

# RAINFOREST REVIEW



WINTER 2014/15

# CONSERVATION PROJECTS



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Cover photo of araucaria and Chilean beech by Alexandra Papadakis taken at Nasampulli Reserve, Chile.

## Some hope for the future?



We are living through the most unsettled times for more than half a century: the attempt to create a vast Islamic state, Ukraine's fight for independence, Israel's massacre of Palestinian civilians and, with Ebola, potentially the worst epidemic since AIDS. It is therefore, perhaps, unsurprising that the protection of the natural environment and avoidance of climate change is not on the top of many people's concerns.

Despite this, we now have some of the most encouraging news in commitments towards reducing carbon emissions and preventing deforestation.

Most recently, at the UN Climate Summit in New York, the new Declaration of Deforestation saw 30 states including the US, Canada and the European Union nations agree to halve forest loss by 2020. Perversely, Brazil was not consulted and therefore excluded from the declaration. Brazil having by far the largest area of rainforest in the world, argues that the agreement clashes with its policy of managed logging. The country has showed an increase in deforestation for the second year running after many years of reduction.

At the summit China also pledged, for the first time, to take firm action on climate change, saying that its emissions, the world's highest at 29% of the world total, would soon peak. "Firm action" is badly needed as its emissions per head recently overtook the EU and in reality will remain unacceptably high for decades to come. India's emissions will soon follow suit following its rapid industrialisation. However positive, such ambitious agreements and summits must of course be more than mere words and followed up by real action. But at least for the first time all the major economies appear to be united in accepting that climate change is real and a serious threat to us and this fragile planet.

Other good news is Norway's direct support for prevention of deforestation. Norway has recently agreed £215 million to protect forests in Peru and a further £90 million to end deforestation in Liberia by 2020. Meanwhile, Sweden recently allocated £10 million to recognising the land rights of indigenous peoples, which will provide the most cost-effective protection for many of the world's tropical forests. This is a subject with which Rainforest Concern has been closely involved in Colombia for the past 7 years.

There has never been greater awareness of climate change and on 21st September hundreds of thousands of people in more than 2,000 locations worldwide took to the streets to protest about inaction on climate change. The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate tells us the climate problem can be tackled with strong inspired leadership and can be achieved at an affordable price. Certainly without this, CO<sub>2</sub> will continue to acidify the ocean and global temperatures could rise by a catastrophic 4°C by the end of the century. But before we get too excited, a surge in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> saw levels of greenhouse gases reach record levels in 2013 and concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere grew at their fastest rate since 1984.

Away from all the talking and back on the ground, there is less to be optimistic about. The reality is that illegal logging continues unabated, particularly in Brazil and Indonesia. New research by US research organisation Forest Trends shows 49% of tropical deforestation was due to illegal conversion for commercial agriculture. It seems that many of those who are most concerned about the health of the planet are the same people who cause deforestation through their unthinking demand for timber, leather, beef, soy and palm oil. It not simply deforestation that continues unabated; the London Zoological Society's latest research states that populations of species have halved in 40 years, far worse than was previously thought.

The recent positive discussions and developments cannot come soon enough and we can only wait to see if adequate action is taken in time and indeed, implemented at all. After all, it is not sufficient for a government to change its environmental policies if it is incapable of implementing and enforcing those policies in the first place.

Respect for the planet is long overdue but it seems that attitudes at last are changing. At the eleventh hour, our action or inaction will eventually determine whether or not the world will be worth living in and perhaps even decide on the fate of our very existence.

For the first time there may be a glimmer of green light at the end of the tunnel.

You can help protect rainforests and their fantastic biodiversity in the most direct way possible by continuing to support Rainforest Concern and its projects. Without your help it would not have been possible to achieve the successes of the past 21 years.

#### Peter Bennett, Director



Rainforest Concern is grateful to British Airways for their ongoing support.

# Marathon des Sables



Tim keeps smiling as temperatures soar.

Tim Lennox ran the gruelling Marathon des Sables in April 2014 to raise money for Rainforest Concern.

Ranked by Discovery Channel as the toughest footrace on earth, Tim and two friends took part in the six-day race, 156 miles through one of the world's most inhospitable climates: the Sahara desert. Running up to 52 miles a day, in temperatures of 50°C, Tim had to carry everything he needed to survive – equipment, food and bedding. At the start his pack was a punishing 14kg. Tim said "The experience was sensational, although pretty tough to say the least. There was a huge amount of sand, which is relatively unsurprising - being a desert! - but genuinely hard work to get across. Unusually, and great for me, I didn't suffer from too many blisters - some competitors' feet were seriously horrendous!"

Tim came an amazing 163 out of 1000. He and his two team-mates finished as the 10th ranked (2nd GB) team: which is an incredible accomplishment.

Over a year's worth of training went into the lead up of this tremendous event, including running many other marathons and training in a variety of conditions. Rainforest Concern would like to thank Tim for raising over £10,000.

This is an amazing achievement and an astonishing fundraising effort for our conservation work. You can visit Tim's page and learn more about his admirable adventure on his Virgin Money page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=desdurham&isTeam=true>

# London Marathon 2014

Thank you to our 5 runners, Rebecca Randall, Luke Halliday, Aaron Trinkl, Patrick Youngs and Sam Stewart, who all represented Rainforest Concern at the 2014 event. Some of the largest crowds in London Marathon history cheered on 36,000 runners in temperatures that reached the late teens. Thank you to all our runners across the country. We appreciate the great efforts our runners put in and their fundraising for our charity.



Sam shows off his medal.



Luke, Aaron and Patrick relaxing after the finish.

## RUN A MARATHON TO SAVE THE RAINFOREST

If you are interested in putting your name on our runners' list for the Bath Half Marathon 2015 then please get in touch as the spaces are filled quickly. Alternatively, if you prefer to let others do the running but wish to support their efforts and Rainforest Concern, you can sponsor them online through [JustGiving.com](http://JustGiving.com)

# Prince Charles supports Fundatia Conservation Carpathia

by Christoph Promberger, Founder, Fundatia Conservation Carpathia

It has been another excellent year for the Carpathia Project. In May founding members of Fundatia Conservation Carpathia (FCC) were invited once more by the Prince of Wales to present project progress. As a follow-up, FCC was invited to submit the necessary documents for HRH to become patron of FCC. If this application is accepted, it would be an enormous boost to the project, not least since Prince Charles already has a reputation as the principal ambassador for the natural beauty and wildlife of Romania, and an active interest in the conservation of this last European wilderness. FCC has also applied for patronage to Princess Margareta of Romania and we hope she will join Prince Charles in the project.

The project is going from strength to strength. Restoration of degraded areas started in the summer of 2013, and we have stopped all illegal logging in those areas.

Over 16,000 hectares of forest are now owned and under the protection of the Carpathia project, and we will extend this with strategic purchases.

The process of buying land is not easy, partly because of the time it takes to contact landowners and the difficulties of buying from members of landowners associations. But the foundation succeeded joining one of the big landowners associations and it is likely FCC will have a majority of the shares bought by the end of 2014, which will add another 5,300 hectares to the area controlled by the project.

FCC also has the possibility to purchase several large properties in the Eastern Carpathians. Some of this land borders an existing nature reserve and others adjoin other Natura 2000 sites (part of the EU's



HRH Prince Charles with Doug and Kris Tompkins and Barbara and Christoph Promberger.

Habitats and Birds Directives to protect the most seriously threatened habitats and species across Europe). With around 10-15% of these areas still virgin forests, and the other interested buyers being investors, who could potentially pose threats to the habitats in the form of logging and exploitation of other resources, this is an important opportunity we are carefully considering, and would constitute an significant landmark in our protection of these ecologically important forests.

The Romanian government grants hunting licenses, or concessions, for over 2,000 hunting areas. The wildlife on this land can be in danger of heavy poaching as well as overhunting, and our research shows that numbers of many species had seriously declined in these areas. In order to protect wildlife, we acquired a first hunting concession (15,000 ha) in 2011 and, hopefully, we will acquire another four concessions, which means we will effectively take them out of circulation. Early indications are that this approach is effective and that wildlife in those areas under our control is recovering quickly. We are

positive that by the end of the year, the additional hunting concessions will bring the total area free of hunting to almost 100,000 hectares.

The Foundation has been looking to establish an initiative to create revenue to support our conservation work and create local employment. A study will be carried out to look into how conservation enterprises, including tourism, may help the project without having a detrimental effect on the environment.

We are grateful for the continued and determined efforts of Christoph and Barbara Promberger on behalf of the project.



Wolves thrive in the project area.

# Rare wildlife thrives in Neblina

by Sonja Dillman, Administrator Neblina Reserve, DECOIN



Rainforest Concern

Morning clouds forming in the Neblina Reserve.

I am happy to send you once again news from the Neblina Reserve and its people, in the valley of Intag. There is always a lot to tell and we would like to take the opportunity of communicating with you and the world through Rainforest Review.

