



Information Sheet of the Tropical Field Station La Gamba



Version Mai 2023



Contents

1. General
- 2a. Interns & Volunteers
- 2b. Master's Students & PhD Candidates
3. Prices
4. Useful Information
 - Hotels in San José
 - Luggage
 - Vaccinations
5. Short Information on Costa Rica
6. Literature
7. Research- and Collecting Permits

1. General

The *Rainforest of the Austrians* is a primordial rainforest in the south of Costa Rica, which was saved from logging by the purchasing initiative lead by the musician Prof. Michael Schnitzler. Today, the area is a part of the *Parque Nacional Piedras Blancas* and is thus protected permanently. The national park exhibits a great diversity of animal and plant species. This diversity is, historically speaking, due to Costa Rica's location on the Central American land bridge, which was only created about three to five million years ago but allowed migrations of animal and plant species from South America to North America and vice versa. In comparison with other tropical national parks, the *Rainforest of the Austrians* has the benefit of being easy to access and enter and can be visited without running any health risks (e.g., Malaria).

The *Tropical Field Station La Gamba* is a research and field trip station on the edge of the *Rainforest of the Austrians* in Costa Rica. Since its inception in 1993, it has developed into an efficient research station that is not only intensely used by researchers, teachers and students from Austria and other countries, but also serves as a *base camp* for rainforest excursions by lay persons. The station also offers interns and volunteers the possibility of participating in selected projects.



2.a Interns & Volunteers

In the course of their university studies **interns actively work on projects undertaken by the Tropical Field Station La Gamba (e.g., corridor project)**. An internship entails an autonomous project (research or conservation related) that must be conducted during a student's education and takes place at the Tropical Field Station La Gamba.

The internship must be of practical and scientific nature. The co-supervision on site is organized by the research coordinators of the Tropical Field Station La Gamba. Don't forget to contact the coordinators of the Tropical Field Station La Gamba regarding your work, available spaces, and registration.

An interest in biology is advantageous, as well as basic knowledge of the Spanish language.

Volunteers voluntarily work on projects and are instructed and attended to by the local supervisors. An interest in biology is advantageous, as well as basic knowledge of the Spanish language.

Requirements for Interns/Volunteers

Principally speaking, any interested party can visit the station and work on projects. In our experience, our youngest volunteers come to us just prior to or after the completion of high school. An ability to **work autonomously** is necessary as research supervisors are not always present on site. Knowledge of Spanish is very helpful and recommended. A personal meeting prior to visiting is beneficial.

Beware: We require a liability insurance for intern contracts for the time period of their internship!!

Who supervises an internship?

Interesting tasks will be devised by the supervisors in mutual agreement with the interns, as well as deciding upon a time frame for the internship at the Tropical Field Station La Gamba. The interns are prepared and looked after by the coordinators, graduate students, PhD candidates, project employees or local employees at the station. An ability to **work independently** is a prerequisite and **regular contact** with the supervisors is mandatory, as the coordinators and employees are not always on site. A daily protocol of activities and a final report of scientific nature is required to receive a confirmation for the stay and internship at the research station. The final report should contain a summary, introduction, methods, hypothesis, results and discussion must be finished no later than one month after completion of the internship.

How long does an internship last?

The minimum duration of an internship/volunteer position is **one month**. There is no restriction of duration beyond that. The topic of the collaboration is always adjusted to the duration of the stay.

Working hours for interns and volunteers:

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. -12a.m. and 2p.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 a.m.

What will I learn in an internship?

Participating in the station's projects allows you to gain insight into the operation of a research station, intimately experience the nature of the rainforest and make contact with other students, researchers and natives.

Currently, interns and volunteers mainly work with the **COBIGA** project (Corredor Biologica La Gamba – Biological Corridor La Gamba). The tasks are diverse and varied.

Some examples:

Permaculture: A lot comprising one hectare has been leased close to the Tropical Field Station La Gamba and converted into an experimental garden. Amongst others, the following tasks are carried out: Gardening activities such as the planting of plants, rejuvenation cuts on fruit trees, working with compost and worm compost, acceptance of seed material, measurements and data logging, harvesting of fruits and vegetables...

