

PROGRESS REPORT 2023





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LETTER FROM FOUNDER

As we enter the 12th year since acquiring what was a 170-acre degraded cattle farm in the Andean Amazon, I continue to be amazed by how it's possible not only to stop the destruction, but to recover this fragile habitat.

As the USDA Forestry Services study predicts 90% of remaining cloud forests in the Western Hemisphere to be wiped

out by 2060, we are determined to offer a solution.

As we embark on cloud forest restoration, and involve local schools and community in the process, I want to thank all of you who have been supporting this venture either with technical assistance, volunteering, or financially.

As wildlife continues to flourish and show up on our site (see species list

on pages 14-16), this year native trees are showing sudden growth spurts. Emerging flora is taking hold, while new wildlife species such as nocturnal monkeys now consider our project site home.

This year, we delved more deeply into product development from cloud forest products. The Cloud Forest Crunch vegan ice cream launched at the Fancy <u>Food Show 2023</u>, made from native trees *logma*, *chachafruto* and *tocte*, was our latest proof of concept, and shows promise. A cosmetic company has also shown interest. Commercial interest is key if we want to promote reforestation at scale.

In collaboration with the foundation Aliados, we have been studying the growth patterns of the trees, with the hope of expanding this growth model throughout the region. Someone has





to be a first mover to take the risks, so again your support has been vital to enable us to take those steps.

The visuals presented in this report are a mere shadow of the incredible nature that abounds and that we are welcoming to the site. With the construction of the research center, which turned out to be a more herculean task than originally thought, our hope is to have a base for in-depth scientific study and learning about cloud forests.

This year, we formalized an alliance with Jocotoco Conservation Organization, a US-based 501c3 and leading Ecuadorian conservation organization, which can receive tax deductible charitable donations earmarked for ongoing research and reforestation.

With 4 distinct pilot reforestation plots georeferenced and under study, we are excited to examine differences between natural forest recovery and assisted reforestation. And about the role of microorganisms, fungi and emerging growth in forest recovery. We aim to continue collecting data on wildlife response, and water regeneration response as an ongoing multi-year study, which is invaluable to understand how we can help cloud forests recover. Year-end 2023, we are particularly excited to embark on a proper botanical survey of existing and emerging flora.

Craig Daniel Leon

Clarg

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2023 Summary

We began the year overcoming our biggest challenge, which was continued deforestation by a cattle rancher in the watershed adjacent to the pilot site. An amicable settlement was reached by which Cloud Forest Organics now has possession of these 70 acres. This is now our experimental Plot 4, an opportunity to learn about transitioning lands recently used for cattle ranching.

Our learning about strategies for controlling invasive pasture grasses deepened. We began learning proper plant sizes for transplant by species based on mortality and growth rates. We tested different mulching systems and cutting techniques for controlling the grasses, the greatest challenge to converting pasture to forests in an economically viable way.

Our processing facility for powders and oils was put to the test. We launched Cloud Fo-

rest Crunch ice cream with Nütty Bunny via a trifecta of 3 cloud forest ingredients: logma, chachafruto and tocte. We began trials with Flora Reserve, a nature-focused cosmetic company testing ingredients such as tocte oil, dragon's blood sap, and logma powder. Ecuador-based Italian gelato maker Delizium continued to purchase ingredients for national sale, including two flavors of chachafruto chips, and helped promote our story.

