

**"OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM COSTA RICA,
PURA VIDA!!!"**

ProjectsAbroad™



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Independence's Day

We are Ticos, friendly and happy. Proud to live in a free country where we elect our president and government leaders; where we do not know the meaning of communism, slavery and terrorism. We have 192 years of being an independent country, held around the country leading to the



colors red, white and blue. We'll see "masquerades" with loud music, children and teen dancing in lines and the rhythm of the drums of the bands with their costumes and dress. We can already hear the drums of the bands that practice in schools. It will be a great day for the schools as they show their best performances. Students also have the honor of carrying the torch run and fire which comes from Guatemala.

The torch represents the journey that broke the news of independence to get to Costa Rica. The torch arrives in Costa Rica on September 15 carried by the best students in the schools. We feel the spirit of Independence from the time we decorate our homes with the national colors and sing the National Anthem at 6:00 pm. When we walk with our children in the night parade, Lantern Parade, when we accompany guard the torch and see our children paraded through the streets.

Very important is to note that government offices, banks and most businesses will be closed for the holiday, and some closed streets in major cities to accommodate parades.

Welcome September, we feel proud of celebrating one year more the Independence of Costa Rica



The Torch of the Independence.

The Torch of Independence was declared as a National symbol on September 14, 2005.

Since 1964 every year the torch runs through Central America representing freedom and independence of the Central Ames. The tour begins in Guatemala and ends in Costa Rica, specifically in the city of Cartago, the old capital of Costa Rica. In past decades, the Torch from Guatemala failed because of conflict situations in some of the Central American countries.

In Costa Rica we celebrate the running of the patriotic celebrations Torch on September 15, an event that has become a tradition that has come to contribute to the enrichment of patriotic fervor in the souls of Costa Ricans.

Today this tradition is still living manifested by the flame that symbolizes energy, on the way the manifestation of freedom and who has the strength and hope of the nation.

The torch has traditionally been carried by students and at each border of the countries of Central America is received by government authorities. Through a solemn public ceremony and cultural activities that allow to involve everyone in the country with such beautiful action, which seeks to preserve freedom and peace.



The Latern Parade

The Latern parade (Faroles) recalls the historic moment that happened in 1821, when the news of the country's Independence broke. It is mentioned that it was Maria Dolores Bedoya who bravely walked through the streets of Guatemala on the night of September 14th, 1821 with a lantern in her hand inviting people to meet at the plaza opposite to the town hall, where the provincial councils of Guatemala gathered including Chiapas, Honduras and El Salvador.

Their goal was to put pressure on politicians to sign the Declaration of Independence "Viva la Patria", "Viva la Libertad". This tradition continued by decorating the houses with patriotic colors and making parades with faroles every 14th of September at six in the evening in remembrance of the heroic act of Maria Dolores Bedoya. The night lights up with the remembrance of the news of freedom.



Culture Workshop September

On September 19th the new volunteers were part of a nice activity at the office. We discussed important information about Costa Rica and its culture. We shared experiences, situations and more about how people behave in Costa Rica, customs and more. Now they know important details when they are around, outside, laws and more.



COSTA RICA – SEPTEMBER 2013

Barra Honda National Park.

The Barra Honda National Park (PNBH) is located in the Canton of Nicoya, Guanacaste province about 22 km northeast of the city of Nicoya, is among the coordinates latitude $10^{\circ} 10' - 10^{\circ} 13' N$ and longitude $85^{\circ} 18' - 85^{\circ} 22' O$.

It was created in 1974 to protect an interesting cave system. The fauna is characterized with bat but the park is noted for its abundance of bats, with some colonies that may reach several thousand individuals (Artavia. 2011).

The protected area is characterized by calcareous soils with steep and irregular topography. The height is just over 500m in the Cerro Corralillo a little less than 100m in the lower parts.

Barra Honda National Park comprises the area of life known as tropical wet forest transition to basal and a transition zone known as tropical wet forest transition to dry.

But changes in the global climate, coupled with logging lived on the site years ago, generated much of this protected wilderness area looks very similar to the features found in a tropical dry forest.

Some of the patches that still retain their original coverage, the conditions which described Holdridge and years ago for our country, but the total area of such coverage has not been measured yet.

Butterflies project

The general aim of this project is an inventory of the order Lepidoptera diurnal species present in the Barra Honda National Park, sector las cascadas, and compares the results with different weather conditions and habitat present on site.



