

## Expanding El Paujil Reserve for the Blue-Billed Curassow

In August of 2010 GCBO awarded a Tropical Forest Forever Fund grant to the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and their partners at ProAves to expand protection efforts at the El Paujil Bird Reserve in Colombia.

ABC and ProAves established this Reserve in 2004 in order to protect the Critically Endangered Blue-billed Curassow.

Today, the 12,441-acre El Paujil Reserve is the gem of the 700 mile-long Magdalena Valley. Along with a few other local parks, it represents less than two percent of the once 16.1 million acre Magdalena wilderness. Tragically, most of this wilderness has been lost to logging, agricultural expansion, cocaine production, and mining. The Magdalena Valley's deforestation rate between 1998 and 2007 has been between 5-7% a year.



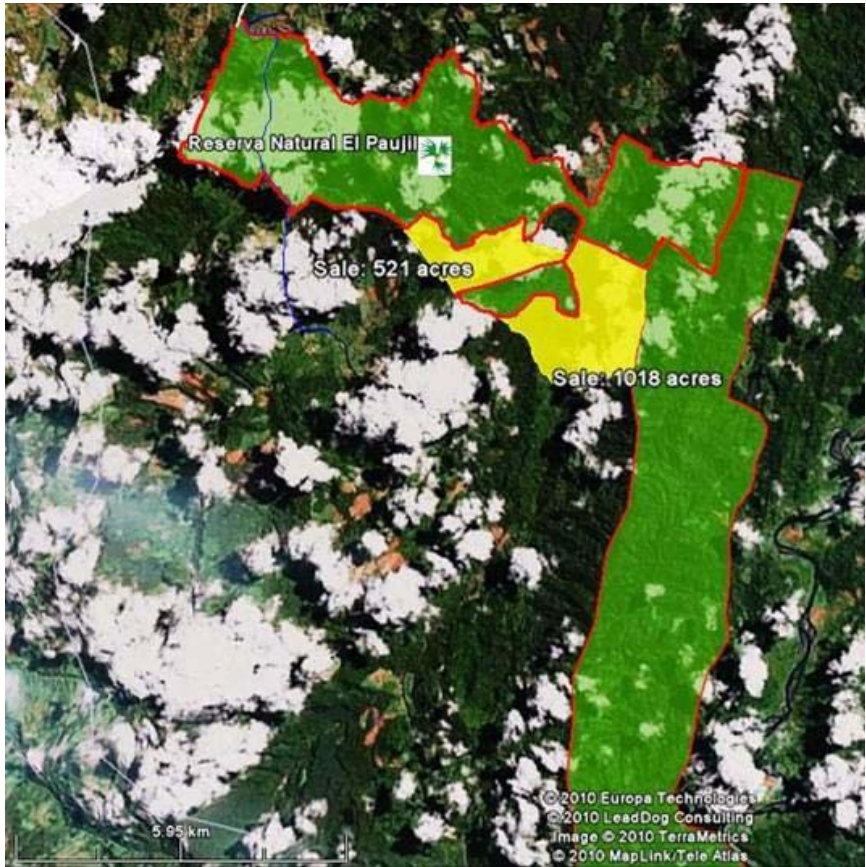
Photo by ProAves



Photo by ProAves

This beautiful valley has an exceptional diversity of endemic birds, plants, mammals, amphibians, and other groups, with many other endemic species including Critically Endangered Variegated Spider Monkey, considered one of the rarest primates on earth. Importantly, the area contains the last remnant populations of several large mammals such as the Magdalena Lowland Tapir (Critically Endangered Subspecies), Jaguar, and Spectacled Bear. The reserve also holds the world's largest population of Blue-billed Curassows. Although the bird has been spotted at nearby areas such as the Parmillo National Park, according to the IUCN, "only El Paujil Reserve is thought to receive adequate protection to safeguard this species" from threats such as egg-collection and hunting.

ABC and ProAves worked for over a year to raise \$220,705 of the total cost for the two Clavijo properties being purchased in order to link previously protected land forming the Reserve. Our TFFF grant of \$20,000.00 completes the funding for these two vital tracts totaling 1,539 acres.



A grant from the Tropical Forest Forever Fund will finalize the purchase of the two properties shaded in yellow, anchoring the other protected lands that form the El Paujil Bird Reserve in Colombia, South America.

Using these coordinates: [6:2:711N](#) [74:15:848W](#) and GoogleEarth you can view an image of the preserve.

Photo by ProAves