Reforestation: Collection of seed material in the rainforest, sowing and pricking of trees, planting of plants and transplanting of trees, fertilizing, supervision of growth experiments, measurements of mortality.

Please note, that all tasks will be performed according to demand. Some jobs are only possible at certain times of the year. As an example, no trees are planted on the fincas during the dry season (December – April) as the mortality would be unacceptably high. However, a lot of fruits and seeds ripen during this period, so that we focus on the production and collection of seed material during these months. Those trees will then be planted during the next planting season (April – November).



How much does an internship cost?

The station is supported by the University of Vienna and by the Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba. This allows us to keep the tiered lodging prices to a minimum.

The fees must be paid in cash on site in USD or Colones or with VISA/Mastercard (always at the end of a month). If you wish to do an online transfer, then it must be initiated prior to your stay.

Prices include lodging in rooms with 2-4 beds and full board (lunch is prepared before noon when the station has a low occupancy rate and must be warmed up at lunchtime).

Please find the current prices on our homepage:

<https://www.lagamba.at/tropenstation/preise/>

2.b Master's Students and PhD Candidates

Please make sure to contact us and your supervisor(s) on time if you would like to conduct your master thesis in La Gamba. In any case, you will require a **collecting- and research permit**. As the station collectively applies for a collecting permit twice per year (for January to June and for July to December of a given year), we need all relevant documents on time, i.e. two months before an application (end of April for collecting permits valid July through December and end of October for collecting permits valid January through July).

Topics: We can help you with the selection of a topic, this usually happens in agreement with your supervisor.

Important Scholarships:

KWA (Kurzfristige Wissenschaftliche Arbeit im Ausland):

<https://international.univie.ac.at/graduate-students/kurzfristige-auslandsstipendien-kwa/>

Scholarship: <https://www.lagamba.at/studium/stipendien-und-ausschreibungen/>

Interested parties please contact:

Dr. Werner Huber & Dr. Anton Weissenhofer
Department für Botanik und Biodiversitätsforschung, Rennweg 14, 1030 Wien Tel.
++43-1-4277-57420, tropenstation.botanik@univie.ac.at

www.lagamba.at

What do I have to do if I want to visit the Tropical Field Station La Gamba?

Please contact the station's coordinators

(tropenstation.botanik@univie.ac.at) and state the nature of the visit you are planning (Bachelor's thesis, Master's thesis, dissertation, research project, internship, volunteer or visit only).

The coordinators can aid in the selection of the topic for a research project. However, the scientific supervision of a project has to be undertaken by the professors of the respective field of study.

Required Steps

- In case of interest, contact the station's coordinators (see above) and if applicable, your supervisor(s).
- The duration and date of your stay will be clarified with us and if required, assistance in the selection of a topic will be provided
- Book a flight to Costa Rica (e.g., CTA Travel, Frau Fang, Gerstnerstraße 1/1, 1150 Wien, 01-892 4843, reisen-cta@chello.at)
- Visit our homepage www.lagamba.at and download the application, fill it out and send to us by email or mail.
- Should you require a collecting- and research permit for your research, please inform us **on time**. The station applies collectively for a collecting permit twice per year: (period of validity January 1 through June 31 of a given year (register with us until the beginning of November of the previous year) and 2. From July 1 through December 31 of a year (register with us until the beginning of May). We recommend you join this collective application for a collecting permit, as it is significantly less complicated this way.
- After the confirmation of your visit you fly to Costa Rica, drive to La Gamba and you are set! Good Luck and have fun!

How do I get to the station?

