

## Monteverde Conservation League & Children's Eternal Rainforest



### Information for Researchers

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The Monteverde Conservation League (MCL) welcomes research in the Children's Eternal Rainforest (or "BEN", after the Spanish *Bosque Eterno de los Niños*). The BEN is one of the world's ultimate natural laboratories, and yet it remains virtually unstudied. Your research can help change that!

All research projects must be approved by MCL's research committee and/or executive director prior to the start of field work. Please submit the required information via email to [info@acmcr.org](mailto:info@acmcr.org).

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS**

#### **To apply:**

- Completed research application form (Form 1), including project proposal
- Researcher agreement form (Form 2)
- Agreement for collection of audiovisual material (Form 3), if applicable
- Copy of passport or Costa Rica identification card of principal investigator
- Copy of collection permit (SINAC/MINAE) and other applicable government research permits. *[The Costa Rican government requires special permits to conduct scientific research, as well as to collect and export specimens. Researchers who do not have the required permits will not be allowed to begin (or continue) their research in the BEN.]*

#### **Once project has been approved:**

- Payment of researcher fee: \$25 per project plus \$5 per field assistant, per year.
- Entrance or station fees: If not staying at one of the field stations, each person (researcher, field assistant, student, etc.) must pay the applicable trail entrance fee one time. If staying at a field station, reservations must be made and station fees paid in advance.
- All researchers must have their own health insurance. Researchers must provide MCL with a copy of insurance coverage upon request.
- During the course of the research project, researchers may be asked to give a talk or presentation about their work to MCL staff and/or visitors. This is a great way to support environmental education and promote research in the BEN.
- Final report: At the conclusion of the research project, a final report must be submitted to the MCL detailing the findings of the research. In the case of multi-year projects, an annual progress report must be submitted at the end of each year. Copies of any publications resulting from the research should be submitted to MCL.

## **LODGING AT FIELD STATIONS**

Special rates at San Gerardo and Pocosol Stations are available for researchers with approved projects. The nightly rate includes lodging and three meals per day. If you require lodging at San Gerardo or Pocosol, advance reservations must be made. Space at field stations is subject to availability; contact [info@acmcr.org](mailto:info@acmcr.org) for information and rates.

## **REMOTE SITES**

Special permission is required to conduct research outside of established visitation sites (San Gerardo Station, Pocosol Station, Bajo del Tigre, Finca Steller). It is possible that researchers at remote sites will need to be accompanied by MCL staff; this is determined by the research committee and additional fees apply. If your research design includes remote areas of the BEN, please discuss your plans with us well in advance.

## **AUDIO RECORDING, FILMING, AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

If your project involves audiovisual recording (audio, filming, and/or photography), please let us know. There is a separate form that applies to audiovisual recording. Audiovisual material collected for commercial or marketing purposes requires a separate, formal written agreement with ACM, and may potentially incur an additional cost.

## **DRONES**

The use of drones is permitted only with prior written authorization, and following the guidelines for appropriate drone use. Drones may not be used near wildlife, nests, other visitors, or sites determined to be sensitive by MCL. If a drone (or other equipment) is lost or lands in an area away from public access trails, the drone operator will not be permitted to search for it, and MCL staff is under no obligation to retrieve it. Drone use is permitted only the trails open to the public unless prior permission has been obtained for another site.

## **ACADEMIC GROUPS**

Some activities carried out by academic groups, particularly mist netting, camera traps, and activities that require manipulating species (for example, collecting plants or animals), require specific permission from MCL and in some cases from SINAC. If your group would like to carry out this type of activity, please contact us to make sure you have the necessary permission.

## **PAYMENT**

Payments may be made in the following ways:

1. **Cash payments** can be made at the Main Office (across from the gas station in Monteverde), in Bajo del Tigre, or at Finca Steller (La Tigra).
2. **Deposits** can be made to the following account:
  - Banco Nacional de Costa Rica
  - Cuenta en dólares # 100-02-000-602893-0
  - Cuenta cliente 15100010026028934
  - A nombre de la Asociacion Conservacionista de Monteverde
  - Cédula jurídica # 3-002-075864
  - If you make a direct deposit, you must send us a copy of the transaction confirmation for our records. In the payment detail, include the Principal Investigator's Name and "Research".

## **FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**San Gerardo Field Station** is located 7 km from Santa Elena de Monteverde, Puntarenas, at approximately 1,220 meters above sea level on Costa Rica's Caribbean slope. The station has 6 rooms with capacity for 32 visitors, 7 km of trails, a common area that can be used for teaching, and a porch from which visitors can enjoy a spectacular view of the Arenal Volcano. Each room sleeps up to 4 people, with 2 bunk-beds and a private bathroom. The station has electricity, but no internet or hot water. Lodging and three meals per day are included in the station fee. Blankets, sheets, towel, and soap are included. San Gerardo is a 3.5 km hike from the parking lot of the Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve. Transportation for luggage or field equipment in ATV is available at an additional cost.

**Pocosol Field Station** is located 13 km from La Tigra de San Carlos, at an elevation of 720 meters above sea level on Costa Rica's Caribbean slope. The station has 7 rooms with a capacity for up to 34 visitors, a classroom, and 10 km of trails leading to fumaroles and volcanic mud, a beautiful 3.5-acre lagoon, and a waterfall. The nightly rate includes lodging, three meals per day, blankets, sheets, towel, and soap. The station has electricity, hot water, and internet. Pocosol is accessible by 4-wheel drive vehicle; it is possible to coordinate transportation at an additional cost.

**Bajo del Tigre** is located in the heart of Monteverde and offers trails, visitors' center, education center, classroom, and medicinal plant garden. Elevation ranges from 1,020 to 1,350 meters above sea level on the Pacific slope. The forest at Bajo del Tigre represents a unique seasonal "rain shadow" forest (premontane rain forest and wet montane rain forest) not easily found in conservation in Costa Rica. Bajo del Tigre is easily accessible by vehicle or on foot from the village of Monteverde. Lodging is not available at Bajo del Tigre but is easily found in nearby Monteverde or Santa Elena; a homestay with a local family is also an option for researchers.

**Finca Steller** is located in San Gerardo de La Tigra de San Carlos, at 600 meters above sea level on the Caribbean slope. It has 4.5 km of trails, a reforestation nursery, and environmental education center. Lodging is available in nearby La Tigra; a homestay with a local family is also an option for researchers.