

## ECOENTERPRISES FUND

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### *FONDO ECOEMPRESAS, S.A.*

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#### Veragua Rainforest

[www.veraguarainforest.com](http://www.veraguarainforest.com)

Veragua Rainforest is the first day tour destination that offers a unique educational jungle experience to cruise passengers arriving in Puerto Limón, Costa Rica. The park opened its doors in July 2008 with activities including visiting frog, butterfly, and snake farms, hiking on suspended bridges through the jungle and waterfalls, and soaring through the forest canopy on a gondola tour.

Veragua is located in the buffer zone of La Amistad International Park, one of The Nature Conservancy's priority action sites for biological diversity conservation in Costa Rica. La Amistad is the core component of the Amistad Biosphere bi-national World Heritage Site shared between Costa Rica and Panama that protects the largest area of undisturbed highland watersheds and forests in southern Central America.

Located on 1,000 hectares land previously used for logging, Veragua Rainforest is constructed on 77 hectares of secondary forest with the remainder of the tract set aside for conservation, including 800 hectares of primary forest.

The Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), a world-renowned Costa Rican research institute on biological diversity ([www.inbio.org](http://www.inbio.org)), has partnered with Veragua. At the project site, INBio established its first biological station on the Atlantic Coast and provides educational instruction to visitors. Moreover, a percentage of the park's entry fee goes to furthering INBio's mission.

Limón is one of the poorest areas of Costa Rica, with an unemployment rate close to 18 percent. Veragua Rainforest will not only generate employment opportunities, but will serve as an engine for growth in the region.

EcoEnterprises Fund co-financed this investment with the project principals, Conservation International and a local bank.

Date Invested: September 20, 2006

Current Status as of December 2008: In operation and accepting visitors as of October 2008.