

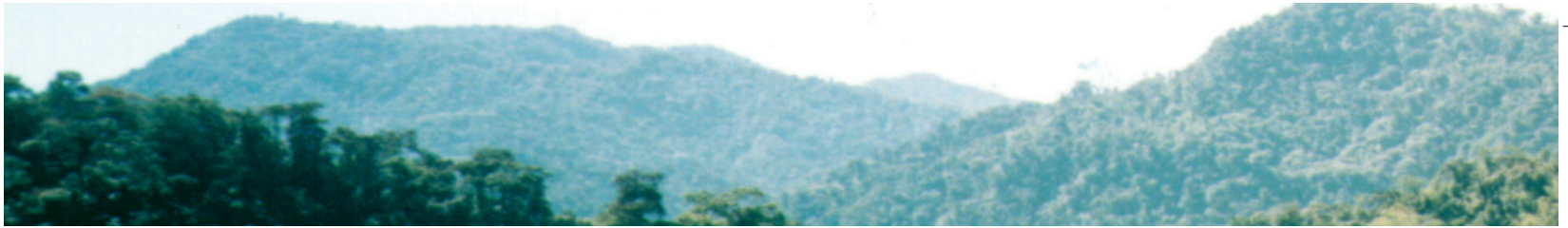
RAINFOREST REVIEW



**Awacachi Corridor
nearing completion**

**Serious threat to
Ecuador's forest from
oil pipeline**

**Conserving Intag's
Cloud Forests**



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The London Marathon

This year's London Marathon was a great success. The money raised by the runners was, very generously, matched by one of our key donors making the event even more worthwhile.

We would like to congratulate the Rainforest Concern team; Jason Bond, Jamie Corden-Lloyd, Gill Clark, Neil Thomas, Adam Knight, Adam Maher and Henry Ballantyne (who, in his first marathon, crossed the finish line in a very impressive 3 hours and 34 mins)

Particular thanks is due to David Cox who raised nearly £500 even though he couldn't take part in the race due to an injury.

We would also like to thank the team of supporters who did very well encouraging the runners and collecting money along the route.

Now it's your turn...



Henry Ballantyne - the Marathon's rainforest champion

Need a challenge? Think about running every year but don't get round to applying? Well we now have places available for the 2002 Flora London Marathon Rainforest Concern Team, so be quick and book your place now and run for the rainforests!

Call Fiona Dalrymple on 0207 229 2093 for full details

Girls rally for the Rainforests!

As this newsletter went to press, two intrepid women were flagged off at the start of the 13,000 mile Inca Trail 4 x 4 car rally around South America. The two girls, Caroline Carver and Caroline Readings will be pushing themselves to the limit, driving from Rio de Janeiro, through Bolivia and into Lima, down the Pacific coast to Chile, through the Atacama Desert and onto Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego - then back up the east coast to Argentina! En route, they will be promoting the work of Rainforest Concern and handing out information at strategic stop off points. On completing the journey and returning to England they hope to have raised £5,000 to supply Rainforest Concern with a 4x4



The two Carolines preparing for their epic journey

vehicle which is greatly needed in Ecuador. We would all like to wish the girls the best of luck with their challenge and their successful completion of this long endurance rally.

Caroline Carver recently published her award winning thriller 'Blood Junction' which is enjoying much success.

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NEWS

The Eden Project and Rainforest Concern

by **Robin Lock,**
Curator Tropics, Eden Project

It was late 1998 Peter Bennett and Helen Brown visited the embryonic Eden Project. Tim Smit (the CEO), Jo Readman (Education) and I met them to see what we might learn from each other. At that time I was doing the plant procurement for the Tropical Biome and working on the International Pilot Projects and Partnerships.

Rainforest Concern was the second organisation, and the first with international projects, with who we drafted a Memorandum of Understanding. Our mission statements were complimentary and Eden had strong belief in the conservation work being undertaken by Rainforest Concern. Furthermore, Peter and Helen's personalities and approach suited our own – and it is so important that you get on as in any partnership.

Peter had suggested the possibility of making the Tropical Rainforest at Eden more diverse to reflect the reality of the world's threatened rainforests. Of course, Eden is about plants and is not and will never be, a zoo. As some of you may know we do have a low profile animal collection, mainly birds, amphibians and butterflies, but nothing highly visual. So Peter came up with the idea to introduce a fun and interactive element to demonstrate the importance of the larger rainforest animals without having them roaming around in the Biome! This will be presented early next year - I won't tell you the details now as it is something for you to come and experience for yourself.



The Corridor Project turns a corner

by **Peter Bennett,**
Director, Rainforest Concern

"The Kyoto Protocol is saved", said the head of the EU's delegation after two weeks of bitter wrangling in Marrakech at the latest round of negotiations to fight climate change. This, after Japan has at last ratified the treaty's proposal for the reduction of carbon emissions. However, the USA remains defiant.

This must be a step in the right direction. But until the world's governments demonstrate that they are willing and capable of tackling the full

scope of environmental crises we face, we must do whatever we can to act directly to protect our most important reservoirs of natural biodiversity – the rapidly diminishing tropical forests.

I am pleased to report that with your support, we have made dramatic progress in the past twelve months. With our partners, we have purchased almost 25,000 acres for the Awacachi Project near the Colombian border of north Ecuador. We are particularly grateful to all of you who responded so generously to our recent appeal for the final purchases.

Our efforts continue with the southern phase of the Choco-Andean Corridor and we have recently secured 50% of the funding to create a series of community watershed forests in part of this area. The programme includes the largest reforestation programme we have ever embarked upon, to protect watershed land where removal of forest has left communities at risk of land slides during wet seasons and droughts during ever more pronounced dry seasons.

I hope you will continue to support us by joining our new membership scheme, the details of which you can find within on the back cover of this review. Please bear in mind what progress could be made if each one of you could persuade just one friend or relative to follow your excellent example.

This kind of input and two way communication between organisations are important for Eden, as that is the only way we will not become insular and are kept on our toes to improve and widen our horizons and to stay in touch with the developments around the world. Eden hopes to continue to assist Rainforest Concern especially by providing the charity with a wider profile. As Eden develops, it has shown one of its strengths is communication to the outside world, for both visiting public and the media. National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Sky Science, Homefront and Gardeners World, to name a few, have all covered the Eden Project in recent months. Furthermore Eden has attracted a lot of individuals with very high profile such as The Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister.

On the longer term we are looking into doing a combined project where Eden will learn much from project implementation by Rainforest Concern. Eden will get direct experience in development work and the importance of plants directly from local and indigenous people living in the rainforests. Eden reads and preaches about these matters and I personally have seven years experience in the tropical development scene, but Eden as an institute does not have many first hand experiences, so it will benefit greatly from this partnership.

The work of Eden and Rainforest Concern compliment each other and we will continue to learn from each other. This is the basis for a healthy association and Eden would like to see this partnership continue to develop in the coming years.



NORTH WEST ECUADOR

Awacachi Corridor nearly completed - thanks to your support!

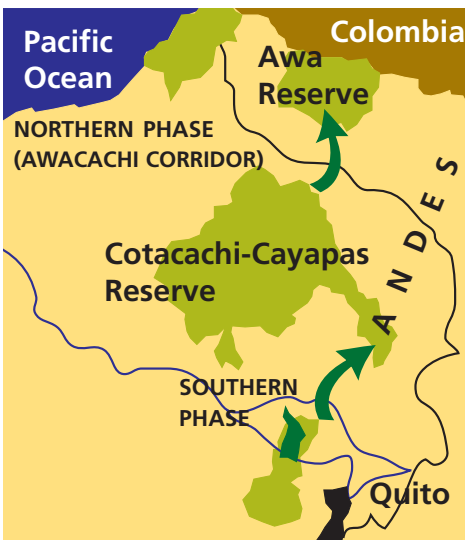
by **Fiona Woodward, Rainforest Concern** and **Jo Mew, Fauna & Flora International**


As many of you will be aware the forests of the Choco bioregion are considered among the highest priorities for conservation. Ninety per cent of them have already been lost to agriculture, in particular, to African oil palm plantations. The last significant area of the Choco rainforest in north west Ecuador continues to be devastated by the palm oil companies.


Our last newsletter reported that 13,000 acres (5,300 hectares) had been purchased for the Awacachi Corridor Project. Since then, with our UK partner Fauna & Flora International and our Ecuadorian partner NYTUA, we have managed to purchase an additional 6,300 acres (2,500 hectares), so as you will see from the map below, the corridor is nearing completion and we have set about demarcating the boundaries of the reserve.



Newly cut logging trail



 direction of Corridor

 protected areas

The recent appeal to which so many of you generously responded will greatly accelerate the final push to complete the corridor. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who contributed.

These recent purchases have been more complicated, as we have been buying from individuals rather than communities, and we are now competing against intermediaries who have been putting pressure on local people to sell to the logging and oil palm companies at exaggerated prices. Dollarisation in Ecuador has also meant that prices of land have continued to rise.

Another problem we have encountered is that a logging company, called Ecuador Forest, has bought approximately 7,000 acres (2,800 hectares) bordering the corridor. They claim that they will be taking out trees using sustainable methods, but recent observations do not confirm that. Like many logging companies in the area, they also wish to construct a road and we are fighting against this happening as it will only result in further destruction of pristine forest.