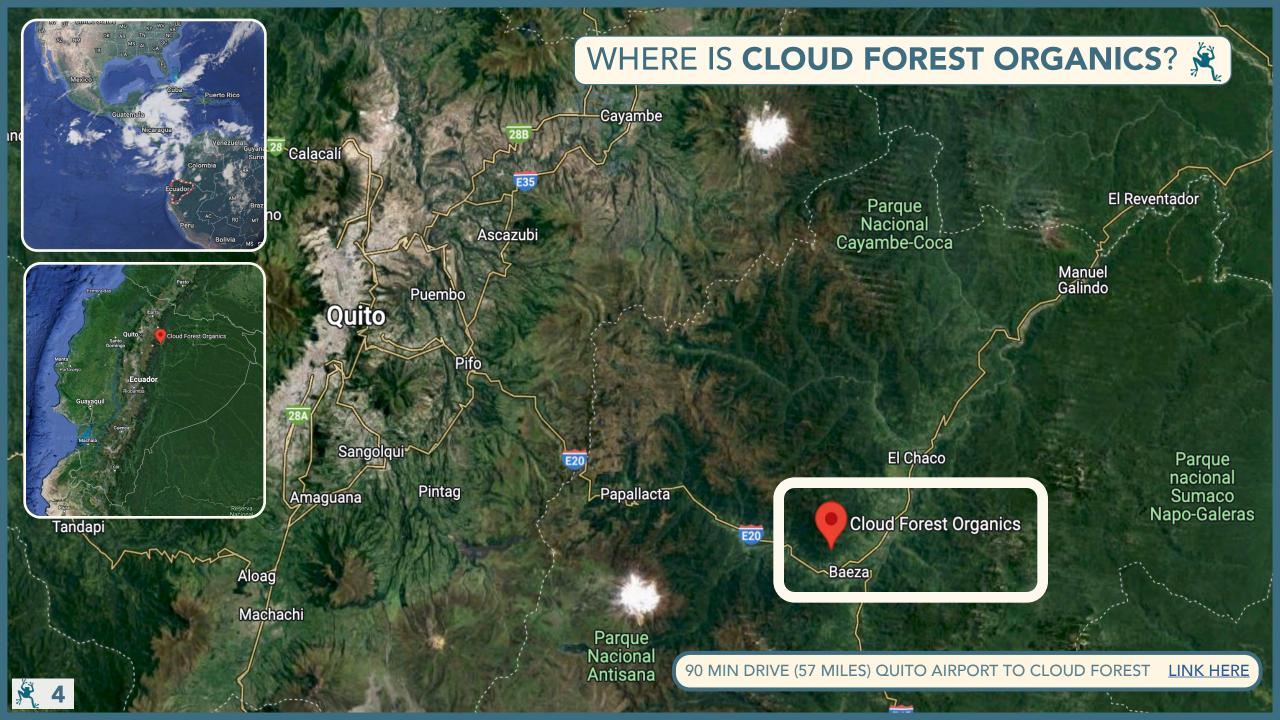
We were thrilled to work more closely with the Chaco Technical Education Center and the Sacha Waysa indigenous community. With the school, we helped construct green houses,



provided seed and technical assistance. We developed new recipes using native crops and shared a stand at two regional food fairs.

What a luxury to have world-renowned Jaime Culebras photographing frogs, reptiles and insects you see in this report, and Jaime Palacios, now at Jocotoco, continuing to lead our fauna and mammal studies. Kudos to our entire field team, many are highlighted in this report.

Of all our scientific investigation into cloud forest recovery, combined with reforesting, continues as central at Cloud Forest Organics. We continue monitoring wildlife and flora response, changes in water flow and quality, and are embarking on one of our most ambitious efforts to date: constructing an ecologically smart research center at the top of a cloud forest mountain with no road access.



2023

HIGHLIGHTS

ONGOING OBJECTIVE: REFORESTATION

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The Cloud Forest Organics is monitoring and collecting data on 4 distinct cloud forest sites. We are measuring impact of different techniques for controlling invasive pasture grasses, tree growth and mortality rates, and emerging growth response. Clockwise: Planting layout of native trees, by species in Plot 1; biotechnologist Francisco collecting soil and plant material samples for DNA testing using matK and ITS genetic markers. Cedars and other native tree species in uncovered nursery area will soon be transplanted into the field.

