

# RAINFOREST REVIEW



**ECUADOR: Copper mining -  
a serious threat to conservation**

**CHILE: Namoncahue Corridor  
recognised by Chilean Government**

**BRAZIL: Yawanawa territory almost doubled**

**COSTA RICA: New extension  
for the Pacuare Reserve**

**AUTUMN 2007**





# ECUADOR

population: **13.8 million**  
capital: **Quito**

total land area: **27,684,000 ha**  
primary forest 2005: **4,794,000 ha**

## ECUADOR

# Refusing to be 'undermined' in Intag

by **Carlos Zorrilla, Project Director, DECOIN (Defensa y Conservación Ecológica de Intag)**

DECOIN was founded in 1995 as a grass roots environmental organisation to conserve the unique biodiversity in the Intag region of northwest Ecuador. Alongside Rainforest Concern, DECOIN have created 34 community owned and administered forest and watershed reserves, benefiting thousands of people, primarily by providing them with a clean source of drinking water.



**Carlos Zorrilla at a participating watershed reserve**

In addition to the forest watershed reserves, DECOIN has helped communities set up larger reserves that are currently conserving over 5,000 hectares of native forest in the Intag area. The most successful conservation project in Intag however continues to be the DECOIN/Rainforest Concern Watershed Reserve, which is so far protecting over 800 hectares of some of the world's most biodiverse and threatened forests, part of the Tropical Andes Biological Hotspot. This is home to dozens of threatened species, from jaguars and spectacled bears, to plate billed mountain toucans, various endangered frog species, and one of the world's most threatened bird species, the Black Breasted Puff Leg Hummingbird, which was only recently spotted in the Intag region. This latest discovery underscores the need to protect as much of this rapidly vanishing habitat as possible.

The desire for clean water, together with the fact that the reserves belong to the communities, have guaranteed they remain protected. If there's an action that threatens the area, and thus the water quality, it is not long before everybody knows about it! Social pressure in these cases works much better than environmental laws.

Due to grass roots interest in clean water in the Intag region, the Cotacachi Municipality has allocated more funds than ever this year towards the protection of watersheds. This is an important sign that the objective of changing local people's attitude towards their environment is working. However, the area is still seriously under threat

from a large scale copper mining scheme. Ascendant Copper Corporation's Junin mining project directly threatens nine forest-watershed reserves, as well as the Junin Community reserve which sits on the copper deposit. In total, the mining company's 22,500 hectares in mining concessions includes nine of the 30 community forest reserves we have helped to create.

It takes 110 tonnes of water to produce one tonne of pure copper. To make that same tonne of copper, about 700 tonnes of ore, made up of rocks and subsoil, as well as top soil and the forests and wildlife holding on to it, has to be processed.

The waste then ends up in landfill, contaminating everything it comes into contact with. Water discharged from open pit mines is also acidic. This acid water destroys aquatic life and leaves streams toxic for thousands of years.

An upsurge in the demand for minerals in the last four years has greatly increased the threat that mining represents to the world. Modern mining has offered no solution to the environmental destruction that accompanies it. This is especially the case in developing countries, where corruption is rife, and environmental and mining legislation has been gutted by international financial institutions like the World Bank.

Resistance to a copper-molybdenum mine in Intag is well known to Rainforest Concern readers. It all started in 1995 when communities got together to oppose a Japanese funded "development" project. Their resistance focused on providing sustainable alternatives to the mine, including the creation of community forest reserves.

Communities have actively opposed the mine since Ascendant Copper showed up in Intag in 2004. Resistance has prevented Ascendant accessing their mines, leaving their scheme at a



complete standstill. The company has subsequently responded violently.

Early one October morning last year, 19 armed police showed up at my home. The warrants for my arrest and to search my house were based on made up accusations by a person no longer in the country. My lawyer was able to revoke the arrest warrant, but today I'm facing more charges stemming from these false allegations.

Then, at the end of 2006, the mining company, through a subcontractor, sent in 100 heavily armed men to access their mining concessions. Community members not only stopped the incursion, they also managed to arrest half of the men! It transpired that they were ex-military personnel, though the mining company later claimed the men were "agricultural consultants".

These aggressive tactics highlight what's happening all over the world due to the upsurge in demand for metal. Yet local resistance also shows how work by Rainforest Concern and DECOIN has been instrumental in empowering communities to take on the mining corporations. We have for a long time believed that conservation that's not in the hands of the people will be unsustainable. Today the people of Intag have confirmed that belief.



**Ascendant Copper Corporation's aggressive tactics**

# PERU

population: **28 million**

capital: **Lima**

total land area: **128,522,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **62,910,000 ha**

primary forest 2005: **61,065,000 ha**

primary forest lost 1990-2005: **1,845,000 ha**



PERU

## High-altitude *Polylepis* forests represent one of the most threatened habitats in South America

by Dr Paul Ramsay, University of Plymouth

The threatened *Polylepis* forests of Peru are important for many endangered birds and other animal species, as well as being an invaluable resource for highland people. These woodlands grow throughout the Andes and are found above the usual treeline, right up to the snowline. The environment in these places is challenging to most species, and this explains the conservation value of these woodlands: they are filled with species adapted to the peculiar, high-altitude conditions found nowhere else.

Rainforest Concern is helping to conserve *Polylepis* forests in the high Andes of Peru through its collaboration with ECOAN, a group of Peruvian biologists who work with local people to provide alternatives to forest destruction. In 2005, the University of Plymouth began a programme of research, with ECOAN and Rainforest Concern, to help understand the ecology of this important habitat and several key species there. The work is based in the Cordillera de Vilcanota, between Cusco and Machu Picchu.

Before detailed forest ecology work could begin, the woodlands needed to be mapped. In such mountainous terrain, it is not practical to discover where the woodlands are by visiting each of them on foot. Instead, a satellite image from 2002 was analysed using specialist equipment at the University of Plymouth to highlight the possible locations of *Polylepis* woodlands. The woodlands reflect light in a different way to the surrounding vegetation types, rocks and snow, and this can be brought out by manipulating the satellite image on a computer.

To check that the satellite map accurately represented the true distribution of the *Polylepis* woodlands, one valley was targeted for more detailed study. The whole area was walked and photographed, in order to refine the map. The finished map shows clearly where all the fragments of forest are located, and forms the basis for biodiversity work in the future.

The map also provided another opportunity: to look at how the forests have changed over the last 50 years. The Peruvian military took air photographs of the area in 1956, and by identifying the forest on these and adding them to the computer analysis, it is possible to see how the forests have changed since then. This work demonstrates convincingly that most of the woodlands have not changed very much in size in the last 50 years, though a small number have been lost or damaged. In general, the forest cover seems to have remained remarkably constant. This is extremely valuable information when planning conservation strategies.



Expedition group from Plymouth University with ECOAN

However, the location of forest patches is not the only thing to consider. There seems to be a slow, but important reduction in the density of the trees. The research team carried out interviews with local farming families to ask them about the forests, and this confirmed the decline in forest quality. Overwhelmingly, elderly local farmers described the opening up of the forest canopy and the loss of large, straight trees by selective felling. Although the forest patches remain, the quality of the habitat appears to have been reduced.

It seems that efforts to conserve the remaining patches of forest in this part of Peru should concentrate on working with local farmers to help them to manage the forests, and in particular the quality of the forest habitat. In this way, the species that rely on these woodlands will live on, alongside the Andean people who have lived there for thousands of years.

The lack of change in forest cover over the last 50 years also highlights the difficulty *Polylepis* experiences in colonising open areas. There is not much evidence that tree seedlings are able to survive outside the protection of the forest canopy. This may be due to the environmental conditions, which are much more challenging in the open, or to human land use such as fires, cultivation of potatoes and heavy grazing. Another focus for the team's work has been examining the requirements of the seedlings, with a view to lending the plants a helping hand in the future.

Rainforest Concern has already taken some important steps in this regard and, with help from its supporters, has funded the planting of thousands of *Polylepis* trees in areas where it has

been lost. The Plymouth team carried out some detailed monitoring work in one of these areas. Despite the steep, rocky ground at altitudes above 4500 m above sea level, the plants have survived extremely well (fewer than 1 in 20 plants had died one year after planting). This is a testament both to the resilience of *Polylepis* itself, and the manner in which the planting was carried out by ECOAN and local farmers. Researchers from Plymouth University are also helping to develop a manual to train local biologists in how to monitor the quality of the remaining woodlands, and so focus the conservation work. Rainforest Concern has also funded a local radio campaign in the local Quecha dialect to warn about the risks to these endangered woodlands of burning mountainside, which has been a long established but damaging practice, and the purchase of locally made clay stoves, which are more fuel efficient and so help economise on the amount of wood needed for fuel. ECOAN are also working on developing other renewable sources of wood, and alternative activities to help generate income for these rural communities.

The results of this collaborative project were presented at an international conference on the ecology and conservation of *Polylepis* forests, which was hosted by ECOAN in Cusco in May 2006, and organised by its President Constantino Chutas. The conference was a great success, attracting some 200 scientists and conservation groups from around the world, who compared their work involving many different species of *Polylepis* and different habitats across Latin America.





## NEWS



# Is carbon offsetting about easing climate change or your conscience?

by Briony Mathieson, Rainforest Concern

There is much talk about carbon offsetting - some see the process as playing a real role in the mitigation of global warming and climate change, while others claim it is a cop-out, allowing us to continue our fossil fuel-consuming lifestyles.

At Rainforest Concern, we have a balanced approach through our Forest Credits programme. There is no doubt that society needs to radically reduce its carbon dioxide emissions, but inevitably there will be some remaining tonnes emitted by both individuals and companies. These remaining tonnes are damaging the environment but there are measures that can be taken to redress some of that damage. When we receive carbon offset donations, the funds are directed towards conserving threatened tropical forests or replanting deforested areas.

There are some startling facts that are not well known. In his recent report for the UK Government, Stern stated that 18% - 25% of annual greenhouse gas emissions are caused by deforestation and the burning of tropical rainforests. In the past this has rarely been talked about. All the media noise seems to focus around the curse of flying, which in fact accounts for less than 3% of global emissions. Since 1990, 13 million hectares of deforestation has occurred ANNUALLY. Our remaining tropical forests store 60% of the carbon in terrestrial eco-systems. Furthermore, 90% of the exchange of carbon dioxide between the atmosphere and the Earth

occurs through photosynthesis, primarily in the world's forests.

In the next 4 years, carbon emissions resulting from deforestation will be equal to the entire history of aviation up to 2025 (Stern Report). With the help of your offset donations, we can work to combat deforestation and help reduce this impact on climate change.

Our first recommendation is to do everything you can as a business or an individual to cut your carbon footprint. There is some very useful advice on how to start this process for businesses if you go to [carbontrust.co.uk](http://carbontrust.co.uk) and for homes, try [energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk).