A dream is becoming a reality: more than 10 years ago, Rainforest Concern took the decision to take direct action in the conservation of the forests of Intag, located in the foothills of Imbabura province in the northern

Ecuadorian Andes. These are among the last subtropical cloud forests in this area of Ecuador and they are the home of many threatened species of fauna and flora. Our dream began with the purchase of the first hectares of cloud forest, and since then the Neblina Reserve has become a protected area, declared by the Ministry of Environment as a state-protected forest.

Thanks to this joint effort between Intag and Rainforest Concern, we are protecting animals such as the Cock

of the Rock (*Rupicola peruviana*), the spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) and the puma (*Puma concolor*). Of the puma's presence we are certain, as on a journey through the Reserve with Carlos Zorrilla and Fiona Perez we were lucky enough to see one of these impressive creatures with our own eyes. An unforgettable experience! As well as these well-known animals, the confirmation that the 'olinguito' (*Bassaricyon neblina*), a new species of carnivorous mammal recently discovered in the Chocó forests of

southern Colombia and northern Ecuador, also walks in Intag's forests. However, this is not the only discovery that has taken place in Intag in recent years. A new species of stream tree frog of the group *Hyloscirtus larinopygion*, named in honour of the Prince of Wales's efforts to protect tropical forests, was discovered in the forests of Intag.

Our efforts continue to expand the Reserve, with our final goal of completing the Choco-Andean corridor. Currently the Reserve covers an area of 1761 hectares. As we purchase new parcels of land for the Neblina Reserve, we ensure that they are given the same protection as the rest, and are legally recognised as part of the protected area.

In December 2013, Peter Bennett and Yalda Davis from Rainforest Concern visited Intag and the Neblina Reserve. It was a good opportunity to take an extended tour of the Reserve. Neblina, meaning 'cloud' in Spanish, did justice to its name on this occasion as we were in the middle of the rainy season and the mist enveloped us with its



Wikimedia Commons

The newly described Olinguito.

dense, humid cloak nearly all the time we were there. It was also a good opportunity to visit the areas which are currently the most likely properties with which to continue the expansion of the Reserve.

A big concern for the whole Intag

valley continues to be the obsession of the Government of Ecuador with exploiting the copper deposits of Junín, known now as the Llurimahua Project. In recent years, the state company ENAMI, in cooperation with the Chilean copper mining company Codelco, has intensified its work in this area, causing great concern amongst the inhabitants of the communities of the concession area.

The mining companies and their employees are talking up the economic advantages of mining to local communities, without acknowledging the downsides. It is important not to underestimate the support all of us can give to the people affected by the mining project and their efforts to protect the community forest of Junín.

The challenges and obstacles to tackle for the future of the forests of Intag are great, but we are sure that with our joint efforts to protect the forests, we will succeed. Thank you to all our supporters.

Greetings from Intag, the most beautiful corner of Ecuador.

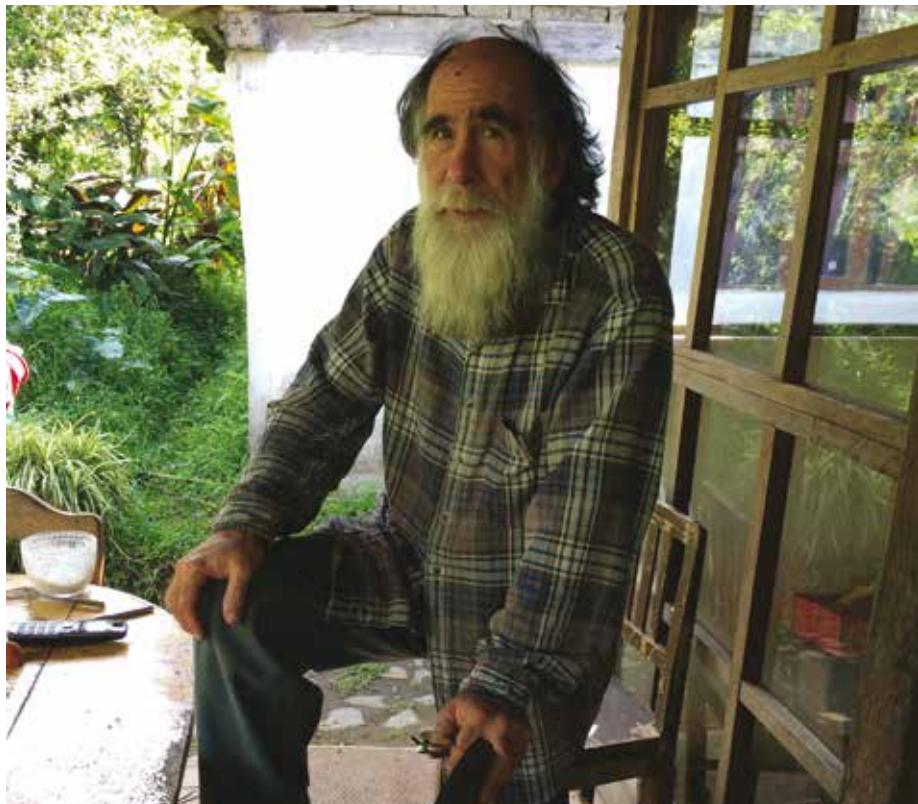


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Armando Almeida, Sonja Dillman and Yalda Davis at Neblina Reserve.

# How conservation can make you an enemy of the state

by Carlos Zorrilla, Executive Director, DECOIN



Carlos Zorrilla is relentless in his efforts to protect forests from copper mining.

Judging by what Ecuador's President Correa said on a nationally televised speech in September and December 2013, and again in January of 2014, I am considered an enemy of the state. I earned this distinction because, according to the President, I authored a manual intended to destabilise "progressive governments". On national radio and television Mr Correa also linked "Zorrilla's manual" to violent acts during a November protest against the expansion of the petroleum frontier in the country's Amazon region. The accusation was mainly presented during one of the President's weekly reports to the nation, in which extracts from other manuals were presented and attributed to mine and tied to the violent protests. In all, I counted

14 instances of false information attributed to the manual<sup>1</sup>.

Mr Correa's December presentation also claimed that the authors suggested protesters should bring pregnant women and women with children in their arms to the protests (information not found in any manual I know of). Besides the outrageousness of the accusations, there was a troubling xenophobic tone throughout the presentation, targeting my environmental activism in Intag.

The President's December address included a demand from the President for his countrymen to "react" to the threat of destabilisation, a demand that led Amnesty International to issue a world-wide 'Urgent Action' to safeguard my life. The situation

was serious enough for me to go into hiding, expecting the worst from a government that respects human rights minimally and which is hell-bent on promoting large-scale mining as a panacea to the country's problems. The scenario was uncomfortably similar to 2006 when I had to go into hiding for being part of the opposition to a Canadian miner wanting to explore the Junín mining concession.

And here lies the core of the issue: large-scale mining. For, you see, the manual the President referred to was written to inform communities of what they face when transnational mining or petroleum corporations come knocking at their doors. The manual, partly based on nearly two decades' worth of experience fighting large-scale mining in Intag, includes a list of peaceful options to mitigate or prevent some of the worst social and environmental impacts these extractive industries bring. One of these options is for communities to work closely with government officials - a strategy that paid off very well here in Intag - which is why it is malicious to say the manual was written to destabilise governments. In addition, I am not the sole author. The manual was written with the support of US-based Arden Buck, Paula Palmer and David Pellow, colleagues who are solidly committed to helping communities safeguard their rights. Yet the attacks focus on just me.

For Correa's purposes - to undermine Intag's resistance to mining and find scapegoats for the Government's failed attempts to restart the mining project - it suited him to accuse me in order to smear me and DECOIN, the environmental organisation I helped found in 1995. In September's

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outburst, for example, he accused me of being “a foreigner impeding Ecuador’s development”. He also accused other foreigners of this, and falsely linked them to DECOIN. His implication is that the real causes of the resistance to the mining project in Intag are not the devastating environmental and social impacts detailed in an independent study, nor local opposition; it is due to DECOIN, Carlos Zorrilla, and a few foreigners who spend a couple of months in Intag every year. In my open letter to Mr Correa, I pointed out that DECOIN and I do not believe in violence. I also explained that we are the protagonists of several sustainable economic alternatives, such as the shade-grown coffee project known as Café Rio Intag, as well as community ecological tourism initiatives, such as the one in Junín community which Rainforest Concern and Geo Rettet den Regenwald helped get off the ground. Likewise, I called to Mr Correa’s attention that, thanks to DECOIN, for the first time in their lives thousands of Intag residents have access to clean drinking water due to the successful community forest reserve conservation initiative. Through a collaboration between Geo schutz Regenwald, Rainforest Concern and DECOIN, we have made it possible to conserve over 10,000 hectares of some of the world’s most biodiverse and threatened forests, which are now under effective protection by Intag’s communities and local governments, as well as provide clean water.

