



Rainforest Action Group

Committed to the defence of rainforests worldwide

MINING OF LOS CEDROS BIOLOGICAL RESERVE



*Los Cedros Biological Reserve.
Photo: David Ni Castro*

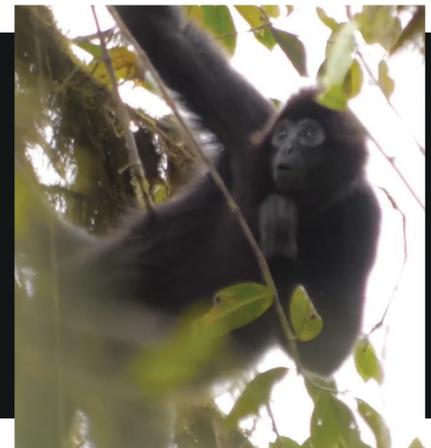
One of the protected areas conceded to Australian mining companies is the Los Cedros Biological Reserve which was set up with the help of the Australian Rainforest Information Centre almost 30 years ago, along with a substantial grant from AusAID.

The Los Cedros Biological Reserve consists of 17,000 acres of incredibly rare, premontane wet tropical forest and cloud forest, one of the most biologically diverse and endemic habitats on Earth. Over 95% of this forest type has already been lost.

Los Cedros is not accessible by road, and for this reason has been - until now - both better protected, and less scientifically explored than some other Protected Forest reserves in Ecuador. The biodiversity in this last intact watershed is remarkable, yet most of it remains to be discovered and understood.

Scientists have found in Los Cedros:

- 2 critically endangered species
- 24 endangered species
- 99 species listed as vulnerable
- 59 threatened or near threatened species



Los Cedros is being mined by Cornerstone Capital Resources in partnership with ENAMI, the Ecuadorian state mining company. SolGold hold a controlling interest of shares in Cornerstone, of which 40% is owned and controlled by Australian Nick Mather, founder of Arrow Energy, and owner of Armour Energy.

Mining concessions now cover 68% of Los Cedros's total protected area