The next step is to offset those tonnes that you cannot avoid through one of our carbon projects. By doing this you will be simultaneously generating a forest full of other benefits over and above securing carbon, such as biodiversity protection, habitat preservation for indigenous people, access to capital for sustainable livelihoods, generation of local rainfall and safeguarding medicinal plants.

There is more information on our website about our Forest Credits carbon programme for both businesses and individuals or alternatively anyone in the office can help you if you would like to ease both your conscience and climate change!

## Mark Plotkin at the Royal Geographical Society



Mark Plotkin and Amashina

On 14th November, the renowned ethnobotanist Dr Mark Plotkin, President of the Amazon Conservation Team in Washington, gave a fascinating talk at the Royal Geographical Society on working with 25 tribes of Amazonian Indians to map and protect 40 million acres of ancestral forests. Rainforest Concern has now been working with ACT for the past three years to assist the Wayana people of south-east Suriname, which included the active participation of the Wayanas and the government of Suriname. The results of this have already provided the Wayana with an effective and important tool to better protect their forests and the immense biodiversity they contain.

Please see page 14 for a full account of the project progress over the past 12 months.

## The Leslie Bowes Lecture

Professor Antonio Lara, from the University of Valdivia and Martin Gardner, from the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, a world expert on conifers, gave a lecture at Canning House in London on 30th October, highlighting Rainforest Concern's work in collaboration with the Chilean conservation organisation AIFBN.



Professor Antonio Lara and Martin Gardner

As many of our supporters will know, the University of Valdivia and Rainforest Concern has for the past four years been working to conserve the araucaria forests in the Chilean lake district of the IX Region. In particular the project has focussed on securing land to create the Nasampulli Reserve, which lies at the northern end of Lake Caburga. This reserve now comprises almost 1,000 hectares of continuous areas of pristine Araucaria forests, a rare habitat which is home to endangered species such as the puma, the pudu deer and the giant Magellanic woodpecker.

The Anglo Chilean Society very kindly made a donation of £1,000 towards this important conservation project. Our work in Chile is covered on pages 12 and 13. If any of our members wish to have further information about supporting this project to protect the Araucaria forests, you may wish to contact Rainforest Concern on 020 7229 2093.

## Darcey Bussell supports Rainforest Concern

Shortly before she retired at The Royal Opera House in June, Darcey Bussell performed her Farewell shows at Sadler's Wells. Darcey chose to be associated with Rainforest Concern for these performances.

She wrote a message in the programme outlining her growing concern about the environment, stating her goal to live with a 90% reduction in her family's carbon footprint.

It was fantastic for Rainforest Concern to have the opportunity to promote our work on such a prestigious occasion, which was further highlighted by Darcey's recommendation of the charity.



# ECUADOR

population: **13.8 million**  
capital: **Quito**

total land area: **27,684,000 ha**  
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## ECUADOR

# The Choco-Andean Corridor Project

by Fiona Pérez, Ecuador Projects Manager

### Southern Phase

As you will see from the following articles both the community projects at Santa Lucía and Paso Alto are progressing very well, with particularly big steps being taken at Paso Alto, where work is in its preliminary stages and there is still a lot of confidence to be gained from the local people. This last year has been focused on community development in both areas and not on specific land purchase. The reason for this is to find a balance between conserving the tremendous biodiversity of these forests and also providing the local people with a sustainable income. Previously local communities cut down forested areas either for selling timber or for cattle farming and we feel that working with them to find alternatives is the best long-term strategy to protect these particular forests.

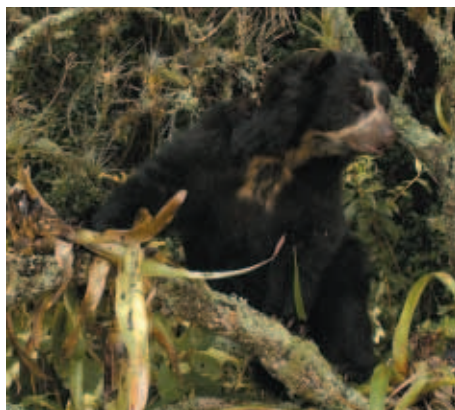
In the Intag area you will see from Carlos Zorilla's article that we are continuing to fund the Watershed Project and with excellent results. A lot of energy has been spent on the mining issues in the area, but the Watershed project has been a major factor in getting people to understand the conservation issues and the risks of destruction associated with any mining. The number of community protected reserves that we have bought through this project continues to increase steadily each year.

Rainforest Concern has continued with land purchase for the corridor in the Intag area and we have made good progress. Thanks to all our supporters, the Neblina Reserve has more than trebled in size this year. The reserve now totals 637 hectares (1574 acres) and is a vital link between the Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve and the Paso Alto protected areas.

This year we need to train more local people how to be forest guards for this expanded area and there has already been great enthusiasm shown by potential participants. Reading the patrol reports of our existing guards confirms how many wonderful species of mammals, birds and plants are harboured in our reserve alone.

### Northern Phase

During 2006 progress was made through differing activities carried out with the communities surrounding the Awacachi Corridor. This helped to strengthen the community relations and this in turn helps protect the corridor. The main activities included the construction of a community butterfly farm, constructed to produce butterflies for exhibitions in Europe, the building of a new Centre for Environmental Interpretation which



photos: PETE OXFORD

The elusive spectacled bear

was started near the communities of Durango and San Francisco, training of buffer zone communities in sustainable production projects such as native bamboo and cacao plantations, and training of community rangers in charge of protecting the Corridor in issues related to biological monitoring and conflict management.

In addition, agreements with NGO's and the Municipality of San Lorenzo were signed to support the conservation activities in the area. As a result of this agreement the Environmental Campaign of San Lorenzo was initiated and proposals are currently being submitted to find funding for this.

However there are still very serious threats to this whole area such as the continuing expansion of palm oil plantations and more recently the onset of mining activities. Your support is vital for this project to continue and to succeed, so please continue to sponsor acres for the Choco-Andean Corridor!



We are extremely grateful to our Australian partners, Rainforest Rescue, whose supporters have been contributing to the southern phase of the Choco-Andean Corridor project through their Ecuador "Save a Hectare" campaign. In 2005/2006, they reached a milestone of \$30,000, to save 200 hectares of Cloud Forest, expanding the Neblina Reserve. We are delighted to report that the purchase of this land is due to be completed in August 2007!

We would like to thank Rainforest Rescue for their ongoing fundraising efforts on our behalf, and for their very generous support! For more information on the important work being carried out by Rainforest Rescue, see their website - [www.rainforestrescue.org.au](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au)

# Ongoing Assistance for Santa Lucía

by Carolyn Halcrow, Conservation & Ecotourism Project Manager

Santa Lucía Cooperative continues to play its part in the conservation of the Choco-Andean corridor by protecting its 730 hectare cloud forest reserve, home to the endangered Andean Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) and over 380 species of tropical birds. Community-run ecotourism is the main way that we are able to provide a sustainable income for our members while allowing us to conserve the forest. In 2006 we received twice the number of tourists as in the year before and we already have substantial bookings for 2007. We are grateful to Rainforest Concern for their part in this success and their networking support.

Much of the valley below Santa Lucía is degraded due to deforestation. With funding from Rainforest Concern, we are about to run a training workshop, using the experience and expertise gained from Santa Lucía's reforestation project, to encourage local people, especially those that have larger areas of land, to plant trees. The charity has also secured funding from the British Embassy in Ecuador for Santa Lucía to provide environmental education for local children. We will be running workshops in the reserve so that the children can learn 'hands-on' about their local natural environment and why it's important to conserve it.

Volunteers, who come either individually or through Rainforest Concern's travel partners, continue to play a vital part in our conservation and ecotourism projects. Their work last year included the construction of an orchidarium (collecting fallen orchids and identifying them where possible) and trail maintenance, including the improvement of the trail to visit the Cock of the Rock birds, making it safer and easier to hike there in the early hours of the morning for the dawn 'lek' (bird mating ritual). They also planted trees of the endangered cedro species (*Cedrela* sp.), renovated and enlarged the organic garden so that visitors now enjoy freshly picked vegetables every day, and created a garden around the lodge with native red flowers to attract hummingbirds so that we can gradually remove the artificial hummingbird feeders.

We would like to thank both Rainforest Concern and all our volunteers and visitors for contributing to another year of conserving the Santa Lucía Cloud Forest Reserve.

For more details about Santa Lucía please email [info@santaluciaecuador.com](mailto:info@santaluciaecuador.com) or visit us at [www.santaluciaecuador.com](http://www.santaluciaecuador.com)



# INDIA

population: **1.12 billion**  
capital: **New Delhi**  
total land area: **297,319,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **71,463,000 ha**  
primary forest 2005: **67,701,000 ha**  
primary forest lost 1990-2005: **3,762,000 ha**



## INDIA

### A new use found for invasive species in the Western Ghats

R. Uma Shaanker, Gladwin Joseph, N. A. Aravind, Ramesh Kannan and K.N. Ganeshiah  
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore, India and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India

The negative effects of invasive plant species on biodiversity and on the well being of human societies are well known. In tropical biodiversity hotspots, invasive weeds can exacerbate a biodiversity crisis by reducing the population densities of indigenous species, many of which fulfil subsistence needs of the rural poor. Against this backdrop there have been intense efforts to prevent the invasion and spread of weeds but, in most cases, these efforts have not been successful. A classic example of this is *Lantana camara*, a native weed of South America, which has now successfully invaded more than three quarters of earth's land mass. Numerous studies have documented the negative effects of this weed on native biological diversity as well as on livelihoods of people dependent on forest resources. The plant has been considered one of the worst weeds recorded in human history.

*Lantana* was introduced to India at the National Botanical Gardens, Calcutta in 1807 as an ornamental plant by the British and, since then, the plant has successfully invaded virtually all parts of the country. Unfortunately efforts to manage the weed through manual, chemical and physical means have not been successful. Forest managers and farmers alike are at their wits' end to control its spread. Clearly classical approaches to managing such invasive plants are not tenable and a new paradigm is required to address them.



Basket weaving with the *Lantana* weed

Following the adage that 'when one can't break something, one can at least bend it', the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), in Bangalore, India has now sought to promote the use of *Lantana camara* as a substitute for the rapidly declining bamboo resources among some of the poorest rural communities in south India. A number of forest-based rural communities in India are traditionally dependent upon weaving bamboo for their daily livelihood. Lack of bamboo resources coupled

with a lack of alternate livelihood skills in these communities has only further marginalised them. Against this backdrop, ATREE's initiative has aimed to not only relieve the current livelihood crisis of the forest-based communities but also to allow for the depleted bamboo stocks to bounce back. Further, ATREE believes that use of *Lantana* could be expected to have a significant spin-off effect - that of limiting the spread of the invasive weed and thereby conserving native biological diversity.