I outlined some of the devastating impacts predicted in the only environmental impact study carried out here in Intag for a small open-pit copper mine. These included “massive deforestation”, impacts to over a dozen mammals facing extinction (including jaguars, spectacled bears and the brown-faced spider monkey), contamination of rivers and streams with heavy metals, and relocation of at least four communities.



The devastating effects of open cast copper mining.

As well as to weaken opposition to mining, I believe the President’s accusations had another objective: to weaken non-governmental organisations across the country. Last year Mr Correa issued Presidential Decree 16 which does away with the concept of the non-governmental aspect of organisations. The decree is being challenged in the Constitutional Court, as it is seen as a violation of the fundamental right of the freedom of association. The Decree was used in December when Mr Correa’s Government closed down Pachamama Foundation, an NGO that supports indigenous peoples in Ecuador’s Amazon against the expansion of the petroleum frontier.

The main idea for the existence of the polemic manual was born after years of confronting the threat of a large-scale copper project in Intag’s

cloud forests, and my wishing I had some kind of idea of what to expect when these multi-national enterprises show up in rural communities. I wrote my part of the manual after learning of mining’s horrific and lasting environmental consequences, and after witnessing first hand the social upheaval that just the promise of a large-scale mining exploration project can generate in rural communities in a country with no experience in large-scale mining.

The fact that the communities have been successful in resisting mining development since 1995, all the while generating sustainable economic alternatives, is Intag’s real story, not the manual. All the manual does is report part of this amazing story that keeps unfolding, and which includes some of the most successful conservation initiatives I know of.

# Soil degradation at Paso Alto caused by cattle ranching

Evan Barrientos, Natural Resources Student, Cornell University  
 Jefferson Mecham, Coordinador, Proyecto Quinde-Paso Alto



Jefferson Mecham

Soil degradation caused by cattle ranching.

In José Cueva's article in the last Rainforest Review one of the achievements he wrote about was the development of agroforestry systems.

However, of these achievements, the development of agroforestry systems is the most tenuous because of the complexities of creating sustainable economic alternatives. There is a deep-rooted cultural model based on deforestation and monoculture; we cannot expect to consolidate a radical alternative in only a few years. In order to plan for the future, we needed to evaluate the agroforestry project to date. University students Evan Barrientos and Isabel Rodriguez-Vega conducted an evaluation of the Paso Alto and Quinde agroforestry projects based on personal interviews while living in the communities. The following text is adapted from Evan's preliminary findings<sup>1</sup>.

## Limitations

While coffee has the potential to produce enough profit to meet the financial needs of a typical family here on 2-3 hectares of land (12% of the land needed for cattle farming), only

one person surveyed in Paso Alto and Quinde mentioned coffee as a main source of income. The shade coffee plots were intended to support families by producing coffee as a cash crop, whilst working as a farming system on which a variety of staple crops and timber could be grown. Unfortunately, very few people harvest products other than plantain and only two producers have a significant number of timber trees growing with their coffee. Shade coffee is also supposed to support more biodiversity than conventional agriculture, but only four out of fifteen coffee plots in one community have a closed tree canopy while the rest are almost exclusively shaded by plantains.

The shortcomings of the shade grown coffee project were caused by a number of factors. The project provided the Colombian caturra variety of coffee, which produces greater harvests but is susceptible to disease. It relies on chemical fertilisers and pesticides in this climate. Since AACRI's organic standards prohibit the use of chemicals, the coffee became diseased, greatly lowering initial yields

and discouraging farmers. Farmers did not understand how to grow coffee productively. Their cash crop, sugarcane, which is embedded in local culture, does not require fertilisers and is not susceptible to disease. As a result, only two coffee producers in the three communities make and apply organic fertilisers, though this is critical to success. In addition, farmers do not seem to understand the biodiverse design nor believe it feasible. Nearly all decided to grow coffee because it sounded profitable, not because it represented an alternative form of agriculture.

However, the greatest limiting factor in agroforestry, or any alternative agriculture here, is the lack of motivation to change. People do not perceive major problems with their current form of agriculture. No one talked of its ecological effects and they're relatively content with their economic status. Although very poor, they are not starving. They work hard to feed themselves and pay for school expenses, but when asked about problems or improvements they would like, mostly they would like a nicer road and less dependence on intermediaries. Perhaps for communities that received electricity, plumbing, and a dirt road for the first time seven years ago, their satisfaction is understandable. However, our concern is with the side effects of their livelihoods.

## Successes

Despite the limitations, there have been encouraging results for the shade-grown coffee project. It must be recognised that this initiative is in its infancy: the agroforestry project was introduced 7 years ago. Coffee takes three years to start producing, so there have only been three seasons to sell coffee.

One of the first challenges the project faced was encouraging people to plant a new cash crop. Since the coffee and shade trees were provided free by AACRI, nearly everyone planted, although with little sense of commitment. However, once planted, the next step was getting farmers to take care of the plants. This was one of the main weaknesses of the project, but some farmers stuck it out. Take Jorge Dávila: his coffee did not start producing for five years. While many farmers gave up after two, he kept waiting, even though over half his coffee became diseased and died. Finally, his coffee started producing at an exceptional level. With a loan from AACRI, he hopes to plant more coffee because the work is less physically demanding than that of sugarcane.

Anival Dávila is the only person in Paso Alto and Quinde whose principal dedication is coffee. He started with 300 plants; now he has 1300 and would like to plant 4000 more. The main reason he prefers coffee to cattle is because cattle requires a lot of land. Dedicating himself to coffee, he can make as much money without buying more land.

Possibly the greatest challenge is helping people realise that shade coffee is not just another cash crop like sugarcane; it represents a different form of agriculture, one that produces a diversity of crops on less land while preserving the soil and without using expensive and damaging chemicals. Whether AACRI explain this concept when they were introducing coffee is unclear, but no one interviewed talked of this as a reason for, or benefit of, planting coffee; except Marcos Sánchez and Gerardo Ayala.

Marcos Sánchez lives in Santa Rosa, a tiny community in Quinde. Here, seven households planted coffee seven years ago, and all but Marcos have abandoned it. Marcos's isolated coffee plot was the most impressive we saw, not because of its size but because of



Shade grown coffee.

its design. Marcos' plantation is the only one that incorporates a significant mix of trees, fruits and coffee. His reason for planting coffee was not just to make more money, but to diversify his income. He told us that growing a variety of crops is his way of being. He has planted trees in every available space because of their importance to the soil and for their aesthetic value. He has edible crops, a fish pond, and a half-hectare of sugarcane for home consumption. His farm is not a vast monoculture; it is a diverse farm for feeding the family while producing income. His coffee is growing well and he is content.

Gerardo Ayala has brought coffee to where it has never been before: cattle pasture. He has mixed coffee, plantains, trees and cattle. No taught him to do it, he simply wanted to experiment. With cattle pasture being the principal driver of deforestation here, learning how to make it more sustainable would be highly significant. And how has this unorthodox combination turned out? "It's growing well... I have everything in one place," Gerardo says.

### Recommendations

The main factors limiting the success of agroforestry are culturally embedded. However, these success stories show how to overcome limitations so that an alternative form of agriculture may prosper in the communities of Paso Alto and Quinde.

Based on our observations, we hypothesise that those with lots of land and making money from cattle

and sugarcane will be less likely to dedicate themselves to alternative agriculture. Those who are poor and/or do not have enough land and money for cattle or sugarcane to be profitable have an interest in trying something different. To these people, coffee and agroforestry is appealing because more can be done on less land.

It is important that farmers are educated about the negative impacts of sugarcane and cattle on the land and on biodiversity. People here need to value the cloud forest for more than wood and water; to learn to appreciate its beauty, uniqueness and wildlife. Realistically, this can probably only be achieved by starting with children, which means that working to stop deforestation is a long-term project.

But what about the short term? How do we inspire farmers to modify their embedded forms of agriculture? We believe that viable demonstration polyculture farms near the communities may be the only way to prove to people that alternative ways of farming are possible and preferable. Finally, given the dominance of cattle ranching in the area, the prospect of silvopasture must be investigated. This form of agroforestry may be more attractive than coffee, since residents are already familiar with cattle ranching and are beginning to value trees in their pastures. Given that the majority of remaining cloud forest is at an elevation where cattle ranching threatens it, silvopasture would be a wise activity to pursue in the future.

# Saving golden-mantled howler monkeys

by Jane Sloan, Director, Yakusinchi Reserve



Jane Sloan

Young Ecuadorian golden-mantled howler monkey awaiting release into the wild.

Yakusinchi Reserve is a project to preserve and increase a fragment of extraordinary sub-tropical cloud forest in the foothills of the central western Andes of Ecuador.

This mountainous, hilly and difficult land, purchased but not considered owned – only loaned for life – by husband and wife conservation team, Briton Jane Sloan and Ecuadorian Daniel Recalde, is exuberantly tropical and mystical. Extreme rainfalls nurture the exotic plant life and produce numerous waterfalls and streams rushing over rocks to feed the bigger rivers down on the plains that stretch to the Pacific Ocean.