Luis Valencia, President NYTUA with young Collared Peccary

For those of you who are recent supporters, the Chocó forests of Ecuador are of tremendous biological value. Approximately 6,300 species of vascular plant occur in western Ecuador, of which around 20% are endemic. Over 800 bird species occur here, including 30 species confined to the humid Chocó forest, and of the 142 mammal species, 17% are regionally endemic. Among the 253 species of amphibians and reptiles recorded below 2,000m, 60% of the frogs are endemic. A recent rapid biological assessment revealed that 58% of the most important birds in the region (threatened, endemic and indicator species) were



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The ocelot, still present in the Awacachi area

present in the proposed corridor area. Several bird species of conservation importance were present, including great green macaws (*Ara ambigua*), along with the threatened mammals such as the giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*). Plant surveys by the National Herbarium also resulted in the discovery of one new species of *Tapirira* (*Anacardiaceae*) and the verification of a number of timber tree species, the most significant of which is 'chanul' (*Humirastnun proceum*). Still common in the corridor, this could be used to reforest some of the more exploited areas. With the area's biota now protected,



The threatened Great Green Macaw

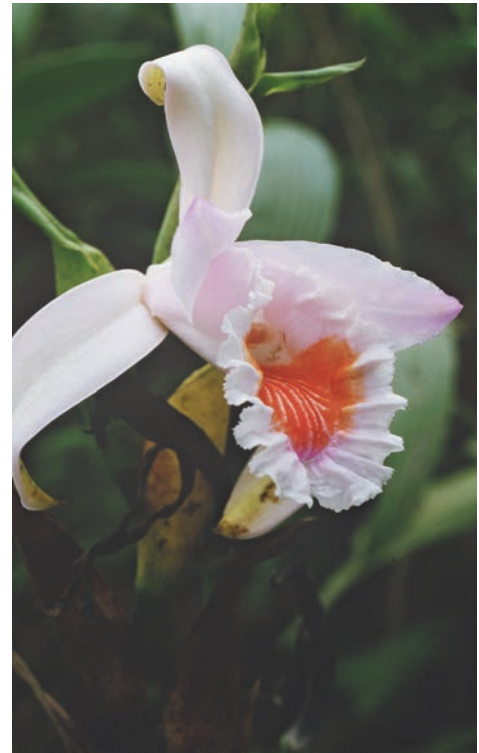
species such as the curassow (*Crax rubra*), which are locally extinct as a result of over-hunting, may now have a chance to re-establish themselves within the corridor. There are now five park guards patrolling

the area and we hope that the training programme, which will train more guards, will be starting soon.

NYTUA has been working hard on improving relations on a local level in San Lorenzo and, with the three organisations involved, have been trying to gain more support at a national level in Quito. In addition, we have been invited to take part in a national forum, which we hope will bring the plight of the Esmeraldas forests to the forefront of environmental priorities. The objective will be to create some strong strategies and national support in the area to save these incredibly rich forests, before it really is too late.

A crucial component of the Corridor project is to work with the communities, come up with new ideas and develop alternative income-generating projects. The first Awacachi Community Workshop was held in March, run by NYTUA, and it proved to be a successful event. Representatives from the five communities in the buffer zone of the corridor participated in the three-day workshop. We concentrated on building up a relationship between the different communities so that they began to develop a common vision for the project and a sense of working together to achieve the same aims.

The other good news for the communities of Ventanas, El Dorado and Durango is that funding was secured to carry out sanitation and alternative transport



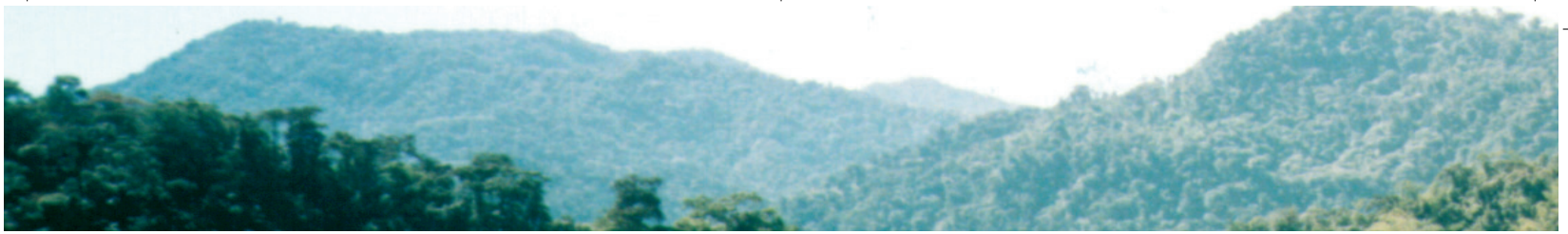
The endemic Ghost orchid

community projects. This will make a marked difference to the quality of life for the inhabitants of these communities.

In conclusion, through an integrated approach the Awacachi project tackles biodiversity conservation from many angles; from species and habitat protection to community income generation, from legal and institutional perspectives to education and awareness raising. The project is now actively engaging the Ecuadorian government, as well as multilateral donors, to ensure the long-term security and sustainability of the area. In addressing these issues, it will need to stress the importance of conserving the remaining Chocó forests west of the Ecuadorian Andes for the future benefit of the people of Esmeraldas.



Members of the Afro-Ecuadorian community of Ventana



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The problem with palm oil ...

by **Ralph Pannell, Rainforest Concern**

As you may have noticed in past correspondence from Rainforest Concern, the expansion of African oil palm plantations in northern Ecuador represents the most direct threat to lowland rainforest in the Choco region. These plantations have been spreading east and rainforest, which connected the Awa Ethnic Reserve with the Cayapas-Mataje Mangrove Reserve, has already been cleared. That's one corridor we will not be able to save. They are now at the doorstep of the small amount of land we have yet to purchase to complete the Awacachi Corridor.

Not surprisingly, some of you have written to us asking if there is anything you can do to help. Is there someone you can lobby? Is there something you are buying which is helping proliferate the expansion of the palm oil industry?

First of all, it is important to point out that it is illegal for companies to clear prime rainforest land in the northern Choco region. However, of seven palm oil companies operating in the area, five have been found by the Ecuadorian Environment Ministry of doing so and may face court proceedings for breaking the law. It is by no means certain that this action will go through, or that fines imposed will be sufficient to deter them from continuing the cycle of logging, complete clearing and planting a monoculture of African oil palm trees.



African oil Palm saplings against a backdrop of devastation

In the case of northern Ecuador there is actually no need to cut prime forest to create new plantations. This can be done

on land which has already been cleared and left barren by slash and burn agriculture, but the land is slightly more expensive and companies have to go through a slower legal process to buy these small plots.

Whilst Rainforest Concern can lobby and hope that the cutting will stop, we are taking the decisive step of buying forest and instituting the management to protect it. By doing this, we can be sure the forest is protected. The next stage is to help local communities neighbouring this forest to develop their economies in ways which do not involve cutting it down. Examples of how we do this can be found within this newsletter.

But what can you do? Well of course, your donations are desperately needed to help us buy land and continue with our sustainable development projects. But in terms of voting with your shopping basket or adjusting your buying decisions to minimise your impact is not easy. At the moment, there is no labelling system to let you know if a product contains palm oil produced by companies which are still clearing rainforest. This is something we are looking at, but unlike timber which can be Forest Stewardship Council certified to assure you that it came from a sustainable source, palm oil is found in a whole host of products both in its pure and modified forms. A labelling exercise will take a lot of time and resources to establish and administer.

Probably the single biggest use of palm oil in the future will be in the form of cheap cooking oil consumed in developing nations. If you have ever eaten food overseas which contains an orange coloured oil, it has been probably been prepared using palm oil.

Another major use of palm oil is in soaps, detergents and cosmetics. It is unlikely that you will know whether your soap is made from palm oil, though it often is when made in Malaysia or other palm oil producing countries. In shampoos and detergents, certain chemicals such as Sodium Lauryl Sulphate, Glycerin, Lauryl polyglucose, and Lauryl Sulphacetate



Land cleared in Indonesia for African oil palm plantations - an increasingly familiar sight in Ecuador

Sodium are often derived from palm oil and you may see these among the ingredients.

In terms of lobbying, we are trying to encourage companies who use palm oil to make certain they know that their supplies do not come from plantation companies who continue to clear rainforest. However companies are often unable to identify the source of palm oil as it is usually traded as a commodity with no history of its origin. For users of the oil, this has the disadvantage that they cannot guarantee the quality of the oil they are buying. This has led to serious problems in the past when oil diluted with diesel ended up on the market, allegedly from an Indonesian source.

So can you help the lobbying process? At this stage, the best guidance we can give is to look at the products you use at home and if they contain palm oil, ask the manufacturers if the oil they use is from a truly sustainable source. Highlight your concern that palm oil bought on commodity markets will often come from companies who continue to clear rainforest, often against the law of the land in which they operate. We would be very interested to hear of any results that you may obtain.



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Serious threat to Ecuador from new oil pipeline

A new major threat faces Ecuador and, in particular, the southern section of the Choco-Andean Corridor. Work has recently started on the Westdeutsche Landesbank funded new oil pipeline (OCP) which will transport crude oil from the country's eastern rainforest region to the Pacific Coast, placing fragile ecosystems and dozens of communities along the 300-mile route in jeopardy.

The pipeline route chosen by the OCP consortium affects 11 protected areas, and cuts through the middle of the Mindo Nambillo Cloudforest Reserve and the surrounding ecologically sensitive forests. This area is home to more than 450 species of birds, 46 of which are threatened with extinction, and has been designated the first 'Important Bird Area' of South America by Birdlife International. The pipeline also represents a threat to the area's burgeoning eco-tourism industry.

In June, the Ecuadorian Government awarded the environmental license to the OCP consortium and gave the green light to the pipeline's construction, to be completed by Argentinian consortium member Techint.

In order to fill the new pipeline, Ecuador will have to double its current oil production, which could set off an unprecedented boom in new oil exploration. This could lead to the irreversible loss and destruction of some the country's last remaining old-growth rainforest and territories of isolated indigenous peoples. Many new oil wells and flow lines would be built from existing oil concessions along with facilities necessary to process and refine the heavy crude oil for transport across the country. These activities threaten protected areas such as Yasuni National Park, Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve, the Limoncocha Reserves and, not least, the Panacocha Biological Reserve. This project would also fuel the search for additional oil reserves covering 2.4 million hectares of frontier forest, the majority of which falls on the ancestral territories of Achuar,



The new pipeline will pass directly through the Mindo-Nambillo Reserve

Shuar, Huaorani, Quichua, Shiwiar and Zapara indigenous communities. Many of these communities have vowed never to permit oil development on their land.

Prominent Ecuadorian and international environmental and human rights organisations are calling for the cancellation of the OCP project and a moratorium on all new oil exploration in the country's Amazon region. The Ecuadorian Government, the OCP consortium and the financiers have failed to fully assess or disclose the long-term impacts of the new OCP pipeline on ecologically and culturally sensitive areas in the Amazon region or the coast.

Ecuador's oil exports are primarily destined for consumption in the United States, particularly in California. Not only does this pipeline threaten fragile areas and local communities; it further increases our reliance on oil - the main fossil fuel responsible for climate change. We must do everything possible to persuade the financial institutions which have an interest in this pipeline to stop bankrolling destruction of the Amazon and environmental injustice and urge them to

invest in renewable energy alternatives - not Amazon crude oil.