Local furniture workshop

This innovative idea won the global Development Marketplace award (2003) and through this award, we introduced the concept of using *Lantana* as a substitute for bamboo at field sites in south India. Simple but state-of-the-art technologies were developed to treat stems of the weed making them grow in various different shapes, allowing them to be used in much the same way as bamboo. Local communities were organized and training was given in the use of *Lantana* and in the design of different products. Furthermore, links to rural and urban markets were established. Four years into the work, we have been able to train over 300 artisans in the use of *Lantana*. Over 60 products, from modest baskets to corporate office furniture, have been designed and are currently being produced. Employment has risen from about 4 months of work per year to around 10 months, and family income has risen by 2 to 5 fold (all derived from this craft alone). The program has been able to attract a large number of women, which has led to an improvement in their social and economic status. Buoyed by the success of the programme, over 12 *Lantana* Craft Centres have been established at the field sites. Finally, monitoring of the field sites has indicated that there are early but strong signals of bamboo, as well as other native flora, returning to the field sites.



*Lantana camara* flower

In continuing with what is clearly turning out to be a very successful program, ATREE has been looking forward to not only extending the work to other sites in south India but also to expanding the scope of the programme to further diversify the *Lantana* products. For example, through recent support provided by Rainforest Concern we are extending the use of *Lantana* to additional sites in south India. Work is underway to establish *Lantana* Craft Centres at these sites and specifically to train women artisans. Attempts are also being made to design and diversify the range of products to include handicrafts and toy making. Finally, through support from Rainforest Concern, ATREE is working to help organize communities to develop their own administrative structures and formalize market linkages.

In summary, the ingenious use of the notorious weed, *Lantana camara*, in India has suddenly opened doors to look at invasive weeds through a lens of hope rather than of despair. This apparently simple model of resource substitution to deal with maintaining livelihoods on one hand, and conserving native biological diversity on the other, is easily replicated elsewhere in the world and could have important implications for much of the human-dominated forested landscapes the world over. For example, the idea has already found favour in Madagascar and Sri Lanka, both to address problems with local livelihoods and to prevent the spread of this invasive weed. We look forward to working with our partners, including Rainforest Concern, on developing this exciting program.

*Lantana camara* is classified as a 'transformer' - the most damaging type of environmental weed. These plants are perennial and particularly difficult to control, able to dominate or replace any canopy or sub-canopy layer of a natural ecosystem, thereby altering its structure. The lush rainforest surrounding the Victoria Falls on the Zambia Zimbabwe border is currently being threatened by this weed species. It can grow up to two metres in height, forming dense thickets that replace indigenous vegetation and can smother trees, impacting on local biodiversity and reducing the amount of food available to local wildlife.



## COLOMBIA

population: **44.5 million**

capital: **Bogota**

total land area: **103,870,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **53,854,000 ha**

primary forest 2005: **53,062,000 ha**

primary forest lost 1990-2005: **792,000 ha**

### COLOMBIA

# Biodiversity and cultural connections in the Colombian Chocó

by Paul Salaman, Director of ProAves

If the Amazonian forests are the planet's lungs, then the Chocó region is its heart, as this tiny wet forest island contains the greatest concentration of unique biodiversity this planet holds. Although only approximately 50 miles wide and 500 miles long, and compressed between the Pacific coast and the snow-clad High Andes, the Chocó region is a rich evolutionary melting pot of life which has benefited from its special ingredients, including an equatorial location on the slopes of the mighty Andes, ensuring year-round rains across many elevational life-zones. These conditions are accentuated in the foothills and premontane zone, where rainfall levels peak and montane and lowland fauna and flora types collide. The results have been extraordinary - a multitude of flora and fauna species restricted to this tiny tropical enclave.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we reached our first funding target and have launched upon the ambitious campaign to extend the Chocó-Andean Corridor from northwest Ecuador into southwest Colombia with our partner Fundación ProAves, and so establish a 100 mile long and over 1 million acre continuous bi-national cultural and biological protected area.

To drive our corridor into the heart of the megadiverse Chocó hotspot and establish this landmark achievement for global conservation, we have embarked on the acquisition of thirteen strategic properties that total over 3,500 acres, currently owned by non-native colonists. These properties lie between the 13,700 acre Pangan Reserve, which is situated between two large Awa indigenous reserves of the communities Unipa and Camawari.

However, the two indigenous reserves and the Pangan Reserve are divided by a major highway that runs from Tumaco on the Pacific coast, through the middle of the Chocó forests to the city of Pasto high in the Andes. This highway has pierced through the heart of the wettest tropical forests on the planet and allowed a torrent of non-native colonists to invade the area. The long-isolated Awa tribes were rapidly pushed back away from the highway as forest was invaded and systematically destroyed for unsustainable pastureland and uncontrolled timber exploitation. Today, the Awa community remains divided and segregated by the highway and its wide deforested wasteland, now legally held by colonists.

In a bold initiative, Rainforest Concern and ProAves, Colombia's leading conservation NGO, have teamed up to buy back land from colonists along the highway between the Pangan reserve to the UNIPA Awa reserve to the southeast. This will allow the forests to claim back what was once theirs and guarantee a critical connection for the Chocó region. In this task, we particularly wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Planet Foundation, one of Rainforest Concern's principal supporters.



photos: PROAVES www.proaves.org

**Brown Eared Woolly Opossum**

The Chocó region is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost biodiversity hotspots - with the greatest assemblage of endemic birds, amphibians, butterflies and plants, in the world. Five years of research and monitoring at the Pangan reserve has led to the discovery of many new species of bird, amphibians and plants for science at the site. For example, the Chocó Vireo population stronghold is in the reserve while the brilliant blue Pangan Poison Arrow frog (*Dendrobates*) and Pangan Harlequin frog (*Atelopus*) are undescribed and restricted entirely to its forests.

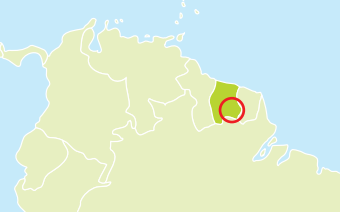
Still little is known of the area's biodiversity, yet evidence so far highlights the fact that the lush forests of Pangan support more endemic birds, frogs, orchids, and butterflies than any other area on the planet. Furthermore, the reserve and its immediate surrounding area hold many IUCN threatened species, for example the Endangered Chocó Vireo (mentioned above) and a further 18



**Rare Imbabura tree frog is under threat from deforestation and pollution**

photos: PROAVES www.proaves.org





# SURINAME

population: **0.5 million**  
capital: **Paramaribo**

total land area: **15,600,000 ha**  
primary forest 2005: **14,214,000 ha**

## SURINAME



Severe flooding in 2006

## Protecting and Managing Wayana Tribal Traditional Lands of the Surinamese Interior

By Mark J. Plotkin, ACT President and Gwen Emanuels-Smith, ACT-Suriname Program Director

In 2005, with support from Rainforest Concern, the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) completed a series of ethnographic land use maps for the six million acres of traditional lands of the Wayana indigenous people of remote southernmost Suriname in full collaboration with both the tribe itself and the cartographic arm of the Surinamese government. With this achievement, ACT and its tribal partners have created land use maps for the entirety of the indigenous lands of southern Suriname and adjacent Brazil, covering over 32 million acres of rainforest. The Wayana maps thoroughly illustrate tribal settlement patterns, hunting and fishing grounds, and areas of biocultural risk.



Traditional fishing

With renewed assistance from Rainforest Concern, and using the maps as a basis, efforts are currently underway to develop a community-based land management and conservation plan for the preservation of these precious resources,

which constitute some of the most intact lowland tropical forests on the planet. The critical components of this plan are to identify and evaluate the threats to the forestland, develop monitoring plans and build capacity for forest protection (park guards), and establish direct communication channels with the local government. For the Wayana tribe, which numbers approximately 600 in Suriname, it has also become necessary to identify means to accommodate competing interests, particularly as the depletion of industrial resources such as gold, bauxite, timber and sand in the coastal areas has forced the mineral extraction industry to look southward. Small-scale gold mining activities and unconstrained timber harvesting also pose a risk to the integrity of the Wayana lands.

In late 2006, as a baseline for the development of the management plan, an exhaustive ethnological study of the Wayana was completed, providing an ecological, demographic, socioeconomic, and cultural baseline perspective on the Wayana communities living in and around Apetina, Palumeu, and Kawemhakan. To collect data for the survey, men and women from the Wayana community were trained to interview their community members in social aspects of their community including natural resource distribution, settlements, income generation, and markets. The study identified vulnerabilities, threats, and problems; constraints to sustainable community development; and capacities, resources, and opportunities to overcome these constraints in the target communities.

The Wayana were also instrumental in the officially recognized formation of the pan-indigenous association of southern Suriname,

TALAWA, which allows the tribes to present a unified front in land management negotiations with other stakeholders, and increases their perceived validity as first-tier stakeholders in these discussions. ACT provides ongoing capacity building sessions to TALAWA representatives. Also, with ACT as facilitator, monthly meetings are now conducted between southern Suriname tribal representatives and government agencies. A specific recent concern has been severe food shortages in the Wayana communities occasioned by disastrous flooding in the Surinamese interior in May 2006. ACT has provided training and knowledge-transfer in a variety of crop protection methods, emphasizing biological over chemical techniques.

Looking ahead in 2007, with Rainforest Concern's support, ACT will be working with the tribe to identify areas requiring immediate protection, to develop an all-round vigilance system for protection of Wayana traditional lands, and to train Wayana representatives in protection and monitoring techniques. As well, ACT will continue to convene meetings assembling regional stakeholders in order to facilitate participation of the Wayana in regional conservation and land use strategies with the Surinamese government and conservation NGOs.



ACT biologist with Wayana researchers

The Amazon Conservation Team was founded in 1996 to work in close partnership with indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin to conserve biodiversity, improve health care, and help perpetuate traditional knowledge across generations. Since that time, ACT has partnered with over 25 indigenous groups and has helped protect and manage over 40 million acres of lowland tropical forest in Suriname, Brazil, and Colombia. ACT staff, most notably Dr. Mark Plotkin, have been working with the Amerindians of southern Suriname for over 25 years. ACT-Suriname is a foundation incorporated in Suriname with its central office in Paramaribo.





## ECUADOR

photo: RAINFOREST CONCERN



Bird watchers at Santa Lucía

# The Southern Phase of the Choco-Andean Corridor Project - Progress in Paso Alto

by Jose Cueva, Project Co-ordinator

Rainforest Concern and its partners have created two complementary initiatives in the Paso Alto area; securing the Management Plan required for the Ministry of Environment to declare the area as a 'Bosque Protector' (an area of forest afforded protected status by the government), and establishing organic coffee and tropical fruit agro forestry systems with farmers in the communities of Paso Alto.

