

For-Conservation Foundation of Panamanian Primates (FCPP)

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FCPP's news

May 2010–April 2011



On the 10th Anniversary of FCPP, in our second news letter, we celebrate our years of conservation initiative towards Panama's non-human primates' and thank everyone for their fantastic support!

FCPP's team

Azuero Primate Project

Over the last ten years we have monitored seven study areas in different parts of the Azuero region, Panama. Our findings include Howler, Spider and White-faced capuchin monkeys surviving in living fences, gallery forest, and fragmented forest patches that remain between cattle ranches and farm lands. These are monitored year by year to obtain information about their population dynamics, making this project the only one in Panama with birth and mortality data within non protected zones.

Bats are included!

As part of our new perspective to monitor primates and support the producers of the Azuero region, FCPP has included a population study of bats. We aim to determine the potential of seed dispersers and pollinator mammals that are present in areas of high deforestation. The idea is to detect the probability of regeneration of the disturbed forest and to help the cattle ranchers detect the presence of hematophagous bats in the area. The FCPP will be promoting the good attitude of maintain their patches of forest and will inform land owners (that are open to co-operate with the protection of their forest patches) about the bat's biodiversity. The bat captures are free of charge to cattle owners to help prevent bovine rabies focus.

“Studying and protecting the dispersers and pollinators like bats will help to regenerate the forest that monkeys need to survive in the middle of fragmented forests”



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Conservation Through Environmental Education and Research

In November 2010 FCPP participated in the XIV Mesoamerican Congress for the Biology and Conservation, San José, Costa Rica. We presented a poster and gave two talks related to the Coiba Island Project, the Environmental Education Project and the Chucantí-Darien Project.

New environmental education road material, we obtained two new road signs to prevent drivers hitting howling monkeys in Las Tablas, Los Santos province, east of Azuero.



The people from Parita and Las Tablas say:
Please STOP! ...

"We thank our friends from Yaguara who kindly supported our staying in Costa Rica, thank you!"

Volunteer Program

Our volunteer program has provided support for students to participate in observation techniques workshops, field primate counts, and the application of this knowledge in the field. These students later have the opportunity to write articles, present in congresses, and follow the study of primates with the support of FCPP and associated institutions. We are currently supporting two students from the University of Panama in their field observations. Jorge Garzón and Robert Duarte are studying Azuero's Spider monkeys; Elvia Miranda is surveying primate populations at the Chiriquí province and will start a primate population study in west Panama.

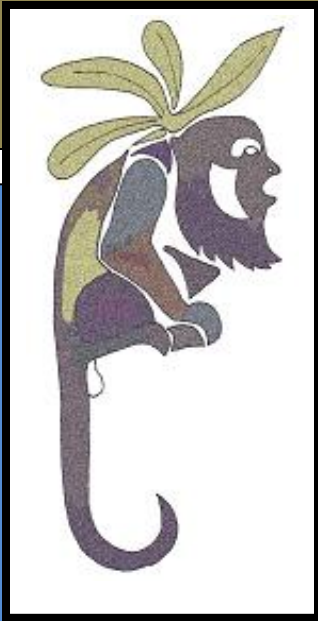


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New Contributions from FCPP

"Bookmarks"



FCPP will be offering bookmarks illustrating each of the Panamanian primates and their general information as an educational tool. The first species illustrated are the most threatened in the country. We will collect funds through these activities to support more students and continue monitoring and studying primates in Panama. If you are interested please write to us at:

fcprimatespanama@gmail.com

Coiba Island Primate Project

As a part of the expansion of our effort to monitor Panamanian primates we established the first calculations of primates and other mammals living in Coiba Island. This data have not been analyzed before and will help promote improved management techniques for the Panama Environmental Authority. We assessed 229 groups of Coiba Howling monkeys (*Alouatta coibensis coibensis*) with a total of 987 individuals, and around 200 White-faced capuchins (*Cebus capucinus capucinus*) living on the island. FCPP researchers determined that hematophagous bats occur in high densities on the southern side of the island and recommend urgent action to remove feral cattle from this area. This will reduce the proliferation of hematophagous bats and avoid increasing rabies cases.