	Periodo de medición : 12	2/10/2022 - 21/09	/2023																	
Especie	Nombre comun	individuos plantados	Plantones r	nuertos y e 2 perio		(entre los		talidad oeriodo	Altura prome plantones		% crecimiento del periodo	Altura ma	xima y min	ima de los p	lantones CM)	Numero de plan CN		Diametro promedi los plantones		% crecimient del periodo
		entre julio y noviembre 2021	20	122	20	123						max	<i>tim</i> a	n	ninima					
		noviembre 2021	muertos	vivos	muertos	vivos	1año	2 año	2022	2023		2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	
Erytrina edulis	Poroton	130	20	110	49	61	15	80	40,4	91	125	114	210	9	5	27	40	17,2	20,65	20
outeria lucuma	Logma	36	16	20		61	44	-67	38	65	71	62	124	10	10	13	32	8	12	50
uglans neotropica	Nogal	53	10	43		54	19	-20	98	221	126	154	453	55	29	43	51	14	29,3	109
Iyronimia macrocarpa	Motilon	50	21	29	4	25	42	16	60	141	135	131	255	10	20	16	24	8	15	88
Cedrela montana	Cedro rojo	40	8	32	3	29	20	10	91	204	124	162	290	14	82	24	28	20	32,3	62
Croton lechleri	Sangre de drago	30	17	13	1	12	57	8	111	419	277	218	500	45	250	11	10	17	42,5	150
Ceroxilon sp.	Palma de cera	60	12	48	0	48	20	0	23	36	57	40	80	7	20		9			
Pouteria sp.	Logmillo	25	0	25	7	18	0	39	27	34	26	51	85	9	11	2	0	9	6,73	-25
Persea sp.	Aguacatillo	25	7	18	3	15	28	20	48	93	94	100	215	13	19	7	12	8	12,66	58
Cedrela odorata	Cedro blanco	40	11	29	3	26	28	12	112	247	121	240	432	53	135	33	33	20	35,4	77
Ocotea quixos	Canelo	30	10	20	1	19	33	5	48	86	79	115	126	24	50	6	17	7	12	71
	Totales	: 519	132	387	71	368	28	94	63	149	112	240	500	7	5	182	256			65,9800203

Trees planted in Plot 2 are less than 2 years old. This area had suffered invasion from a cattle rancher until 2021. All planted native trees are tracked under different variables. Trees in Plot 2 grew by an average of 112% this year while the girth of the trees grew 66%. Some dragon's blood trees reached 15 feet in only 2 years. Cloud Forest Organics is a buffer zone bordering the Cayambe Coca National Park. Immediately below the pilot site, cattle ranching activity continues. Our hope is to gain



practical and scientific knowledge on reforesting this steep terrain, including edible and at-risk-ofextinction tree species, to rebuild wildlife habitat. *The bigger picture*: contribute in tangible ways to the creation of a ecological corridor that links 3 national parks.

Photo: former deforester and former cattle rancher is now the leading field staff and park guard. He stands next to a 6 foot logma (lucuma) tree.









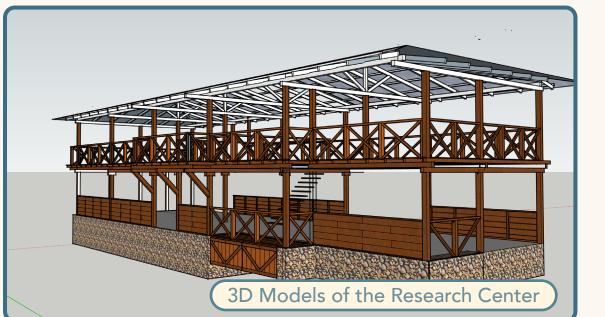
TEST PLOT 1 TIME LAPSE

Below the **Yellow Line**, the current pilot border, cattle ranchers continue to clear forest. The point of our project is to create a blueprint and reverse this trend, which is a major contributor to climate change.

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A functional Cloud Forest Organics research center is in the works. Having no road access next to prehistoric primary forest 2000-2600 meters above sea level where the Andes meets the Amazon jungle, the learning possibilities are unique and urgent. The center itself, planned for 340 meters of construction, is particularly ambitious given full commitment to an ecological structure and function. We are recycling forest by using wood from fallen trees, local volcanic stones for the base, and energy from sun and water. As we discover and propagate more native edible trees and other flora, we foresee the kitchen as central, designed for chefs and food researchers to create exquisitely. Not letting waste go to waste, we are installing biodigesters and composting systems to process and purify the inevitable residuals of the pilot site activity.









Our dream, if we succeed in funding this, is a safe and moderately comfortable space for breakthrough cloud forest research and systems recovery. A place in the midst of wildlife and emerging fauna in the Andean Amazon for researchers, for students, for ecologists, for lovers of the natural world.

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ONGOING OBJECTIVE: FAUNA

We include the list of the wildlife that has been documented on the site, with their IUCN risk of extinction status. Wildlife is starting to live in the areas directly surrounding the reforestation plots, and is beginning to venture into the reforestation plots.