Gaining protected forest status is both a legal requirement in the quest to create a vital protected forest reserve and an essential participatory process with communities to make sure that our management plan is adapted for local success. Establishing agro forestry enterprises with local farmers is essential to help communities to develop more profitable economic alternatives to logging and cattle and monoculture farming, whilst supporting the objectives of forest conservation and reforestation.

During 2006, the alliance of AACRI (Intag Coffee Growers Association), ALLPA (a partner organisation) and Rainforest Concern were busy initiating the process of the management plan. This included biophysical, land tenure, flora and fauna and related studies, which are prerequisite parts of the plan. In addition, a field trip with members of the communities of Paso Alto to the community forest reserve of Junín was very important to strengthen their commitment to conserve their forest and to help develop improved and more sustainable livelihoods.

Paso Alto comprises the largest as yet unprotected area of forest in western Ecuador and the process of securing it has not been an easy one. Establishing a management plan and community

support has been a protracted process at times, but since this is the first attempt to create an official community protected Bosque Protector in Ecuador, it requires working together with the communities at their pace and according to their daily realities. Illegal logging is a major source of income for many families in two of the three communities in Paso Alto. Naturally, their first concern is that "Bosque Protector" might mean losing their land and/or livelihoods and such fears were the main reasons for opposition. For them it is normal to harvest timber or hunt animals for their subsistence, and in recent years some people have begun to exploit the forest for commercial purposes.

In a series of meetings, which included representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the communities were shown the way "community-protected forest" would actually operate. They were assured that this legal status does not deprive them of their land rights (it actually strengthens it) or their right to continue to use the forest. Attitudes changed once they became clear and confident that their property rights were not in danger, that they may continue to use the forest (but in improved and sustainable ways), and that there are alternatives in agriculture and forestry that would allow them to adapt to this new situation. All of this was discussed with the three communities bordering Paso Alto - a process which has been essential in adapting the way we plan to protect this forest in partnership with them.

The development of productive and sustainable agro forestry systems adapted to this area is our second objective. This project began operating in late 2006 and by mid year 2007 we anticipate over 20 hectares of agro forestry systems will be



Agroforestry at Paso Alto

installed on the farms of participants in the communities of Paso Alto. This effort has been extremely important to convince people in the communities that this project has genuine value and to emphasise the importance of conservation, and as a result support for the 'Bosque Protector' legal status has strengthened in the communities. Even the loggers, who were the fiercest opponents of conservation, now participate in the agro forestry project as a practical alternative.

AACRI has over a decade's experience of producing shade-grown organic coffee and Llurimahua Farm (which belongs to the Co-ordinator of the project) has been producing coffee for 8 years with different combinations of nitrogen-fixing, timber trees and fruits. The system we are applying now is even more diverse and is based on this experience as well as results of the Quinde Forest Study, conducted in 2005, which documented its ecological and economic potential.

Currently plantations, averaging one hectare each, are being designed and established in already cleared areas, especially in short-cycle croplands and pastures. Production will begin from the first year with beans, corn, manioc, and other short cycle crops included in the planting combination. These will gradually be replaced by fruits like papaya or tree tomato that produce from the second to fifth year, then later give way to coffee, perennial fruits and finally, in 15 or 20 years, to high-value native timber trees.

The local people know that planting permanent agro forestry systems on their land is a good investment. At the same time this helps protect the forest, which in turn is a good thing for them, for humanity and for the planet. We're just lending a hand to help them succeed.

**We are particularly grateful to the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation which has funded the pilot phase of the Paso Alto agroforestry initiative.**





# Our special thanks to the following schools that have joined us in the past year or have been actively involved with Rainforest Concern for many years:

Abbeyfield School; Aldbury Primary School; Annick Primary School; Archbishop McGrath Catholic School; Balbardie Primary School; Battyeford Primary School; Bedwas High School; Belper school; Brockworth Enterprise School; Bromley High School; Brynmill Primary School; Canon Maggs C.E. Junior School; Caversham Primary School; Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School; Corringham Primary School; Crompton House School; Cults Primary School; Diocesan and Payne Smith Primary School; Downe House School; Eagle House School; Ecole Dickinsfield School; Ednam Primary School; Fivemiletown Primary School; George Watson's College; Glenfall Community Primary School; Golden Hillock School; Grammar School Lane; Hadley Wood Primary School; Hafod Primary School; Harrold Priory Middle School; Hasmonean High School; Heasandford Primary School; Hillbourne Primary School; Hiltlingbury Junior School; Hurst Green Primary School; International School of Stavanger; Jessie Younghusband School; Kinellar Primary School; Kings St. Albans Junior School; Kingswells Primary School; Kirkliston Primary School; Lochnell Primary School; Low Port Primary School; Lutley Primary School; Milking Bank School; Murston Infant School; Northallerton College; Oak Grove Elementary School; Pennar Community School; Pitcairn Primary School; Queens College Junior School; Ravenscourt Theatre School; Ridgefield Primary School; Rosneath Primary School; Royal Grammar School; Rushden Primary School; Sandcross School; Scotts Park Primary School; Shape International School; Shottery Primary School; Sibertswold Church of England Primary School; South River High School; St Augustine's Catholic Primary School; St Cedd's C of E Primary School; St Ignatius R.C Primary School; St Leonard's CE Primary School; St Martin's School; Sunderland High School; Sydenham High School; The Hazeley School; The John Hampden School; The Manor Preparatory School; The Mary Erskine School; Tregwyr Junior School; Tuckswood Community First School; Tycroes CP School; Uig Primary School; Wensleydale Middle School; Whitestone Primary School

# We are particularly grateful to those of you who became Benefactors or Guardians in the past year:

Jenny Halpern; Alan Greenfield; Nigel Moore; Alice Bray; G. Wall; Alison Pritchard; Sally Whitaker; Annabel Vetch; Peter Smith; Barry O'Dowd; W.J. Smyllie; Bertie Welch; Andrew Thorne; Charlotte Ayles; Niels Vollaard; Christina Hermitage; John Milsom; Christopher Bell; Mark Jacobson; Daniel Stapleford; Toby Hodgkinson; David Bayliss; Vivian French; Duncan Logie; R Coulthard; Edward Cabrera; Christopher Neave; Fraser Macrae; Sue Christina Milner; Georgina Leechman; Mr and Mrs Callender; Georgina Monroe; Lauren E Carson; Henry Johnson; Martin Chapman; Jack Wylie; A P Leventis; James Bowyer; Mr and Mrs Marques; Jessica Blair; Anna Stoneman; Jessica Dickinson; Gary Frisch; John Akehurst; Morag McCallum; Karen Nock; Dawn Halton; Keith Mawson; Sarah Aird; Michael Fountain; the Lewis Family; Mike and Denice Coverdale; Neela Bettridge; Nick Barnett; Niels Vollaard; Pamela Isdell; Paul Farmer & Deborah Meadon; Phoebe Hoare; Robert De-Mey; Robert Harris; Robert James Coop; Sabrina Helenius; Scott Cordingley; Sophie Rigg; Steven Wilson; Sylvia Frawley; Thomas Lee; Tilly Cooper; Tom Redmayne; Dipika Kachhal; Geraldine McCarry; Grace Contomichalos; John M.B. Robertson; Mathieson Family; Peter Thurman; Rod Kinkead-Weekes; Terry Lartey; Yan Tiefenbrun; Ashley Coe; Luke Colyer; Anna Fison; Felicity Forbes; James Hargreave; Katy Harper; Alix Odgers; Taza Rushton-Large; Philippa Tonkins; Samuel Argyle; Jessica Colley; Danielle Crompton; Victoria Crooks; Emily Fletcher; Amy Kessler; Caroline Lersten; Sally-Anne Limb; Lauren Papworth; Elizabeth Rowing; Hector Drake; Camilla Upson; Philippa Radford-Hancock; Amy Powell-Tuck; Vivien von Abendorff; Olivia Abbatt; Laura Dawson; Catherine Goy; Gabrielle Brunning; Jamie-Sarah Mackay; Helen Carter; Victoria McKenna; Katherine Alexander; Laura Brennan; Amy Combes; Freya Cowan; Stephen Craig; Abbie King; Becky Lee; Stephanie Lyth; Sally Rigg; Emma Runge; Portia Sampson; Robert Stack; Hayley Flood; Stuart Mills; Stephanie Russell; Gunnar Rosenquist.

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

**You might like to consider leaving a lasting legacy to the projects of Rainforest Concern in your Will.**

We will be happy to provide full details upon request and you may of course choose a particular area to benefit from this.

Please tick one box only

- Member: Sponsoring 1 acre each year  £5 per month  £60 annually
- Friend: Sponsoring 3 acres each year  £10 per month  £120 annually
- Guardian: Sponsoring 6 acres each year  £25 per month  £300 annually
- Benefactor: Sponsoring 20 acres each year  £50 per month  £600 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



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

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

To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

**If you wish to sponsor an acre as a gift for someone please telephone us on 0207 229 2093 or visit [www.rainforestconcern.org](http://www.rainforestconcern.org) and click on "sponsor an acre online"**

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

Name and full address of your Bank

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

On  day  month  year the sum of £

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All our supporters will receive an attractive certificate recording the level of their Membership, our magazine Rainforest Review and regular updates. Guardians and Benefactors will receive an attractive Rainforest Concern T-shirt (XL / L / M)  - please tick here if not required.

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



# Bigger is definitely better

by Louise Murgatroyd, based at Yachana

Rainforest Concern and the Foundation for Integrated Education and Development (FUNEDSIN) continue to work together towards conserving vital primary rainforest in Ecuador's Amazon region. Partners since 1999, the two organisations have achieved a new milestone in local conservation with the recent expansion of the Yachana Reserve Protected Forest. Purchased by the foundation with initial and generous assistance from Rainforest Concern, the reserve is located in the buffer zone of the Gran Sumaco National Park, and is surrounded by rural Kichwa indigenous communities in which the foundation has initiated a number of sustainable community development projects.



Volunteers sign to discourage hunting and fishing

Late last year, the foundation launched an urgent land purchase campaign in response to a bid from a local logging company to acquire several tracts of pristine primary rainforest adjacent to the reserve. With substantial support from Rainforest Concern, and the many friends of FUNEDSIN and visitors to the Yachana Eco-Lodge, the foundation succeeded in raising sufficient funds to secure an additional 600 acres of land, thus increasing the reserve size to a total of 4300 acres. Against the backdrop of global climate change and the importance of the Amazon basin's role in the atmospheric exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen, the expansion means more trees are now safe in an area increasingly under threat from logging, unsustainable farming practices, population growth and oil and gas exploitation.