In the last six years, Jane and Daniel have purchased six tracts of adjoining land, now amounting to some 250 acres, which makes for a small but respectably-sized wildlife reserve that already is home to numerous wild inhabitants ranging from monkeys,

puma, ocelots and peccaries to armadillos, toucans, parrots and snakes and many more species. The last piece of high mountain land was recently purchased with the help of Rainforest Concern in an urgent bid to save the lives of an important group of Ecuadorian golden-mantled howler monkeys that live there. The then owner of the land was threatening to clear the whole area of forest, making these large and glamorous monkeys homeless and facing certain death due to lack of food. Howler monkeys feed on wild fruits, flowers and the leaf shoots of particular trees and live in the very highest trees in the canopy, following the ripening fruits and flower buds. Thanks to the generous help of Rainforest Concern, Yakusinchi Reserve was able to buy the land and to save the lives of these monkeys, keeping one very important species from certain extinction in the Yakusinchi area.

In the future, Yakusinchi hopes to purchase more land to create an ecological corridor to restore the wildlife's ability to move as and when it needs, to enable species once more to reproduce and repopulate without compromising available food and habitat space.

## **Yakusinchi Wild**

Within Yakusinchi Reserve is another project: YakusinchiWild – a rescue and rehabilitation centre for cloud forest wildlife in distress. This is a project in its infancy but developing fast. The centre is being built within the forest setting at Yakusinchi Reserve, with the sights, sounds and smells that these animals know best – meaning that they will be several steps ahead in their recovery as soon as they arrive at Yakusinchi. The clinic and small hospital are built but not yet equipped. The quarantine is being built right now, with separate areas for mammals, birds and reptiles. Next will be a rehabilitation enclosure for two-toed and three-toed sloths, and a nursery and rehabilitation enclosures for howler monkeys. In the very near future there will be large enclosures in the Yakusinchi forest for all cloud forest species, from the spectacled bear and capuchin monkey to ocelots, pumas and iguanas down to the neediest little bird or reptile.

YakusinchiWild intends to be the flagship rescue and rehabilitation centre in Ecuador, teaching the best ways of caring for wildlife that end up in captivity, for whatever reason, and the incredibly complex programmes needed to ensure safe release back into the forest.

Yakusinchi Reserve and YakusinchiWild are happy to welcome adventurous visitors and volunteers for an experience that is certainly different! Please see our website at [www.yakusinchi.com](http://www.yakusinchi.com)

# A personal experience of life with the Huaorani

by Sarah Begum



Huaorani warrior using a blowpipe.

When I was nine years old, I learnt about deforestation in the Amazon, and ever since then it has been my dream to go there, to meet the indigenous tribes who live there and investigate their situation. At the age of 21, my dream came true...

Walking through the forest with warriors from the Huaorani tribe was a magical journey; a quest back in time to glimpse the world in its most pristine state. I was challenged in every imaginable way to immerse myself fully in the Huaorani culture, from weaving hammocks and gathering food in the forest with the women to making blowguns and hunting with the warriors. Through this immersion, I found deep respect for their ancient traditions and was chosen by the elders to be initiated into the tribe and married to a Huaorani warrior, in order to create an alliance with them and spread their message about protecting their land through my film, "Amazon Souls".

Yasuni National Park in Ecuador is

recognised by the United Nations as the most biodiverse place on the planet. It is the ancestral home of the Huaorani tribe, including three uncontacted families. Buried under this rich land lies Ecuador's 'cash cow': oil. It has been a constant battle for the tribes to preserve the land against exploitation. In 2010, the Ecuadorian Government started an initiative to raise \$3.6 billion over 13 years in order to pay for 'not exploiting' the oil reserves in the Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT) oil field.

After raising \$13 million from charitable donations, President Correa abandoned the initiative. But many citizens and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have not abandoned the cause. The Yasuni ITT initiative put a spotlight on Yasuni and raised national and international awareness, but the oil frontier in Yasuni is expanding on several fronts. The Huaorani community in Bameno are working with other communities who still live in the forest to protect Yasuni.

Many, including the Government, claim that the Huaoranis support oil development. But they are a divided tribe, living in two worlds. Conflict exists between Huaoranis who live in the forest and the Huaoranis who live along the oil roads.

NGOs are organising campaigns to raise awareness of ITT, but Yasuni is more than this. If we are to save it, we really need to listen to the voices of the people from Yasuni. Few people seem to know that there are 'contacted' Huaorani communities who have organised themselves to work together to protect their ancestral territory, Huaorani culture and Yasuni.

They call themselves 'Ome Yasuni' and are the community with whom I went to live in Bameno. The forest gives them life and their way of life. They have already lost a lot of forest and without territory they cannot survive. Ome wants a meeting with the President and a dialogue with the Government to reach an agreement to protect what remains of their rainforest territory from oil development, and protect their right - and the right of neighbouring Huaorani family groups, including the 'uncontacted' families - to continue living freely and in accordance with their culture in their ancestral lands. They want to come to a solution that would benefit them all, enabling them to coexist on the land and live in peace and prosperity. Their voice needs to be heard, and they need our support to make it happen.



Sarah learning from the Huaorani.

# Protecting indigenous culture in the Amazon

by Martín von Hildebrand, President, Gaia Amazonas



Gaia Amazonas

"Reviving indigenous and traditional knowledge and culture" has become an important catchphrase in the meetings and international fora on rainforest conservation. The role of indigenous peoples in the management of their own territories and protected areas is increasingly recognised as is their contribution towards environment and sustainability indicators and biodiversity targets. But how is it actually done? How does the reviving of knowledge and culture take place?

Across the eastern flank of the Colombian Amazon, indigenous communities from the Tanimuka, Letuama, Yukuna, Matapi, Makuna,

Barasana, Eduria, Tatuyo, Tuyuca, Niamepacu and other ethnic groups have been, during the last decade, reviving their mythology, customs and rituals, rebuilding their malocas (community long-houses) and rediscovering traditional varieties of domesticated crops. They are now stepping up to take responsibility for ecological governance of the Colombian Amazon, along with the unenviable task of warding off mining companies. And their achievements are encouraging local communities in neighbouring rivers and faraway continents.

Without doubt, the legislative context in Colombia has been a prime factor.

The Political Constitution provides a framework for indigenous rights, backed by the endorsement of key international agreements such as the ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The lands where they have traditionally lived (now referred to as resguardos) are recognised on a par with other territorial entities, such as municipalities and provinces; thereby local indigenous organisations become public entities responsible for managing their resguardos and receive state funds for this purpose.

This opens a wide window of possibilities for setting up indigenous health, education and other services that provide for the real needs of the local people, without further eroding their cultural identity and knowledge. Gaia Amazonas has enabled communities in the Colombian Amazon to take advantage of this window. It encouraged them to take time and look back at how their ancestors lived, to compare this to how they are living now, and why; and finally to chart a path towards how they would like to live in the future.

One of the problems they encountered was that the younger generation were not only fast losing their traditional knowledge, but they had lost the custom of sitting up all night in the mambeadero, listening and memorising the teachings of the elders. But it was the communities themselves who came up with a solution: the younger generation, many of whom had received a non-indigenous education at Catholic schools, would become researchers of their own traditions.

'The elders would say, "what is happening here? Why aren't the young respecting us? Why are they underestimating the sacred sites and our traditional knowledge? It is because they go to school where another vision of the world

is imposed". This led us to analyse where the essence of the problem was and to start researching our tradition with the elders". Tarsicio Vanegas, Maestro comunitario / Etnia Itana

Armed with tape recorders, cameras, pens and paper and computers, men and women from the small villages dotted along the banks of the Apaporis, Pirá Paraná, Mirití, Isana, Tíquie and other rivers, began to track down the most knowledgeable elders, transcribe interviews, draw maps, take photographs and gather a rich tapestry of information, history, geographical data, myths, seeds and knowledge which they wrote up and systematised.

They started 15 years ago. Today the fruits of the process are increasingly evident. The work has been mainly carried out in groups, divided up according to ethnicity and gender, and overseen by a shaman or elder woman. Men focused on the origin of the territory, sacred natural sites, the myths and rituals; the women investigated the origin of cultivated food, seeds, and their own myths and rituals. Soon they had developed their own, new, methodologies of mapping this information. Circular calendars capture the cyclical movement of the constellations and the seasons. They are a dynamic and beautiful way to chart the times and spaces of the forest, the ebbs and flows of nature and the rivers, the seasons, the breeding patterns of fish and animals, the times when hunting is allowed and when fruits should be harvested, and the health of the community and times when sickness prevails. Over 300 researchers were involved.

In the words of Guillermo Rodriguez of the Majiña ethnic group: "We started taping the elders, transcribing and getting organised by ethnic groups. It was tough. The elders didn't focus on what we wanted to know. We would tell them" tell us like this". Eventually we managed. We

saw the results and we were happy, we were entering our real education: where we came from, where we received the sacred elements to care for our territory, how to bring up our children, how to care for our gardens. The women also participate in this research..."