A family of Aotus lemurinus, endangered nocturnal monkeys, are the first primates to appear on our site. In February 2023 a scientific paper was published on first albino pristimantis frogs in Latin America, on our pilot site!

Study is underway with Smithsonian Institute researchers on what appears to be a completely new, undescribed stingless bee, which is found on the Cloud Forest Organics restoration site. The herpetological survey conducted early in the year identified new amphibians, notably, the Orcesi and Celia. The Andean Eagle, or Spizaetus isidori, at critical risk of extinction, has nested once again this year, giving birth to another baby Eagle.

The Mustela frenata, an Andean weasel considered by biologists to be critical proof of forest recovery, is also using the pilot site with more frequent sitings. The research facility will permit the ongoing study of wildlife on the site.







In **Yellow** is Fauna that appeared in 2023

Class, Order, Family, Species	Name in Spanish	Threat category (Ecuador red lists)
AMPHIBIANS		
ANURA		
Bufonidae		
Osornophryne guacamayo	Osornosapo de gucamayo	Vulnerable
Hemiphractidae		
Gastrotheca testudinea	Rana marsupial	Near threatened
Dendrobatidae		
Hyloxalus bocagei	Rana cohete	Critically endangered
Strabomantidae		
Pristimantis leucopus	Cutín de Palpallacta	Endangered
Pristimantis bicantus	Cutín de Yanayacu	Least Concern
Pristimantis eriphus	Cutín de musgo	Near threatened
Pristimantis gladiator	Cutín paramero	Vulnerable
Pristimantis lacrimosus	Cutín lloron	Least Concern
Pristimantis w-nigrum complex	Cutín cualita	Endangered
Pristimantis amarrhynchus	Cutín endémico	No evaluado
Pristimantis sp.	Cutín	
Centrolenidae		
Nymphargus siren	Rana de cristal del río Coca	Endangered







Spizaetus Isidori [Juvenile Andean Eagle]

BIRDS		
ACCIPITRIFORMES		
Accipitridae		
Accipiter collaris	Águila Andina	Near threatened
Accipiter striatus	Azor Americano	Least Concern
Buteo platypterus	Azor Collarejo (de Collar)	Least Concern
Spizaetus isidori	Gavilán Aludo	Critically endangered
APODIFORMES		
Apodidae		
Streptoprocne zonaris	Vencejo Cuelliblanco	Least Concern
Trochilidae		
Adelomyia melanogenys	Colibrí Jaspeado	Least Concern
Aglaiocercus kingii	Silfo Colilargo	Least Concern
Coeligena torquata	Inca Collarejo	Least Concern
Heliangelus exortis	Solángel turmalina	Least Concern
Ocreatus underwoodii	Inca Collarejo (de Collar)	Least Concern
Phaethornis syrmatophorus	Silfo Colilargo	Least Concern
COLUMBIFORMES		
Columbidae		
Patagioenas fasciata	Paloma (Torcaza) Collareja	Least Concern
Patagioenas subvinacea	Paloma Perdiz Goliblanca	Least Concern
Zentrygon frenata	Paloma Rojiza	Least Concern
CORACIIFORMES		
Momotidae		
Momotus aequatorialis	Momoto Montañero (Andino)	Least Concern
CUCULIFORMES		
Cuculidae		
Piaya cayana	Cuco Ardilla	Least Concern
GALLIFORMES		
Cracidae		
Chamaepetes goudotii	Pava Ala de Hoz	Least Concern
Penelope montagnii	Pava andina	Least Concern