The increase in the reserve's size also secures additional important habitat for the myriad species that live within its borders, most notably a



View towards the Gran Sumaco National Park from the reserve

potentially new species of glass frog. This tiny glass frog, so named for its translucent underbelly, was discovered in July by herpetologist Mario Yanez of Ecuador's Museum of Natural Sciences (MECN). Mr. Yanez was invited to spend a week on the reserve and provided training in amphibian and reptile survey techniques to GVI volunteers and staff as part of their on-going biodiversity study. The new frog was discovered during the course of the workshop and the process of formalising the find, which involves a review of existing frog collections and publishing details of the species in the scientific literature, is well underway.

If this frog proves to be a new species, the conservation importance of the reserve will increase significantly and studies will be undertaken to learn more about the species, and to monitor for its long-term survival. Frogs are under mounting threat throughout Central and South America and serve as "indicator species" because their presence and abundance provide valuable information about the overall health of an ecosystem.



A new species of glass frog?



Herpetologist Mario Yanez (front) works with GVI members in the reserve's research station

Over 400 species of bird, amphibian, reptile, mammal and butterfly have been identified in the reserve since the establishment of the research station just over a year ago, and the list keeps growing. Thanks to continued support from Rainforest Concern, Yachana's incredible wildlife, including the new glass frog, should be around for generations to come.

# The conservation projects:



## Costa Rica

Coastal forest and turtle conservation



## Panama

Turtle conservation



## Ecuador

Extending the Choco-Andean Corridor



## Ecuador

Conservation of lowland tropical forest



## Chile

Protection of araucaria forest reserves in Southern Chile



## Suriname

Mapping a new future for the Wayana



## Colombia

Creating the Pangan-Awa Corridor



## Brazil

Assisting the Yawanawa to protect their forests



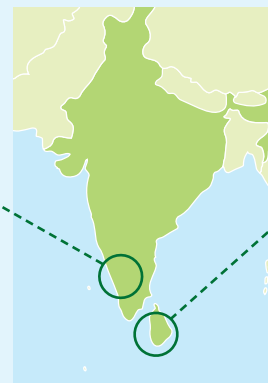
## Peru

Threatened high-altitude forest of Peru



## India

Sustainable income for communities in The Western Ghats



## Sri Lanka

Protection for the Sinharaja Reserve buffer zone



# PANAMA

population: **2.8 million**  
capital: **Panama City**  
total land area: **7,443,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **3,706,000 ha**  
primary forest 2005: **3,023,000**  
primary forest lost 1990-2005: **683,000 ha**



## PANAMA

# More beaches protected in Panama

by John Denham, Trustee of Rainforest Concern

Our turtle projects in Panama, managed by EWT and funded by Rainforest Concern made great progress in 2006.

It is four years since we started work in Panama, when we realized just how many Leatherbacks were being slaughtered on the 20 km of unprotected beaches, which stretch southeast from the Costa Rican border. We estimated that 75-100 were being killed every year and, if continued, this would have meant extinction of the Caribbean Leatherback colony.



Carlos, Helen and Clara at Playa Larga

Turtles and turtle eggs are theoretically protected by law throughout Latin America, but poachers still take turtle eggs wherever they can. Green turtles are illegally killed in Costa Rica and by the thousand in Nicaragua. The meat of the Leatherback however is considered too oily and in Central America, Panama is the only country where it is killed and eaten.

In Panama, Soropta Beach was the worst of the killing beaches and the first we started to protect. It is now an established project where its 7 km of beach are patrolled every night from mid March to mid July. We also took on Playa Larga, a smaller beach on the nearby island of Bastimentos, where both Leatherback and Hawksbill turtles come to nest and last year we started a community project on another killing beach, Sixaola, a remote 7 km beach starting at the Costa Rican border.

This year we plan to replicate the Sixaola formula on yet another killing beach, San San, also of 7 km, which lies between Soropta and Sixaola. If that is successful, we will be protecting 20 km of continuous Panamanian beach, all of which was once a killing field of the giant Leatherback.

During the 2006 season we counted 359 nests on Soropta beach, a healthy increase over the

previous year. About 15 nests were poached but no turtles killed, and on Playa Larga, 140 Leatherbacks and 22 Hawksbills nested and none were killed.

Both these beaches have sites where we base a biologist and volunteers and Soropta also has 6 local guards and a cook. (see website [www.turtleprotection.org](http://www.turtleprotection.org))

Perhaps the biggest success of the 2006 season was on Sixaola beach, where an estimated 25 Leatherbacks were killed in 2005. To turn this from a killing beach into a nesting haven for Leatherbacks needed someone special to lead the project. We were fortunate to find Huascar, a Panamanian who had been trained at the Gandoca Turtle project in Costa Rica. He was prepared to "have a go". He lodged with one of the few families that live near the beach and set about recruiting six local men as beach guards. With minimal funding, he recruited and trained the local guards, tagged many turtles, patrolled every night from mid March to the end of June and kept the poachers away. On this beach they counted 340 nests and no turtles were killed and this is the community-based project we aim to replicate this year on San San Beach, jointly with Gandoca.



Huascar, who led the project on Sixaola beach

Natalia, our Colombian biologist, has been running the Soropta project single-handed for 3 exhausting years and its success is very much due to her. She will join us at Pacuare this year and her place will be taken by the Canadian biologist, Matt Hammond, assisted by his wife Jen. Matt spent two years at Pacuare, first as a volunteer in 2002 and the following year in charge of the North Station.

Ramon, ex-Research Assistant at Pacuare has been in charge of Playa Larga for two years and will join Natalia at Pacuare. Finally, Helen Cross from the



Leatherback hatchling making a dash to the sea

UK was a Research Assistant at Pacuare and has many years of turtle experience. She will take over from Ramon at Playa Larga this year.

2006 was a good year for us in Panama. If we can protect San San beach this season, 2007 could be even better, especially for the turtles!

To continue protecting turtles in Panama each season, we need your help. If you would like to volunteer at Soropta or Playa Larga to monitor the beaches and keep nesting Leatherbacks safe, please contact us on 0207 229 2093.



Volunteers help to repair a roof at Playa Larga

Australis, wildlife research group of the Catholic University of Chile, with support from the Darwin Initiative, UK and project partners like Rainforest Concern. Sites within the Namoncahue biological corridor and large remnant forest fragments in the area have been studied. This three-year project aims at assessing the presence of fauna by conducting transects to observe tracks, signs and scats (droppings), as well as camera trapping. Some of the native species captured by the cameras have been Puma (*Puma concolor*), Kodkod (*Oncifelis guigna*), Pudú (*Pudu pudu*), Chingue (*Conepatus chinga*), Culpeo fox (*Pseudalopex culpeus*), and the Gray fox (*Pseudalopex griseus*).



The vulnerable Monito del Monte

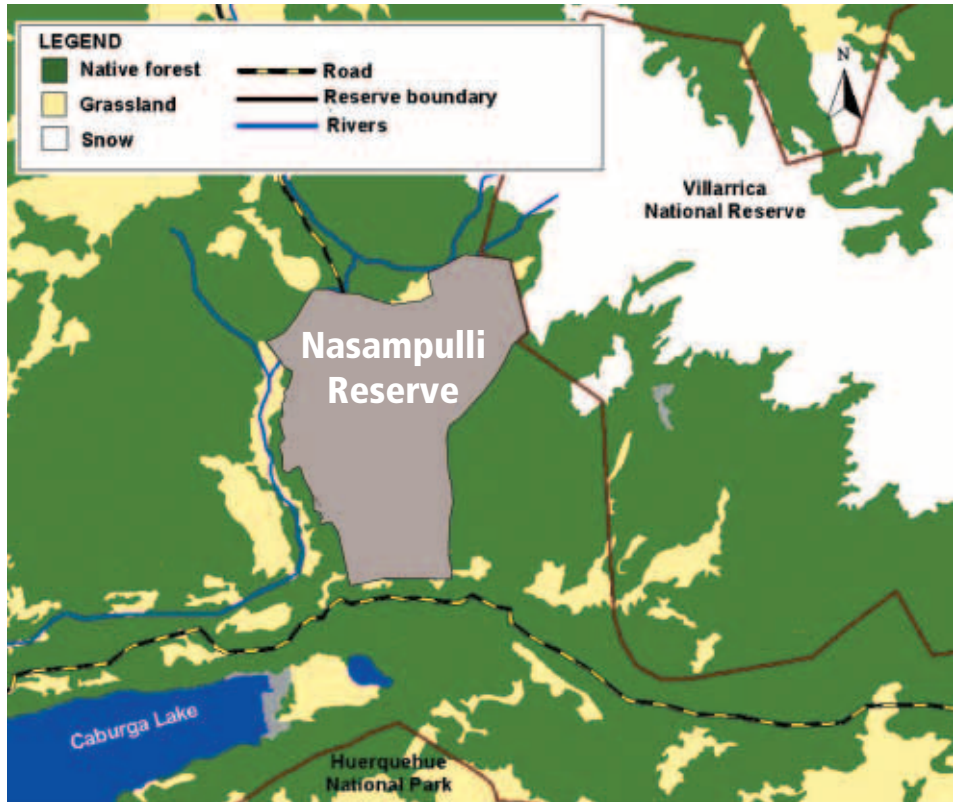
Results so far have shown that the quantity of species and individuals found at lower altitude sites are significantly higher than at higher altitude sites, indicating the importance of lowland forest habitats in the area. Initial results have been useful for the development of a long term monitoring scheme to analyse the importance of lowland forest habitat in the Namoncahue biological corridor, giving vital evidence to back up the theory that low and midland forest habitats found within places like the Namoncahue Biological Corridor are critical to the maintenance of biodiversity within the bioregion.



Monkey puzzle forest (*Araucaria araucana*)

## Nasampulli Reserve almost completed

Cristian Echeverría, Antonio Lara, Fernando Bustos FORECOS-Universidad Austral de Chile



Over the last year, more new hectares of pristine forest of Monkey-puzzle (*Araucaria, Araucaria araucana*) have been added to the Nasampulli Reserve Project, thanks to the support of Rainforest Concern. The Reserve is located approximately at 39° 01' S and 71° 38' 32" W, north of the Caburga Lake, and contains continuous areas of *Araucaria* forests that create a unique landscape in the region. The Reserve is close to the Villarrica National Reserve, which is managed by CONAF (the Chilean National Forest Service).

In January 2007, two additional purchases of land were conducted enabling the expansion of the Reserve by 346 hectares. At present, the total area under protection is 983 hectares, including 160.4 hectares owned by the Fitzroya Society, another conservation organisation. In addition to the purchases of the parcels, we have been working on the access to the Reserve by upgrading the road. We have also maintained permanent contact with the neighbouring landowners who have collaborated in the accessibility and monitoring of the Reserve.

