Tropical Storm Nate Affects Monteverde

In early October, we were hit hard by Tropical Storm Nate, which left much of Costa Rica reeling in its aftermath. In Monteverde we were incredibly fortunate that no lives were lost; however, roads and bridges were destroyed and several homes were lost as Monteverde received about 17% of its average annual rainfall in just 2 days. Of the areas of the BEN affected, our San Gerardo Station was the hardest hit. Thanks to the quick response of our Maintenance team, we were able to repair access roads and obtain the additional long-term solutions— including road repairs and bridge construction— needed to get Pocosol going again.

Pocosol Repairs on the Horizon!

We are delighted to report that repairs at Pocosol will begin in early 2018.

Nestled in the heart of the BEN, Pocosol is a true rainforest paradise, offering 10 km of walking trails, plus a lake, a spectacular waterfall, unforgettable views of the Peñas Blancas Valley, and incredible biodiversity. The lodge itself provides accommodations for up to 35 guests. Unfortunately, we had to close Pocosol Station at the end of 2016 due to problems involving the slope below the station. We are grateful to Friends of the Rainforest for raising the funds that will permit these important repairs and allow us to get Pocosol up and running again.

Meet Our Staff: Maria Fernanda Rojas

Did you know that the Children’s Eternal Rainforest has a full time environmental educator? Maria Fernanda Rojas, a native of San Carlos, Costa Rica, works with the School Education Program along the eastern border of the BEN. She combines classroom instruction with interactive field trips to create an exciting educational experience for students. Maria’s enthusiasm is contagious, and she’s the “silent star” in our education efforts in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest. In 2018, we are thrilled to announce that our grant proposal for “Photographing waterfowl through environmental education in the Peñas Blancas watershed” has been funded by Beca Proyectos de la Nación (BPN). This will allow us to provide local students with an hands-on learning experience about waterfowl and aquatic ecosystems, including field trips to local streams. Thanks to BPN and all of the donors who continue to make this program possible!

Volunteers & Interns

We love our volunteers and interns! This fall, we had four great student interns from the local Santa Elena High School (CTPSE): Daniel Pavón, Diego Parada, Santiago Mora, and Alejandro Ramírez. Volunteer Marlon Requena, from the nearby city of Usulután, came to us via CIEE’s Sustainability and the Environment Program (2018). This program, created by Nordic University Business Centre (NUBC) and funded by CIEE’s partner, Jotun, offered 20 hours of training in environmental sustainability that he could then apply at his workplace, Estrella Verde.

Species Spotlight

The ocelot (Leopardus pardalis) is one of Costa Rica’s six species of wild cats, all of which are found in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest. The ocelot is the third largest cat; at an average of 24 pounds (11 kg), it is larger than the jaguar and mountain lion, but smaller than the jaguarundi, margay and oncilla.

Through research, we can start to better understand, and therefore better protect, wild feline populations. One way to study terrestrial mammals is by using motion sensor cameras, or “camera traps.” The picture at left is a recent photo of the non-profit group Panthera capturing the Peñas Blancas Rainforest government (SINAC) and U.S. government (NPPD) to help protect Costa Rica’s mountain lion populations. This photo was taken by the Children’s Eternal Rainforest’s camera trap research database growing!

Support the BEN!

Looking to make a difference this holiday season? 100% of your deductible donation goes to support conservation, protection, and environmental education efforts in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest. You can donate directly online by clicking here or, if you live in the U.S., make a U.S. tax-deductible donation through one of our partner organizations: Engage, Global 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 in countries other than the U.S., contact us.

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