We do not believe it is too late to stop this misguided project and hope you may consider writing your objections and concerns to Mr. Juergen Sengera, Head of Executive Board (CEO) Westdeutsche Landesbank, Herzogstr. 15, 40217 Duesseldorf, Germany or Fax: +49-211-826-6121

Source: Rainforest Information Centre and Acción Ecológica



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Santa Lucia's community run eco-tourism project

by **Francisco Molina, Administrador Santa Lucia** and **Mary Finn, Volunteer**

As the community of Santa Lucía approaches the first anniversary of the launch of its ecotourism project and volunteer program, we wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped make these programs such a success. From the beginning, a timely donation from Rainforest Concern enabled Santa Lucía to make a key purchase of two parcels of land which form the center of the ecotourism operation. On the first of these parcels, Santa Lucia has now

completed the construction of an ecotourism lodge with room for up to 20 visitors and panoramic vistas of the surrounding cloud forest and the valleys below.

Santa Lucia is located in the mountainous Choco-Andean bio region of northwestern Ecuador, considered to be a global 'hotspot' in terms of biodiversity. The community of Santa Lucia was first formed as an agricultural cooperative over 25 years ago, with the objective of providing lands for local 'campesino' families who otherwise had no place in which to grow crops or raise cattle. With time, however, it became obvious that the mountain cloud forests of Santa Lucia were ill-suited for agriculture, and that the forests were much more valuable left intact. Through means of a project with the Maquipucuna Foundation funded by the IUCN, ecotourism was identified as an attractive alternative to provide a sustainable source of income for the eleven families remaining in the Santa Lucia Cooperative. Fortunately, over 80% of the 650 hectares of Santa Lucia remain primary cloud forest, and the area supports a diverse array of tropical plants, animals and birds. Among these are many endangered species and several of interest

for ecotourists, including the Andean Spectacled Bear and birds such as the Andean Cock of the Rock, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan and a variety of colorful tropical tanagers and hummingbirds.

The members of Santa Lucia are now dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of these natural resources, with ecotourism as a first alternative for sustainable income production. With this change in focus to conservation and sustainable development, Santa Lucia has also begun a legal change of organization, from agricultural cooperative to a community development cooperative.

The first volunteers to Santa Lucia last summer had to rough it in a partially-finished Eco-lodge with only cold mountain water for bathing and no windows to keep the clouds and winds from passing through. While this may have seemed romantic or adventurous at times, we are happy to report that windows, hot water showers and other basic comforts are now in place, thanks to the help of our many volunteers, and donations from Rainforest Concern and Quest Overseas. Since the initiation of the volunteer program, Santa Lucia has



The sunsets from Santa Lucia's lodge at 2,000 metres can be spectacular



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View over the Maquipucuna reserve from Cerro Santa Lucia

received over 50 volunteers from various parts of the world, including two groups of Quest volunteers from the UK.

With the help of these volunteers, Santa Lucia has been able to complete or make significant progress on a number of conservation and sustainable development projects. The Quest groups were able to build new interpretative trails for future ecotourists, plant 400 trees in some critical areas which had previously been used for pasture and install agroforestry plantations to provide locally-produced plantains for the ecotourism lodge. Other volunteers have helped to complete a conservation management plan for Santa Lucia, develop a list of the more than 300 species of birds in the area and begin an organic garden near the Ecolodge.

Even more important than the tangible results of our volunteer program, are the friendships made with visitors from different cultures, who share our love of nature and our principles of community-managed conservation and sustainable development. The enthusiasm of these visitors and their willingness to travel far distances and to work hard, side-by-side with our local people to conserve the cloud forest has made a deep impression on the members of our community. It reinforces for local people the value and uniqueness of our cloud forest ecosystems, and strengthens our faith that community-based ecotourism can be a viable

alternative to continued exploitation of the forest.

Santa Lucia's volunteer program is ongoing, with many existing and new projects, including the building of new ecotourism trails, expansions of the organic garden and agroforestry plantations and a major reforestation effort which we hope to launch later this year.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, Santa Lucia was able to start receiving ecotourists in July of this year. Visitors are able to enjoy the panoramic vistas from the Ecolodge, interpretative hikes with a local guide through the cloud forest looking for orchids and other tropical plants, fantastic birding opportunities including visits to the Cock of the Rock *lek* or courtship area and trips to waterfalls and swimming holes. With our sister community, Yunguilla, Santa Lucia is also planning to develop a connecting trail for those who are interested in taking longer hikes through a wide range of different altitudes and ecosystems.

Also, with the help of volunteers, Santa Lucia now has a webpage, www.santa-lucia.org, with information about the community, its cloud forest and its projects and volunteer program.

In the hope of seeing some of you soon in the cloud forests of Santa Lucia!

Rainforest Concern has been working with the Santa Lucia agricultural cooperative in Pichincha Province for the last two years. This community owns 650 hectares of mountain cloud forest above the Maquipucuna Reserve, of which about 80% is still in its prime virgin state having fantastic biodiversity.

A few individuals of this community, in particular Pancho Molina, believed that their cloud forest might be better suited for conservation and ecotourism rather than the traditional cattle ranching or production of charcoal.

The Santa Lucia reserve is located in the southern most part of the Choco-Andean Corridor. The variety of plant species is estimated at more than 2000 including many which are endemic or endangered. There are around 300 species of birds and a variety of other exotic animals including the endangered spectacled bear.



Pancho Molina and Fiona Woodward

Rainforest Concern is supporting the ecotourism project that Santa Lucia started and has provided funding for land on which the lodge now stands. We have sent volunteers from the UK, in particular, 32 students through Quest Overseas gap year programme. These young men and women have assisted the community with a wide variety of tasks including reforestation, developing organic gardens and building interpretative trails. Jenny Geale, an English volunteer, recently spent two months teaching English to the community.

We have recently agreed to provide Santa Lucia with a grant of \$10,000 for a reforestation project and we are helping them by sending volunteers to assist with this work.



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The village Junin - the frontline of conservation

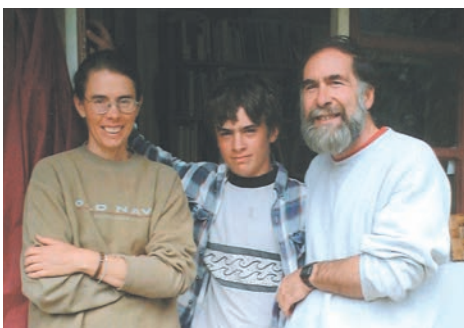
Conserving Intag's cloud forests through community participation

by Carlos Zorrilla, President of DECOIN

There is no doubt that there are innumerable ways to protect forests and biodiversity and equally many ways to lose it. National parks, the most common and visible conservation areas, work when they are properly managed and respected which tends to be the exception in developing countries where they are simply 'parks on paper'.

In the Intag region of North West Ecuador, we at Decoin (Defensa y Conservacion Ecologica de Intag) have been working out a different strategy that directly and intimately involves the whole community in conserving some of the world's most biodiverse forests.

Thanks to generous backing from Rainforest Concern and other organisations, we have been able to



Carlos Zorrilla and family

construct and implement a two-pronged strategy to conserve some of the last remnants of Ecuador's northwestern cloud forests and their stunningly diverse and threatened wildlife. Keep in mind that these forests are influenced by two of the earth's hottest biological 'hotspots': the Tropical Andean and the Choco-Darien/Western Ecuadorian hotspots. For those unfamiliar with this term, these are areas of very high biological diversity and high rates of endemism which are facing serious threats to their biodiversity. Although containing only 1.4% of the earth's land surface, 25 'hotspots' are known to contain as much as 44% of all species of vascular plants and 35% of four groups of vertebrate species, excluding fish.

The Intag region is situated on the western slopes of the Western Ecuadorian Andes, less than 20 kilometres as the parrot flies from the town of Otavalo, which is world famous for its Indian Market and worlds away from the hustle and bustle of the many interandean towns and cities. Many of these towns are not more than two hours away from the forests and Quito, Ecuador's capital, is only about three or four hours away. Luckily the roads to Intag are a disaster most of the year!

The landscape is as diverse as its threatened wildlife and local culture. At the westernmost part, it dips down to 1,000 metres, rising to 4,955 metres at the summit of Cotacachi Volcano. The forests remaining in Intag are mostly cloud

forests, ranging in altitude from about 1,200 to 3,500 metres. They are known to be some of the most botanically diverse on the planet and are unusually rich in orchids and other epiphytic plant species. In fact, a few hundred acres of these incredible forests harbour more orchid species than the orchid flora of many entire countries, including that of the US. The bird diversity is similarly large. In the 500 hectare private ecological lodge and reserve that I own and manage, we have so far identified 21 species of hummingbirds; that's six more than the total found in the US and Canada combined. The list of endangered animals is, unfortunately, long and depressing. It includes: Spectacled Bears, Pumas, Jaguars, Ocelots, Dwarf Deer, Mountain Tapirs, two species of monkeys, the Andean Condor, Plate-billed Mountain Toucans, Toucan Barbets, Umbrella Birds, the tiny Esmeraldas Woodstar,... and many more!



Progress on the new refuge at Junin

Conservation in a region so close to a heavily populated area is a challenge. How's that for an understatement! Besides being almost too close for comfort to populated areas, poverty, or near poverty conditions are endemic, as are devastating farming practices. The uphill struggle is further complicated by government policies hell-bent on exploiting its non-renewable resources (minerals and petroleum), at whatever cost and in the quickest time possible, preferably within their term in office (which in Ecuador can be as short as eight months!). The mid and high altitude forests of Northwestern Ecuador are, square metre for square metre, about four times more diverse than



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A typical afternoon at Junin

Ecuador's lowland Amazon forests and far more threatened. Yet how many people ever hear about the great biodiversity and get excited over, or fund, conservation projects in these forests?

What DECOIN is doing in this biological wonderland, that is quickly disappearing, is working with the communities in establishing community-owned and managed ecological and watershed reserves. We established the first reserve around the communities of Junin, which is an area threatened by a huge multi national copper mining project. We bought and delineated approximately 3,500 acres of this land which is wild, wet and steep. Most of the area is intact cloud forest that not only protects the habitat of many of the endangered species I listed above, but also protects the watershed of the Junin river, which flows through several communities.