The new purchase has enabled us to connect Nasampulli Reserve with the Villarrica National Reserve that is managed by the National Forest

Service (see map). This increase in the connectivity of *Araucaria* forests will allow improvement of mobility and survival of fauna and flora existing in these unique forests. In particular, the Black Woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*) is a threatened bird that occurs only in temperate forests in Chile and Argentina. Unfortunately, the deforestation and forest fragmentation has had a severe impact on its habitat, reducing its chances of survival. Similarly, the habitat of the diverse fauna species such as the world's smallest marsupial (*Dromiciops gliroides*) that occurs in *Araucaria* forests, have been altered by human actions. The expansion of the Nasampulli Reserve and its connection to the Villarrica N.R. will also enable the expansion of the habitat of the fauna and flora associated with monkey puzzle forests.

Both the continuous support of Rainforest Concern and the collaboration of the lawyers Alberto Pulido and Macarena Montero have been essential in carrying out this initiative for the conservation of monkey puzzle forest in the Andes Range of Chile, and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance.





## CHILE

population: **16.3 million**  
capital: **Santiago**  
total land area: **74,880,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **4,152,000 ha**  
primary forest 2005: **4,142,000 ha**  
primary forest lost 1990-2005: **10,000 ha**

### CHILE

# Importance of the Namoncahue Corridor is recognised by the Chilean Environment Ministry

By Nicolás Galvez and Karl Yunis, Parques Para Chile

The creation of the Namoncahue Biological Corridor within Chile's Araucaria Lake District began several years ago through acquisition of a lone land parcel located at the centre of a forgotten forest. The purchase of the land parcel was conceived as a strategic move that would halt deforestation of old-growth forests in the area. Since that time, a protection plan for the whole mountain range has been taking shape. The Namoncahue pre-cordillera range has been continually losing forest habitat since the 1930's, and many areas within the range are now threatened by a second round of illicit and old-growth logging.

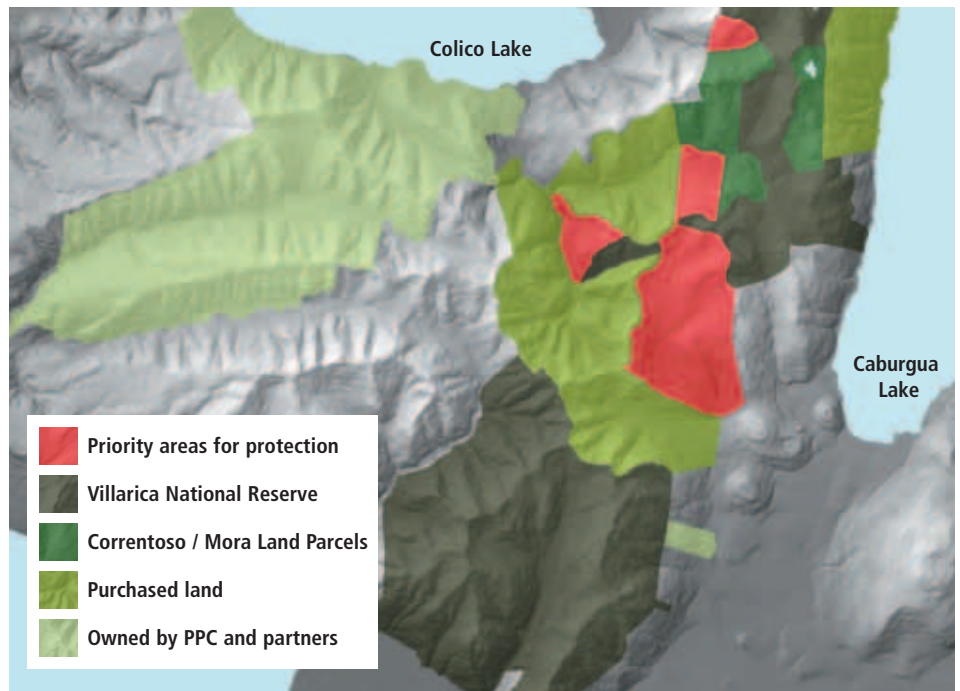
### Protection of habitat

For these reasons, the development of a unified "vision" or master plan for Namoncahue is very important, and it involves integrating a range of interests from both public and private sectors whilst at the same time protecting biodiversity and ecological services like clean water.

In partnership with Rainforest Concern, Parques para Chile initiated a private-public conservation project that has grown into an alliance for conservation on a landscape scale. Parques para Chile is involved in conservation planning workshops with dozens of local land owners and coordinates monthly meetings with government representatives and stakeholders on important regional conservation issues. We believe that our ongoing partnership with Rainforest Concern has allowed us to leverage support from the Chilean private sector, and that the Namoncahue Biological Corridor has become a private-public protected area of national importance, as well as a model for biosphere reserve development and execution.



The Corridor includes two large National Reserve units totaling 6,300 hectares. Parques para Chile and partners now hold land deeds to over 900 hectares, while 5,500 hectares of private lands



have joined the corridor through conservation management agreements with Parques para Chile. There is still much work to be done since several high priority land parcels are in need of permanent protection from deforestation and cattle grazing. Priority areas that need protection total 1,400 hectares. Acquiring these threatened land parcels would ensure protection for the first of two stages of development of the Namoncahue Biological Corridor. With the help of Rainforest Concern and our Chilean partners, we hope to secure the 1,400 hectares of priority habitat before the year 2010.

### Extension of the Araucaria Biosphere Reserve

The importance of the Corridor has now been fully recognised by the Chilean Environment Ministry CONAMA, as well as several other government ministries and services. One example of just how important public-private alliances for conservation have been in our area is the recent sponsorship of the Corridor by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme and CONAF, the Chilean Park Service in Chile. Parques para Chile is now spearheading a working group for the extension of the Araucarias Biosphere Reserve, which will link new core and buffer areas like the Namoncahue Corridor to an existing biosphere reserve network just to the north between Conguillio National Park and Alto Bio-Bio

National Reserve. The regional committee submits its proposal for extension of the araucarias Biosphere Reserve in March 2008. This proposal has three main objectives; to extend protection to all existing araucaria habitats within the bioregion; to buffer existing core protected areas by protecting biologically significant low and mid elevation temperate rainforest habitat; and to develop sustainable practices within the Araucaria bioregion's transitional zone, through planning, adequate infrastructure development and "best management" practices.

The extension of the Biosphere Reserve will provide protection to all Araucaria habitat within the buffer zones of National Parks and Reserves and protect transition zones between the deforested lowlands of the central valleys and higher elevation zones which provide important winter refuge for many endemic avian and mammal species of the Valdivian forest biome. The Biosphere Reserve extension brings together two geographic areas that Rainforest Concern has been investing in.

### Wildlife monitoring; Darwin Initiative

Other news is that research is under way to support ongoing work by Parques para Chile and the Centre for Biodiversity in conservation planning and habitat modelling. This data is being developed jointly by Parques para Chile and Fauna



## COLOMBIA



False coral snake

threatened bird species. In 2005, the Pangan Reserve was officially designated the world's highest level priority site - Alliance for Zero Extinction site ([www.zeroextinction.org](http://www.zeroextinction.org)) and Important Bird Area.



The yellow-eared parrot is in danger of extinction

When complete this summer, the 1 mile wide natural forest bridge will re-establish a biological connection in what is undoubtedly the world's hotspot of biodiversity to establish a continuous lush green corridor from the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve of Ecuador to the Pangan Reserve and Camawari indigenous reserves of Colombia. Importantly, and for the first time since colonists invaded the area over 100 years ago to

divide and isolate the Awa indigenous people, we will establish a cultural connection between indigenous reserves.

While the principal objective is to establish the Pangan Conservation Corridor, the joint Rainforest Concern and ProAves efforts have included strengthening community participation and cultural connections through establishing the Pangan Community EcoCentre. The EcoCentre is a two-storey building in the town of Junín, which is beside the Pangan Reserve. The centre has a large meeting room for environmental education



Peter Bennett, Director of Rainforest Concern, Alonso Quevedo, President of ProAves, and Luis Gabriel Mosquera, Director of Pangan Reserve

groups, community meetings and workshops that have trained local men and women in sustainable alternatives. Courses in embroidery, bead making, woodcrafts and artisan jewelry have provided an extremely poor community with new alternative incomes. Courses have been very popular and a shop at the front of the EcoCentre provides a free outlet for people to sell these products.

Shortly, we will be providing a course for training selected local people as Eco-Guides for the Pangan reserve and corridor. Spacious and relaxing accommodation in the heart of the Pangan reserve offers visitors and volunteers a chance to help this exciting conservation development and enjoy a true tropical forest paradise.

Watch out for further exciting developments in the project later this year!



The Pangan forests have one of the highest levels of precipitation in the world





## COSTA RICA

population: **3.7 million**  
capital: **San José**  
total land area: **5,106,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **255,000 ha**  
primary forest 2005: **180,000 ha**  
primary forest lost 1990-2005: **75,000 ha**

### COSTA RICA

# A new target to extend the Pacuare Reserve

by John Denham, Trustee of Rainforest Concern

Conservation, Environmental Education and Research are the aims of the Pacuare Reserve, and we did well in all three in 2006. What was disappointing was the number of Leatherback turtle nests on our 6 km of beach. We counted 590 nests, which was over a hundred less than last year, though better than 2003 and 2004.

Our protection of the beach is both efficient and effective, and the number of nests lost to poachers is negligible. Professional guards, research assistants and volunteers patrol the beach all night and every night throughout the nesting season, so we are making our beach safe for these giant turtles if they choose to come. Unlike Green Turtles however, Leatherbacks are not specific to a particular beach. They lay seven or eight times in a season at 10-day intervals but those nests could be up to a hundred miles apart. From the evidence of tags, we know that some turtles lay several times on our beach in one season but also as far south as Soropta beach in Panama.

Should we be worried by the nesting numbers? It is probably too early to say. Our own beach protection has been operating effectively for 12 years (the age some biologists say it takes a turtle to reach adulthood) but the beaches to the north and south of us have been protected for less than half that time. Farther south in Panama, we are only now close to ending the slaughter of Leatherbacks, so these measures are still to take effect.



Student groups help to patrol Pacuare Beach

There could be other factors too, such as a change in sea temperature which could affect the distribution and whereabouts of jellyfish, the leatherbacks main source of food. If jellyfish move to another stretch of coast, so too will the turtles.

We shall have to wait some years before we can know if we and the leatherbacks are winning the battle for survival.



Banana plantations - a major threat to the reserve

Green Turtle numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year and in 2006 we counted 194 nests. The Green turtles follow on in July and August after the Leatherbacks have finished nesting, and we continue to protect them until the end of September as the poachers will kill for their shells or take the turtles for their meat if given a chance. Only 3 km to the south of Pacuare, 150 Green turtles were slaughtered in 2005 on a beach without protection.



