

A Giant Rainforest Stepping Stone (contd)

88,000 terrestrial hectares (217,360 acres) and 43,000 hectares (106,210 acres) of Pacific marine habitat.

The final objective is a payment of \$150,000 for this vital 'Bridge' at the end of January 1999.

Your support of this project is deeply appreciated. Only this way, will there be any significant tropical biodiversity remaining as we move through the 21st Century.

Daniel H Janzen, Professor of Biology, University of Pennsylvania.

🌿 Robin Jolliffe to Dan Janzen 7 December
Have you now enough funding to complete the purchase in January 1999?

🌿 Dan Janzen to Robin Jolliffe 8 December
We all did it! In the second week of November, the W. Alton Jones Foundation very graciously made a \$150,000 grant to the Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund, concluding their

support for the establishment of the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste that they began in 1986. This grant completes the fund-raising effort for the last property to complete the 'Bridge'.

🌿 Robin Jolliffe to Dan Janzen 8th December
Do you need further funding for extension of the 'Bridge' even though you have completed the main part?

🌿 Dan Janzen to Robin Jolliffe 8th December
Yes, yes, yes, yes!

The ACG has on its borders the Rincon Rainforest and a few other much smaller old-growth patches, and then it has a lot of land that could be very easily restored to forest as well. This means that as long as you have the energy to keep the dollars flowing, I can guarantee that they will go into conserving more forest. And the more forest, the more secure is the entire package.

ECUADOR

Jatun Sacha road plan dropped as purchase of corridor progresses

It isn't often that you have the best of both worlds in rainforest conservation, but the Jatun Sacha Foundation seems to have contrived just that!

In the January 1998 issue of Children's Tropical Forests News, we reported the planned construction of a road which would carve through the Jatun Sacha Biological Station, the primary rainforest reserve in Amazonian Ecuador which CTF UK has been supporting for the last three years.

We launched an appeal to help purchase the entire corridor of rainforest fringing the new road so that Jatun Sacha, which comprises two separated blocks of forest, could be united into a single large forest reserve. Albeit dissected by the new road.

We reported the success of the Appeal in June 1998 by which time the purchase of the forest corridor had already begun.

But then, on 6th October 1998, we received an E-Mail message from Michael McColm, the Vice President of the Jatun Sacha Foundation, reporting the success of a 'political action', organised by the Foundation 'where we got the Prefecto and the oil companies to agree to construct the road elsewhere, something which was quite difficult and something I am quite proud of!'

In the same message, he reported that with the recent donations raised by CTF in Britain, Germany, Sweden and the United States 'we were able to purchase about 165 hectares (400 acres) of forested property along the corridor.' So the consolidation of the Reserve into a major block of contiguous forest has received a substantial boost, whilst the threat to its integrity from the road project has disappeared.

CTF at London Aquarium's "Rainforest Week"

Children's Tropical Forests UK was one of four rainforest charities invited to exhibit at the London Aquarium's recent "Rainforest Awareness Week" (Nov 22nd - 29th).

Sponsored by Ben and Jerry's Icecream and the Rainforest Café, all proceeds from the sale of ice cream during the week have been generously donated equally to CTF UK; Rainforest Concern; Survival International; and the Orang-utan Foundation.

CTF Trustee, Sean Newall, who was largely responsible for designing the new display boards at the Exhibition, said:

'It was a really great opportunity to tell people about our work and to raise awareness about the importance of rainforests'.



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Editor: Roger Littlewood



A Giant Rainforest Stepping Stone across the Continental Divide

🌿 Robin Jolliffe, 9th November 1998
Children's Tropical Forests UK.

"The Bridge Project"

Dear Robin and the rest of you,
On behalf of 10³⁵ viruses, bacteria, mites, insects, mushrooms, trees, birds and porcupines, I want to personally thank you for your further gift of \$3,360 to the Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund. All of your gift is being used for direct purchase of rainforest on the eastern margin of the Area de Conservacion Guanacasta (ACG) in north western Costa Rica.

This purchase achieves the final and full connection of Guanacasta National Park on the Pacific Coast and Rincon de la Vieja National

Park on the wet eastern slope of the Continental Divide. It consolidates this conservation area into one continuous unit

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Our Front Page Picture shows the south half of the 'Bridge' between Volcan Rincon de la Vieja (highest peaks) and Volcan Cacao (out of sight to the left). The newly purchased forest extends from near the treeline on the upper side of the volcano (about 1800 metres elevation) down to the left hand side of the photograph (about 700metres elevation). The actual 'Bridge' land is a mosaic of beautiful original rainforest, some damaged forest and dairy pasture, which will now re-grow its forest cover.

The First International Children's Rainforest - fascinating insights into the workings of a World Class Reserve

Pioneering schemes to pay protectors of forest for the environmental benefits they provide; complex land disputes; shaping the conservation laws of the future; experimental reforestation; research into the life styles of exotic endangered species; creating Children's Nature Centres; and helping elderly people to celebrate the Christmas Festival.