As the researchers began to unearth and revive their culture, so they revived the (often neglected) community spaces, alongside new ways for transferring this knowledge from one generation to the next. Soon they were drafting study plans and organising community schools where the local language and culture is prevalent, and developing health programmes that draw on the traditional medicinal plants and wisdom.

The intangible results are equally valid, such as the growth in self-confidence and the re-valuing of language and cultural identity. In 2008, indigenous communities along the Apaporis River called on the Government to create a national park over their territory – a park covering one million hectares of tropical forest - to keep gold mining out of their territory and to protect one of the region's most important sacred natural sites. Over 50 indigenous researchers have been producing maps and texts of their sacred natural sites, their rituals, and traditional ways of living in harmony with the forest. In a landmark agreement with the National Parks office, the indigenous inhabitants have responsibility for the Yaigoje Apaporis National Park, and have established 'reviving indigenous and traditional knowledge and culture' as its central axis.

Along the Pirá Paraná River community research also has an important role in putting the breaks on mining concessions, providing the compelling substance for a successful application to the Colombian Government, and then to UNESCO, to register their cultural



Gaia Amazonas

View of La Pedrera village from the Caquetá river.

knowledge and practices as Intangible Cultural Heritage in urgent need of safeguarding. Indigenous communities of nearby Isana and Tíquie Rivers were inspired to start their own process of reviving their cultural memory, to then chart their path ahead. As a result, a major bi-national agreement has been established between Colombia and Brazil to safeguard indigenous intangible cultural heritage across more than 70 million hectares of tropical rainforest in the northwest Amazon.

The wildfire of cultural revival in the eastern Colombian Amazon has spread across to traditional communities in Africa. Thanks to an exchange visit, in 2009 Amazon indigenous leaders had the opportunity to share their experience and hold a training workshop on what their African colleagues have since termed "talking tools". The workshop in Venda, northern South Africa, planted the seed for community research projects for the revival of knowledge and culture, ongoing in South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia, and emerging in Benin and Zimbabwe.

"Now the people have become aware, they are starting to think that to live in the forest they must understand it, they must have the knowledge of our elders. I think this research will never end."

Juan Buitrago, Barasana Shaman

# Protecting the night monkeys of the Colombian-Peruvian Amazon

by Angela Maldonado, Fundación Entropika

2013/14 were excellent years for Fundación Entropika as we accomplished one of our main conservation goals: “**to eradicate the illegal trade in night monkeys for the malaria research market**”.

A pilot project in 2008 identified the ecological, economic and legal scope of the illegal trade in wild-caught night monkeys in the Colombia-Brazil-Peru border area, and determined that during that year more than 4,000 animals were traded to supply a biomedical facility located in the Colombian Amazon. This trade represented around US\$100,000, with less than 10% of the profits going to indigenous collectors. During our fieldwork we also understood that one of the main issues faced by indigenous communities is the lack of access to potable water, which is increasing cases of water-borne diseases, with children and elders most affected. In addition, the lack of

basic sanitation remains a limitation for the communities to engage in any tourism project which would have the potential to improve local livelihoods in a sustainable way and, as such, reduce over-extraction of natural resources.

Since 2010 we have been implementing the Aotus Project, a community-based research project that aims at: i) determining the population status of night monkeys at 8 sampling sites on the Colombian-Peruvian border, ii) identifying ways to improve living standards, and iii) filing a public benefit law suit against the regional environmental authority ‘Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Sur de la Amazonía’ (responsible for the issuing of, and compliance with, legal permits for scientific trapping and trade of night monkeys), the Colombian Ministry of Environment (the CITE’s administrative authority) and Fundación Instituto de Inmunología de Colombia (the biomedical laboratory using the night monkeys for research).

Our investigation revealed that the research facility was flouting its limit of wild-caught night monkeys (*A. vociferans*) as well as importing and experimenting on a night monkey species from Peru and Brazil (*A. nancymaae*) for which they had no permit. In addition to having a detrimental impact on wild population levels, post-experimental releases of *A. nancymaae* in Colombian territory have created a new population whose status and impact on resident populations of *A. vociferans* remains unclear. Although Entropika’s members had previously documented the illegal trade, enforcement of legislation only

occurred when Fundación Entropika undertook direct legal action against organisations responsible for either instigating or overseeing the trade: the court ruling by the Colombian State Council in November 2013 revoked trapping permits, setting a milestone ruling in favour of the protection of wildlife in Colombia. Winning this public benefit law suit represents an historic precedent, not only for the improvement of Colombian legislation regarding the sustainable use of natural resources, but also shows that conservationists can achieve effective law enforcement.

In order to improve living standards in the communities, we recently started the installation of water filters in households in the indigenous community of Mocagua. Community systems are to be installed at another three communities. Once these communities have clean drinking water, we will fundraise to implement a community tourism project that will engage relevant stakeholders, such as Amacayacu National Park, the regional government, and national and international NGOs.

Entropika would like to thank Rainforest Concern and its donors. Without their support we would not have been able to implement and maintain our in-situ conservation efforts. The results of this ongoing support are reflected in recent victories in favour of the protection of the Amazonian ecosystem, its wildlife and ancient local inhabitants. Long-term follow-up is crucial in order to achieve effective conservation. We hope to be able to continue relying on this strategic alliance in order to keep this rainforest of unique biodiversity safe for generations to come.



Fundación Entropika

Peruvian red-necked owl monkey.

# Protection and restoration of the Western Ghats forests

by Supi Seshan, Director, Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary

Restoration, rehabilitation, and what is now being called ‘assisted migration of species to prepare for climate change’, are all important undertakings. The Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary (GBS) in the Western Ghats of India specialises in this work and Rainforest Concern has been a steady ally since 2007.

GBS’s work is about “saving the pieces”, the herbaceous flora which are the first to die when habitats are fragmented. We have seen that, given time and support species and habitat return. GBS is run by a handful of ecosystem gardeners on a 63-acre re-wilded piece of land. In our 40 years, we have become one of the most biodiverse centres in India, a place of inspiration, knowledge and conservation strategy.

GBS’s work is broadly speaking plant conservation, restoration and education. Project beneficiaries are 40-50% of the region’s plant species, degraded habitats in various protected areas, local women, youth and land stewards. Here is an overview of the work accomplished since the Rainforest Concern-Planet Foundation grant of August 2013.

We have made significant extensions to nursery areas: the area of the grasslands nursery increased by 100%. Habitats for outplanting were increased and the area of rockery was extended. The outlay of habitats for edge plants resulted in an 20% increase. Propagation techniques have become more efficient and successful; however, the learning curve continues to be steep. We have been able to employ the help of two plant pathologists for controlling fungal infestations, insects and other pests, as well as fine-tuning nutritional factors.

Training of the conservation staff has intensified and our search for potential staff increased, including outreach to underprivileged communities, such as adivasis (tribals) and Tibetan refugees. We continue expanding our facilities for accommodating new residential staff, as well as for training and student programmes: we had three interns with us in the dry season and two residential camps for school students.

We continue monitoring and protecting the land in our care, including Rainforest Concern-supported acres, where the recovery of forest and wildlife is well underway. Wages have slowly increased and we now pay over 20% more than the local rate, which has only been possible thanks to the grant we received. We also continue to host day tours for local and regional visitors, a large number of whom are college and school students, participating in the mountain network, in the fractious and politicised debate on the conservation of the Western Ghats. Consultative visits with the Forest Department continue, especially in the upper Nilgiris. There is an interest from authorities in removing exotics, in part due to years of lobbying by GBS and partner organisations. However, their methodologies for removal require monitoring and support in order not to avoid damaging valuable habitats and waterbodies.

It is a fact that Western Ghats ecosystems have been decimated. There is little sign that the assault will stop, even with 93% gone and a clarion call from conservationists to protect the last natural areas from mining, urbanisation and real estate speculation. Protected areas have increased but pressures on



Volunteers at the sanctuary planting epiphytes.

them have increased too. A recent recommendation to institute a government authority to regulate regional development based on a rigorous scientific assessment has just been vetoed by six state governments, for being “too draconian”. However, the pace of development is unquestioned, a mandate purportedly for the Indian poor but increasingly serving corporations and private wealth. 245 million people in south India are dependent on the Western Ghat rivers. These rivers emerge from lush forests full of endemic fauna and flora, living now on toeholds of time and space.

Hope lies with nature, not with modern civilisation. Those who make this last stand do it in the awareness that we may not see the return of the forests. But if we form an ecology of action, then plants gain what they need most: time. With the plants, the forests then have one added chance to return. In-situ conservation has to be urgently complemented by ex-situ measures.

Thank you to Rainforest Concern, and the Planet Foundation for recognising the need for this work.

Supi Seshan

# Mixed fortunes at Pacuare Reserve

by John Denham, Director, Endangered Wildlife Trust and Trustee, Rainforest Concern



Jaguar caught on our camera trap.

