



Monte Verde, Costa Rica
November 28, 2011 DE0132.11

Dear Friends,

On February 8th, 1986, a group of neighbors met in Monteverde due to their interest in working on protection and preservation of the few natural resources we had left for future generations. Surely, they could not have imagined today's situation, in which MCL celebrates its 25th anniversary thanks to the work of many people, people committed to sustainable development and preservation of the natural resources for future generations. Congratulations to all of you who have contributed and supported this organization, because everyone, in one way or another have made possible the consolidation of the Monteverde Conservation League (MCL), an organization that manages and protects the largest private reserve in Costa Rica, The Children's Eternal Rainforest (BEN). As we do every year, this year we share with you the important aspects of management in 2011, that continues to guide us.

Protection and Maintenance Program of the BEN

The protection program focuses on continuous work within the different geographical areas of the BEN, mainly in prevention and patrolling; trying to control illegal activities such as hunting, logging, and removal of plants, birds and other species.

The rescue of a baby deer, is proof that our rangers do more than walking the trails of the BEN... hunters killed a mother deer, but thanks to the intervention of a neighbor and the BEN's rangers the fawn was rescued and being rehabilitated in a rescue center.

In terms of maintenance, support is provided in all areas of BEN open to the public, especially in maintaining and improving trails, roads, infrastructure, signs, etc. in addition to the support that it provides to the protection and monitoring program and working with volunteers.

Land purchase program

In 2011, we did buy the Mr. Ulises Castro and Alicia Mendez's farm; this property has an area of 12 and a half acres of grass and forest cover that is an important area used by wild animals and is important to the ecology of the region as well as the natural beauty of the BEN.

With this new land purchase for permanent conservation, MCL continues to achieve the important dream of consolidating in perpetuity the biodiversity of the BEN.

Research

Mammals monitoring project (footprint collecting)

One of the main interests of this research is to determine and monitor the presence of five large mammals in the BEN, by making plaster casts of 153 animal tracks. The peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*) is the most common one found, followed by the puma (*Puma concolor*), the paca (*Agouti paca*) with the tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) found in smaller numbers.

Recently, five of our rangers had the opportunity to see a tapir, not far from Pocosol Station. We knew there were tapirs in this area of BEN due to the footprints we collected. They are the largest mammals in Central America and they are active during day and night and water lovers.

Currently this project has been complimented with the installation of cameras in different areas of the BEN and we are obtaining photos of puma, peccary, gray foxes, agoutis, raccoons, and small wild cats among other wildlife.

Ecology Project Green-Eyed frog

We also are continuing the project of studying the ecology of the Green-Eyed Frog (*Lithobates vibicarius*), which consists of field trips. A relevant detail about this research was the finding of just one single individual (male) due to the very dry conditions in March.

Other amphibians species have been found during this research, some of them are: Litter Frog (*Craugastor bransfordii*), Ojioja Creek Frog (*Duellmanohyla uranochroa*), the Corazonuda Glass Frog (*Hyalinobatrachium colymbiphylum*), Fleischmani Glass Frog (*Hyalinobatrachium fleischmanni*), Emerald Glass Frog (*Espadarana prosoblepon*), Rain Frog (*Craugastor crassidigitus*), Litter Frog (*Craugastor podiceferus*), Dink Frog (*Diasporus hylaeformis*), Common Dink Frog (*Diasporus diastema*), Hyla Tica Frog (*Isthmohyla tica*), Rain Frog (*Pristimantes cruentus*), and also the Mountain Creek Frog was heard (*Isthmohyla rivularis*).

Reforestation

The Finca Steller's tree nursery in la Tigra de San Carlos has produced 1500 seedlings including: Pilon, Almond, Ceiba, Manu and others. These trees have been supplied to farmers, schools and rural organized groups who are interested in reforesting along the river edges in communities around the BEN.

Eco-Tourism

MCL continues working on tourism projects as an option for income generation to keep developing our programs in both the BEN and the communities around it. Eco-tourism takes place mainly in the sites open to the visitors like: Bajo del Tigre Visitor Center, Finca Steller Education Center, San Gerardo Biological Station and Pocosol Biological Station. We are installing more information signs and planting native species flowering plants around the Children's Eternal Rainforest Information Center (in Monteverde).

This program continues to grow with the arrival of approximately 6.500 visitors during this year. This program, besides generating income that goes directly to conservation, also allows us to include more collaborators in our programs.

Environmental Education

For the second consecutive year the activity "in conserving water, we preserve life on the planet" was possible with the participation of 165 kids in Monteverde area, thanks to the economic support of BESA, which financed the transportation of the children to the reserve (BEN); this program has also had support from other organizations and people. This year, the Santa Elena, Cañitas, La Lindora, Los Llanos and Los Tornos schools have been part of the program.

We have also made MCL exhibits and information, field trips, environmental talks as well as Eco Fairs for both, children and adults in the communities of Chachagua, El Castillo, Los Criques, San Juan and San Isidro de Peñas Blancas, San Jose and Los Angeles de la Tigra, La Perla and Fortuna among others.

Bell Bird Biological Corridor

We have actively participated in the implementation the biological corridor project by promoting a series of activities as part of the strategic plan. We have held five workshops with leaders of different communities located in the corridor.

MCL anniversary

Throughout this year 2011, we have **celebrated MCL's 25th anniversary** by holding several events, such as the *children's hour* and educational activities related to the environment. *Eco-Fest*, an ecological festival was organized by members of the Monte Verde community. We also had the *Environmental, Culture and Sport Fair*, Monte Verde 2011, held on the World Environment Day and the International Forest Year, which was a three day event with activities like a street cleaning campaign with children from schools, exhibits about the BEN and

other reserves, art displays, talks, games, sports, theater, workshops and music. The fair was a success thanks to the support of the community, other organizations, and sponsors.