Leatherback camouflages its nest after laying

The Environmental Education programme at Pacuare did well last year with a total of 760 visitors - students, volunteers and tourists coming to join the beach patrolling. They stayed from as little as two nights, up to several weeks. Ecology Project International (EPI), brought a record 37 groups of US and Costa Rican students.

We also had 10 Research Assistants last year, one from Colombia, one from Argentina, three from Spain and five from the US. They worked on the beach at night throughout the season and our Leatherback programme depends on them for the collection of data and for escorting student groups. At the same time, they must carry out a research project of their own. Last year's projects

included studies of poison-dart frogs, fungi, lizards, leaf-cutter ants and our unique colony of agami herons. The latter reached a record 140 nesting pairs, all of them packed together on a few trees on the tiny island in our inner lagoon.

Tracks of puma, anteaters and porcupines have been seen in the reserve, and while primates are common (howlers, capuchin and spider monkeys), among the rarer animals are the kinkajoo. A Phd student from the US came for several weeks last year to study the white-faced capuchins and will be returning for two longer visits.

The forest of the Pacuare Reserve, which backs onto the beach, seems to hold more wildlife than in previous years, perhaps because of the protection it provides from hunting and maybe also because of the diminishing forest areas around us as the banana plantations, with their poisonous aerial spraying, advance from inland. At a nearby sloth sanctuary, six sloths died recently and it is thought that this was due to them eating leaves from trees carelessly sprayed by planes of the banana plantation.

### Urgent Appeal!

For the first time since its creation in 1989, the Pacuare Reserve needs urgent protection from advancing banana plantations. It is therefore essential that we purchase and protect a strip of intact forest on the west side of the Tortuguero Canal, which will act as a buffer for the reserve.

**If you would like to help us with this specific task, please call us on 020 7229 2093.**



## VOLUNTARY WORK

# Quest Overseas and Rainforest Concern

by Mike Lamb, Quest Overseas



Local children at Yachana

Last year was another very successful year for the Quest / Rainforest Concern partnership. Quest and Rainforest Concern have been working closely together to support projects in South America for the last 8 years. Over those years nearly 600 volunteers have worked on projects and raised close to £500,000 to continue vital support in Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia. Since the last newsletter five teams have worked hard on partnership projects originally set up by Rainforest Concern, and the results have once again been fantastic.



Quest students at Yachana

### Yachana - Working hand-in-hand to save the Amazon

Another two teams of intrepid Quest volunteers headed down the Rio Napo river last year to the remote Ecuador Amazon Project, working closely with the local communities through the FUNEDESIN Foundation. They successfully carried out a variety of projects, each combining conservation and community development goals. Work included on-going development of the model farm created by Quest, various improvements to the eco-tourism infrastructure (including creating trails and improving signposting throughout the Yachana Reserve), maintenance and improvements of the butterfly farm and greenhouse (which Quest teams originally helped to create), development of a water purification system, as well as various teaching and training initiatives with the local indigenous community.

All projects form part of the longer term plan developed by the partnership to bring sustainability for the local communities and as such all work involved input from community members. On top of the practical hands-on work that was carried out by the Quest teams, we believe that it is important for western volunteers

to live and work alongside the communities that these projects support, seeing and learning first hand the importance of rainforests and bringing that knowledge back with them.

In addition to supporting all of the projects completed, Quest teams donated funds to sponsor hundreds of acres of rainforest and to finance future initiatives in the area. (You can read more about progress at Yachana on Page 8)



Tree planting team

All in all it has been another productive year for our Quest teams and we would like to thank all of the volunteers who contributed their time and endless energy to ensure that this essential conservation work and local education continues.

**If you would like to join a Quest volunteer team, please visit our website at [www.questoverseas.com](http://www.questoverseas.com)**

**send an email to [emailus@questoverseas.com](mailto:emailus@questoverseas.com),**

**or call Helen on 01444 474744.**





## CONTENTS

- 4 NEWS
- ECUADOR:
- 6 Choco-Andean Corridor Project update
- 7 Progress in Paso Alto
- 9 Refusing to be undermined in Intag
- BRAZIL:
- 10 Yawanawa almost doubles its territory
- INDIA:
- 11 Invasive species aids livelihoods in India
- CHILE:
- 12 Expansion of the Nasampulli Reserve
- 13 Progress at Namoncahue
- SURINAME:
- 14 Protecting the Wayana tribal lands
- PERU:
- 15 Peru's threatened polylepis forests
- COLOMBIA:
- 16 Progress with Pangan-Awa forest corridor
- COSTA RICA:
- 18 Extending the Pacuare Reserve
- PANAMA:
- 19 More turtle beaches protected
- UGANDA:
- 20 Supporting the Batwa people
- 21 SCHOOLS PAGE
- VOLUNTARY WORK:
- 22 Quest Overseas and Rainforest Concern
- 23 MEMBERSHIP

## Dear Friends and Supporters

It seems that 2007 will go down as being the year that we finally woke up to the realities now facing this vulnerable planet and to just how large a role rainforests play in stabilising our climate.

Towards the end of last year the long awaited report by Sir Nicholas Stern was published and disclosed that deforestation comes only second to energy in contributing to greenhouse gases. If no action is taken, it said there is more than a 75% chance of global temperatures rising between two and three degrees Celsius over the next 50 years. Melting glaciers will increase flood risk, crop yields will decline, rising sea levels could leave 200 million people permanently displaced, there will be more examples of extreme weather patterns and up to 40% of species could face extinction.

Then in January of this year the influential McKinsey Quarterly Report told us that avoided deforestation is by far the most efficient method of curbing emissions thereby offering the "single largest opportunity for cost-effective and immediate reductions of carbon emissions".

Protecting rainforests is therefore one of the most painless ways of preventing climate change and biodiversity loss. The entire front page on 14th May of The Independent simply stated, "In the next 24 hours, deforestation will release as much CO2 into the atmosphere as 8 million people flying from London to New York. Stopping the loggers is the fastest and cheapest solution to climate change".

Finally, and after years of cynical comment, President Bush amazed us all by recently announcing, "The US will be actively involved, if not taking the lead, in a post-Kyoto framework," although it remains to be seen if this is any more than 'Greenwash' from the White House.

Andrew Mitchell of the Global Canopy Programme who recently joined our Advisory Board says, "If we lose the forests we lose the fight against climate change".

Sadly it is now clear that philanthropy alone will not be enough to save the world's forests in time, which is one of the reasons we have launched our own carbon offset programme, Forest Credits. We would like individuals and companies to consider offsetting their emissions through Forest Credits in the knowledge that, unlike several other initiatives, this programme is operated by a non-profit organisation and the funds generated will protect threatened areas surrounding existing reserves. By contributing to this scheme, you will therefore be building on already successful projects. I hope you will read Briony Mathieson's article on page 4.

The wellbeing of the planet is a concern common to us all; it is time to set aside our political and religious differences and commercial greed and start pulling in the same direction to save this truly amazing phenomenon: our world, which has nurtured such a fantastic diversity of life for the last 3.8 billion years. Is it not high time we showed it some respect so that we will not have to say, "it was all too little and too late"?

**Peter Bennett**

Director and Founder, Rainforest Concern

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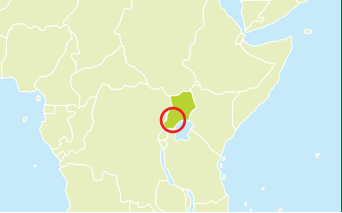
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# UGANDA

population: **26 million**  
capital: **Kampala**  
total land area: **19,710,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **4,924,000 ha**  
primary forest 2005: **3,627,000 ha**  
primary forest lost 1990-2005: **1,297,000 ha**

## UGANDA

# Assisting Uganda's Batwa people

by Téa Braun, Coordinator, Africa Legal and Human Rights Programme, Forest Peoples Project.

The Batwa, more commonly known by the misnomer 'Pygmies', were originally forest-dwelling hunter-gatherers, practising a highly sustainable, traditional way of life in the high mountainous forest areas of the Great Lakes region in Central Africa. They are still to be found living in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and eastern DRC.

The Batwa of present-day Uganda total approximately 6,700 in number. They and their ancestors are the original inhabitants of the Bwindi and Mgahinga National Parks, which were gazetted as forest reserves by the colonial administration in the 1930s, and later upgraded to national parks by the post-colonial government in 1991. For millennia, the Batwa had developed and maintained a close relationship with these forests: it was their home, providing them with sustenance and medicines, containing their sacred sites, and forming the fundamental basis of their unique cultural and socio-economic modes of expression. Not taken into account in the development of national conservation initiatives, the Batwa were gradually evicted and excluded from these ancestral lands and have since found themselves in a highly marginalized situation living on the fringes of the dominant society. They were not consulted about the creation of the parks on their lands, nor did they receive compensation for the loss of those lands.

The most acute impact of the Batwa's forced eviction and exclusion from their ancestral territory has been landlessness and severe poverty. After the park creation in 1991, 82 percent of Batwa were entirely landless, living either as squatters on the land of others, or on government or church land. The Batwa are still used as cheap labour by landowners, working the fields in exchange for the right to squat temporarily on the land and receiving paltry handouts of food and clothing. Batwa children suffer some of the lowest rates of education in Africa, with less than half attending primary school and a mere handful continuing onto high school, largely due to lack of food and other poverty-related ills.



Mutwa woman

In 2000, with the assistance of the UK-based charity, Forest Peoples Programme, the Batwa established their own community-based organisation - The United Organisation for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU) - to lobby for their rights and help alleviate their suffering. UOBDU has since been engaged in education, agriculture, advocacy and income-generation initiatives on behalf of the Batwa.

Rainforest Concern recently donated \$25,000 to UOBDU to help the Batwa purchase approximately 50 acres of private, forested land abutting Bwindi National Park, in the Kanungu District of southwest Uganda. The land transaction was completed in May 2006 and UOBDU is now in the process of establishing a Batwa trust to hold this land collectively and in perpetuity for the Batwa. This initiative will not only help the Batwa, but will ensure that the purchased land remains forested, enhancing forest conservation in an area well known for its



The Batwa demarcate their newly purchased land

gorilla population. By creating a collective land trust, the land will be held in perpetuity by the area's original forest conservationists (the Batwa), and this land will be outside the reach of other private interests that may wish to clear or otherwise degrade the land.

Over the next year, UOBDU will be encouraging more donors to help increase the Batwa land base both by acquiring additional forested land and by transferring other small plots of housing and agricultural land currently held 'on behalf of the Batwa' to the Batwa land trust. Thus, with continued effort the Batwa people and the unique biodiversity of the forests in which they abide will continue to exist and to thrive.