After the record number of leatherback nests in 2012, the excitement the following years was more in the forest than on the beach. As usual, we closed the turtle season at the end of September. By then the leatherbacks had long since finished nesting and the last of their hatchlings emerged in August.

The number of leatherback nests in 2013 was an all-time low at 457, following the previous all-time high of over 1200. We can give no explanation and neither can any biologist. We just know that lows follow highs and vice versa but we still don't know what factors cause these big swings. We counted 75 green turtle nests and, more importantly, 18 hawksbill, many more than the usual 6-8 we are accustomed to.

The beautiful hawksbill, hunted for its shell from which tortoiseshell is made, is a rare and welcome visitor. They lay up to 150 eggs per nest (leatherbacks average 80). We wonder where else along the coast they nested. On any of the unprotected beaches they would surely have been killed.

Throughout the season, Marga, our Spanish biologist, was working on her research into the effect of shade and depth of the nest on the sex of the leatherback hatchlings. It is an established fact that a nest temperature of over 29.5 °C during days 20-40 of incubation will produce females, and below that, males. Marga made a hatchery of 40 artificial nests of different depths with some shaded and some in the open sun and she monitored the temperature

of each nest. She is now working on the data collected and will continue her research if we can obtain funding for her.

Our education programme advanced, with over 1000 children coming in groups from the US, Costa Rica and Europe. The group visits from local primary schools, sponsored by Costa Rican companies, were most successful. They come for a day visit and learn about the turtles, their life cycle, and the animals in the forest. We had 275 children and hope to increase that number.

With the funding received from donors, we were able to receive 75 children from local secondary schools who patrolled at night, learnt about the forest and spent half a day enthusiastically planting trees in the new land on the other side of the canal. This is reforestation combined with education which is the ideal mix. We have mentioned before the little shop we opened in the Reserve to sell handicrafts made by people living in the nearby area. We now make a small



Charlotte Coulsey with a newly hatched turtle.



Endangered Wildlife Trust

Planting trees on former cattle pastures is a priority.

margin on the sale price which goes into a fund for bringing local people from Bataan and Matina to see what we are doing at the Reserve. This has proved very popular and has been generously supported by donations from the ladies whose handicrafts have been most successful in the shop. This is locals supporting locals to come to Pacuare which is a good sign.

The forest produced big excitement when we caught a jaguar on our camera trap – a big handsome creature which we knew was somewhere in the forest but had never been seen before.

The crocodiles in the lagoon were also the focus of great interest. A pregnant female came ashore one night, dug a nest and laid about 35 eggs on a sandy beach behind our boat station in the lagoon, only 3 metres from a much used path. Crocodiles are protective of their nests and the female stayed in the water very close by, keeping an eye on our boats as they came and went. For safety we built a chain link fence between the path and the nest. Eventually, after 87 days, the mother somehow knew the moment had arrived and came to uncover the eggs and help the babies out of their shells. She then carried them two by two in her mouth across to the other side of the lagoon where they lived in the

undergrowth until old enough to take to the water. Once again, the camera trap recorded some great pictures of the event.

We have many school groups already booked, our local primary school project will certainly expand and we have every expectation of a good year for leatherbacks.

An unusual highlight was the visit of four well-known artists from Oaxaca in Mexico. They had jumped at Hilda Denham's suggestion that they come – all expenses paid – for a week in the Reserve, sketching, drawing and painting, on the condition that they each produced three large paintings which they donated to the Reserve for an exhibition in Oaxaca in 2014. They were all very excited by this project and worked enthusiastically all week – weather permitting. Several paintings were sold at the exhibition and more have been sold since, raising valuable funds for the Reserve.



Endangered Wildlife Trust

Crocodile in the Pacuare lagoon.



**The education of the local population of the value of the forests and biodiversity is of the utmost importance. Children living close to the Reserve grow up to regard the forests with either indifference or enthusiasm and curiosity. In recent years, whenever visits to the Reserve have been made by local school children the reaction has been dramatic.**

For example, last year 200 primary school children visited Pacuare. Most had little knowledge of the variety of animals and plants found in the Reserve and others had no idea the sea was so close to their school. Sitting in the forest they were taught the importance of leaf cutter ants in breaking down plant material for 'recycling', they witnessed howler monkeys in the trees above them, and on the beach they watched as turtle hatchlings emerged from their eggs in the sand to make a dash for the open sea. Back at the classroom many of the children produced paintings of what they saw and experienced.

Thanks to Rainforest Concern and the Planet Foundation's generous grant this year we will be able to enlarge this basic education programme which will now involve at least 670 students from elementary and secondary schools.

We will also be able to complete the reforestation of an area of land that was purchased in 2009. The area measures about 13 hectares and will be planted with a mix of native tree saplings.

# Camera traps reveal Nasampulli's biodiversity secrets

by Montserrat Lara, Enrique Cruz, Marco Cortés and Antonio Lara, Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia



The volcanic lagoon at the Nasampulli Reserve.

Back in 2010 we developed a four-year Management Plan for Nasampulli Reserve. That was almost four years ago and it is now time for a review. The Management Plan was a tool to guide the development and implementation of activities within the Reserve. We divided the Reserve into different management zones, each with a specific objective and permitted and restricted activities. We established six programmes covering administration maintenance, restoration, research and monitoring, protection, outreach and environmental education, and ecotourism.

Among the actions implemented for the "Administration and Maintenance Programme", with funding from Rainforest Concern, is the hiring of a park ranger during summer and autumn (in winter the area is covered by snow and mostly inaccessible) and the construction and maintenance of a

cabin for the use of staff, researchers, students and visitors. This is a huge improvement because it enables a more permanent presence of administration staff at the Reserve and the possibility of receiving researchers, students and interns. Previously the only way of staying at the Reserve was by camping. We have also enhanced our trail infrastructure, with a new lookout over a 10 metre waterfall, more than 15 kilometres of trails, new signs and 6 further lookouts.

The achievements have facilitated the implementation of the "Protection Programme" and we are able more effectively to defend the Reserve against threats. One of the main threats is illegal use of the Reserve for cattle ranching, which has negative impacts on soil structure, vegetation and water quality. Through setting up and maintaining fences and developing agreements with

neighbours, we have finally been successful in excluding the cattle. This has permitted the recovery of grasses and shrubs, increased tree regeneration and reduced trail erosion. Another pressing issue at the Reserve is the presence of non-native wild boars, which disturb Araucaria *araucana* (monkey puzzle tree) regeneration, cause soil erosion and feed on native birds and frogs. We are still working on a control programme based on a study to assess wild boar populations and their habits.

During the past four years we have made important progress in the "Research and Monitoring Programme". We have established permanent plots to study the stand dynamics of Araucaria and *Nothofagus* forests and we have involved undergraduate students in this project. A significant improvement in our monitoring capacity has been the acquisition of 4 camera traps that

are installed at the Reserve entrance for surveillance and at specific sites in the Reserve for monitoring wild boar and native wildlife. We are excited to have discovered there is more wildlife than we expected. The cameras have captured puma or mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), pudú (*Pudu puda*), the smallest deer in South America, chilla (*Lycalopex griseus*) and culpeo (*Lycalopex culpaeus*) foxes, and quique or lesser grison (*Galictis cuja*), a small mustelid endemic to southern South America. We have also found one of the four marsupial species endemic to Chile, the monito del monte (*Dromiciops gliroides*), considered to be a living fossil, and the Darwin's frog (*Rhinoderma darwinii*), endemic to the Austral forests of Chile and Argentina and known for its rare breeding behaviour in which the male ingests the eggs and incubates them in vocal sacs. Through footprint monitoring we have also detected the presence of the endangered guíña cat (*Leopardus guigna*). In addition, we have installed a basic weather station for measuring precipitation, temperature and snow depth.

As part of the "Restoration Programme" we are working on minimising erosion impacts on trails and revegetating old logging roads. We have developed trials with different native plant life forms, including trees, shrubs, grasses and herbaceous species. We have trialled tree species such as coihue (*Nothofagus dombeyi*), lenga (*Nothofagus pumilio*) and direct sowing with araucaria seeds collected in the Reserve. Among the shrubs we have used are the native currant, zarzaparrilla (*Ribes magellanicum*), and the chaura berry (*Gaultheria* sp.). We have also used herbaceous species such as rushes (*Juncus procerus*), acaena (*Acaena ovalifolia*), and sedges (*Carex* sp.).

Through the "Interpretation, Environmental Education and Outreach Programme", the Reserve



Deep winter at Nasampulli - a Puma approaches the entrance to the Reserve.

has given undergraduate students the opportunity of fulfilling their thesis and internship requirements while contributing to the conservation of the Reserve. In the past four years, one undergraduate thesis has been submitted and three are in progress. Between 2012 and 2014, six students from the Degree in Conservation of Natural Resources at Universidad Austral de Chile have developed their internships. Furthermore, there is great potential for future development, especially in terms of working with neighbouring communities and schools. We look forward to implementing an environmental education programme and working more closely with these communities in the coming years.