An extraordinary event in MCL's celebration consisted of the issue of 4 different stamps by the Costa Rican postal service; these stamps represent and display 4 of the wonders of the BEN, including: the smallest orchid, the green eye frog, the Margay and the Pocosol natural lake.

Unconditional support

We have continued to receive the benefits of friends and collaborators who give their best efforts for the consolidation of the BEN and with it, the rescue of the important natural resources for the future generations. An example of it was the visit of a 7 years old girl, a nature lover, who follows the footsteps of her grandparents to support the conservation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest. She raised money with her classmates in USA.

"You can live two months without food and two weeks without water, but you can only live a few minutes without air. The land is not inherited from our parents; we borrow it from our children". Mahatma Gandhi.

In this letter we extend our respects to you who have believed in our work and have made an extra effort to support the benefits for the world. We are sure, you have invested in improving the future of the world. Thank you very much for your attention and your support of the project that started as a kid's dream.

Sincerely,

Yúber Rodríguez
Executive Director

" 25 AÑOS CONSERVANDO EL LEGADO DE LA NATURALEZA "

Decreto N° 20172 como parte de la Zona Protectora Arenal-Monteverde, 24 de enero, 1991

Miembro Fundador de la Red Costarricense de Reservas Naturales Privadas; 1995.

Reconocimiento Aportes al Mejoramiento a la Calidad de Vida, Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República; octubre, 2000.

Acreeedora beneficio recibir donaciones como gastos deducibles renta bruta de donantes, Administración Tributaria; julio, 2006

Declarada de Utilidad Pública para los intereses del Estado según el decreto 33632-J; marzo, 2007.

Premio INBio al Mérito en la Conservación de la Biodiversidad Costarricense; mayo, 2007.

Parte de la Reserva de la Biosfera Agua y Paz, UNESCO; Septiembre, 2007.

Adhesión como miembro de la Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza (UICN), noviembre, 2007.

Emisión Postal "Bosque Eterno de los Niños, Monteverde", Correos de Costa Rica; Agosto 2011

MONTE VERDE, PUNTARENAS

Tels.: (506) 2 645 5003 ó (506) 2 645 5200

Fax (506) 2 645 5104

info@acmcr.org

LA TIGRA DE SAN CARLOS

Tels.: (506) 2 468 8382

Tel./Fax (506) 2 468 8380

mv@acmcr.org

Apartado Postal 124-5655; Monte Verde; Costa Rica

Sitio de Web: www.acmcr.org

Organizaciones Hermanas/Sister Organizations:



Children's Tropical Forests
Saving Rainforests for our Children's Children



www.barnens-regnskog.net/projekt_e.htm

<http://sites.google.com/site/nipponjungle/>
www.tropical-forests.com www.mclus.org

www.kinderregenwald.de

Fifteen Things that you can do to help the Rain Forest every day

15. *Read, learn, and talk about the Rain Forest and the threats to the survival of its plants and animals. Being informed is the first step to being a better conservationist.*

14. **Talk to your friends and family about the importance of saving the Rain Forest of the world. The second step in Rain Forest conservation is spreading the word!.**

13. *Visit countries that have Rain Forest, to gain an appreciation of how they value, protect and depend on their forests.*

12. **Do not buy products that are taken unsustainably from the Rain Forest, like precious woods, seeds, feathers, animals or plants.**

11. *Support industries that work sustainably with the Rain Forest, like Eco O.K. Bananas or organically grown coffee.*

10. **Switch your every products (like soap, shampoos and food) to biodegradable and natural products. Go “Vegetarian for a day”, using soy products and tofu, instead of animal products.**

9. *Write letters to your government representatives telling them that you support Rain Forest conservation issues, and that you want them to also!.*

8. **Look into careers in biology, ecology, conservation, zoology, environmental education, environmental economics, natural resources management, etc.**

7. *Reduce. Use less, electricity, watch less television, read a book, play a game.*

6. **Recycle. Everything you can. Buy products made from recycled materials – to help close the recycling loop.**

5. *Reuse. Use cloth lunch bags, and thermoses for your lunches. Just by reusing a cloth bag instead of a paper one every day you are saving trees, cutting down on the energy used and the air & water pollution related to the production of the paper bag.*

4. **Walk, ride your bike, travel in a bus or carpool to school instead of driving a car.**

3. *Plant trees and native plants. This provides local wildlife like birds and animals with food and shelter.*

2. *Generate less garbage, think of ways to reduce the daily waste you create. Useless packaged food products. The fresher, the better: Think about the packaging that anything you buy uses and wastes.*

1. Support Rain Forest conservation efforts locally and internationally.

**Yes, I want to be involved in
Rainforest Conservation and
preservation!**

I will contribute to the MCL:

- \$600 \$300 \$150 \$100
 \$75 \$50 Other _____

For a gift of \$25 you will receive a **certificate**

For \$50 - a "**Megafauna**" T-shirt

For \$100 -- a **CD Natural Sounds**

Thank You!

Please tell your friends about us.

Name: _____

Size:

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

E mail: _____

T-Shirt size: S M L XL

Children size: 4 8 12 14

Please make your check payable to the Monteverde Conservation League. Please use the enclosed envelope.

If you would like to make an electronic donation with your debit or credit card, please visit:

If you would like to make an electronic donation with your debit or credit card, please visit

http://www.acmcr.org/payment_eng.htm

Apartado 124-5655
Monteverde, Puntarenas, Costa Rica
E-mail: info@acmcr.org