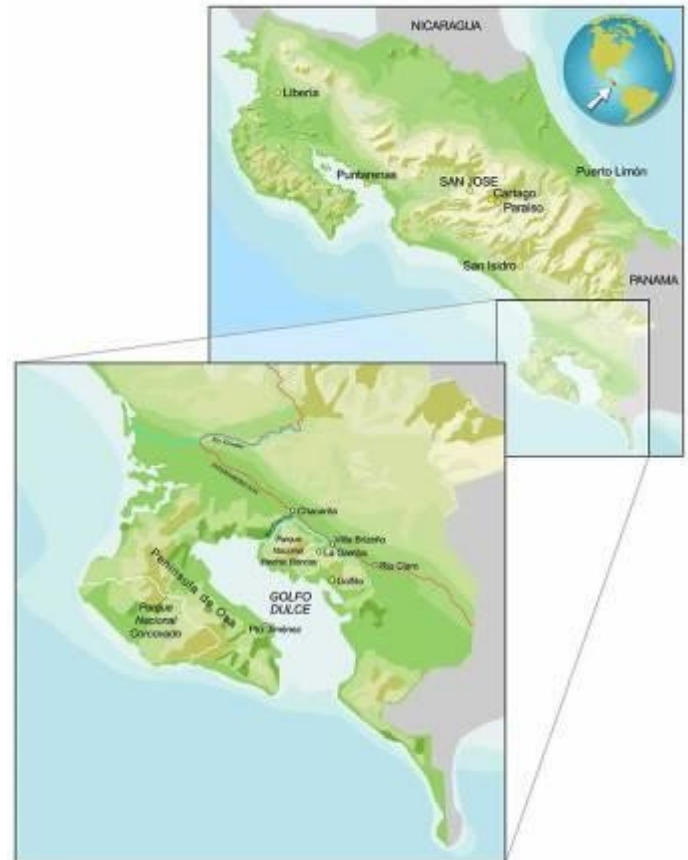
Bus: Public buses (bus operator: Tracopa) run from San José to Golfito, Rio Claro or Villa Briceno (better known to many bus drivers as 'km 37', i.e. kilometro treinta y siete). It is best to take a cab from these places to get to the station, which is reachable year-round via a dirt road from the Interamericana. San José - Golfito, Rio Claro or km 37 (Villa Briceno), (several times per day), ca. 300 km, ca. 7-8 hours., ca. 15 USD

Airplane: San José - Golfito (up to 3x per day), ca. 50 min. flight time, price approx. 150 USD; Note: a surcharge applies for baggage exceeding 10kg (approx. 4 USD per kg)!

Rental car: We have made good experiences with Dollar rent a car (a 4x4 is recommended). Additional information also available from Patrick at the Casa Leon (see hotels in San Jose)! San José - km37 (Villa Briceno) approx. 6-7 hour drive. Golfito - Tropical Field Station: 8 km, approx. 20 min by car. Rio Claro - Tropical Field Station: 15 km - about 30 min by car.

Villa Briceno km 37/Interamericana - Tropical Field Station: 5 km - about 15min by car.

La Gamba - Tropical Field Station: 2 km - approx. 5 min by car.



We ask all our guests to please calculate the dates of reservation exactly and keep to their declared arrival and departure dates. Thank you!

3. Registration and Rates

The station is available year-round to students and researchers from all countries and areas of research. The station prices include lodging in double- to multi-bedrooms, full board and use of the scientific equipment.

Current prices can be found on our homepage:

<https://www.lagamba.at/en/tropical-field-station/rates/>

4. Useful Information for Your Costa Rica Visit

Hotels in San José

Hotel Casa Leon (Patrick is Swiss and speaks German)
Avenida 6, Calles 13-15, de la Clinica Drs. Echandi 70 mts noreste , San José
Tel. 00506 222 9725 email:
casa_leon_sa@hotmail.com
Internet: www.hotelcasaleon.com

Luggage and Equipment

- Suitcase, backpack etc.
- Small daypack
- Sturdy shoes (hiking boots) and sandals
- Warm clothing for the mountains (pullover, fleece jacket for the mountains)
- Sufficient light clothing (also long-sleeved shirts or similar against mosquito bites)
- Rain protection, perhaps an umbrella (helpful when taking photographs in the rain)
- Swimwear
- Sun and mosquito protection, sunglasses, headgear
- Travel first aid kit
- Pocketknife, flashlight (head lamp)
- Binoculars
- Camera
- Vaccination certificate

Money

- Currency: Colones; 1 USD = 530 Colones (as of May, 2023), USD and Euros can be changed at all banks.
 - Credit cards: You can withdraw money with most major credit cards (VISA, Mastercard) in all cities.
- Otherwise, we recommend bringing USD (100 dollar bills are often rejected!).
- ATM cards: only work at some ATMs in Costa Rica. Keep in mind, that since January 1, 2015 cash withdrawals with ATM cards in foreign countries (outside of the European Union) are only possible after prior clearing from your bank.

