



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY TROPICAL FORESTS

---

*Quito, Ecuador, 21-24 July 2010*

### INFORMATION ON THE FIELD VISIT TO COTOPAXI NATIONAL PARK (Saturday, 24 July 2010)



This is Cotopaxi National Park

---

#### COTOPAXI NATIONAL PARK

---

Rising majestically 60 kilometers south of Quito is a perfect cone shaped volcano named Cotopaxi. In indigenous tongues, Cotopaxi means "piece of the moon".

Surrounding the volcano are lakes, lava beds, spectacular mountain scenery and, of course, sparkling white glaciers.

Cotopaxi became a national park on 26 July 1979. The park encompasses 33,393 hectares and occupies parts of the provinces of Cotopaxi, Napo and Pichincha. Altitude within the park varies from 3,400 to 5,897 meters above sea level (19,348ft) at the top of the volcano. Cotopaxi is the second most visited national park after the Galapagos Islands

Upon entering the park, one of the first destinations is Limpiopungo Lake. The lake lies at 3,850 meters over the sea level and encompasses 200 hectares. Apart from the panoramic views encircling the lake, one can witness the flight of native birds such as the gaviotas de páramo, ducks and quilicos. Glimpses of curianguines, deer, rabbits, llamas, paramo wolves and the Andean condor.

Continuing towards the volcano, one passes an area aptly called the "lava fields". The remains of large rocks litter a grayish field of condensed lava - concrete reminders of Cotopaxi's previous eruptions and potential danger. The first documented history of Cotopaxi's eruptions date from 1534. The volcano destroyed the town of Latacunga in 1742, 1768 and 1877. Today, Cotopaxi is considered the world's tallest active volcano. Fortunately, its activity is monitored continuously by Ecuador's Geophysics Institute.

## TENTATIVE ITINERARY

---

Saturday, 24 July 2010

- Departure from Hilton Colon Quito Hotel at 8:00 a.m.
- Drive through “avenue of the volcanoes”
  - Trip through a 67km route in the Pan-American road.
- First stop at the Cotopaxi national park information center “Mariscal Sucre”
- Continue to “Limpiopungo” lagoon
- Arrive at the first safe house which is located at 4,500 meters above sea level.
- Lunch at Hacienda “La Cienega”
- Return to Quito and to Hilton Colon Quito Hotel – around 6 p.m.

## FEE

---

**The cost for this field visit to the Cotopaxi National Park is US\$40.** This is to be paid on the first day of the Conference.

## CLIMATE

---

Temperatures on Cotopaxi vary little throughout the year. The average daytime temperature is 45°F (7°C). Seasonal variations and night-time temperatures range between freezing and 68°F (20°C).

## CLOTHING

---

Visitors to the Park are recommended to bring several layers of clothes including a warm sweater and protective rain-wind jacket, hat, gloves and hiking shoes.

## CONTACT DETAILS

---

For additional information, please contact:

**Fundación Natura**

(593-2) 331-7457 / (593-2) 272-863 (ext. 302)

(593-9) 509-8774

From 8h30 to 17h00 (Ecuador time)

Attention: Ms. Lorena Coronel

[loronel@fnatura.org.ec](mailto:loronel@fnatura.org.ec)