In Barra Honda National Park have been made in this group inventories in the last two years, these have been conducted in the area of Barra Honda, this site is a macro area of research that has the protected area on this site have been identified around 70 species, were obtained by these two techniques implemented capture, high traps with attractant Van Someren (rotting fruit) and stroke networks. Lepidoptera are known to occasionally disappear, and years later return to the site where they were found, for this reason it should continue with the inventory in the protected area.

To continue the inventory was decided to evaluate other macro areas of research that are in the park, these sites are the Cascades and inns, this year it was established research plots in these places, so to facilitate the implementation of study, these sectors also have slightly different habitats in places, compared to those observed in the Barra Honda, so it will be interesting to see the results that shed new research and see if it finds any kind that has not been previously recorded also consider whether there are any differences between the species in each site.

We used 12 fixed traps placed at heights of 2.4 and 6 meters in every corner of the plots, 3 corner traps. All were placed on Tuesday and removed on Wednesday.

Each captured individual attempted to identify the site, if a new record or if one collects difficult to determine and identify the offices of ASP and subsequently added to the polls with other individuals collected.

By collecting an individual is placed in paper packets for good preservation, with a label indicating the collection site, date, collector's name and a comment. Once in office, the specimen is placed in a refrigerator for 24 hours and then prepared on sheets esteriofón using entomological pins and scraps of paper.

Biodigestor

Animal and human feaces contain methanogenic archaebacteria that decompose organic material without oxygen. Storing feaces in a biodigestor allows the use of the decomposition by capturing the gases produced to

generate green energy for various uses; for example cooking, lighting and feeding combustion engines that produce electric energy.

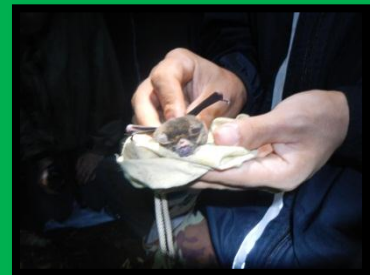
This new practice is considered by many to be a technology of the future, as its implementation has already improved the quality of life of numerous families and industries, this by using costless and natural products – allowing a considerable economic gain while helping the protection of the environment.



In Barra Honda National Park, Projects Abroad is implementing this technology. During this month we received an important part of the materials to be used for the construction of a biodigester. Volunteers and staff members started the construction of the biodigester and are hoping to finish it by the end of November 2013. In February 2014 we are hoping to be able to produce and use gases.

Bat Project

First of all, this is one of our oldest projects; the principal aim is to identify and monitor the species in the order Chiroptera, in order to establish a basis as to the status of bat populations in the Barra Honda National Park.



The importance that the Barra Honda National Park for the conservation of bats, is that on the site there are colonies of thousands of individuals who roost in different caves of this protected area, mainly in caves "Pozo Hediendo" and "Nicoa ". Also some bats are able to build their own shelter changing leaves of different plant species. In Barra Honda National Park this is a very relevant fact.

We are using mist nets of 12m long by 2 meters high, which are placed in eight different points along the line of the trails Barra Honda National Park. Each session covers some 250m away, so that networks are about 50-75 feet apart.

List of bats founded in this project:

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Nombre Común</u>	<u>English Name</u>	<u>Family</u>
<i>Saccopteryx neata</i>	Murciélago listado	Two-lined Bat	Emballonuridae
<i>Noctilio albiventris</i>	Murciélago pescador	Lesser Bulldog Bat	Noctilidae
<i>Pteronotus davyi</i>	Murciélago de Davi	Lesser Naked-Backed Bat	Mormoopidae
<i>Pteronotus parnelli</i>	Murciélago de Parnell	Mustached Bat	Mormoopidae
			Fam. Phyllostomidae
			Subfam. Phyllostominae
<i>Glyphonyscteris silvestris</i>	Murciélago silvestre	Tricolored Bat	Phyllostominae
<i>Micronycteris brachyotis</i>	Murciélago de orejas cortas	Yellow-Throated Bat	Phyllostominae
<i>Micronycteris mirgalotis</i>			Phyllostominae
<i>Phyllostomus discolor</i>	Murciélago careto	Pale Spear-Nosed Bat	Phyllostominae
<i>Phyllostomus hastatus</i>	Murciélago punta de lanza	Big Spear Nosed Bat	Phyllostominae
<i>Tonatia brasiliense</i>	Tonatia de Brasil	Pigmy Round-Eared Bat	Phyllostominae
<i>Tracops cirrhosus</i>			Phyllostominae
<i>Vampyrum</i>	Vampiro falso	False Vampire Bat	Phyllostominae

