

## REPORT ON TRAINING FOR TWO GUARDS AT COCOBOLO NATURE RESERVE

No courses in protected area management, biodiversity assessment and conflict management could be identified that were within Panama and were being undertaken at the time necessary to complete the projects stated objectives.

In order to train Cocobolo Nature Reserve guards we decided to use CREA's own expertise (Dr. Michael Roy is a Lecturer of Conservation Biology and has many years of wildlife management experience) and those of Laurie Doss (is a certified US bird bander, member of the Audubon Society and Biology teacher) who was visiting Cocobolo Nature Reserve in January 2009.

Two field workers, Sr. Gonzalez and Sr. Rodriguez were chosen to participate in a capacity building workshop that lasted 20 hours over 5 days.

Both workers were trained in the following:

1. basic ecological principals;
2. tropical forest dynamics;
3. habitats, niches and life zones;
4. use of binoculars, GPS and note taking;
5. species identification (birds, mammals and reptiles) and use of guides;
6. mist netting and avian monitoring;
7. general monitoring for biodiversity and impacts;
8. conflict management.

Both students were provided with equipment from CREA, 2 pairs of binoculars, 1 GPS and 1 trail camera. It is planned that the equipment will be upgraded in the near future.

**Lessons Learnt:** In being able to undertake the training at CNR we had the advantage that the students were able to immediately take theory into practice and the practical elements into real life data collection. We shall still seek extra training for both employees but they have both proven to show great flare for this type of work. They are currently monitoring biodiversity and impacts of CNR for a long term study using GIS and are both involved in building awareness with local communities including activities with local primary schools.

**Some photos from the 5 days training:**

Using guides to identify birds and how to process birds caught in mist nets:



An exercise in conservation planning:



Field monitoring using camera traps (with ocelot caught recently):