NYCTIBIIFORMES		1
Nyctibiidae		
Nyctibius maculosus	Nictibio (Puntepalo) Andino	Near threatened
PASSERIFORMES		
Cinclidae		
Cinclus leucocephalus	Cinclo Gorriblanco	Least Concern
Corvidae		
Cyanocorax yncas	Urraca Inca (Verde)	Least Concern
Cyanolyca turcosa	Urraca Turquesa	Least Concern
Cotingidae		
Lipaugus fuscocinereus	Frutero Pechinegro	Near threatened
Pipreola arcuata	Frutero barreteado	Least Concern
Pipreola lubomirskii	Frutero Verdinegro	Least Concern
Pipreola riefferii	Pijá Oscura	Least Concern
Formicariidae		
Chamaeza mollissima	Camaeza barreteada	Least Concern
Fringillidae		
Euphonia xanthogaster	Eufonia Ventrinaranja	Least Concern
Furnariidae		
Dendrocincla tyrannina	Trepatroncos tiranino	Least Concern
Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger	Colaespina de Azara	Least Concern
Margarornis squamiger	Subepalo Perlado	Least Concern
Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii	Brabablaca rayada	Least Concern
Synallaxis azarae	Trepatroncos Dorsioliva	Least Concern
Synallaxis unirufa	Colaespina rufa	Least Concern
Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus	Trepatroncos Montano (Montañero)	Least Concern
Xiphorhynchus triangularis	Trepatroncos Piquifuerte	Least Concern



REPTILES		
SQUAMATA		
Colubridae		
Dipsas klebbai	Caracolera de Klebba	Not evaluated
Erythrolamprus reginae	Culebras terrestres reales	Not evaluated
Siphlophis ayauma	Serpiente cabeza de diablo	Not evaluated
Clelia equatoriana	Chontas ecuatorianas	Near threatened
Iguanidae		
Anolis fitchi	Anolis de Fitchi	Near threatened
Anolis orcesi	Anolis andinos de Orcés	Not evaluated
Gymnophthalmidae		
Riama anatoloros	Palos del este	Vulnerable

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Thraupidae		
Anisognathus somptuosus	Hemispingo Coroninegro	Least Concern
Buthraupis montana	Tangara montana encapuchada	Least Concern
Chlorornis riefferii	Tangara cariroja	Least Concern
Cnemoscopus rubrirostris	Tangara montés	Least Concern
Conirostrum albifrons	Picocono coronado	Least Concern
Diglossa albilatera	Pinchaflor flanquiblanqueado	Least Concern
Diglossa cyanea	Hemispingo Orejinegro	Least Concern
Pipraeidea melanonota	Tangara Coroniazafrán	Least Concern
Sericossypha albocristata	Tangara caretiblanca	Least Concern
Sphenopsis melanotis	Tangara Gorrinegra	Least Concern
Stilpnia heinei	Tangara Lentejuelada	Least Concern
Tangara nigroviridis	Tangara Montana Aliazul	Least Concern
Tangara xanthocephala	Tangara Pechihabana	Least Concern
Thlypopsis superciliaris	Hermispingo superciliado	Least Concern
Tityridae		
Pachyramphus versicolor	Cabezón Barreteado	Least Concern
Troglodytidae		
Cinnycerthia olivascens	Soterrey Caferrojizo (de Sharpe)	Least Concern
Cinnycerthia unirufa	Sotorrey rufo	Least Concern
Henicorhina leucophrys	Soterrey Colillano	Least Concern
Pheugopedius euophrys	Soterrey Montañés (Montañero)	Least Concern
Troglodytes solstitialis	Soterrey Montés Pechigrís	Least Concern
Turdidae		
Myadestes ralloides	Mirlo Grande	Least Concern
Turdus fuscater	Mirlo Negribrilloso	Least Concern
Turdus serranus	Solitario Andino	Least Concern



Grallariidae		
Grallaria hypoleuca	Gralaria ventriblanca	Least Concern
	Gralaria Coronicastaña (Tororoi	
Grallaria nuchalis	Coronicastaño)	Near threatened
	Gralaria Nuquicastaña (Tororoi	
Grallaria ruficapilla	Nuquicastaño)	Least Concern
	Gralarita Coronipizarrosa (Tororito	
Grallaricula nana	Coronipizarroso)	Least Concern
Hirundinidae		
Orochelidon flavipes	Golondrina nuvoselvatica	Least Concern
Pygochelidon cyanoleuca	Golondrina Azuliblanca	Least Concern
Icteridae		
Amblycercus holosericeus	Casique piqiamarillo	Least Concern
Cacicus chrysonotus	Cacique Montañés Norteño	Least Concern
Cacicus uropygialis	Cacique Subtropical	Least Concern
Psarocolius angustifrons	Oropéndola dorsirrojisa	Least Concern
Parulidae		
Basileuterus tristriatus	Candelita de Anteojos	Least Concern
Myioborus melanocephalus	Reinita Cabecilistada	Least Concern
Myioborus miniatus	Reinita Collareja (de Canadá)	Least Concern
Myiothlypis coronata	Reinita Coronirrojiza	Least Concern
Myiothlypis nigrocristata	Reinita Crestinegra	Least Concern
Setophaga fusca	Reinita Pechinaranja	Least Concern
Passerellidae		
Ammodramus aurifrons	Clorospingo Bigotudo	Least Concern
Arremon assimilis	Matorralero cejigris	Least Concern
Arremon brunneinucha	Clorospingo Común	Least Concern
Atlapetes schistaceus	Matorralero Pizarroso	Least Concern
Chlorospingus flavopectus	Matorralero Gorricastaño	Least Concern
Zonotrichia capensis	Gorrion criollo	Least Concern
Rhinocryptidae		
Scytalopus latrans	Tapaculo Coludo	Least Concern
Scytalopus micropterus	Tapaculo Negruzco	Least Concern
Thamnophilidae		
Drymophila striaticeps	Hormiguero Coronirrayado	Least Concern