Telephone

Code from Austria to C.R.: 00506
Code from C.R. to Austria: 0043

Time difference

Standard time 7 hours, Summertime 8 hours

Power

110 V Voltage, a converter is required (US Standard). 230 V Schuko-plug is available in the station's lab.

Austrian Consulate in San José

Honorargeneralkonsulat San José - NIEHAUS MEINERT Dirk | Honorarkonsul

Telefon:

(+506) 2221 4306

E-Mail:

consulado.austria.cr@gmail.com

Botschaft Mexiko - KEHRER Elisabeth, Dr.iur. | ao. und bev. Botschafterin

Telefon:

(+52/55) 52 51 08 06 (Amt)

E-Mail:

mexiko-ob@bmeia.gv.at

www.aussenministerium.at/mexiko

www.embajadadeaustria.com.mx

Make a photocopy of your passport and your airline ticket, these can prove very useful should you happen to lose the originals. A copy of your passport and entry stamp are sufficient to positively ID yourself.

Vaccinations

In general, no compulsory vaccinations are required for Costa Rica.

We recommend

Vaccination against Tetanus-, Diphtheria and Polio, Typhoid fever as well as Hepatitis A and B.

Malaria

Costa Rica is a Malaria A region with a low number of Malaria cases. Only four cases were detected in the past years, making an infection highly unlikely. The WHO still recommends a therapeutic drug (Malarone/Resochin). No Malaria cases were detected in La Gamba in the last years.

For detailed information contact:

Inst. for Tropical Medicine

Kinderspitalgasse 15

Tel. 403 83 43

Ordination Dr. Traxler

Neue Weltgasse 19/5

1130 Wien

Tel./Fax: 877 31 25

Individual consultation, slide shows on travel medicine!

Inst. für Sonnen- und Tropenmedizin

Lenaugasse 19

1080 Wien

Tel. 402 68 61-0

Opening hours: phone consultation: Mo-Fr: 8am – 4pm

Ord.: Mo-Fr: 4pm – 7pm

Medical examinations of tropical relevance after prior arrangement!

Center for travel medicine:

www.reisemed.at

Austrian Foreign Ministry:

www.bmeia.gv.at

First aid kit for travelers

Drug against diarrhea, nose drops, disinfectant, materials for dressings such as gauze bandage, aspirin, throat lozenges and medications of personal use.

5. Short Information on Costa Rica

Location:

Central America. Costa Rica borders Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the south, the Pacific to the west and the Caribbean to the east.

Geography:

The cordilleras range from the SW to the NE and reach an altitude of 3852m (Chirripo). They form the climatic border between the Caribbean and Pacific region.

Area:

51.000km², approx. 2/3 the size of Austria

Length/Width:

max. length 464km, min. width 119km, max. width 259km

Inhabitants:

4,857 Mio. (World Bank 2017)

Population:

87% are descendants of Spanish settlers, 7% Mestizos, 3% Blacks, 2% Asians and 1% Indigenous.

Language:

Spanish is the official language, English in the Caribbean, indigenous languages in the reservations.

Government:

The most stable democracy in Central America! There was civil war of 6 weeks duration in 1948 due to drastic censorship. The military was abolished right after the civil war. The constitution of 1949 is valid to this day.