During the past months we have become actively involved in "Asociación Conserva Chile", (asiconservachile.cl/en/), a very active network of indigenous and private protected area land owners in Chile, attending workshops and meetings to discuss agroecology, environmental education and ecotourism, with the objective of strengthening our capacity and links with other protected areas. In August 2013, we attended the 10th Latin American Congress of Private Reserves and Indigenous Peoples giving an oral presentation and

displaying the work and Management Plan of the Reserve.

There are many plans and ideas for future developments in Nasampulli Reserve, which we aim to pursue with the support of Rainforest Concern and other collaborators. There is great potential to create a corridor to join Nasampulli with other public protected areas, which could be implemented by purchasing more land towards the south and connecting Villarrica National Reserve with Huerquehue National Park. This would be valuable as Nasampulli Reserve protects such unique Andean ecosystems and forests. In addition, we plan to develop a temperate forest mountain research station in collaboration with local and international research institutions and universities. We are keen to further implement the Management Plan, especially those programmes relating to community development, focusing on ecotourism, agroecology, sustainable forest management and renewable energy. On a landscape scale we would like to contribute to the development of a wider landscape conservation project, in which there is collaboration between public and private land owners, and in which conservation, production and other activities can coexist and thrive in harmony.

# El Boldo – three years on

by Denise Astoreca, Corporación Bosques de Zapallar



Map of El Boldo and the Mediterranean forest corridor.

Three years have passed since Corporación Bosques de Zapallar (CBZ) was entrusted with the conservation of the 75 hectares of El Boldo hill, now known as Parque El Boldo. During this time there has been important progress in its conservation and also awareness among the community that a valuable forest is being preserved for their well-being and enjoyment.

CBZ has not been alone in this task, but has benefitted from the generous help of Rainforest Concern from the start, who believes in the importance of this forest and has constantly encouraged every effort made

towards its protection. Thus CBZ had a master plan drawn up to ensure that the necessary steps would be taken to make Parque El Boldo an example of conservation for the area, as these 75 hectares are a small fraction of the hills extending to the south east of Zapallar covered by similar native forest.

In 2012, thanks to the Planet Foundation and Rainforest Concern, CBZ was able to start working on the most urgent tasks outlined in the Master Plan, and by the end of 2013, Parque El Boldo has its first signed trail to El Cristo, fences constructed where cattle used to enter the

property, and hundreds of invasive trees (*pittosporum undulatum*) eliminated. Guided tours take small groups of people up the trail and an agreement with the local authority was reached for taking school children from the local schools with their teachers into the forest. A guide book was given to each student to fill in with observations and drawings. Likewise, Universidad del Desarrollo uses Parque El Boldo for student research projects and scientific investigation. Apart from having a positive effect on both parties, these agreements have allowed CBZ to obtain certificates for tax exemptions which benefit businesses that make donations to CBZ. Hopefully this will encourage local businesses to finance some of our projects.

One of our most urgent projects for this year is the mist trapping device



Alstroemeria is a native of the Park.



The new trails and signs at the Reserve.

designed specifically for El Boldo by an environmental architect. Chile has been suffering from drought since 2011 and the central area is the most seriously affected. If it was not for the mist constantly coming in from the sea the forest would now be drying up, and even with the mist one can scarcely see any water in the creeks or springs deep in the forest. There were also much fewer flowers during spring and summer. Mist trapping has proved to be efficient in producing water in northern areas of the country where it is used for agricultural and domestic purposes, so it could also be a great help to Parque El Boldo in some specific areas.

#### **Expanding the protected area**

At the same time as working in El Boldo Park, CBZ has been trying to get other landowners in the area, whose properties have Mediterranean forest, to take steps towards protecting all or part of their land. Because of the high prices of land in this region, it is not an option to buy large areas; also landowners hesitate

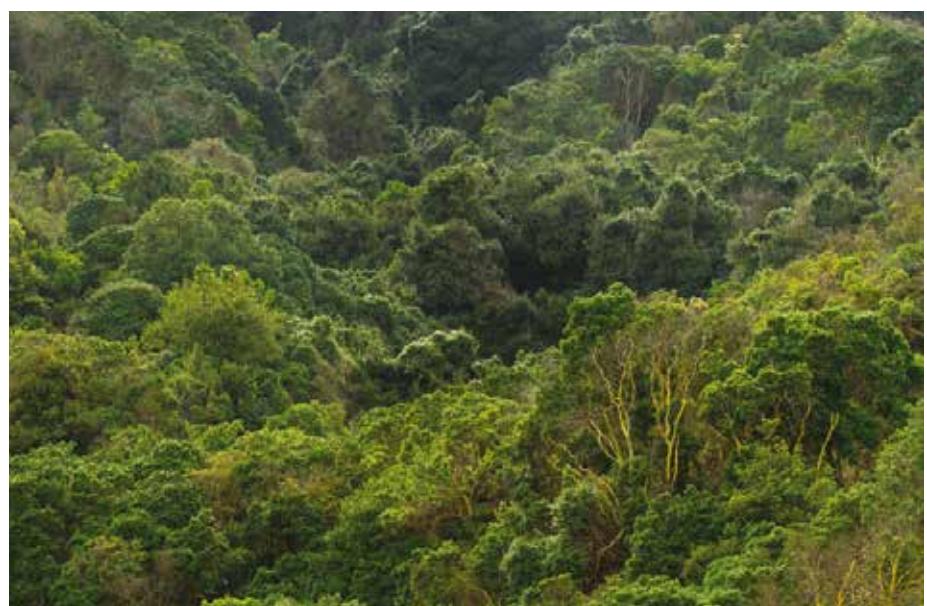
to make permanent commitments to conservation that they may later regret, so the process is slow.

However, there have been positive results. In the area of Las Cenizas, where several owners have expressed their intentions of protecting the forests, one of them has agreed to

subscribe to the same legal figure that CBZ and El Boldo arrived at, and protect permanently 250 hectares of land (known as La Judea). This legal figure is explained by Federico Ringeling, board member and executive of CBZ: “The ownership does not change hands; rather the land is under an easement by which its destiny can only be the conservation of the forest, and CBZ is responsible for this purpose”.

With the signing of La Judea agreement the protected area will increase from 75 to 320 hectares, a big step toward protecting the corridor of Mediterranean forest known as Bosques de Zapallar.

Perhaps even more important is that all this activity has attracted attention among the community and there are more people interested in visiting the Park. As a result, landowners on both boundaries of Parque El Boldo have shown an interest in reaching an agreement with CBZ, as they realise that if they protect the higher part of the hills, the land below will gain value. This will be key to the future of Zapallar’s coastal forests: in an area where land is so highly valued, it represents a win-win solution for both the forests and the landowners.



The forests of El Boldo are sustained by the Pacific mists.

Gabriel Rodríguez

# Pressures of development on indigenous peoples

by Patrick Cunningham, Indigenous People's Cultural Support Trust



Sue Cunningham

Looking out from the boundary of the Xingu Indigenous Park at the neighbouring farmland, Mato Grosso State.

Many areas of the world which were previously protected for their environmental, ecological or cultural value are today under renewed and intense pressure. Mainstream culture's insatiable hunger for technology combines with the need to feed its growing population, threatening parts of the world whose longer-term value to humanity had previously been recognised and respected. Qualities, such as the ability of forests to regulate local and global climate and to mitigate the effects of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, are re-cast as barriers to development. Less tangible qualities to do with spirituality, cultural values and the protection of

vulnerable indigenous peoples and their traditional ways of life are often simply ignored.

Indigenous peoples across the world, from Australian aborigines to Kalahari bushmen, from Alaskan Inupiat to Brazil's rainforest tribes, are under threat from the push to extract minerals, pump petroleum, dam rivers for hydro power, flatten forests and raze native vegetation for industrial agriculture. These threats are intensifying because now they are driven by the powerful mega corporations which have come to dominate.

For a small charitable trust like

Tribes Alive, the effects can be daunting. Abrupt and massive change threatens to sweep away carefully crafted programmes developed in conjunction with tribal communities. The corporations and consortia involved in mega projects, often with the support of governments, bring the promise of prosperity and better services but deliver irreversible cultural dislocation and strife. No amount of money can compensate a community for the loss of its ability to feed, house, equip, cure and amuse itself without the need for money, in perpetuity. But that irreversible loss is the real-world consequence of many development projects.

Imagine the change: one day a remote, peaceful and quiet community living in a world of trees, bubbling rivers and familiar animals; a few years later their world is transformed as they try to adapt to the noise and speed of integration into the mainstream. Villages of thatched houses, built using only the biodegradable materials found in the forest, are replaced by 'modern' shacks of brick, tin and concrete. The sounds of the forest are buried under a cacophony of machinery, vehicles and music from radio stations. Their independence, once taken away, is lost forever, leaving them on the lowest rungs of mainstream culture, stripped of their identity and of the traditional source of the materials to sustain life: the forests they have occupied for many millennia. And they are forced into an alien dependence on money for their daily sustenance.

