



Quirusillas Cloud Forest

Project Title: Quirusillas Cloud Forest

Location: Bolivia

Coordinates: 18°21'56.84S 63°58'36.85W

Size: 45 acres

Grant Amount: \$15,000

Date: 2011

Partner: WLT-US

Summary and Background:

The Tucuman Parrot (*Amazona tucumana*) is endemic to the Southern Yungas Cloud Forest ecoregion, a narrow strip of montane evergreen forest on the eastern slope of the Andes in southeastern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina. This parrot species is globally threatened with extinction as the population is declining rapidly due to habitat loss and capture for the pet trade. The global population is estimated to be 9,000 individuals, less than a third the number of individuals captured for the international pet trade in the mid to late 1980s. Though international trade was largely cut off after the species was listed on CITES Appendix I in 1990, the population has continued to decline.

In Argentina, more than 60% of the Yungas forests have disappeared and the remaining parrot habitat is highly degraded only occurring in small, isolated fragments. In Bolivia, where the largest fragments of suitable habitat remain, the southern Yungas ecosystem is considered to be highly threatened due to escalating forest destruction through logging and conversion for agriculture and pasture. Illegal capture of parrots for the pet trade continues in Bolivia and compounding this, nest trees are usually cut down to collect chicks.

Recent field surveys undertaken by Asociacion Armonia to map and monitor Tucuman Parrot nesting sites found the Quirusillas cloud forest to be an important breeding area adjacent to the organizations Laguna Esmeralda Reserve. Urgent action is needed to protect this Cloud Forest, the only area where successful nests were recorded in 2010 and its loss is gravely threatened by local timber industry expansion.

Utilizing the \$15,000 grant from GCBO's Tropical Forest Forever Fund the 18 ha (45- acre) Quirusillas cloud forest being acquired has the highest nesting density for the many cavities the old forest protects. Wintering in the area are several boreal migrants such as Peregrine Falcon, Swallow-tailed Kite, Swainson's Thrush, Barn Swallow, Red- eyed Vireo and Turkey Vulture.

Read all about Asociacion Armonia and their reserves on their website: www.Armonia-bo.org