RODENTIA		
Cricetidae		
Neusticomys vossi	Rata semiacuática de Voss	Not evaluated
Thomasomys sp.	Ratón andino	
Cuniculidae		
Cuniculus taczanowskii	Paca de montaña	Near threatened
Dasyproctidae		
Dasyprocta fuliginosa	Guatusa negra	Least Concern
Sciuridae		
Notosciurus granatensis	Ardilla de cola roja	Least Concern
CHIROPTERA		
Vespertilionidae		
Histiotus cadenai	Murciélago marrón orejón de Cadena	Least Concern
Phyllostomidae		
Anoura peruana	Murciélago rabón peruano	Least Concern
Sturnira bidens	Murciélago bidentado de hombros	Near threatened
Vespertilionidae		
Myotis keaysi	Myotis de patas peludas	Least Concern







Tyrannidae		1
Contopus fumigatus	Copetón Filipálido	Least Concern
Leptopogon rufipectus	Mosquerito Canelo	Least Concern
Mecocerculus poecilocercus	Mosquerito Cuellilistado	Least Concern
Mionectes striaticollis	Mosquerito Pechirrufo	Least Concern
Myjodynastes chrysocephalus	Pibí Ahumado	Least Concern
Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris	Pitajo Dorsipizarroso	Least Concern
Poecilotriccus ruficeps	Tiranillo Coliblanco	Least Concern
Pseudotriccus ruficeps	Tirano Enano Cabecirrufo	Least Concern
Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus	Tirano Todi Coronirrufo	Least Concern
Zimmerius chrysops	Tiranolete Caridorado	Least Concern
Vireonidae		Least concern
Cyclarhis nigrirostris	Vireón piquinegro	Least Concern
Vireo leucophrys	Vireo Gorripardo	Least Concern
PICIFORMES		
Picidae		
Colaptes rivolii	Carpintero Dorsicarmesí	Least Concern
Ramphastidae		
Aulacorhynchus albivitta	Tucanete Goliblanco	Least Concern
PSITTACIFORMES		
Psittacidae		
Amazona mercenarius	Amazona Nuquiescamosa	Near threatened
Pionus sordidus	Loro piquirojo	Least Concern
Pionus tumultuosus	Loro Gorriblanco	Least Concern
STRIGIFORMES		
Strigidae		
Ciccaba albitarsis	Autillo Canelo	Least Concern
Megascops albogularis	Autillo Goliblanco	Least Concern
Megascops petersoni	Búho Rufibandeado	Least Concern
TINAMIFORMES		
Tinamidae		
Nothocercus bonapartei	Tinamú Serrano	Near threatened
TROGONIFORMES		
Trogonidae		
Pharomachrus antisianus	Quetzal Cabecidorado	Least Concern
Pharomachrus auriceps	Quetzal Crestado	Least Concern
Trogon personatus	Trogon enmascarado	Least Concern
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MAMMALS		
ARTIODACTYLA		
Cervidae		
Mazama rufina	Venado rojo pequeño	Vulnerable
CARNIVORA		
Felidae		
Puma concolor	Puma	Vulnerable
Leopardus tigrinus	Tigrillo pequeño	Vulnerable
Mustelidae		
Eira barbara	Cabeza de mate	Vulnerable
Neogale frenata	Comadreja de cola larga	Least Concern
Procyonidae		
Nasua nasua	Coatí amazonico	Least Concern
Nasuella olivacea	Coatí andino	Datos insuficientes
Potos flavus	Cusumbo	Near threatened
Ursidae		
Tremarctos ornatus	Oso andino	Endangered
PRIMATES		
Aotidae		
Aotus lemurinus	Mono nocturno lemurino	Endangered
DIDELPHIMORPHIA		
Didelphidae		
Didelphis pernigra	Raposa andina	Least Concern
Marmosops sp.	Marmosa	
LAGOMORPHA		
Leporidae		
Sylvilagus brasiliensis	Conejo brasileño	Least Concern
PERISSODACTYLA		
Tapiridae		
Tapirus pinchaque	Tapir andino	Critically endangered
PILOSA		
Myrmecophagidae		
Tamandua tetradactyla	Tamandua sureño	Least Concern