<i>spectrum</i>			
			<i>Subfam.</i> <i>Glossophaginae</i>
<i>Glossophaga leachii</i>	Murcélago de Leach	Gray's Long-Tongued Bat	Glossophaginae
<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>	Murciélago musaraña	Pallas Long-Tongued Bat	Glossophaginae
			<i>Subfam. Carollinae</i>
<i>Carollia perspicillata</i>	Carolia transparente	Seba's Short-Tailed Bat	Carollinae
<i>Carollia subrugosa</i>	Carolia parda	Gray Short-Tailed Bat	Carollinae
			<i>Subfam.</i> <i>Stenodermatinae</i>
<i>Artibeus jamaicensis</i>	Artibeo jamaicano	Jamaican Fruit-Eating Bat	Stenodermatinae
<i>Artibeus lituratus</i>	Artibeo correcto	Big Fruit-Eating Bat	Stenodermatinae
<i>Sturnira lilium</i>	Esturnira blanca	Little Yellow-Shouldered Bat	Stenodermatinae
			<i>Subfam.</i> <i>Desmodontinae</i>
<i>Diphylla ecaudata</i>	Vampiro chingo	Hairy-Legged Vampire Bat	Desmodontinae
<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	Vampiro común	Common Vampire Bat	Desmodontinae

Bird Project (new aims)

We have the honor to present the new project, the Bird Project, has been an effort principally of Oscar Cubero (staff member) that wrote this, because for each project we need the authorizations with the Minaet (environmental office in Costa Rica) and finally we got all the permission for this.

General aim.

Know the abundance of resident and migratory birds in the Barra Honda National Park, to obtain a criterion of their conservation status on this site.

Specific aim.

- Obtain the relative abundance of the species present in the Barra Honda National Park, using standardized methodologies for bird census.
- Observe presence of migratory species in the national park and determine how long they are on the site.
- Analyze the species found in the site, to see if conservation measures are being implemented in the protected area.

Methodology and materials

Counting points are separated every 250m, these will be located on trails, fire lines and roads in the national park, points are established without a defined radius, at these points are recorded species observed, and the species was recorded are identified by their song around the site. Five zones will be established for the study.

La palma-El Pozo-Frijoleras (eight points).

- Main trail (eight points).
- Laureles trail (eight points).
- Fire line-Ceibo trail-Mantequilla (eight points).
- Ojoche cave-Pozo hediondo cave (six points).

The count time at each point is five minutes, before starting to wait a minute to not skew the data to the first impression of the birds by the presence of observers. Monitoring hours in the morning will begin at 5:30 am and in the afternoon will be at 3:30 pm, each session will be eight points, the project will apply throughout the year, the purpose is to observe the presence of migratory species that arrive every year to the national park and determine how long they are on this site.

Bird's points moving at the canopy.

For species that fly over the canopy or use this to move, we will use a different methodology, points will be established in different places around the park and will be located in places where you can watch over the forest canopy, some sites where you can locate these points are, Nacaome View point, El Frío, Frijoleras de El Flor y Las Delicias.

Counts have two three-hour sessions, beginning at 7:00 and ending at 10:00, the other session is at 10: 00 at 13:00, the birds are counted in 10 minute intervals during the three hours of sampling, we must take the weather variables, temperature and wind speed, this methodology will be made once every two weeks at each point.

Well, this is the beginning of this history, and for the future we hope have the "Field Guide of Birds in Barra Honda National Park"

"Seed trees and nursery Garden"

To Select 10 tree species seedlings (*Cedrela salvadorensis* (sweet cedar) *Cedrela odorata* (cedar), *Dalbergia retusa* (Cocobolo) *Swietenia macrophylla* (Mahogany) and *Astronium graveolens* (Ron Ron), present in the Barra Honda National Park.

We are working normally in the nursery garden, and our goal for this rainy season is to plant 3000 trees around the national park and also in the communities,

Environmental Education Program

This is a project where all the staff and volunteers are very proud:

“Teaching to the kids about nature and how protect it.”

We are working in three different schools around the national Park, work in this program consists of three parts, in which volunteers work in two of them, the first is that we should do the necessary materials to give classes to children, and then staff, headed by Jose Mario Gonzalez explains to the children about the topic of the month (biodiversity, pollution etc).

See you soon.

Anthony Ruiz
Conservation Manager