

A close-up photograph of a jaguar's face, showing its distinctive spotted and striped pattern. The jaguar is looking slightly to the right with a focused expression. The background is dark, making the jaguar's features stand out. Overlaid on the left side of the image is green text.

TIPUTINI BIODIVERSITY STATION - TBS

In the heart of the most
biodiverse place on Earth

The Tiputini Biodiversity Station (TBS) is a biological field station established in Amazonian Ecuador in 1994 by the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ). Situated approximately 200 miles ESE of the capital within the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, TBS is steward of 1500 acres of pristine tropical rainforest on the Tiputini River, a major tributary of the Napo River.

What do we do:

Through continual studies on a broad array of topics, ranging from animal behavior to regional megadiversity and global climate change, TBS seeks to further our understanding of the complexities of primary Amazon rainforest. We then share acquired knowledge expansively through local to global educational outreach for the purpose of conserving the most biodiverse ecosystem on the planet.





How do we do it:

Tiputini encourages exploration and discovery by providing comfortable access to phenomenal nature combined with exceptional logistical support.

We facilitate in situ learning for scientists and students alike. Each year we receive dozens of researchers posing imaginative questions and thousands of students pursuing functional answers to the world's challenges, great and small.

Because much of the human race has limited contact with nature, we focus on raising the level of awareness about the wonders of the rainforest and pressures upon it as well as justifications for maintaining it.

We maximize learning and educational impact through experiential opportunities.

Why do we do it:

We believe Yasuní is worth keeping.

We believe education can provide solutions.

We believe the more you know, the more you care.

The more we know, the more we can share. As we strive to better understand nature, we pass along what we learn so that functional, effective conservation strategies may be implemented to save more species than could be achieved anywhere else on the face of the Earth.



TBS Facts:

1. Yasuní/Tiputini is the world's most biodiverse place.

A. In an area smaller than a football stadium (1 hectare), Tiputini forests have more species of trees than the U.S. and Canada combined.

B. The Yasuní Biosphere Reserve, similar in size to the state of Maryland, has 50% more species of frogs than the U.S. and Canada together.

C. Our region has 5 species of felines: jaguar, puma, ocelot, jaguarundi and margay. TBS camera-trapping results indicate record densities for jaguars and ocelots. Yasuní also has two species of wild dogs.

D. Yasuní is home to at least 10 species of monkeys.

E. TBS has documented the presence of 185 total mammal species including over 90 species of bats.

F. Our region has 600 species of birds including parrots, macaws, toucans, hoatzins, the Harpy Eagle, tiny hawk, curassows, caciques, scythebills and sicklebills, potoos, and tinamous.

G. Eastern Ecuador has over 500 species of fishes, including the electric eel and various knife eels, freshwater stingrays, armored catfishes and giant catfishes, oscars and dwarf cichlids, silver dollars and several piranha species.

H. A city block's worth of Tiputini rainforest has as many species of insects as all of North America north of Mexico.

I. An estimated 85% of species in our area have yet to be described and given scientific names.

J. It is entirely possible that more than 10% of all species worldwide occur in Yasuní.





2. Yasuní remains wild enough to still have uncontacted peoples living there.

3. Local indigenous groups use hundreds of medicinal plants that have not been adequately evaluated for potential clinical applications. Most modern pharmaceuticals have their origins in traditional uses of local flora.

4. The Yasuní Biosphere Reserve has been officially recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site.

5. Featured in world-famous documentary series and articles by BBC, National Geographic, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel and National Public Radio. In the February 1999 issue of National Geographic, journalist Virginia Morell called TBS "the most remarkable place" after visiting several sites across the globe to report on the overall status of biodiversity.

6. TBS researchers have published hundreds of scientific articles.

7. TBS has focused efforts on recovering the populations of river turtles through egg rescue and artificial incubation, with hundreds of hatchlings released every year.

8. Our camera trap program has led to a wealth of information, having harvested over a half million images of large fauna including 40,000 pictures of felines such as jaguars, and some of the rarest Amazonian mammals such as the short-eared dog.

9. TBS is a good neighbor, working with the Yasuní National Park as well as nearby indigenous communities toward sustainability in spite of changing conditions.



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