Religion:

Freedom of religion; 81,3 % catholic, smaller denominations (Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Adventist and Jehova)

Education:

Education rate 93%, compulsory schooling since **1869**, 12 universities

Currency:

Colon, 1 Colon = 100 Centimos; 1 USD = 620 Colones (as of August 26, 2021)

Economy:

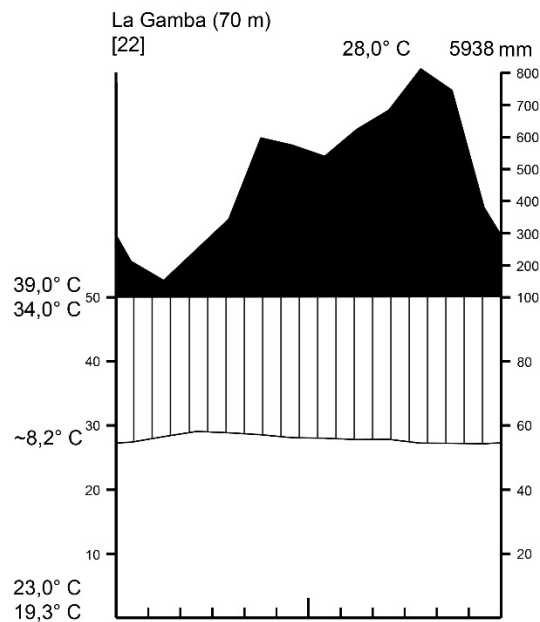
Mainly agriculture and service industry, some industrial and natural resources (Bauxit), main items of export are bananas and coffee, tourism is an important source of income since a few years (**6 Mrd. USD per year**), unemployment rate 4%.

Nature:

over 140 protected Areas, of which 13 are National Parks, many nature reserves, all in all approx. 25% of the country is protected (corresponds to the size of Tyrol and Corinthia together). High biodiversity due to its location between North- and South America and the orographic diversity. Estimated number of vascular plant species 10.000. Known vertebrate species 1529 (127 fishes, 150 amphibians, 199 reptiles, 850 birds! 203 mammals). A biodiversity study is in the works (INBio).

Climate:

Tropically moist with an average temperature of 28°C in the lowlands, precipitation varies between 1500 mm in the north to over 6.000mm in the south. Diurnal climate in the higher cordilleras. Increase of precipitation due to orographic rainfall up to about 2.400m asl.



Quelle der Klimadaten: Tropenstation La Gamba, Diagramm erstellt von: Susanne Pamperl

6. Literature

Visit our homepage www.lagamba.at . There you can find publications (master theses, projects etc.) that were undertaken in the Nation Park Piedras Blancas, Rainforest of the Austrians.

Travel Guides

- Blake & Becher. Costa Rica. Ulysses Press. engl.
- Haber, H. Costa Rica. Apa Guide. Good general information on the nature and culture of C.R.
- O`Bryan & Zaglitsch. Costa Rica. Peter Mayer Reiseführer.
- Kirst Detlef. Costa Rica Handbuch. Reise Know How.
- Rachowiecki, R. & al. Central America. engl. Vlg. Lonely planet.
- Rachowiecki, R. & al. Mittelamerika Handbuch. G. Walther Vlg.
- Rachowiecki, R. Costa Rica-Handbuch. G. Walther Vlg.
- Rachowiecki, R. Costa Rica. Lonely planet.
- Thomas, P. Reiseführer Costa Rica. Tucan Verlag.
General travel guide with a lot of information on the country.
- Denzer, W. Reiseführer Natur. Costa Rica. BLV - Verlag 1997.
- Fuchs. J. Costa Rica. Verlag Hans Schiler.
A nature guide for national parks and reservations with practical travel advice

Scientific literature on Costa Rica's nature

Allen, P.H. 1956. The rainforests of the Golfo Dulce. Stanford Press.

Alvarado, G. 1993. Costa Rica-Land of Volcanoes. Gallo Pinto Press.

Beletsky, L. 1998. Costa Rica. The ecotravellers´ wildlife guide. Academic Press.

Boza, M. A. 1988. Costa Rica-National Parks. Editorial Heliconia-Fundacion Neotropica-San José, Costa Rica.

A book with a lot of photos and information on all of Costa Rica's National Parks.

Croat, Th.B. 1978. The Flora of Barro Colorado Island. Stanford Univ. Press.



