

Reserve Las Galarías 3 – Santa Rosa Tract



In 2018, GCBO made its third contribution toward the conservation of the Reserva Las Galarías in Ecuador, protecting another 250 acres of pristine cloud forest in the Rio Santa Rosa watershed. The reserve, which started in 1998 with an 18.75 acre purchase, now protects 1302.5 acres of Andean cloud forest habitat which is home to over 300 species of birds, some 38 species of mammals, and untold numbers of frogs, anoles, insects, orchids and more.

Project Title and Location: Reserva Las Galarías

Location: Mindo, Ecuador

Size: 250 acres

Grant amount: \$20,000

Date: 2018

Organization: Las Galarías Foundation



Las Galarias Glass Frog (new species discovered at RLG)



Rothschild's Porcupine at RLG

Summary

Reserva Las Galarias has grown from its original purchase of 7.5 hectares (18.75 acres) to now owning over 425 hectares (1063 acres) of habitat located along the equator in the northwestern Andes. We have purchased high quality and pristine habitat as well as cattle farms that contained portions of pristine cloud forest habitat and have regenerated the native cloud forest so that we now have the full complement of species known to occur in this mid-elevation Chocó endemic bioregion that harbors the highest concentration of endemic species of birds in the Americas. Also due to our location along a natural pass through the high elevation Andes the reserve is attractive to many northern migratory birds flying from North America to overwintering sites farther south and west and back again north. These northern visitors have included shorebirds on our patios, hawks in our trees and warblers and thrushes in our gardens as well as in our forest. Since its inception Reserva Las Galarias has had the same goal of purchasing, restoring and protecting habitat in this area. The current 260-hectare (650 acres) tract adjacent to our 200-hectare Santa Rosa property available for purchase shares a mile-long boundary with us. The landowners are actively advertising and trying to sell this property. They do not live on the property and are even considering renting it out for potato farming, a large-scale agroindustry that is spreading rapidly in the wider Mindo area and which has destroyed a large nearby tract on the south side of the old Nono-Mindo Road.

The importance of this property is that it harbors pristine cloud forest along both sides of the Santa Rosa River and protects a number of feeder creeks, with 13 waterfalls. The far northwest corner of the property touches our mid-elevation property as well as is fully adjacent to our Santa Rosa property thus providing an impressive corridor of forest and waterways between our various properties.

For a full location map of the property [click here](#).



Ornithological Researchers at RLG

[Click here](#) for an annotated list of publications from field work based at Reserva Las Gracias.