But there is hope. Tribes Alive strives to protect both the physical and the cultural integrity of the tribes we work with. We help them to manage the process of adapting to new situations and ways of life. Our objective is to create a structure to allow the communities to interact with the commercial world in a way which respects their traditional communitarian social structures, drawing on the principles of fair trade to channel income generated from carefully-selected products into the community as a whole, while ensuring that the individuals involved in production receive a realistic financial recognition of their roles. We have communities who supply babassu nut oil to Ila-Spa, a small manufacturer of luxury toiletries and cosmetics, and the fashion chain Sahara has launched its Xingu range which uses indigenous designs from the Kayapo tribe, for which they pay a royalty.

These sources of income are vital because the tribes today make use of many manufactured items, like torches, knives, aluminium pots,



Kayapo peoples are now being paid a royalty for their designs.

short-wave radios and bicycles. These improve their quality of life, but do not affect the structure of their daily activities. They still hunt, fish and grow mixed crops on small plots of land for daily sustenance, and they maintain their traditional beliefs and ceremonial customs.

These are living, developing cultures and communities, and in time they may choose to align themselves more with the mainstream. But our experience is that neither are they ready nor do they wish to be assimilated. They defend their traditions and practices and have no desire to replace their traditionally-built villages with brick and tin shanties.

There is no simple answer. There is no universal solution. Each community, each ethnic group, each geographical area has its own needs, problems and solutions. We respect their right to self-determination, which is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We also respect their right to be different, both culturally and socially, but to be accepted as equal, and free from discrimination.

Rainforest Concern has been one of our most consistent and dependable supporters. Because we are a small

organisation, we are able to respond to urgent requests for small-scale assistance very quickly, and we have found Rainforest Concern similarly flexible. This means that we are able to address needs which larger organisations, with an administration system which requires a pre-planned application-consideration-grant-monitoring process, cannot. We can do this because we have a direct and continuous personal connection to, and understanding of, the organisations and communities we work with. This enables us to monitor the use of our funds in an informal but rigorous way, and we are very grateful to Rainforest Concern for its confidence in us, and its ongoing support.

The indigenous people we work with, simply by existing in areas of importance to the climate, to biodiversity and to weather patterns, provide the world with services for which they neither seek nor receive payment. It is our responsibility to support them to continue to live on their land – which they have occupied for millennia – and to maintain their spiritual and practical bonds with the forests. It is our ethical and moral responsibility. But it is also in our own interests, for by protecting the forests they protect the entire planet.

## ...and thanks to all our school supporters

We have been delighted to see the enthusiasm and creativity that schools have put into their fundraising events – rainforest-themed evenings, rainforest galleries, poems and books, decorating classrooms to look like a rainforest, and so much more. Schools have managed to raise over £6,500!

Particular congratulations to Alverstoke Junior School who held a carnival evening and a classroom gallery for the parents where they could view and purchase the children's framed animal collages and rainforest myths. Fair-trade and Rainforest Alliance tea, coffee and biscuits were also made and available to purchase. The school managed to raise £200 through their creative events. George Watson's College raised a brilliant £2,980; Linlithgow Academy raised £319 through raising awareness and the pupils doing chores and other activities at home; Brentry Primary School raised £97 by making rainforest calendars and selling them to parents.

If you feel inspired to hold a fun and creative fundraising event to help save the rainforest, you can sponsor your own acre for £50 and in return we will send you a certificate that you can put up in your classroom. Your sponsorship will help to save the lives of many trees and animals. For more information on sponsoring an acre and the importance of rainforests, visit our website at [www.rainforestconcern.org](http://www.rainforestconcern.org), where you will also find fun activities and resources for your school.



Awareness-raising posters created by Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School for Rainforest Concern.



Above and Left: Brentry Primary School children making rainforest animal calendars to sell to parents.

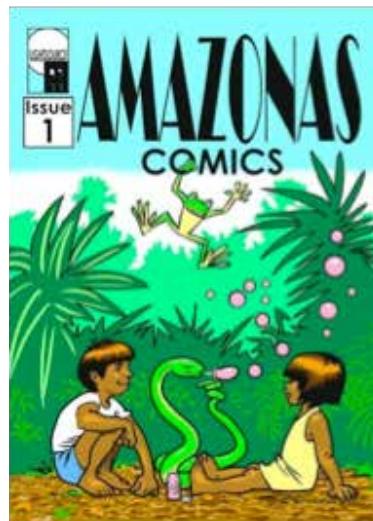


Sarah Fraser and Charlotte Coulsey at Warminster School giving a talk on the importance of protecting the rainforests and of Rainforest Concern's projects.

## A comic for the children of the Amazon!

John Erasmus and Yousaf Ali Khan have created an entertaining and educational comic about the Amazon rainforest for children both in the UK and Brazil - produced in both English and Portuguese. Thanks to the Amazon Charitable Trust, 200 copies of Amazonas Comics: Issue 1 was sent to the children of the Xixuau communities in Roraima province, deep in the Amazon basin.

You can download the comic in English from Rainforest Concern's website at [www.rainforestconcern.org/education\\_resources/resources\\_for\\_schools](http://www.rainforestconcern.org/education_resources/resources_for_schools) or to send your feedback to John and Yousaf, visit [amazonascomics.com](http://amazonascomics.com). We think you will agree it is a beautiful comic with lots of fun activities for children!



**Please do carry on sending in your letters, pictures and photos and we will try to include as many as possible on our website and in our next newsletter!**

### Project partner organisations:

Amazon Charitable Trust (UK)  
Amazon Conservation Team (USA & Surinam)  
Amazon Watch (Brazil & USA)  
Aqua-Firma (UK)  
ATREE (India)  
AV (UK)  
CBZ (Chile)  
DECOIN (Ecuador)  
ECOAN (Peru)  
Endangered Wildlife Trust (Costa Rica, UK)  
FORECOS Foundation (Chile)  
Fundatia Conservation Carpathia (Romania)  
Gaia Amazonas (Colombia)  
Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary (India)  
Indigenous People's Cultural Support Trust  
International Rivers (Brazil and USA)  
OAERYG (Brazil)  
Parques Para Chile (Chile)  
ProAves (Colombia)  
Prospero World (UK)  
Quest Overseas (UK)  
Rainforest Information Centre (Australia)  
Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh (UK & Chile)  
Santa Lucia Co-operative (Ecuador)  
The White Hawk Project (Costa Rica)  
Universidad Austral de Valdivia (Chile)  
Yachana Foundation (Ecuador and USA)  
Yakusinchi (Ecuador)

## Become a member of Rainforest Concern

If you're not a member of Rainforest Concern, then please join us by completing the form below. If you are already a member, then perhaps you can encourage a friend to follow your example!

You might like to consider leaving a lasting legacy to the projects of Rainforest Concern in your will. We will be happy to provide details upon request.

### Please tick one box only

**Member:** Sponsoring 1 acre each year

- £5 per month     £60 annually  
 £10 per month     £120 annually  
 £25 per month     £300 annually  
 £50 per month     £600 annually

**Friend:** Sponsoring 2 acres each year

**Guardian:** Sponsorship 6 acres each year

**Benefactor:** Sponsoring 12 acres each year

Name  Title

Address  Postcode

Email

I would prefer to make a simple donation of  £

Cheques should be made payable to 'Rainforest Concern'. To pay by credit card, please call 01225 481151

**giftaid it** You can make your donation worth even more! For every pound you give to us, we get an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue. All you need to do is tick the box.

I would like all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must be at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year and you need to give us your home address.

If you wish to sponsor an acre as a gift for someone, please telephone us on 01225 481151 or visit [www.rainforestconcern.org](http://www.rainforestconcern.org) and click "Sponsor an acre online".

### STANDING ORDER FORM

I wish to pay monthly/yearly by standing order (please delete as appropriate):

Name and full address of your bank

To:  The Manager  Bank/Building Society

Address  Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Account No.  Sort Code

Instruction to your Bank - Please pay to Barclays Bank, 20-29-90, 50793086. Ref: RCSO.

On  day  month  year the sum of £   
and the same amount on the same day of each month/year (please delete) until further notice

Signature  Date

After one year's membership, Rainforest Concern Benefactors are entitled to two days free accommodation, meals and guided tours at one of our lodges in Ecuador. Guardians are entitled to this after two years' membership

All our supporters receive an attractive certificate recording the level of their membership, our magazine Rainforest Review and regular updates. Guardians and Benefactors will receive a Rainforest Concern T-Shirt (XL/L/M, Lady Fit S, M, L, Child size 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11) Please circle appropriate size.  
Please tick if T-Shirt NOT required.

Please tick if thank you letter is not required.

Please tick if you would like to receive our newsletter and any updates in emails instead of by post.

Please fill in the form and send to: Rainforest Concern, 73 Great Pulteney Street, Bath BA2 4DL

Tel: 01225 481151 Website: [www.rainforestconcern.org](http://www.rainforestconcern.org) Email: [info@rainforestconcern.org](mailto:info@rainforestconcern.org)

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