We also recently helped the community of San Joaquin to purchase a smaller, 150 acre reserve, which we hope to expand in the near future. The land is always purchased in the community's name, but they sign a legal document agreeing to limitations in land use, including no hunting, logging, mining, or any activity that might degrade the forests or the quality of the watershed. Tied to this project we secured for the first year a \$4,000 community conservation fund for use in whatever needs the community identified, with the stipulation that not less than 50% be invested in direct conservation activities, such as patrolling the reserve, maintaining trails, training and education and so on. As might be

expected, we have now been swamped with requests from other communities that would like to have their own reserves. In the case of Junin, the reserve will be an essential part of an ecological tourism project we helped the community to establish.

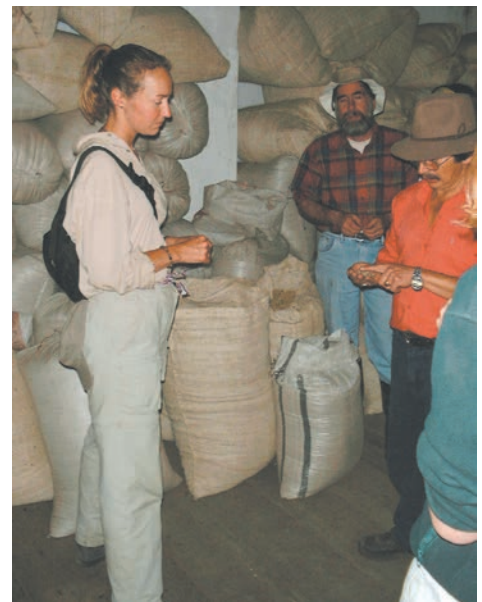
Once community members understand and feel the importance of conserving their own environment, and if they begin to see that forests can be managed and used sustainably to create wealth as well as conserving water and life, an essential component in biological conservation has been established.

After decades of non-sustainable conservation thinking, destructive government policies and terrible farming practices, some communities have very little forested areas remaining. In the majority of cases where this applies, the forests that still exist tend to be found in the micro watersheds that are the source of their drinking water. DECOIN is also helping conserve native cloud forests and wildlife, creating a series of these smaller community watershed reserves. So far we've helped four communities establish their own reserves, ranging from 8 to 40 acres, and the requests are coming in faster than we can deal with them. Two are being processed and seven more are on the current waiting list even though we have not gone out of our way to publicise the programme due to lack of funds.

Though these are small areas of forest, we believe they will become increasingly important to conserve as genetic banks that can serve as the source of trees and other organisms, including insects and

birds, once the other forests disappear. These reserves will also offer a tremendous diversity of plants and animals, despite their numbers, because the communities differ wildly in elevation. In fact, these micro reserves stand the best chance of surviving the rapid deforestation now affecting most of Ecuador, because of the universal and keenly felt need for securing a source of clean and abundant water.

If it isn't obvious by now, without active community participation in conservation measures, most protected areas are bound to be, in the long run, nothing more than a bunch of nice words on a piece of paper. This is especially true in developing countries run by corrupt politicians that sadly seems to be the norm.



Carlos Zorilla and Helen Brown inspecting Intag's organic coffee

Were it not for the forests I see being protected and the growing participation of local people taking part in conserving their own forests, it would sometimes seem like a losing battle.

As small as we are, thanks to organisations like Rainforest Concern, Decoin is finding ways to conserve forests and wildlife in ways that will last and which will withstand the politics and destructive paradigm of the day.



NORTH WEST ECUADOR

Paso Alto - vital link in the Choco-Andean Corridor

by Jefferson Mecham, President of ALLPA



The Cambugan valley

In January 2001, Rainforest Concern provided emergency support for the Paso Alto Forest Conservation Project which seeks to preserve an exceptionally diverse cloud forest from destruction by land traffickers. After halting these imminent threats, making urgent acquisitions and gaining protected forest status, the longer-term aim of the project is to empower local communities to become the stewards and administrators of this forest.

The Paso Alto mountain range contains the largest extension of forest in the Choco-Andean Corridor between the Maquipucuna Reserve and the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve. The watersheds on both sides of Paso Alto contain a total of at least 9,000 hectares of unprotected primary forest. Two pristine river systems are born here, the Cambugán River on the east and the Pamplona and Daule Rivers on the west flank of the Paso Alto range. With an elevation gradient from 1,200 to 3,400 metres above sea level and ecological zones varying from humid premontane tropical forest to montane cloud forest, this region contains an extraordinary biodiversity in a small area. Over 130 tree species have been inventoried on a one-hectare research plot, including at least two species new to science. The area is home to the Andean Spectacled Bear, the Red Brocket Deer, the Andean Cock of the Rock and the Toucan Barbet, among many other rare and

endangered species. Unfortunately their home is far from secure.

Since 1980, approximately half of the primary forest in the Paso Alto region has been destroyed, due to the creation of new penetration roads and invasions by land traffickers and colonists. If urgent conservation measures are not taken now, the remaining forest and the wildlife it supports will be gone within a decade. Based on years of previous research and some initial strategic acquisitions, the Ecuadorian conservation organisations (Instituto de Regeneración Ecológica (ALLPA), Fundación Cambugán (FUCAM) and the Centro de Investigación de los Bosques Tropicales (CIBT)) formed an alliance to stop an invasion of land traffickers in the Cambugán watershed which began in June 2000. With the support of local residents and the Ministry of Environment, this invasion was finally halted in December 2000 after months of inspections and legal interventions. During this time we discovered that another land trafficker had almost completed the adjudication of nearly 4,000 hectares in Paso Alto based upon influence-peddling within the Government land adjudication agency INDA (Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Agrario). Since January 2001 the project has united with the areas' property owners and residents to present formal opposition in INDA to halt this illegal process.

The Paso Alto project began under the collaborative initiative and leadership of Jefferson Mecham and Edison Jimenez. In addition to halting the invasions mentioned above, 765 hectares have been acquired for conservation purposes, made up of 310 hectares purchased by FUCAM and 455 hectares purchased by ALLPA with support from a German conservation organisation. Based upon the regions biogeographical characteristics and conservation importance, in February 2001 FUCAM and ALLPA jointly presented an application to the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment for the entire 4,000 hectare Cambugan watershed to be legally designated as a protected forest. After receiving a favourable report from the on-site inspection and having passed all the legal requirements, we are only awaiting the signature of the Minister of Environment to formalise this designation. Although land acquisitions have been necessary to halt the invasions and to attain protected forest status, the project strategy is based primarily upon community development. From the



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock

beginning we've been working with our neighbours in the community of Las Palmas and their support and co-operation has been essential to all that's been achieved thus far. Since March 2001 the project has employed a teacher for the children of Las Palmas who previously had no access to basic education. We plan to develop sustainable economic alternatives combined with environmental and vocational education so that local residents understand the importance of, and can make a good living from, the conservation and sustainable management of their forests. The role of the project is to fulfil immediate conservation functions, to facilitate the creation of protected forest reserves and to prepare local residents to assume the responsibility for the administration of their forests on a permanent basis.

The initial funding provided by Rainforest Concern is for priority land acquisition and training of local residents as forest rangers. In addition we are exploring the possibility of establishing a reforestation programme with both the community of Las Palmas and volunteers from the U.K. and elsewhere. As the largest unprotected forest island in the entire southern section of the Choco-Andean Corridor, the forests of Paso Alto are a vital conservation priority. The establishment of a community reforestation programme here is also strategic to connect the forests of Paso Alto with those of Maquipucuna and Guayallabamba to the south and Intag and Cotacachi-Cayapas to the north. These are big steps toward making the Corridor project a reality.



NORTH WEST ECUADOR

National Lottery Project helps secure ongoing funding from World Bank

by Fiona Woodward, Rainforest Concern

The three year development project in the communities of Marianitas and Nanegal, funded by the National Lottery Charities Board has drawn to a close. A lot of valuable experience has been gained and the results achieved have met the majority of the original objectives set out for the project. An important result is the fact that this project, through promoting sustainable alternatives to the community, has taken the pressure off the nearby forest to a certain extent and has also increased their appreciation of the importance of these forests.



Children at the crèche and daycare centre in Marianitas



The paper recycling project with new liquidiser

produce raw sugar or 'panela', which was more profitable. However, the communities have recently returned to the production of 'trago' as a recent swing in the economy has doubled its value.

This aspect of the project has been interesting as it clearly demonstrates the community spirit which has developed. At the start of the project people were only interested in their own individual farms, but by the last year the mood had changed and the community united to build a sugar cane factory. The project has helped with some core funding for materials but they have put in their own time and labour efforts to actually put the factory together.

As for sustainability, the activities look set to continue long-term, which is of course, a very important aspect of the project. The handicraft groups have succeeded in attracting potential markets in the USA and Europe. The creche has received national funding to run it on a daily basis.

Our counterpart organisation for this project, Maquipucuna Foundation, has managed to get funding from GEF and the World Bank which will enable them to continue working with the communities in these areas, and add to the valuable work that the National Lottery Project has already achieved.

There is no doubt that the women now have a better say in community affairs due to the activities they have been involved in, and some are certainly able to contribute more to the family income by selling products or being employed locally. This has been achieved through the continuing training and success of the handicrafts groups, as well as the creche providing work for several mothers.

An interesting and yet not necessarily easy component of the project concerns the production of sugar cane products. The aim was to improve production and at the start of the project it was felt that instead of the production of traditional alcohol or 'trago' which brought in little income, it would be worthwhile to diversify and



Four women from the Colibri group in front of the handicraft centre, nearing completion



NORTH WEST ECUADOR



QUEST OVERSEAS

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October 2001

Dear Peter

Having just finished sorting through a veritable mountain of our gap year students' feedback questionnaires I am, once again, delighted with what I read. All in all they found their three months with us in South America incredibly rewarding and a lot of fun, if a little physically demanding at times!

In terms of the project work phase of our operations we have achieved more than ever before. This year's students have spearheaded a new eco-tourist initiative, created a network of trails through the forests, inspired two reforestation programmes, and in so doing planted hundreds of native trees, participated in numerous agro-forestry projects, helped local staff in and around the lodges, rebuilt a local Primary School and a Chapel, together with men, women and children from the local communities and generally speaking, worked jolly hard.

It is the combined efforts of many that have made our projects these trips so successful. Pancho Molina and the many members of his extended family who worked with our students at Santa Lucia added a personal touch to every aspect of life in the cloud forest that few will ever forget. I know that our students made an impression on them too and was delighted to hear that so much fun was had by all in what can, at times, be a difficult environment. I hope you will take a moment to read Jessie Hedley's great letter, below, which speaks for itself.