A- 4000 seedlings at Technical School green house. **B**- Hydrologist, chefs, designers join us on trek to pilot site. **C**- Jesús caring for one of our orchid orphanages of rescued plants. **D**- Donation of 500 logma seeds to Chaco Educational Center rector Vicente. **E**- Students and neighbors learn about and taste uses of native plants such as Chachafruto (Poroton) vegan paté.

















F- Students from the Chaco Tech Educational Center help us present Cloud Forest products to over 1000 students. **G**- Sonia from Sacha Waysa community, with whom we're collaborating in parallel reforestation initiatives such as tracking the growth of chachafruto and nogal plants from seed to field. **H**- Agroforester, Biotechnologist, Botanists, Herpetologist and local support team at pilot site. **I**- Photographer and herpetologist Jaime in search of frogs and snakes.



ORGANIC

Can you imagine eating delicious, highly nutritious foods that rebuild forests and wildlife habitat? That's our aspiration. Combining lab work and food processing experimentation with local ancestral knowledge and a Food Network "Chopped" champion, we aim to elevate the food system.









A- Biochemist/food scientist Andrea selecting the logma fruits for processing;
B- Food research assistant Argelis making gluten-free baguettes with chachafruto flour;
C- Dragon's blood tree sap collection for cosmetic use;
D- Ginormous protein-packed chachafruto seeds for chips or planting;
E- Trilogy of Logma ice cream recipes with local chef;
F- Seed washing and selection at Cloud Forest Food Lab.





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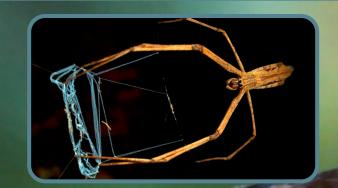






G- After 20 failed trials, Cloud Forest Crunch is born;
H- AgroCalidad and INIAP researchers Carlota and Elena, Ph.D., helping establish processing procedures for FDA compliance;
I- IDGEN Biotechnologists prepping wild tree leaves for DNA analysis. J- Testing cold-extraction tocte oil, and the nuts; K- Nütty Bunny vegan dairy dessert CEO Pamela, Food Network "Chopped" Champion Silvia and Craig at Fancy Food Show NY 2023; L- Tastetesting forest flavors with local foodie ecologists; M- At flour processing plant with Project manager Vicente, Argelis and Craig.

PROJECT AWARENESS



CINEMA VERDE

Earth

Award

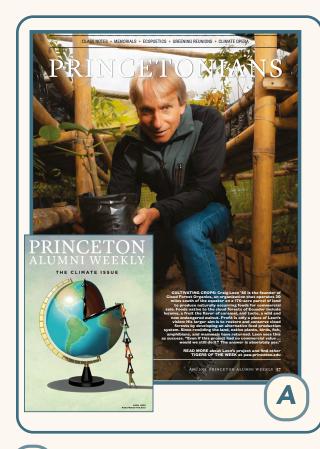
2023

DIPSAS SPEAKS

The short documentary Dipsas Speaks, filmed entirely on the project site, is a poetic reflection on the conflict between agricultural expansion and threatened wildlife. Following a series of awards in 2022, it won the Earth Award in 2023 and has been used by local and regional schools as well as educational programs in the US, including 15,000 students in the Bay Area of California. Film director Craig was named 2023 Science New Wave Luminary by the Labocine Film Festival. Link to the film

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Cloud Forest Organics (HBS '91): Building an R&D venture in Ecuador's Andean Amazon, where deforested lands are being converted back into cloud forest, one of the earth's most endangered biomes. By prioritizing cloud forest super foods and monitoring wildlife response, Cloud Forest Organics develops measurable and sustainable ways to combat climate change and restore biodiversity.