Activities as a group with other conservation organizations

FCPP have participated in several forums, including "The Role of the Citizen Participation in the Environmental Sustainability" (November 30, 2010) and the "Poetry World Day" (March 21, 2011) in Soberania National Park. Both activities were in collaboration with the Panama Environmental Authority (ANAM). Candace McCaffery, from the Florida Museum of Natural History, donated around 25 scientific articles from scientist Dr. John Eisenberg. Dr. Christina Campbell donated two books she authored regarding Neotropical Primatology and Spider Monkeys. Thank you very much for your support Candace and Christina!

With the aid of Professor Manuel Quintero Chérigo (Soná, Veraguas) our first conservation song was composed, called "[A Monkey in the Mountain](#)". It emphasizes a monkey's role as a seed disperser. Thanks Manolo!

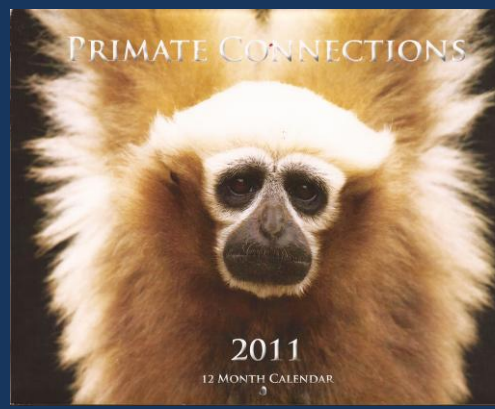


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FCPP was invited to contribute with "Primate Connections", a network of grassroots primate conservation organizations that are working together to raise awareness in order to generate actions towards the conservation of primate species throughout the world. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar goes to Oxford Brookes University's Primate Habitat Country Students who come from countries where Primates are found to study at University.

Our New Release in **Youtube**

Thanks to our friend Tim Bearder and Oxford BBC Radio Station it was possible to obtain a report about our work:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BiBOw-7rXE>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0ztLEHom6M>

Thanks to our friend Corrin LaCombe we participated in this beautiful calendar for 2011. Please contact her for more information at: corriny88@hotmail.com or visit primateconnection.com to find out more!



In September 2010, the FCPP staff gave three talks to biology students and professors. We discussed topics related to primatology in Panama, as well as FCPP's new goals, population surveys, and vocalization studies of howling monkeys. The seminars took place at the Bernardo Lombardo Auditorium of the University of Panama in the Exacts Natural Science and Technology Faculty.

Environmental Education in Azuero



The educational talks given during the May 2010 to April 2011 time period took place at the following schools and colleges: Rafael Quintero Villarreal from Océ, El Calabazal School, School Cristina R. de Pinzón, La Polonia, School Aleida Agustina from Llano Grande, La Miel from Las Tablas and the Agronomy School from Tonosi. FCPP addressed 250 students during this time. Thanks to the volunteers and biologist Yarelis González and Glenis de León from FCPP.

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Acknowledgements and Recognitions

We thank our volunteers stationed at our Azuero Peninsula and Coiba Island research sites for their active work observing the primate groups throughout the year. Between these groups we would like to highlight Glenis De León and Yarelis González, both responsible for the northern and southern regions of the peninsula. We welcome our new volunteer, Elvia Miranda, who is commencing a pre-survey in Chiriqui province in later 2011. Special thanks to Alejandro Garrido for his support with Coiba Island Project.

FCPP thanks our colleagues Diana Marsilio, Maureen Mullen and Helen Simmons who read early drafts of various FCPP materials and provided editing advice. To the FCPP administrative personal, for their effort to keep running legal papers, permissions, and administration in general, thanks to Marta Carvajal de Méndez, Elena Méndez de Quiroz, Yadira Aguilar Gordón and Isis Ochoa. Thank to Guido Berguido and his crew from Advantage Tour Panama, for his support with the facilities at Gamboa and Chucantí.

To the institutions and companies that kindly help us with our projects, our sincere recognition to support our conservation plans through these ten years...

We thank the following institutions for their great support:

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للمحافظة على الكائنات الحية

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