

2021

On October 15, the conservation project celebrated its 10th anniversary, with two articles published in the national press, a great recognition of the work carried out during all these years.

NATURE RESERVE

- This year the list of birds within the reserve has seen its number increase by 6 new species. At present the 107ha of the reserve are home to 243 species.
 - *Sclerurus guatemalensis* (Scaly-throated Leaftosser)
 - *Wilsonia canadensis* (Canada Warbler)
 - *Setophaga ruticilla* (American Redstart)
 - *Ocreatus underwoodii* (Booted Racket-tail)
 - *Malacoptila panamensis* (White-whiskered Puffbird)
 - *Geranospiza caerulescens* (Crane Hawk)
- During its last months the Ministry of the Environment operated two animal releases, an Olingo and a Two-toed Sloth. But the most important thing was that people who knew about the project called me to pick up a sloth they had found in a hotel parking lot and they were afraid that the dogs would kill him or that a car would hit him.
- **March** "El Jardín de los Sueños" is declared an area of Importance for bat conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean (AICOM) within the **RELCOM** organization (<https://www.relcomlatinoamerica.net>).
- This new recognition on the role of the project in the preservation of environment is due to the study carried out on bats in the reserve by the PUCE University of Quito.
- Among the 43 species present at the site, some are considered vulnerable, one is classified as critically endangered and a new species has been referenced for the first time in Ecuadorian territory (*Choeroniscus godmani*).
- It is important to note that the presence of all these species brings an undeniable ecosystem service to those who live near the reserve. In fact, thanks to insectivorous species that feed on a large number of insect that are disease vectors for humans or for agricultural crops, and to nectariferous species that pollinate plants, the human being is a great beneficiary of the presence of this animal .
- To raise public awareness about this animal, we have created an educational trail with panels and photos through which it is possible to discover or learn more about their biology, anatomy, mythology and beliefs ...



- **May** *Urotheca lateristriga*, a new species of snake is added to the list of reptiles in the reserve, increasing the number of snakes to 32. One of the peculiarities of this species is that it has the ability to unsheathe part of its tail when attacked by a predator like some lizards do.



- **June** The list of butterflies in the reserve has aroused the interest of the Florida Museum of Natural History "McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity." They came to make a first visit and collect some species for a DNA study. The inventory list increases over the months, we have reached 174 species.



- **September** The educational trail on reptiles is finally finished, allowing visitors to discover all the species present in the reserve within the 4 large groups, snakes, lizards, turtles and amphisbenids.
- **October** A contract was signed between the Indoamérica University of Quito and the conservation project as a scientific station, concretizing the collaboration between the two entities that has lasted for several years.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- In October, thanks to the collaboration with the international organization "Save the Snake" and Indoamerica University, we organized two snake events that followed the phase of the creation of the educational reptile trail.
- The first was a presentation of the ethno-biological study on snakes to local authorities in order to make known the importance of the work done within the project with the community.
- The second event organized on the same day was a conference given within the community designed in relation to the results of the ethnobiological study. This makes it possible to answer questions and correct false beliefs about snakes. This event was accompanied by snakes living in such a way that people could touch them and thus reduce the fear that these animals tend to generate in people. It was a real success, people were there and many approached to touch a living snake for the first time in their life. At the end of the event a poster was offered to each participant.



- At the request of the director of the tourist career of the University of La Mana, a presentation was made to talk about biodiversity within the conservation project. This intervention was an opportunity to talk about responsible tourism geared towards the protection of nature.