- Emmons, L. 1990. Neotropical rainforest mammals-a field guide. University of Chicago Press.
Contains a lot of photos of mammals, distribution maps and species descriptions.
- Gentry, A. H. 1990. Four neotropical rainforests. Yale University Press.
Scientific book on the rainforest biology of four different tropical forests in Costa Rica, Brasil, Panama, and Peru.
- Hammel, B. 1999. Plantas ornamentales nativas de Costa Rica. Inbio.
- Henderson, A., Galeano, G., Bernal, R. 1995. The palms of the americas. Princeton.
- Holdridge, L.R., Poveda, L.J., Jiménez, Qu. 1997. Arboles de Costa Rica. Vol. I. Centro Científico Tropical.
A book with a lot of photos and information on all of Costa Rica's National Parks.
- Janzen, D.H. (ed.) 1983. Costa Rican Natural History. University of Chicago Press.
Natural history of Costa Rica showcasing geology, climate, agriculture, important plants, and animals. Highly recommended!
- Jimenez, A.J. 1994. Los manglares del Pacifico Centroamericano. Editorial Fundacion UNA.
- Maas, P.J.M., Westra, L.Y.Th. 1993. Neotropical plant families. Koeltz.
- Morales, F.J. 2001. Orquídeas, cactus y bromelias del bosque seco. Costa Rica. Inbio.
Plant guide for the most important trees of the region.
- Ridgeley, R. & Gwynne, J. A. jr. 1989. A guide to the birds of Panama, with Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras. (2. ed.). Princeton University Press.
Standard reference for ornithologists with a lot of photos!
- Rodríguez-Caballero, R. F. & al. 1896. Géneros de orchideas de Costa Rica. Editorial Universidad de Costa Rica.
Scientific book about the most important orchid genera in C.R. with detailed drawings.
- Sehnal P. & H. Zettel (Eds.) 1996. Esquinas Nationalpark. Der Regenwald der Österreicher in Costa Rica. - Wien: Naturhist. Mus. Wien.

General Books on Tropical Biology

- Amerika - Zur Entdeckung-Kulturpflanzen-Lebensraum Regenwald. Katalog zur Ausstellung "Lebensraum Regenwald" im Schloßmuseum Linz. ISBN 3-900 746-53-2
This book describes rainforest research, starting with Maximilian's Brazil trip 1859-1860 up to today's rainforest issues.
Recommended!
- George, U. 1989. Regenwald-Vorstoß in das tropische Universum. Geo im Verlag Grunner +Jahr AG & Co., Hamburg.

Popular science book with fascinating photos.

Vareschi, V. 1980. Vegetationsökologie der Tropen. Ulmer Verlag.

Scientific standard reference on the vegetation forms in the tropics. From the lowland rainforest to the Paramo.

Books Released by the Tropical Field Station La Gamba

ALBERT R., W. HÖDL, W. HUBER, M. RINGLER, P. WEISH & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2005**. The amphibians and reptiles of the Golfo Dulce region, Costa Rica. Corcovado Nationalpark, Piedras Blancas Nationalpark „Regenwald der Österreicher“. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna.

ALBERT R., W. HUBER, S. PAMPERL, W. WANER, A. WEBER & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2013**. 20 Jahre Tropenstation La Gamba. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna.

DOLEZEL M., W. HUBER, W. NIEL, S. ÖLZANT, A. WEBER & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2002**. Helikonien und Kolibris – der Regenwald der Österreicher in Costa Rica, Ausstellungskatalog, Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna.

HUBER W., D. SCHABER, A. WEBER & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2009**. Fruits in Costa Rican Markets, Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna.

HUBER W., A. WEISSENHOFER, R. ROITINGER, R. ALBERT, G. BRUCKMÜLLER, F. SCHÖBERLEITNER & S. WAHLHÜTTER. **2009**. Das Leben hier und dort – La vida aquí y allá. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna.

JARAU S., L. MORAWETZ, C. REICHLER, M. H. GRUBER, W. HUBER & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2009**. Corbiculate Bees of the Golfo dulce Region, Costa Rica. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba.