Douglas McMeekin and his team at Yachana were great to work with and the breadth of projects in which everyone was involved made for a varied, often eye opening and certainly most enjoyable time living and working for a month in the heart of the jungle. You will recall that Douglas had, due to past experience, been somewhat sceptical about having even one team of sixteen students 'running about' at Yachana. I am grateful to him for trusting us both when we promised things would be different under Quest Overseas. You can further imagine how 'chuffed' I am that not two but three teams are going to Yachana next year. Oh, yes!

Of course none of the above would have even happened without, as ever, our students! We are all grateful to them, not only for their hard work 'on the ground', but for their significant financial contribution to Rainforest Concern, just over £30,000. I trust you are as proud of them as I am.

Lastly, a few words of thanks to all of you in the office and to all supporters of Rainforest Concern. Without your ongoing hard work, support and dedication we could not continue to provide the intrepid gap year student with the experience of a lifetime and one that is, as ever, challenging, rewarding and fun.

Roll on next year!

Best wishes,

Founder & Director: Michael Amphet, B.A.(Hons), FRGS, TEFL.
Operations Managers: South America: Jonathan Cassidy B.A.(Hons) Africa: Lucy King BSc(Hons) UK Support Manager: Ben Marrion BSc(Hons)
Registered Office: 25 Storey's Way, Cambridge, CB3 0DP. Quest Overseas Limited. Registered in England and Wales No.3209318
QUEST OVERSEAS is a Founder Member of the Year Out Group formed to promote the concept and benefits of well structured year out programmes



Soaked and exhausted but worth every moment!

by Jessie Hedley, Quest Overseas volunteer

The lodge in which we were living sat on the pinnacle of a hill looking out on primary rainforest from all sides. The experience of living in this lodge was like nothing I had ever encountered. We had no electricity and therefore any time before dawn had broken and any time after about 5.30 in the evening, we relied on the small amount of light which our candles produced. Our food supplies were collected once a week from the local village (a two hour walk from the lodge) and therefore our meals were limited to food that could last. We obtained fresh milk every morning from the cow and we hand washed all our clothes. It was in truth primitive, but to spend a month both living and working in the cloud forest was a rare opportunity and a unique experience. I would get up at 6.00am to go and lie in my hammock and watch the sun rise. Sometimes, our lodge would be sitting above the clouds and at other times, our hill became enveloped in cloud, so much so that if we opened a window, the cloud would literally float into the room!

During the weekdays, we would don our worst clothes and, tool in hand, set off to one of three sites; the reforestation area, the banana plantation or the trail. Having divided ourselves between these three, we would be accompanied by a South American guide (one of the eight who were living with us) who gave us instruction over what needed to be done. Much of the time we were digging holes in which to plant trees or banana plants, or we were clearing a path through the forest so that people would not take just any route through the forest disturbing wildlife and crushing vegetation. The work was at times strenuous but always rewarding and however little or much we achieved in a day, our guides were ceaselessly grateful.

As time went on, I became increasingly tempted to venture further into the depths of the cloud forest in order to see and understand more about what I was working to conserve. So I joined four others on an excursion in search of a bird, generally rare, but quite often seen in these particular forests - the cock of the rock.



Michael Amphet, Director of Quest Overseas



Jessie Hedley with boa constrictor



NORTH WEST ECUADOR

Having set off at 4.30am with a single torch between the five of us, we were enveloped by the darkness. Incongruously however, this allowed us to see more as we were less detectable to the surrounding wildlife. Whilst insects sat sleepily in our path, owls circled overhead apparently unbothered though undoubtedly aware of our presence. By the time we reached the lek (the mating ground of the cock of the rocks), rays of light were beginning to filter through the trees. We trod carefully, aware that even the snap of a stick may foil our cover and frighten them away. The birds were making a tremendous amount of noise and so the lek was easily detectable. Listening to their calls, we judged that there must have been hundreds although we saw probably no more than ten. Their feathers are an intense red colour making no pretence of camouflage. The birds shifted frequently around the vicinity, and we would follow by listening to where the most calls were coming from. I would creep as close as I dared to go towards a group and silently sit in the cool scented shade, watching these bright red creatures, unnoticed. I was intruding into the haunts of another's territory and, observing them with deferential awe, I felt overwhelmingly fortunate to witness such a scene.

Invariably in the afternoons, the rains would come and we would be cabin bound. I was, on one occasion, caught out in a thunderstorm in the thick of the forest. As the lightning streaked the sky overhead, the thunder resounded about the hills and the rain pelted heavily on the leaves all around creating an overpowering noise, the cloud forest seemed to me to be all the more vast and unfamiliar. Visually, the leaves above us seemed greener, the mud underfoot more dense and the smells of the forest more acute. I could no longer hear the calls of birds or the familiar purring as a hummingbird flew by, for they, like me, had briefly stopped and were also attempting to take cover from the rain. Without the sounds of the wildlife in the cloud forest, it was easier to see it in its own right and not just as a sanctuary for wildlife. Whilst I was longing to be back at the lodge, tea in hand and with dry clothes on, I simultaneously felt a strange humility to be sheltering there under the canopy of the trees, surrounded by the alluring mysteries of the forest and yet no closer to discovering them.



Rainforest Concern Trip to the Ecuadorian Projects in October 2002 - Interested?

We are considering organising a supporters trip to see our projects in Ecuador next year. We need to see if there is sufficient demand to organise such a trip so if you are interested we would be very pleased to hear from you. The group would be limited to 16 people as we are restricted to the size of the accommodation of the projects you will be visiting.

The proposed trip would be for two weeks and we anticipate the cost would be between £2,000 and £2,500 excluding flights.

- **First night in Quito: relaxation and acclimatisation**
- **Two nights at Santa Lucia Reserve: cloud forest project, staying at lodge owned and run by local community, assist with reforestation programme, excellent bird watching and breathtaking views, visit to nearby villages to witness**
- **Three nights at Intag Reserve: cloud forest in southern area of Corridor project, inspect watershed protection project and organic coffee production, bird watching and hiking**
- **Two nights at Hacienda San Agustin in the shadow of Cotopaxi: paramo at 4,500 metres, staying at a wonderful hacienda (former Inca fortress), horse riding, climb to base camp of Cotopaxi,**
- **Night in Quito: a visit to the "Old City", the Spanish colonial area of Quito with its numerous and beautiful cathedrals and plazas.**
- **Three nights at Yachana on the Rio Napo: lowland rainforest project in Ecuadorian Amazon, stay at beautiful lodge on river, witness projects run by indigenous communities, three hour canoe ride, inspect areas of recently cleared forest, hike into primary forest**
- **Last night in Quito: an opportunity to relax and shop before returning home**

You would be accompanied by Fiona Woodward, our Projects Manager for the entire trip.

Without question, this will be an exciting, unusual and fascinating trip and you will leave Ecuador with a good understanding of the stark reality of deforestation and what can be done to reverse this trend. So please register your interest by calling Fiona Dalrymple on 0207 229 2093 or send her a message on info@rainforestconcern.org There is no commitment at this stage.

If you are interested in enquiring about flights we recommend Journey Latin America, who specialise in South America and offer very competitively priced flights. They may be contacted on 0208 747 3108 or email: man@journeylatinamerica.co.uk



AMAZONIAN ECUADOR

Importance of land purchase for conservation

by Douglas McMeekin,
President of FUNEDESIN

The Ecuadorian foundation FUNEDESIN, Foundation for Integrated Education and Development, has acquired approximately 2,000 acres of rainforest through the financial help of Rainforest Concern. This compliments the additional 1,000 acres the foundation already had to form a block of land that has been declared as a Protected Forest through the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment. This is the beginning of what will hopefully be a 5,000 to 6,000 acre reserve of mostly primary rainforest managed by FUNEDESIN.

Who is the Foundation buying the land from?

The Agrarian Reform programme of the Government in the late 1960's and early 1970's divided all the land in our area into individual farms. Through this programme the indigenous people who already lived there and colonists from other parts of the country could claim land at no cost. Each tract was approximately 50 hectares or 125 acres. People claimed and lived on the land closest to the river where there was access, and the tracts further in were largely left as forest. FUNEDESIN has discovered a 'pocket' of mostly primary forest that is owned entirely by colonists who want to sell, so we are in the process of buying it. The land is not good for agriculture, being very hilly, rough and difficult to use, which is why it is still largely intact and therefore good for us to buy.



Douglas McMeekin and friends



The majestic Rio Napo scene from newly purchased land

Why does the Foundation need to buy this land?

Firstly, conservation and environmental education are a part of the mission of FUNEDESIN. Secondly, in October 1999, the county built a road into our area where there has never been road access before. This road was a help to the local farmers, allowing them to get their produce to market more easily and at less expense, but it also gave an easy access to a logging company. This company has been working in our area for the past year, much of the time illegally and without permission from the Forestry Department.

The strategy of the foundation has been to buy up land that connected two rivers, the Napo and Bueno Rivers. By acquiring these tracts, it closed off access to the logging company. Now that we have stopped the threat from the company to at least one area, the challenge is raising the funds to continue buying land in order to round out the parcel we have.

FUNEDESIN also owns Yachana Lodge, a world renowned eco-tourism lodge that is on land on the other side of the Napo River. The foundation is using the newly acquired forest both as a part of its tourism programme for the lodge and as a research area. The focus during the past two years has been in buying land and only recently has the foundation begun to put in trails to give access. The trail building really got a boost with two groups of young people from Quest Overseas, a GAP programme being managed in conjunction with Rainforest Concern. Both groups consisted of 16 youths and one instructor who each spent 30 days in the jungle.

They were at Yachana Lodge working on the different projects of the foundation, but a major project was the construction of trails in this new land. As a result, the land now has approximately 4 kilometres of trails built.

Owning the land is only the beginning. FUNEDESIN has two employees living and working on the newly acquired land as forest guards providing a presence that is important in the protection of the forest. The foundation has also bought a small tract of nine acres for the future site of an interpretive centre. Rainforest Concern provided both the funding for the guards and the land for the interpretative centre and the foundation is now looking for additional funding to allow for the construction of the centre and development of educational programmes. It is interesting that although the whole world is concerned about the protection of tropical rain forests and conducting educational programmes at all levels to promote conservation, no one has put any emphasis on education of the young people who live in the jungle. Since they are the future owners of the land and its forests, we must begin education programmes that reach them!

