets for the community.
- Produce biological and cheap premium fertilizer.



### Volunteer Visit (March the 13th through April the 11th)

We had the pleasure to work with Remon Saaltink, a biology student from the Netherlands., sent by Ecuador Volunteer.

Remon helped through herps and butterflies' monitoring process and produced a short video promoting volunteer opportunities in the Bigal River Biological Reserve. Check it out on YouTube:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uManIznsGT0>



### Butterfly Survey in San José de Payamino (T. Garcia, T. Giroir, and R. Saaltink) - 15th through 20th of February.

#### Goals:

- Observe and ID butterfly species. **146** species could be identified in the area.
- Take photos of each recorded species
- Add the observed species to the community's data base
- Create a PDF to be used as a field guide for butterflies
- Help the Kichua community promote its biodiversity and research station, and support their efforts to implement community-run ecotourism within the area.



## Current activities

### Training the Trainers Workshop

14th through 24th of March —Rio Verde

**Colorado State University / WWF-EFN / Moore Foundation**

*Main Goal:* Train participants so they can develop organizational skills in order to implement training events in their respective areas.

*Specific Goals:*

- Organize and implement efficient training workshops for park rangers and other personnel in state or private protected areas.
- Act as an efficient instructor in any specialty.
- Manage all the elements involved in the implementation of a teaching program related to management of protected areas.
- Design and perform successful and dynamic public presentations.



### Local Support Group (LSG) meeting and bird watching training workshops:

Main Goal: Conserving Cerulean Warbler's winter habitat in Ecuador with Local Support Groups."

LGS meeting agenda: Activities planning for Loreto's festivities at the end of May.

Workshop Activities: Basic knowledge about bird taxonomy and ecology in order to train future bird guides in Sumaco National Park's southern buffer zone.

Environmental Education: Interventions in San Jose de Payamino's primary school, focusing on and thinking about the following theme: "Let's leave a positive footprint on the Environment".





## The Bio-logical Corner

**Order Lepidoptera**  
**Family Riodinidae**  
**"Metalmarks"**



*The Riodinidae (or metalmarks) are a family of butterflies. The common name "metalmarks" refers to the small metallic-looking spots commonly found on their wings. Although mostly neotropical in distribution, the family is represented both in the New World and the Old World. There are approximately 1300 species of metalmark butterflies in the world and within the limits of Bigal River Biological River, more than 80 species were found so far.*

*Like the lycaenids, the males of this family have reduced forelegs while the females have full-sized, fully functional forelegs. The foreleg of males, is often reduced and has a uniquely shaped first segment (the coxa) which extends beyond its joint with the second segment, rather than meeting it flush; They have a unique venation on the hind wing. The costa of the hind wing is thickened out to the humeral angle and the humeral vein is short.*



*Most species perch on the undersides of leaves with the wings held open and completely flat. Riodinidae is currently treated as a distinct family within the superfamily Papilionoidea, but in the past they were held to be the subfamily Riodiniinae of the Lycaenidae. Earlier, they were considered to be part of the now defunct family Erycinidae, whose species are divided between this family and the subfamily Libytheinae.*

*The family Riodinidae consists of three subfamilies:*

- *Euselasiinae, with a handful of genera*
- *Nemeobiinae, sometimes treated as a tribe, Nemeobiini, however of which of the remaining two subfamilies it would belong to in this case is uncertain.*
- *Riodiniinae with some dozens of genera*





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**MEMBERS:**

You can join us  
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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*

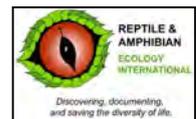
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