FIRST RECORD OF COMPLETE ALBINISM IN A SPECIES OF THE GENUS **PRISTIMANTIS** JIMÉNEZ DE LA ESPADA, 1870 (ANURA: STRABOMANTIDAE) IN THE ECUADORIAN ANDES PRIMER REGISTRO DE ALBINISMO COMPLETO EN UNA ESPECIE DEL GÉNERO **PRISTIMANTIS** JIMÉNEZ DE LA ESPADA, 1870 (ANURA: STRABOMANTIDAE) EN LOS ANDES ECUATORIANOS





IS FOOD FORESTRY THE WAY FORWARD?

Diverse economies and convivial conservation in the Cloud Forest Organics food forest in Ecuador.

ABSTRACT

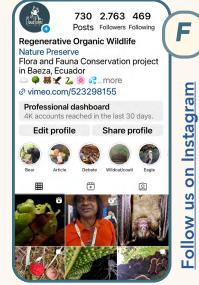
Our food system is broken. Deforestation, loss of biodiversity, unequal power relations are only a few of the issues caused by our industrialised and capitalist food system. In response, initiatives, like food forestry projects, are emerging to harmonise food production with nature conservation and local communities.





In 2023, Cloud Forest Organics garnered attention in scientific and academic journals and events. A- Princeton featured Project in April 2023 Climate Issue. B- Harvard included project in 2023 Entrepreneurship Climate Circle; C- Publication on first fully albino pristimantis frog in Latin America from Project site; D- Craig was guest speaker at Harvard African American Association's event for Earth Day and Arbor Day. E- Wageningen University researcher published a thesis on our reforestation model; F- Interactive online community grows organically.







2024+ GOALS

We are excited to continue working with local schools to facilitate continued reforestation and create new recipes from forest ingredients. We also plan to build out greenhouses with 1000s of more native tree seedlings.

We strive to complete the construction of an ecologically sound research center, recycling forest materials and incorporating everything from biodigesters to natural filtration systems.

We will geo-reference selected seeds and continue prioritizing edible and at-risk IUCN red list species, to support a much wider scale cloud forest reforestation. We hope our knowledge about how to reforest efficiently will facilitate a broader impact at scale.

Researchontheuses and properties of the native edible tree species will continue, including an in-depth study of protein superfood Erythrina edulis (chachafruto or poroton) based on an alkaloid study underway.

We plan to launch a new research program with a national university on naturally occurring toxicity remediation and stability of wild cloud forest food ingredients, to assure processing techniques enable new ingredients to meet international food safety standards. We also hope to attract leading international universities to the site. Community outreach includes collaboration on sourcing and processing forest ingredients for spectacular new organic foods and ingredients as another source of income.

A botanical survey that commences year-end 2023 will create a database of baseline plants, emerging plants within the distinct reforestation systems, as well as a deeper understanding of the medicinal, cosmetic and food potential of flora that first and foremost leads to cloud forest and wildlife habitat recovery.

Wildlife monitoring will continue species as more enter and use the forest. This will mammal involve ornithologists, herpetologists, hopefully experts, and arachnid, moth specialists. insect, and bee soon

Cloud forest water and hydrology studies are also important, as we measure impact of reforestation on water quality and abundance. Water is another resource endangered by deforestation.

As we diversify research efforts to understand and document how cloud forests can recover most quickly and abundantly, we also aim to continue growing the ethnic and gender diversity of our inclusive community of researchers, field staff, and everyone who **joins us on this adventure.**

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To support our work, please scan this barcode to make an online donation. Checks can be sent to: Jocotoco Conservation Organization Att: Cloud Forest Restoration Project P.O. Box 38274 Baltimore, MD 21231 Please write Cloud Forest Restoration on lower left of check. You will receive a tax-deduction letter from the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. THANK YOU



CLOUD FOREST