The joint conservation efforts between Rainforest Concern and FUNEDESIN are producing positive results. The enthusiastic support of Rainforest Concern, not only financially, but also in arranging for help from groups like the Quest young people, has allowed FUNEDESIN to advance its forest protection programme and secure a beautiful tract of tropical forest that will be kept in its pristine condition for perpetuity.



AMAZONIAN ECUADOR

New risks for Panacocha from oil companies

Last year, Rainforest Concern started supporting the protection of the Panacocha Reserve and since then good progress has been made. The four international partner organisations, with their Ecuadorian counterpart, are in the process of finalising the creation of a new foundation, which will enable us to carry out our work more effectively on a national level.

In June of this year, a contract was signed between the Panacocha Foundation and Etnotur, an Ecuadorian agency with a strong ecotourism focus, for them to take over the management of the tourist cabins. This is a positive step for the Foundation as it will take away the day to day management issues, allowing more energy to go into the development work, as well as providing a basic funding for the Foundation to run the small projects in the area. Etnotur will continue to pay the entrance fee for every tourist visiting the cabins, which goes directly to the community, and have also guaranteed to



Midday stillness on Panacocha's lagoon

continue to employ local people in the tourism operation.

In February, the Foundation started a two-year Ecotourism Training Programme with the community of Panacocha to train the local people in all areas of ecotourism, including administration, cooking and tour-guiding as well as to educate them on minimising human impact on the protected reserve. This programme has been greeted enthusiastically by the members of the community.

For a long time Occidental Petroleum, with government permission, has been negotiating with the people of Panacocha regarding potential exploration in the area. In response to the communities requests and in return for exploring territory owned by them, they have agreed to build a lodge and a chicken farm and to provide educational materials for the school.

Since this unfortunate decision has been made and the contract signed, the Foundation now sees it as their role to try to ease the ecological impacts of any oil exploration as much as possible, as well as supporting the community with their ecotourism project once the lodge has been built. We will also promote the conservation of the forest and more alternative sustainable development projects.

If you would like to visit Panacocha, please contact Etnotur on: etnocru@uio.satnet.net



Getting familiar with one of Panacocha's residents - a tarantula spider

A letter from John Seed about the Panacocha Reserve

Director of Rainforest Information Centre, Lismore, Australia

John Seed has been working for the protection of rainforests since 1979. In 1981 he founded the Rainforest Information Centre in Australia and in 1984 helped initiate the Rainforest Action Network in the US. The Rainforest Information Centre has been working for the protection of the Panacocha Reserve in the Amazonian headwaters of Ecuador since 1990. He recently sent us the following letter:

Dear Peter,

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Rainforest Concern's contribution to the protection of the Panacocha Reserve and the dolphins, jaguars, primates and the great exuberance of other life forms that live there. With your initial donation of \$10,000 in 1999, you joined us and other groups in the US in making possible the purchase of the Panacocha Lodge, one of only two pieces of freehold land within the Reserve. With this strategic foothold inside the reserve, we are now in a much stronger position to stand up to the oil companies and monitor the reserve for poaching, illegal logging etc.

A further \$5,000 donation in year 2000 went towards getting the Lodge up and running and for meetings with the neighbouring Quichua community.

Now in 2001 Rainforest Concern has donated another \$10,000. Part of this is adding energy to a campaign to stop the expansion of the oil industry in the Amazon by educating local peoples about the deleterious effects. Oil remains the main threat to Panacocha and the adjacent Yasuni and Cuyabeno National Parks. The rest is being used to put the final touches on the management plan for the Panacocha Reserve. This management plan will allow us to give the force of law to measures to protect the Panacocha Reserve. The surveying, mapping, community consultations, species inventories and so many things that are entailed give us a great deal of valuable information about exactly what it is that we are trying to protect and how best to go about it.

So, many thanks to Rainforest Concern and to all your supporters who have made this possible,



COSTA RICA



A leatherback hauling herself ashore to lay her eggs

Another secure season for the turtles of Pacuare

A partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust

by Rebecca Whitfield, David Suggett
and Belinda Dick

Pacuare Reserve lies on the Caribbean coast between Puerto Limon and Tortuguero National Park. The Reserve contains a 2000 acre area of lowland tropical rainforest. In addition, a 6km beach provides a nesting ground for 3 very different species of sea turtle; the Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Green (*Chelonia mydas*) turtle. The beach is patrolled nightly to protect and monitor these nesting populations.

The Leatherback is the largest of all sea turtle species, a true giant whose shell length typically exceeds 150cm. Towards the end of the Leatherback nesting season (June) the first hatchlings start to appear. We were kept very busy during this time with plenty of turtles, as well as students and volunteers! Between the 20th March and the 15th June we observed 915 Leatherback nests. This figure, compared with 814 nests laid from 368 individual females throughout the entire 2000 season, provides further evidence that Pacuare Reserve contains one of the most important nesting beaches in Central America for the Leatherback. Five Green turtle nests and one Hawksbill nest were also observed.

It was incredible witnessing the first hatchlings from the Leatherback nests following an incubation period of 60 days. We saw as many as 50 hatchlings erupt from a single nest. Our excitement was shared by groups of students and volunteers staying at the Reserve. One group of US high school students were lucky enough to see a major daytime nest eruption, just moments after arriving at the Reserve. Usually hatchlings prefer the cover of darkness for emergence.

We all had some amazing experiences from the season; possibly the most memorable being a rare encounter with a Leatherback nesting at dawn (like their offspring, the mothers favour the protection of darkness). This time is often the most beautiful - the sun is rising, the air is fresh and there are very few people



Rebecca and David recording data



COSTA RICA



Howler monkeys are often encountered at Pacuare

around. We were lucky enough to see the whole nesting process whilst watching the sunrise. Sea turtles are very sensitive to bright lights, so flash photography is not permitted in their presence. However, the natural light on this occasion provided our first ever opportunity to photograph a mother turtle; as you can probably imagine, everyone present made the most of this moment!

Another highlight for some was to observe our first Hawksbill of the season. This species has a beautifully marked shell, which is the source of 'tortoise shell' and, consequently, it is heavily persecuted and very rare. Pacuare Reserve is currently home to one Hawksbill nest, which this season held 152 very valuable eggs.

The illegal poaching of eggs poses one of the biggest threats to all species of sea turtle nesting in Costa Rica. In some areas the proportion of nests that are poached can be as high as 100%. However, during this year's season, the number of leatherback nests raided at the Pacuare reserve was down to 5% of the total. This reduction in the level of poaching was a direct result of increased efforts of beach protection.

A hatchery, a protected area very close to the Reserve accommodation, was built to incubate nests laid nearby which were in danger of inundation from the tide. In addition, the Caribbean Coast Guard service brought eggs that had been confiscated from poachers operating

outside of the Reserve. The rescued eggs were reburied in the hatchery to provide their best chance of survival. We observed nearly 300 hatchlings emerge from 10 nests in the hatchery and following the period of emergence each nest was excavated to find any stragglers which were then released into the sea. 26 student groups, mostly through the organisations Ecoteach and Ecology Project International, visited the Reserve this year, of which 10 were from local schools in Costa Rica and 16 across from North America. Most groups stayed for two or three nights, and eagerly assisted with activities relating to the work of the Reserve such as patrolling for turtles at night, the construction of the hatchery and beach cleaning. The latter is essential so that the hatchlings have a clear run to the sea and don't have prolonged exposure to predators and the elements. Additional help for such tasks came through a constant flow of volunteers from the British organisation Gap Challenge, and also from independent travellers. Both the students and volunteers proved to be an invaluable workforce for the Reserve and were very much appreciated by both us, and the turtles!

The students were also given the opportunity to learn about the amazing environment of the Reserve and experienced guides took them on tours through the rainforest and canals. These tours typically visited our inner-lagoon, where the students were able to view the rare nesting of the Chestnut-Bellied Heron. In addition to these and other beautiful birds, it is possible to see a wide array of frogs, reptiles, birds and mammals



A young three-toed sloth

including three species of monkeys. A lecture concerning the biology and conservation of sea turtles relevant to Costa Rica is, of course, a necessity!

We were all very excited about the Green Turtle nesting season in July and found it incredibly rewarding to be able to use our experience to build further on the success of the previous months during the Leatherback nesting season. It has been a real privilege to work in this fantastic environment, and we would like to thank all of those who helped to make the Reserve a truly life-changing experience.



A non-venomous snake takes on almost more than it can chew



SCHOOLS PAGES

Join the Schools Programme and help to save the rainforests!

by Helen Brown, Rainforest Concern

Our Schools Programme has become increasingly popular over the past year with more than 350 schools joining the movement to protect the world's remaining tropical rainforests.

In April we announced the winners of our 'Turn your classroom into a rainforest' competition which was launched on BBC 1 TV. Dominic Wood from the 'Really Wild Show' helped with the judging and was duly impressed by the standard of entrants. He reflects all of our sentiments below;

"The pictures, paintings, models, decorations and costumes were all 100% but let's not forget why you did it. The money you raised is helping to protect the rainforests and will stop men from cutting it down for selfish reasons".

Turnfurlong Infant School in Bucks (pictured above) reproduced the most authentic rainforest while St. Peter's School in Burgess Hill, West Sussex raised the most money by making and selling rainforest masks and cakes - sponsoring 31 acres of rainforest.

We are regularly spurred on by children who organise their own fundraising initiatives, such as Adam Keay from Exmouth who designed silk scarves to sell in aid of Rainforest Concern. James German from Fordingbridge, Hampshire even forfeited birthday presents, asking instead for donations to be made to Rainforest Concern. In doing so James managed to raise an impressive £300!

The pupils of Fullerbrook School in Surrey organised a sponsored walk to raise funds to purchase sports equipment for the school at Marianitas, close to the reserve at Santa Lucia and Maquipucuna - the new footballs, volley and rugby balls will be very well received!



Pupils from Turnfurlong Infant School

We are continually grateful for the support provided by Dave Shaw of the *Rainforest Roadshow* and Phil Williams of the *World In Your Shoe* who both deliver unique and animated talks based on their experiences in the rainforest and with rainforest peoples. The talks are hugely popular and are a must for school and community groups! Please call our office for advance bookings and further information.