It's all in a day's work according to the 33-page Annual Report sent to us recently by the Monteverde Conservation League, which owns and manages the First International Children's Rainforest in the cloud shrouded highlands of central Costa Rica.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the Report is its consistent references to schemes whereby forest protectors - be they conservation organisations, farmers or private owners - will, or soon could be, paid for their environmental services to the community at large. Already, the Monteverde Conservation League is beginning to receive substantial payments from the Costa Rican Government under the Forest Protection Certificate scheme. But perhaps even more significant, the MCL has also

Under the new Costa Rican Forestry Law, the Monteverde Conservation League has recently received 2,850,000 Colones (£6,900) from Forest Protection Certificates issued by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Government funding comes from a variety of sources, such as a selective tax on fuel and other hydrocarbons.

helped a number of landowners living on the periphery of the Monteverde Cloud Forest to benefit from the scheme. The list reads a little like the Domesday Book: Alexis Torres of San Gerardo received payments in respect of 100 hectares of forest; Gilbert Jimenez of Cebadona for 5 hectares; Mariano Arguedas of Los Llanos for 45 hectares; and so on. These types of incentives diminish the pressure on farmers to destroy part of their forests and also diminish the importance of land purchase by conservation bodies as the only mechanism of forest protection.



The MCL is also negotiating to receive payments for protecting the 2,700 hectare Esperanza River Watershed. The owner of the hydro-electric project which depends on Esperanza for its water power is willing, in principle, to pay for these environmental services. MCL is also hoping that the Costa Rican Electricity Institute will recognise the

The possibility that the Monteverde Conservation League, which manages and protects the First International Children's Rainforest, will be paid by public and private utilities for the Forest's role in protecting the Esperanza River Watershed is moving towards a reality.

strategic environmental services that the First International Children's Rainforest provides for the whole of Costa Rica, since the conservation and protection of this forest guarantees the water production for Lake Arenal. Lake Arenal's hydro plant generates half the electricity used in Costa Rica!

But like every large undertaking, the Monteverde Conservation League faces many problems too. Aside from the constant funding challenges which confront all conservation bodies, large and small, this huge Children's Rainforest is currently the subject of 28 different land disputes, affecting an area of 2,000 hectares of the Reserve. Some of them are of extraordinary complexity, including tracts of forest where several different people have legally registered the land in their own names. The resolution of these disputes - expensive, of course, as is any legal dispute - is high on the priority list of many members of the MCL's Ruling Committee.

The MCL has trained two women's groups in La Tigra ("Los Cerritos" and "La Lucha") in tree production. In 1997, these private nurseries produced more than 40,000 trees which were sold to the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity, which will use them for reforestation).



The Keel-billed Toucan, found on Monteverde's lower slopes, is a fruit eater.



Previously almost extinct, Tapir numbers are now increasing.

With enormous support from the International Children's Rainforest Network Worldwide, the protected forest at Monteverde grew very rapidly in the late Eighties and early Nineties. This rapid expansion has itself brought its attendant problems now.

Only 13% of the 23,000 hectares (57,000 acres) of land acquired by the MCL is properly registered under Costa Rican law. And although opinion differs as to just how significant this registration process is to the actual ownership of the land, proper registration of the remaining 87% is another time consuming administrative priority.

At the First Latin American Congress on National Parks and other protected areas held in Colombia recently, we gave a presentation about private reserves in Costa Rica.

Meanwhile, conservation work too must go on. One key project, funded by the British Embassy in Costa Rica, is to study the mating and dietary habits of Monteverde's avian megastars - the Bare-necked Umbrellabird, the Resplendent Quetzal, the Three-Wattled Bellbird and the Black Guan. Census research determines variations in the species abundance in different habitats, invaluable in establishing priorities for the conservation of these endangered species.



Marguays, much hunted for their beautiful fur, find sanctuary in the Monteverde forest.



The Strawberry Poison Arrow Frog flashes red for danger.

And then, dotted around on both the Atlantic and Pacific slopes of the Reserve, there are 97 experimental reforestation plots in regenerating areas of the forest - planted so

We were invited by the Bishop of San Carlos and the Priest of La Tigra to talk about environmental themes.

that different reforestation methods can be studied. The growth and survival rates of the planted species in each plot must be measured and compared periodically.

It is plain from this fascinating Annual Report that the business of creating and protecting a huge Reserve like the First International Children's Rainforest is a complex, difficult and exciting undertaking. And one of the critical decisions that the International Children's Rainforest Network has taken recently is that it must provide on-going support to the Reserve, even though the major land acquisition phase is over.

Over the last 10 years, a magnificent wildlife Reserve has been created by skill, courage and dedication. If it is to survive for another hundred years and beyond, those qualities - and the financial resources to underpin them - will be required in greater measure still.