

## LAKE FOUND NEAR THE INKATERRA AREAS OF INFLUENCE

From January 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, soon after the discovery of a small lake close to one of Inkaterra's forest concessions, a series of excursions were organized to learn more about this unknown area. Being a water source, great biodiversity was expected to be found.

Participants for the first excursion were two ITA volunteers, an intern and the C. Gamitana Station staff (Mr. Pierre, Gamitana Station neighbor, was also invited). The second outing was convoyed by two Inkaterra Explorer Guides (Elías León and Glenn Ccari) and two CORBIDI volunteers.



*Explorers appreciating landscape and biodiversity near the discovered lake*

The straight distance from the river edge to lake's main access is 4.5km. In good weather conditions this would take approximately a 1-hour walk. However, due to rain and unstable ground that formed several mud puddles, the walk took about an hour and a half.

During a quick tour throughout the area, footprints of tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), peccaries (*Tayassu tajacu*) and agoutis (*Dasyprocta variegata*) were seen. It's a great place to find diverse species of amphibians and birds, as the route presents different kinds of forest: secondary, bamboo, flood and water bodies.

Regarding some of its characteristics, it is a narrow lake and the surrounding vegetation is mostly aguaje palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*). The color of water is dark. The team could only access the first and second body of water, due to the material of which the boat was built.



*The recently discovered lake*

In this small walk into the lake a small black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*) was observed, which means there are more specimens nearby.



*A small black caiman (Melanosuchus niger)*

It is also a good place to observe orchids, which are easily found along the trail leading to the lake. In short, it is a great ecosystem to be explored and conserved.



*One of the many orchids that were found on the way to the lake.*



*Satellite map view of the lake and concession Reserva Ecológica Inkaterra (REI)*