Schools in Ecuador are showing increasing interest in our work and the plight of the rainforests. Our project co-ordinator in Ecuador, Fiona Woodward has encouraged British schools in Quito, the capital, to support our work and has co-ordinated the exchange of drawings between Ecuadorian schools and Schools in the UK through the Heartstone programme. The picture in the centre of the page opposite was drawn by a pupil from Marianitas School, Ecuador and is entitled 'My spare time'.

Finally, thanks to the input of Catherine Brown, a teacher who is volunteering with us, we will soon have a more comprehensive Schools pack available to teachers and pupils - keep an eye on the website for progress!

If you are a teacher or pupil and would like further information on rainforest conservation or how to become involved with our work please call us as we would be delighted to hear from you.

Buckinghamshire Schools build kitchen for Marianitas School

Once again the Marianitas School, near to the Maquipucuna Reserve, would like to say an enormous thank you to all the schools who, through the Marlow Society, donated over £1,500 to build them a kitchen and dining area. Previously, the school's kitchen consisted of merely a flimsy roof over a mud floor but now they have a wonderful kitchen and dining area, made mainly out of bamboo. This has also transformed the appearance of the school.

The work of the carpenter and the materials were paid for by the donation, but most of the manual labour was actually carried out by members of the community, as it was important to encourage their participation in the project. The Maquipucuna Foundation also contributed their time to help co-ordinate the construction.

More great news is that the village also managed to get government funding to provide lunches for the school children (before they only received breakfast), many of whom have to walk a couple of hours to get to school each day. The kitchen is being used for more meals each day and now also serves visitors when they come to the famous Marianitas fiestas, held in the school for fundraising purposes.



SCHOOLS PAGES

CWMTAWE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT CLUB.

Cwmtawe comprehensive, Ffordd Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, SA8 4EG, 19th March 2001.

Dear Sir / Madam,

We enclose a cheque for £79.45 that our club has raised to help you to adopt more rainforest in South America. Our school raises money every year and has already adopted several acres.

We have learned a lot about the rainforests, the wildlife and the Amerindians that live there, and our teacher and club leader, Mrs. Grove is visiting the rainforest in Ecuador this Easter with Phil Williams of Plan-it-eco. We are making a scrap book full of photographs of animals, food etc. from our own country and we hope that teachers there may be able to use it for teaching in their schools. We are also writing letters to the Indian children and hope they will reply to us. We thought of sending gifts of lovespoons to show the type of craftwork that is traditional in Wales.

To raise the money that we are sending we made leaflets about the problem of deforestation to distribute to parents during an Open Evening in school. We thought this would be a good way to make money but also tell people why it is important. We hope this will be a big help to you!

Yours faithfully,
Cwmtawe environment club.

Rainforest Concern,
27 Lansdowne Crescent,
London,
W11 2NS.

Any Brockman,
Georges Junior School,
Georges Hill Crescent,
Georges Hill,
Ilford,
Essex.
IG2 6TU

11th May 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,
Re: Trees in rainforests.

I am Any Brockman, a year 5 pupil at Georges Junior School and our topic this term is 'the Environment'. I am interested about the poor trees in some rainforests which are getting cut down. It is a big concern to me that some of the animals habitats are being knocked down. Some of the animals are still on the trees while this is happening why are they doing this? Can't they stop it? To improve my education even further please may I have some more information or a model, this would be well appreciated. Thankyou for spending time reading my letter.

Yours faithfully,
Any Brockman

We are very grateful to all of the schools who have become actively involved in our work over the past year. We hope that your enthusiasm will be passed on to pupils in subsequent years to build on the fantastic work you have achieved so far.

Hampton School, Middlesex; Cwmtawe Comprehensive School, Swansea; The American School in London; St. George's Junior School, Weybridge; George Fentham Primary School, Solihull; Montgomery Combined School, Exeter; St. Cleres School, Stanford-le-Hope; Rainbow Warriors, Ludlow Salop; Collydean Primary School, Glenrothes; Hermitage Primary School, Argyll; Killicomaine Junior High School, County Armagh; The Dales Primary School, Hull; The Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh; Glyn-Neath Welsh School, Neath and Port Talbot; Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls, Kent; Christ the King Junior School, Coventry; Macketts Primary School, Liverpool; Halewood C of E School, Liverpool; Mount Nod Primary School, Coventry; Mount Hutte Primary School, Liverpool; Hollfast Primary School, Coventry; Summerfield Primary School, Birmingham; Clarendon Primary School, Middlesex; Plantation Primary, Knowsley; Allsley Primary School, Coventry; Primary 4/5 Broomhill School, Aberdeen; Gorseinon Junior School, Swansea; Oxfangs Primary School, Edinburgh; Penyrheol School, Swansea; Cefn Hengoed Community School, Swansea; Dwr-y Felin Comprehensive School, Swansea; Oakfield Junior School, Barnsley; Cookley First School, Cookley; Higham Primary School, Burnely; The Manor Prep School, Abington; Hampton School, Middlesex; British Primary School, Quito Ecuador; Turnfurlong Infant School, Aylesbury; Scaltback Middle School, Newmarket; William de Ferrers School, Cheltenham; Shotton St. Andrews Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon; Northgate High School, Suffolk; Shamblehurst Primary School, Southampton; Milking Bank School, Dudley; St Giles School, Derby; Pope Pius X Catholic High School, Rotherham; Chandlings Manor School, Oxford; Montgomery School, Exeter; George Spencer School, Stapleford; Fullbrook School, New Haw; Heath Fields Primary School, Hatton; Environment Zone, Roberts Primary School, Dudley; Corringham Primary School, Stanford-Le-Hope; The Bromfords School, Wickford; Welcombe Hills School, Stratford-upon-Avon; Farnham Heath End School, Farnham; Clatford Primary School, Andover and 1st North Springfield Royal Cub Scout Pack.

Nebi: Tianpa Libre i Nambro; Nibhwa Bahawonko; Aia: 7^a aia hokio

Loze Primary School
Hay Lane
East Loze
Cornwall
PL13 1JY
21 November 2000

Rainforest Concern
27 Lansdowne Crescent
London W11 2NS

Dear Sir/Madam,
I am writing to ask for information on the rainforest; the Amazon in particular. My class and I are studying the rainforest, and as well as being an interesting topic it is also vital to human survival and we want to know what we can do to save it; killing the rainforest will eventually kill us. I would be extremely grateful if you could send us some pictures, posters and leaflets on the rainforest.

Yours faithfully
Christow
(Charlotte Bristow)

Summerfield Primary School
Cudbert Road
Winton Green
Birmingham
B18 4AH
Tuesday 16th April

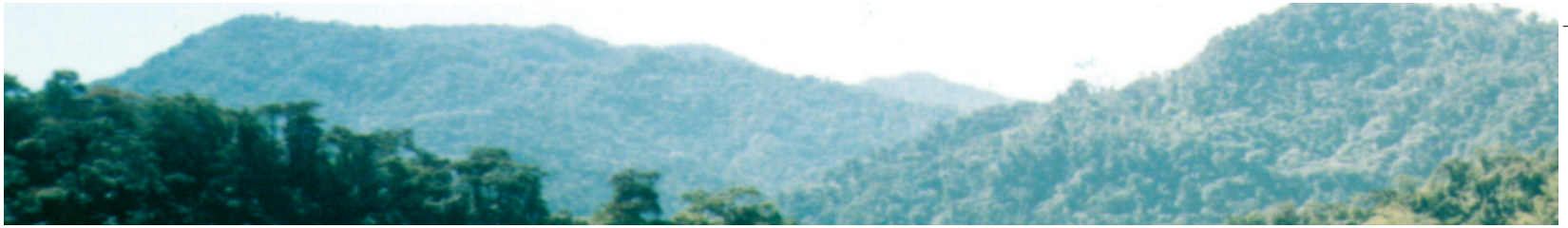
Dear Rainforest Concern
We have been learning about Rainforests. We know that they have been cut down but we want to save them. We know they have been cut down for:
• Money
• Cash crops
• Highways
• Space for poor people to live.

This means that:
• Animals will lose their home
• The oxygen trees give us will go
• The rainforest will turn into a desert

Therefore we would like to buy an acre of rainforest

Yours faithfully
Sanjay

Do you feel passionate about rainforests and really want to help save them? Write to Rainforest Concern – we are always pleased to hear from you!



CHARITY NEWS

A new challenge



by **Fiona Woodward,**
Project Manager, Ecuador

As some of you may know, I have been working my way through a few Rainforest Concern projects over the years! I started in 1995, working as Manager of the Maquipucuna Lodge in the Maquipucuna Cloud Forest Reserve, I then ran the Turtle Protection Programme at the Pacuare Reserve in Costa Rica, followed by a short spell in the London office and now I am back in Ecuador again.

We have been diversifying and are now really helping to make a difference with smaller NGO's who have been in desperate need of backing. We are currently supporting four projects on the western side of the Andes in the Choco Bio region and two on the eastern side, in the Amazon region.

The variety of projects has required a lot of work in terms of understanding the different factors and pressures behind each area, the different forest systems and communities, as well as getting to know more local NGO's. The experience has been invaluable for us as a charity as well as for the projects we are now helping who have been able to learn from each other's successes and to apply this new knowledge.

There are a lot of rewarding moments working in Ecuador, but there are also many complications. The main problems for conservation seem to come from the

lack of funding for the environmental sector, corruption and the frustrating lack of implementation of the law. In most areas we are up against the clock to protect land before an industry comes in and destroys it. The Government has shown that these commercial interests come first and are willing to jeopardise any environmental projects that cross their path. This is the case with mining, logging, palm oil companies, petroleum companies etc., where the economic benefits always outweigh the long-term environmental impact.

Plan Colombia, the US mission to stamp out the drug problem by destroying the coca plantations in Colombia, has caused noticeable knock-on effects from the spraying of these plantations in the southern areas of Colombia and the northern border region of Ecuador.

The other problem that Ecuador has had to face was a staggering 91% increase in inflation last year which has continued to rise despite dollarisation of the Ecuadorian currency. Thankfully this trend has recently shown signs of slowing down.

There have, nonetheless, been many success stories this year and we have been able to save many areas under immediate threat. We have also been closely involved with supporting communities who are learning to protect their own natural resource areas. Our new project area in the Intag region has been an intense learning experience working with the communities in an innovative project set up by DECOIN. The trend for conservation in Ecuador is very much leaning towards community forest ownership, to educate the local people to protect their forests since, ultimately it is the communities and the people who will be able to make the difference and fight to conserve their forests.

