Back from extinction! How one species of toad can create hope

by Carlos Zorrilla, Executive Director, DECOIN

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

A few days ago, for example, I photographed a lizard I’ve never seen before. Two days earlier, I saw and photographed a katydid species of grasshopper for the first time. And, a couple of weeks before that, I found an orchid species I’d not seen, growing right next to a trail I’ve trodden at least a thousand times. These species could all be new to science. In 2016 I also saw a species of amphibian that, likewise, I had not spotted before. It is not different at all. Two days earlier, I saw a species of grasshopper for the first time.

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

A few days ago, for example, I photographed a lizard I’ve never seen before. Two days earlier, I saw and photographed a katydid species of grasshopper for the first time. And, a couple of weeks before that, I found an orchid species I’d not seen, growing right next to a trail I’ve trodden at least a thousand times. These species could all be new to science. In 2016 I also saw a species of amphibian that, likewise, I had not spotted before. It is not different at all. Two days earlier, I saw a species of grasshopper for the first time.

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

The Atelopus longirostris, thought extinct since 1989

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

A few days ago, for example, I photographed a lizard I’ve never seen before. Two days earlier, I saw and photographed a katydid species of grasshopper for the first time. And, a couple of weeks before that, I found an orchid species I’d not seen, growing right next to a trail I’ve trodden at least a thousand times. These species could all be new to science. In 2016 I also saw a species of amphibian that, likewise, I had not spotted before. It is not different at all. Two days earlier, I saw a species of grasshopper for the first time.

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

A few days ago, for example, I photographed a lizard I’ve never seen before. Two days earlier, I saw and photographed a katydid species of grasshopper for the first time. And, a couple of weeks before that, I found an orchid species I’d not seen, growing right next to a trail I’ve trodden at least a thousand times. These species could all be new to science. In 2016 I also saw a species of amphibian that, likewise, I had not spotted before. It is not different at all. Two days earlier, I saw a species of grasshopper for the first time.

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

A few days ago, for example, I photographed a lizard I’ve never seen before. Two days earlier, I saw and photographed a katydid species of grasshopper for the first time. And, a couple of weeks before that, I found an orchid species I’d not seen, growing right next to a trail I’ve trodden at least a thousand times. These species could all be new to science. In 2016 I also saw a species of amphibian that, likewise, I had not spotted before. It is not different at all. Two days earlier, I saw a species of grasshopper for the first time.

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

A few days ago, for example, I photographed a lizard I’ve never seen before. Two days earlier, I saw and photographed a katydid species of grasshopper for the first time. And, a couple of weeks before that, I found an orchid species I’d not seen, growing right next to a trail I’ve trodden at least a thousand times. These species could all be new to science. In 2016 I also saw a species of amphibian that, likewise, I had not spotted before. It is not different at all. Two days earlier, I saw a species of grasshopper for the first time.

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

The Atelopus longirostris, thought extinct since 1989

For the past 38 years, most days I walk through the forest. When I go, I seldom leave my house without a camera, and this has made it possible to record everything that I see there. You may imagine that after almost four decades of frequent visits and paying attention to the wildlife there would be nothing new to see. In most ecosystems this would hold true. But not so in Intag’s cloud forests where I live and work.

A few days ago, for example, I photographed a lizard I’ve never seen before. Two days earlier, I saw and photographed a katydid species of grasshopper for the first time. And, a couple of weeks before that, I found an orchid species I’d not seen, growing right next to a trail I’ve trodden at least a thousand times. These species could all be new to science. In 2016 I also saw a species of amphibian that, likewise, I had not spotted before. It is not different at all. Two days earlier, I saw a species of grasshopper for the first time.