KRENN H., M. WIEMERS, L. MAURER, V. PEMMER, W. HUBER & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2010**. Butterflies of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna.

NEUWIRTH G., O. BREUSS, W. HUBER & A. WEISSENHOFER. **2011**. Lichens of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica – Corcovado National Park, Piedras Blancas National Park, „Regenwald der Österreicher“, Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna, Austria.

RAKOSY D., SPECKMAIER M., WEBER A., HUBER W. & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds) **2013**. Orchids: Botanical Jewels of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba. Vienna. Austria.

SAUBERER N., G. TEBB, W. HUBER & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2007**. The birds of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica. Corcovado Nationalpark, Piedras Blancas Nationalpark „Regenwald der Österreicher“. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba, Vienna.



- SCHIEMER F., HUBER W. & A. WEISSENHOFER. **2010**. Stream Ecosystems of Costa Rica. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba.
- SCHNEEWEIHS S., W. HUBER & A. WEISSENHOFER (eds.). **2009**. Dragonflies of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba.
- SEHNAL P. & H. ZETTEL (Eds.) **1996**. Esquinas Nationalpark. Der Regenwald der Österreicher in Costa Rica. - Wien: Naturhist. Mus. Wien.
- WEBER A., W. HUBER, A. WEISSENHOFER, N. ZAMORA & G. ZIMMERMANN. **2001**. An introductory Field Guide to the Flowering Plants of the Golfo Dulce Rainforests - Corcovado Nationalpark and Piedras Blancas Nationalpark („Regenwald der Österreicher“), Linz: OÖ Landesmuseum, Stapfia 78: 465pp and plates. (seven scientific papers from University of Vienna. total contents see in the APPENDIX attached to this list).
- WEISSENHOFER A., W. HUBER, T. KOUKAL, M. IMMITZER, E. SCHEMBERA, S. SONTAG, N. ZAMORA & A. WEBER. **2008**. Ecosystem diversity in the Piedras Blancas National Park and adjacent areas (Costa Rica), with the first vegetation map of the area. In: Natural and Cultural History of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica. Reprint of Ecosystem diversity in the Piedras Blancas National Park and adjacent areas (Costa Rica), with the first vegetation map of the area. In: Natural and Cultural History of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica, Linz: OÖ Landesmuseum, Stapfia 88.
- WEISSENHOFER A., W. HUBER, V. MAYER, S. PAMPERL, A. WEBER & G. AUBRECHT (Hrsg.) **2008**. Natural and Cultural History of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica, Linz: OÖ Landesmuseum, Stapfia 88: 768 pp. (64 scientific papers from University of Vienna; total contents see in the APPENDIX attached to this list).
- WEISSENHOFER A., W. HUBER, E. CHACÓN MADRIGAL & M. LECHNER. **2012**. Creando un bosque – Árboles para corredores biológicos en la región de Golfo dulce, Costa Rica / Creating a forest – Trees for biological corridors in the Golfo Dulce region, Costa Rica. Verein zur Förderung der Tropenstation La Gamba. Vienna. Austria.

Maps

Travel Map of Costa Rica. 1: 500.000. I.T.M. Prod

7. Guidelines for Research-, Collecting- and Export Permits – Costa Rica

You require a research- and collecting permit for conducting research in Costa Rica. In case you wish to publish your data, keep in mind that an increasing number of journals demand to know your research permit number and will seek to verify it. Illegal research and collecting are a criminal offense in Costa Rica!

For **excursions or field trips** only the **persons in charge** require a valid research permit.

Ω Should you wish to research and/or collect in **multiple zones** (beside ACOSA), please contact Mrs. Lourdes Vargas in San Jose (MINAE in San Jose), as she oversees research permits for multiple zones.

Ω An application for a research permit needs time. Please contact us in a timely fashion. The Costa Rican authorities require **a three-month period** for the verification of your data.

Ω If you wish to collect plants, fungi, animals, or soil samples during your research, then you must state the number of samples as exactly as possible in your application.