As well as co-ordinating the projects in the field, I have also been trying to raise the profile of Rainforest Concern here in Ecuador, in order to win more support for our projects. This is a time-consuming activity as, just to give you an idea, in one and a half years, we are already on our third Minister of Environment!

On a final note, I would like to thank some of the British factions in Quito, such as the British Embassy, the British Council, the British School and the British Chamber of Commerce, who have kindly given us their support.

Latin American Challenge supports Rainforest Concern

by **Amanda Phillips and Michael Kemp**

Amanda Phillips and Michael Kemp set themselves the challenge of driving their car from Texas to Tierra del Fuego, South America. Latin American Challenge, the 8 month expedition (July 2000 – March 2001) was entirely self financed and raised just under £2,500 for Rainforest Concern.

We wanted to positively contribute to sustainable development and conservation where it is most needed in South America. Having learnt about Rainforest Concern's work, and promoting it before the trip, it was wonderful to visit some of the projects in Ecuador and see first hand how they are making a real difference. In November we navigated the mud tracks to Misahualli in the Amazon region before boarding a boat which took us down the Napo River to Yachana Lodge. As well as viewing the various community and conservation projects that Rainforest Concern has helped to set up, it was extremely special to walk up through the forest to look down on an expanse of land purchased by the charity, that would otherwise have been bought by palm oil companies.

We spent three days with Pancho, Eduardo and Viche, members of the Santa Lucia co-operative in the Ecuadorian cloud forest who in November 2000 were in the process of constructing an eco-tourism lodge. Our exhausting uphill walk to reach the lodge was rewarded by the incredible view of the forests. Pancho explained how the land surrounding the lodge that has been used for farming will be reforested and the self-sufficient lodge opened up to tourists. Their commitment to make the project succeed was overwhelming and we look forward to returning one day.



The driving force behind Rainforest Concern - from left to right, Ralph Pannell, Helen Brown and Fiona Dalrymple.



MEMBERSHIP

Our particular thanks go to the following who have become Benefactors and Guardians in the last twelve months:

Roger Hillman; Mr Udal; Stephen Sowden; Gemma Thompson; Trevor Williams; Paul Moss; Gillian Bunce; Mr Moodley; Juliana Preist; S Sykes; Emma and Katie Fisher; Stuart Bottomley; Ben and Anna Edwards; Matteo Maino; D H Gibson; Richard Farrell; D M Jack; C Wainig; D Etechells; Edington Womans' Institute; James Tod; Ali Stickings; John and Chris Harries; N Bates; Rudi Evans; Sarah Willey; Dr Lars W Chatrou; P Baker; A J Smith; B Kiddle; A Suthrell; James Land; June Garrett; W H Ardagh; Karen Richardson; D Darke; Catherine Purkiss; Philip Clarkson Webb; P O Rundle; Nigel Moore; S M Jefferson; Robert Cust; Antonio Gonzalez Alvarez; P Kreeger; Lady Virginia Bath; Paul Walden; R Lawton; Pieter & Ingrid Kraay; Carole Lightfoot; Dale Burrell; Russel Milella; Jason Mitchell; Gene Shapiro; Michael Miles; D Hall Gibson; Emma Parfitt; John Horwood; Mike Devy; Robert Cole; David Cole; Joseph Childs; Frannie Verney; S J Kerslake; Rob Mimpriss; Andrew Phillips; Anneke Salpin; Abigail Holmes; T Seager; Richard Heatherington; Heather Templeton; Mary Bradford; Mary Sweerts de Landas; Mike Donegan; Tony Foster; Leonara Reinhold; Lyndon Taylor; Nicholas and Diana Baring; C Boissevain; Matilda Bucknill; Fadri Franziscus; Georgina Law; Rebecca Vincent; B G Ballard; L J De Silva; Mark Beevers; Caroline and Ewan Thompson; M Von Saher; Freddie Williams-Thomas; Miranda Shearer; Susan Fuller; Stephen Kozicki; Kingsway Church Youth Group; Rosie Thompson; Thomas Bunstead; Jessica Chilton; Rose Alexander; Mark Howard; Jessica Hedley; Chris Littmoden; Victoria Nutbrown; Dr Loughridge; Paul Broad; Mike Parr; N D Hewitt; The Willeys; Julie Dennison; Jaguar Prayer Group; Dr Anne Cole; Doug Winkfield; Mike Dicks; Eleanor Gordon; Eleanor Jones; Timothy and Pamela Powell; James German; Jessica Nelson; G Wall; Aslan Wheeler; June Lambert; Gabrielle Millington; Imogen Millington; P Waterton; Duchess of Richmond; M J Staisny, Mr and Mrs Williams; John Pendlebury; Rebecca James; Michael Hoogeboom; Ellen Thomas; Antony Flew; Alex Turnbull; Joanna Matthews; Thomas Geater; Danielle Yeo; Elizabeth Wood; Francis Trollope; Mark Scorer; Elizabeth Savage; Alexandra Outhwaite; Peter Gondris; C Cymri-Tremththannor; Gillian Barlow; Sarah Chamberlain; Rachel Dupuy; Andrew Jones; William Rickards; Marcus Skinner; James Tussard; Christine Wetherell; Christine Oldfield; Morgan Dougal; Christopher Lloyd; Amy Fonseca; Ruth Easby; Laura Donaghey; Sarah Clelland; Sarah Carter; Sarah Frost; Pamela Isdell; N Prior; H W B Barlow; Giulietta Verdon-Roe; Katherine Porritt; Ewa Holender; Alex King; Juliet Sampson; Victoria Cunningham; Harry Walsh; Alex Sproule; Joanna Rushworth; Jane Keenan; Hannah Bulley; Alan Booth; Anna Donges; Jenny Bloomfield; Jennifer Airey; David Cole; B A Jenkins; Heather Rayment; Laura Hooper; Kiran Gill; Charles Netherton; Vishal Patel; Susan Filer; Mark Richardson; J E Dutton; Michael Horsnell; Emma Hammersley; Elaine Heighington; Susan Barker; A W Brooke; Hannah Randall; Annie Riha; Stephen Coghill; Charles Kilner; Julie Taylor; Guy Myran; Sir Christopher and LadyBenson; Dave Dyke; Mark Walters; Dr C D Pons; Sean Cottey; Mark Quartermaine; B Winterflood; Helen Morgan; Richard Wilding; J S Atkinson; J S Leentfaar; Edith Henk Pratt; Liam Dungate; Andrew Morton; Crispin Phillips; Neil Little; G C Roy; Peter Vince; Thomas Hopkins; Christopher Evans; Charles Norman; Sheery Sassoon; Alex Kindersley; Ben James; Camilla French; Susan Weingarten; Sam McCarlie; David Bayliss; M M H Hogestijn; Janet Sykes; Stuart Williams; Mr Botter & Ms Van Ooij; Mr and Mrs Harley; Brady Kershaw; Paul Pattinson; B K Otto; Joshua Luke; David Hughes; E A Ross; Amanda Gosse; Gillian Provan; Georgina Musgrave; Christine Chaffey; J A Kamieniecki; Howard Dawe; Clare Stevens; Judith Parkinson; J Hewitt; B M Gledhill; Katie Fenwick & Zoe Howard; Rory Taylor; Pauline McLynn; Les Puskas; Marie Benedix; C W Curtis; J J Scot-Bolton; Eric Taylor; Plantasia, Swansea; Sharai Simpson; D Emery; Caroline Carver; Rosemary Calder; Alice Hall; Mr and Mrs Davies; Anthony Owen; Sara Kirkham; David Bryant; P Clear; Patrick Vincent; Guy Langan; Marcus Walsh; Clifford Humphrey; F A Waring; S March; Jan Broderick; Henry Despard; William Despard; Henry Ballantyne; Kevin and Emily Oakes; Mr and Mrs Pennington; Daniel Walker; Lauren Anne Simms; John Lythgoe; Helen Wilson; Mark Rowe; Tony Vermeul; George Donne; David Phillips; Alan Greenfield; Jane Shaw; Stephen Isaac; Deborah Reed; Matt Teley; Mr Carter; Denys Wilsden; Annabelle Bryne; Anthea Haig; Adam Knight; The Northcott Family; Mark Turner; Claudia Hafner; Mike Cherry; D. 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Why not join our Membership Programme?

Since 1993, we have encouraged support through our acre sponsorship programme - this has been a great success and we thank everyone who has helped us in this way. An ever increasing number of you have been asking to donate on a regular basis and so we have decided to start a Rainforest Concern Membership Programme . It will of course still be possible to sponsor acres of rainforest at £25 per acre as a single payment and this remains a very popular idea for a gift.

We hope that you will continue to support our work by joining Rainforest Concern as a Member and below you will find a Standing Order form enabling you to do this. For those of you who have already signed up to this, you are now full Members of Rainforest Concern. For those who have supported our work as Guardians or Benefactors in the past, we very much appreciate your support in the early years of our work and you will, of course, maintain your status. Guardians and Benefactors who join us after 30th November 2001 will be part of our new Membership Programme.

Please take this opportunity to help us in the most direct and effective way possible, by becoming a Member of Rainforest Concern.

Please tick one box only.

- Member: Sponsoring 1 acre each year £2 per month £25 annually
 Friend: Sponsoring 3 acres each year £6 per month £75 annually
 Guardian: Sponsoring 5 acres each year £10 per month £125 annually
 Benefactor: Sponsoring 10 acres each year £20 per month £250 annually

Name Title
 Address
 Postcode

I would prefer to make a simple donation of £
 Cheques should be made payable to 'Rainforest Concern'. Should you wish to pay by credit card, please telephone 0207 229 2093

Gift Aid Declaration:

By dating this box, I declare that I pay tax in the UK and would like Rainforest Concern to reclaim the tax paid on this donation and all other donations I make hereafter. / /
 We welcome tax deductible donations from US citizens, please tick here for information

I wish to pay monthly / yearly by Standing Order (please delete as appropriate):

Name and full address of your Bank

To: Bank / Building Society

Address Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank account number

Branch 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

All our supporters will receive an attractive certificate recording the level of their membership and our magazine Rainforest Review.
 Rainforest Concern Benefactors are entitled to two days free accommodation, meals and guided tours at one of our lodges in Ecuador after two years of membership.

Please fill in the form and send directly to Rainforest Concern, 27 Lansdowne Crescent, London W11 2NS, UK. Please do not send to your bank.