Please help support UOBDU by donating money specifically to Batwa land and development initiatives - simply indicate 'Uganda Batwa' when submitting your next donation.



Batwa women at the 2006 UOBDU AGM





## BRAZIL

population: **176 million**

capital: **Brasilia**

total land area: **835,556,000 ha**

primary forest 1990: **460,513,000 ha**

primary forest 2005: **415,890,000 ha**

primary forest lost 1990-2005: **44,623,000 ha**

### BRAZIL

# Yawanawa Territory almost doubled to 194,000 hectares

by Hylton Murray-Philipson, Trustee of Rainforest Concern



Ceremonial dancing of the Yawanawa

Many initiatives supported in earlier years by Rainforest Concern bore fruit in 2006. The principal achievement was a near doubling of the officially recognised Yawanawa territory. The Yawanawa's claim over 50,000 hectares previously belonging to an investment group called Paranacre was finally recognised, and the State Government of Acre simultaneously donated 40,000 hectares of land to them. The revised Yawanawa territory now comprises 194,000 hectares.

This landmark event is the culmination of 5 years of struggle and Chief Tashka Yawanawa warmly acknowledged all of the help he and his people received from Rainforest Concern and its members. At one crucial moment, the Governor's office in Rio Branco was virtually paralysed by calls, letters and emails from around the world.

This success is derived from the renewed self confidence felt by the Yawanawa people as they feel their way forward into the 21st century. Their comeback, and the partnership between an indigenous population, the US Corporation Aveda and UK Charity Rainforest Concern was highlighted at a day dedicated to indigenous people at the United Nations in New York, on the 23rd of May 2006.

As we go to press, we are close to finalising plans for the installation of equipment in the Yawanawa community of Nova Esperanca (New Hope) to produce a clean burning alternative fuel, or 'Forest Fuel'. Not to be confused with Biodiesel, which has justifiably had some adverse press recently, Forest Fuel is far from being a panacea - indeed, unless we are careful, palm oil and soya grown for biodiesel could be the next industrial crop to put pressure on the rainforest. The

Yawanawa project is different. It will be small scale, fed by fruits of the forest (especially a common palm in the region called babacu), and powered by solar energy. If successful, this project will make the Yawanawa self sufficient in fuel for their motorised canoes, hitherto the largest expense for the community and on which sadly they have become dependent. We are co-operating with the company Aveda on this important initiative, which, if successful, could be extended to numerous other remote communities of the Amazon Basin.



To reach the Yawanawa you must travel by small plane and by canoe

We are working in a special part of the world that has so far been saved from destruction by its sheer remoteness. That is all about to change. The asphaltting of the BR 364 and the new Trans Oceanic Highway linking the western Amazon to the Pacific ports of Peru are proceeding apace. There are still uncontacted tribes in the area where Brazil, Peru and Bolivia meet, and Rainforest Concern has teamed up with the former head of FUNAI, Sydney Possuelo, in order to assist them while time permits. Sydney received the Gold Medal from the Royal Geographical Society in 2005 and it is a privilege to be associated with his work.

## RSE Symposium 2006

In July last year, Patriarch Bartholemew, leader of the Orthodox Church, hosted a week-long Symposium on the Amazon, organised by the non-governmental organisation, "Religion, Science and the Environment (RSE)".



Patriarch Bartholemew closing the Symposium

The Director of Rainforest Concern, Peter Bennett and Trustee, Hylton Murray-Philipson, were pleased to be part of the sixth in a series of international symposia, bringing together representatives of many of the world's religions, Government Ministers, environmentalists and scientists who travelled up the Rio Negro in a flotilla of boats, in order to draw global attention to the degradation of the world's rivers and seas. At the "Meeting of the Waters" (where the Rio Negro meets the Rio Solimoes), they witnessed indigenous people (including the Yawanawa) give their blessing to Catholic Cardinals and Protestant Bishops - representatives of institutions that have inflicted untold suffering on the indigenous peoples of the Amazon for hundreds of years. RSE promotes the view that leaders in science and religion must work in harmony if the Earth's environment is to be protected. For further information please see [www.rsesymposia.org](http://www.rsesymposia.org)



Hylton, Trustee of Rainforest Concern and Michael Naylor on a Symposium field trip.

**FUNAI is the Fundacao Nacional do Indio or National Foundation for Indians - the Brazilian official agency in charge of protecting Indian interests and protecting their culture.**



photos: PETE OXFORD



### Primate Research in Colombia

Rainforest Concern is pleased to be supporting Angela Maldonado in her PhD research in Amacayacu National Park, Colombia, on the abundance of woolly monkeys and other large vertebrates and the impact of subsistence hunting on their numbers.

With the sponsorship of Rainforest Concern and WWF (RET fellowship), and with the institutional support of Oxford Brookes University, The Woolly Monkey Project in the Colombian Amazon has successfully completed its second year of census fieldwork and data collection on wildlife harvest, working with the Tikuna indigenous communities and Amacayacu National park.

### The London Marathon 2006



Danny Porter, Katie Rigg and supporters!

It was a very successful year for our 7 rainforest runners at the 2006 London Marathon, and we even had some familiar faces running again for us. The whole team did exceptionally well, and managed to raise over £16,000 in the process! Andrew Blunn became our new rainforest champion record holder, running the 26.2 miles with an amazing time of 3 hours and 14 minutes.

Last year we also had supporters running the Jungle Marathon Brasil, the half Marathon in Bristol, the Banff Triathlon and the Edinburgh marathon for us. Thank you all for choosing to support Rainforest Concern as your fundraising charity!

If you feel inspired to run for Rainforest Concern in the 2008 Flora London Marathon, or in another fundraising event, please contact us for further information.



## New Partnership with Rainforest Ventures

Rainforest Concern is pleased to be working with Rainforest Ventures Ltd (RVL), a new developer of rainforest attractions around the world. Starting off its programme in the UK and Europe, RVL plans to recreate different rainforest habitats within dramatic enclosed structures to provide unique centres for environmental education. For more information please visit [www.rvlglobal.com](http://www.rvlglobal.com)

## The Living Rainforest

Rainforest Concern recently forged a new partnership with The Living Rainforest, near Newbury, with both charities looking forward to the development of an exciting, ongoing relationship.



The Living Rainforest houses an exotic collection of over 600 tropical plant and animal species under glass, making it a perfect, all-weather attraction. Rainforest Concern supporters can claim one free entry with a full paying adult by cutting out this article and presenting it on entry. For further details log on to - [www.livingrainforest.org](http://www.livingrainforest.org)



## RC's new website!

If you haven't already seen our website, please do so! You will find it completely revised and much easier to use! [www.rainforestconcern.org](http://www.rainforestconcern.org)

## A big thank you to our funding partners

We are delighted that Bellway Homes have supported Rainforest Concern for another year. In line with their aims to be a responsible house builder, the company's contributions are now focused on our carbon offsetting programme. Another ongoing sponsor has been Boden, the mail order clothes retailer. We are happy to announce that in the last year they assisted us in purchasing and protecting 850 acres of rainforest in Colombia.

Droste, the Dutch manufacturers of those delicious pastille chocolates generously supported us in 2006, helping to buy over 400 acres. Herbert Smith, the law firm, have been offsetting their overseas conferences through Rainforest Concern this year, and on the subject of travel, The Change Group, an international foreign exchange company also made a sizeable carbon donation to our Forest Credits programme in the last year. Geothermal International Ltd, the UK market leaders in design and installation of ground source heating and cooling systems, John Brown Publishing, who publish titles such as Waitrose Food Illustrated, and the Green Stationery Company have also all chosen to offset their carbon through Forest Credits.

The flying lantern company, Wishes in the Sky, donate 5% of every sale to Rainforest Concern. As we go to print, they have just hit 100 acres of sponsorship! We receive a regularly quarterly donation from [beatthatquote.com](http://beatthatquote.com), an internet financial services organisation who find the best rates for mortgages, insurance etc,

We are also thrilled to be featured in The Good Gifts Catalogue, which has been an enormous support to us and we look forward to being included again for Christmas 2007, so look out for your copy!





# Another fantastic year of fundraising from schools and universities

by Kirsten Smith, Rainforest Concern



Rainforest display at Pennar Community School

More and more schools, teachers and students every year are teaching and learning about the value of our environment and of rainforests in particular, the damage caused by deforestation and loss of biodiversity, the importance of reusing and recycling, and of reducing energy consumption. We are delighted to see that the environment continues to be a subject growing in importance under the school curriculum, and the response from children and students over the last year has once again been very enthusiastic.

We would like to thank all the schools and universities that have continued to support us and to welcome those that have contacted us for the first time. Well done to all the schools that have been recycling paper, ink cartridges and mobile phones, and to all those students who have fundraised so tirelessly again this year. In particular, a very special thank you to our top fundraisers, Sheffield University who raised an impressive £5,500 through their "Bummit to the Baltics 2006" hitchhiking event, and to George Watson's College who managed to raise over £1,000, bringing our schools annual total to over £15,000 last year - a new record!

Schools and universities make a big difference to Rainforest Concern's work and we rely on their support and enthusiasm for spreading the word

about the charity, and importance of rainforest conservation. We are always interested to hear about the imaginative ways children and students find to raise money to help the rainforest, as well as seeing all the creative effort that goes into their studies. At George Heriot's School, class P6 organised a cake and candy stall and raised £280, sponsoring 11 acres of forest, and Fivemiletown Primary school in Northern Ireland came up with the novel fundraising idea of organising a trail for each class, which pupils paid 50p to participate in. They raised enough to sponsor 3 acres through their event! At Rushen Primary school, class 3B learnt about rainforests, recycling and saving energy and sent us the wonderful, colourful posters they made (some examples are printed here, below and left) and Year 5 at the Jessie Younghusband School sent us an incredible project on DVD involving individual films, interviews and animations from students. Some of our younger supporters have held sponsored bike rides and ice-cream sales to raise money for us over the last year, and schools supported us on the 5th June this year, by organising events for World Environment Day.

If you are a teacher, remember to have a look at our new website [www.rainforestconcern.org](http://www.rainforestconcern.org) for ideas and information about rainforests, and in particular see our interactive tour of the rainforest, which you can also get to through our linked website at [www.guidedtour.rainforestconcern.org](http://www.guidedtour.rainforestconcern.org). This has been specifically designed for use in the classroom, and includes printable activity sheets.

We continue to be grateful to Phil Williams and to Dave and Sue Shaw for their school presentations, which always generate enthusiastic responses and new school supporters. If you would like to know more about "The World within your shoe" and how to arrange a visit, please phone Phil Williams on 07798 802087. For information on "The Rainforest Roadshow" please contact Dave and Sue Shaw on 01982 560244.





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