Important: The application must contain **geographical information** on your planned research area as well as a statement regarding the effect your collecting activities may have on the habitat(s).

Ω In case you only will be **observing** or making **audio recordings** and will not be collecting physical samples, than you can apply for a permit for observations rather than a full research permit, which costs 10 USD less.

To facilitate the bureaucratic expenditure, we offer the possibility of taking part in our twice-yearly collective application for the **ACOSA region**. Just fill out the application on this page and send it to us.

To obtain your research permit and hand it over to you on time in Costa Rica, we require the following items **no later than three months** prior to your stay in Costa Rica:

Ω A passport photo in jpg format (min. 1024 x 768 px).

Ω a copy of your passport in jpg format.

Ω a Curriculum Vitae, in Spanish¹ as an MS-Word document.

Ω a project description as an MS-Word document in Spanish¹, the necessary template can be found at <https://www.lagamba.at/forschung/forschungsgenehmigung/>

Ω A filled-in application as an MS-Word document can be found at <https://www.lagamba.at/forschung/forschungsgenehmigung/>

Beware! An extra application is required for genetic and biochemical research! Further information can be found **online**. Should you desire to conduct research in these fields, please also contact the administration of the Tropical Field Station La Gamba:

University of Vienna Wien, Department für Botanik und Biodiversitätsforschung
Rennweg 14, 1030 Wien
Telefon: 0043 1 4277 57420 Fax:
0043 1 4277 9541
tropenstation.botanik@univie.ac.at

You will receive your research permit for **USD 80 (USD 60 as an employee of the University of Vienna)** at the Tropical Field Station La Gamba.

¹ Should you require translation services please contact Mag. Andres Reyes (0,1 € per word).

You can enter your data in an online application at:

<https://www.lagamba.at/forschung/forschungsgenehmigung/>

As research laws have changed, you are now required to contact us prior to your departure to verify the current permit situation in Costa Rica.

If you conduct research without having applied for a research- and collecting permit and/or export samples without an export permit, be aware that this represents a punishable offense when departing Costa Rica and entering Europe and will have consequences. Please understand that this represents a severe inconvenience for the Tropical Field Station La Gamba and the University of Vienna.

Thank you for your understanding!

Important changes:

- 1.) A special application is required for genetic research. Please contact the administration of the Tropical Field Station La Gamba in a timely fashion.
- 2.) The applicants are obligated to send a written summary of their research activities in triplicate to the Area de Conservación. In the case of La Gamba, this is ACOSA.

Export Permit

This permit must be obtained by any party that wishes to export samples (plants, animals, soils, or any other samples). **Please apply two to three weeks in advance.**

Period of validity: one permit is required per exportation.

What is required?

1. A filled application with a list of the objects you wish to export (this can be found on our homepage: [www.lagamba.at/forschung/forschungsgenehmigung/.](http://www.lagamba.at/forschung/forschungsgenehmigung/))
2. Confirmation of a cooperating institute in Costa Rica (e.g., Museo Nacional or INBio)

What steps do I have to take? (**NEW REGULATIONS!**)

Fill out the application and call or email SINAC-MINAE. Preferably, make a personal visit.

SINAC - Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación de Costa Rica
Ing. Javier Guevara Fax: 00506 256-03-29, Tel: 00506 256-09-17, Calle 1, Avenida 15, San José, al costado sur de la ULACIT (eso es 200m más al norte de donde estábamos antes)

Obtain the confirmation of the cooperating institute in Costa Rica (this can usually be issued immediately on site):

Museo Nacional – Telfax: 00506 22337164, email: museohn@sol.racsa.co.cr oder INBio
– Tel. 00506 22440690 oder 22440692, Fax. 22442816)

Hand over this confirmation to the SINAC. You will receive the export permit after approx. two to five days (30 USD).

Important Information:

When exporting herbarium records you are required to enquire with the herbarium of the Museo Nacional if a duplicate of the record(s) is desired.

Special rules apply for the exportation of animals, please enquire with the listed institutes!

Important: Heed the CITES-regulations!