

# TAPIR TRACKS

The newsletter of the Monteverde Conservation League & Children's Eternal Rainforest

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## News from the Bosque Eterno de los Niños (BEN)



The Children's Eternal Rainforest was purchased and protected thanks to donations from children around the world, and we maintain a strong commitment to young people through our Environmental Education (EE) program. Our Environmental Educator, Maria Fernanda, works with hundreds of elementary students in communities bordering the BEN, visiting schools and bringing children to the rainforest for hands-on programs.

This crucial program is entirely funded by donations. **We need your help to make sure the EE program continues in 2019.** We are off to a good start, having secured \$4,000 in anonymous donations, but we still have a long way to go. We are partnering with [Engage Globally](#) to raise the \$16,000 needed so that our EE program can continue through 2019. **[Won't you help us reach our goal?](#)**

Thank you for your support, and see you in the BEN!

—[Lindsay Stallcup](#), Executive Director

## Bajo del Tigre: Monteverde's hidden gem



Nestled in the heart of Monteverde, Bajo del Tigre is one of the area's hidden gems. This corner of the BEN is located just a couple of kilometers from the cloud forest, but it's a whole different world: different trees, different birds, and with no crowds, you can usually have the trails to yourself.

Bajo del Tigre offers 4km of trails through this unique "rain shadow forest"—only about 40km<sup>2</sup> of this type of forest are protected in Costa Rica—plus two scenic lookouts, native plant nursery, classroom, and an educational room for kids. It's also a great place to see butterflies, Long-tailed Manakins, and white-faced capuchin monkeys (left).

## Rainforest Protection: News from the front lines



We're troubled to report that our Head Ranger, **Hernan Chacón**, has been on disability leave since June, when he was physically attacked by a poacher during a routine forest patrol. The assailant—one of 3 people hunting with dogs near Pocosol—became violent when our rangers attempted to detain the group, and Hernan's right shoulder was badly dislocated as a result of the attack.

For those who might be tempted to think that illegal hunting doesn't happen in Costa Rica's famed protected areas—think again. We rely on our forest rangers to keep the constant threats of poaching, logging, plant and animal extraction, and other illicit activities at bay.

We wish Hernan a speedy recovery so that he can rejoin our team as soon as possible.

## Species Spotlight: Keel-billed Toucan



This colorful character, one of Costa Rica's 6 species of toucan, can be found throughout the BEN. Toucans are social birds and can often be found in small groups. Their long, colorful beaks make them easy to recognize, as does their call, which resembles a frog croaking. The toucan's long beak is specially adapted for eating fruit, which makes up most of their diet.

However, they're also notorious nest robbers, eating eggs and chicks stolen from the nests of other birds.

## Your donation matters!



Your donation—of any size!—really does make a difference. **Right now, our most urgent need is to fund our 2019 Environmental Education Program.** Donations can be made [directly to the MCL via our website](#); tax deductible donations (for US residents) can be made through our nonprofit partner, [Engage Globally](#).

Not able to support Environmental Ed? Not a problem. Donations for forest protection are always welcome and help us keep poachers—like the ones who attacked Hernan—out of the BEN.

Contributions for forest protection can be made through the same channels mentioned above.