

TAPIR TRACKS

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

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Tapir Tracks is back!



Some of our long-time supporters may remember Tapir Tracks, the quarterly newsletter of the Monteverde Conservation League (MCL) and Children's Eternal Rainforest. More than 20 years later, we're reviving Tapir Tracks—this time in electronic form. A few things have changed, including the logo of the Children's Eternal Rainforest, at left. But our underlying mission remains the same: **To preserve, conserve, and rehabilitate tropical ecosystems and their biodiversity.**

We hope you will enjoy keeping up with the Children's Eternal Rainforest via this newsletter! You can also stay informed by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and by reading our [blog](#) on our newly revamped website: www.acmcr.org.

Director's Corner



Greetings from the Children's Eternal Rainforest! It's a treat to finally be sending out the first edition of our electronic newsletter.

The MCL is the steward of the Children's Eternal Rainforest, or "BEN", as we like to call it, after the Spanish *Bosque Eterno de los Niños*. The BEN is Costa Rica's largest private reserve, with more than 56,000 acres. But the most incredible thing about the BEN is not its size—it's the vast diversity of habitat, flora and fauna contained within its limits. In what other 56,000 acre chunk of forest can you find 7 completely different life zones, 5% of the world's bird species, and 6.5% of the world's bats? The BEN is also home to numerous endemic and endangered species, some of which we'll share in the Species Spotlight feature of the newsletter.

The MCL has more than 31 years of history under its belt—I've personally been here for just two years and continue to be impressed by the work that is required on a daily basis to protect and conserve Costa Rica's rainforest and biodiversity. The public continues to play a critical role in achieving our goals. Thank you for your interest and support, and I hope to see you in the BEN!

— Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director

Species Spotlight



Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), this newsletter's namesake, is Costa Rica's largest terrestrial mammal. The tapir is one of the endangered species protected by the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

Baird's tapir is endemic to (occurs only in) Central America, where it is estimated that fewer than 5,500 tapirs remain—with perhaps fewer than 1,000 individuals in Costa Rica. Tapirs are shy and typically stick to more remote areas of forest. They are rarely seen even by our forest guards; it is much more common to see tapir tracks than the animal itself.

The tapir was originally chosen as the symbol of the Monteverde Conservation League because it requires large areas of intact rainforest habitat area, such as those protected by the Children's Eternal Rainforest, in order to survive. It's exciting and motivating to see real evidence of tapirs—including their tracks and photos on our camera traps—in the BEN today!

Environmental Education



Did you know that the Children's Eternal Rainforest has a full time environmental educator? More than 2,000 students in 16 elementary schools near La Tigra de San Carlos (along the eastern border of the BEN) have participated in our Environmental Education Program in the past year.

We are grateful to [Friends of the Rainforest](#) for a grant that has brought nearly 900 children and 200 adults on educational field trips to the BEN over the past year. Field trips are a great motivation for the students, many of whom are visiting the forest for the first time. Many of the students are children or grandchildren of poachers, so this type of outreach and positive interaction with the forest is critical in shaping the next generation of conservation-minded adults.

Funding for our Environmental Education Program comes largely from donations, and we are partnering with the US-based nonprofit [Engage Globally](#) to raise funds for the 2018 academic year.

San Gerardo gets a much-needed facelift



The San Gerardo Station is one of the jewels of the BEN. Originally built in 1994-1995, this rustic wooden lodge is nestled on a hillside deep within the BEN, with views extending across thousands of acres of forest to the Arenal Volcano and Lake Arenal. The station offers lodging for up to 32 people and has provided unforgettable rainforest experiences—and incredible food!—to thousands of visitors over the past 22 years.

This year, San Gerardo has gotten a much-needed facelift, including a new roof, new balconies and safety railings, a new front wall, and a remodel of the downstairs bathroom, among others. These repairs have been made possible by generous donations from [Children's Tropical Forests U.K.](#), 5th grade students at the [Lincoln School](#), and several other private donors. We are thrilled to share these improvements with our guests and encourage you to check it out for yourself!

Support the BEN



Your donation directly supports conservation, protection, and environmental education efforts in the Children's Eternal Rainforest. You can [donate directly](#) via our online payment system, or make a U.S. tax-deductible donation through one of our partner organizations: [Engage Globally](#) or [Friends of the Rainforest](#). Be sure to specify that your donation is for the Children's Eternal Rainforest! For information on making a tax-deductible donation from other countries, [contact us](#).