

Selva Zoque

The Selva Zoque, located at the juncture of the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Veracruz, supports a biological diversity not to be compared with any other in Mexico. It is the largest remaining tract of tropical rainforest in Mexico. According to the National Commission for Awareness and use of Biodiversity, this region hosts the majority of terrestrial biodiversity in Mexico. The challenge to conserve the remaining forest lies in balancing conservation with the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of local human populations.



LOCATION: The Selva Zoque is located in the eastern-central region of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and includes the southernmost portion of the state of Veracruz, northeastern Oaxaca and eastern Chiapas. El Ocote is the only area that is federally protected under a Biosphere Reserve Category.

SIZE: 1,000,741 ha (2,470,966 acres)

HABITAT: There are a variety of habitat types, such as rainforest, cloud forest, pine forest and riparian vegetation, along with great diversity of agroecosystems resulting from human settlement. Much of the region is now covered with grassland for cattle.



BIRDS: It is estimated that more than 600 species of birds live in this region. Great Curassow, Crested Guan and Ornate Hawk-Eagle are but a few species that one can find there. Many neotropical passerines also winter in this area that has been identified as a stopover site for over 200 migratory species.

CONSERVATION: Due to its biological importance, as well as providing significant environmental services, Pronatura has promoted sustainable development projects through a participative approach and involvement of local communities. In El Ocote Biosphere Reserve, Pronatura Chiapas has worked on several projects, and from 2000 to 2003 Pronatura facilitated an ecoregional conservation planning process that involved different organizations, academic institutions and

government agencies looking for ways to develop a common conservation and sustainable agenda for the region. The plan that resulted from this process is now a guide for decision makers to target their investments and tailor their policies toward long term conservation of the region. Pronatura Veracruz is completing this process with a conservation site plan and with the integration into the Coatzacoalcos Watershed, whose upper parts are located in the heart of the Selva Zoque.



Site Partner:

Pronatura Veracruz

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Diego Rivera 49.
Frac. Coapexpan.
C.P. 91070.
Xalapa, Veracruz, México

WEBSITE:

www.pronaturaveracruz.org