

## Project Update: June 2011

Now with the beginning of the rainy season we are able to witness the astonishing abundance of frogs and toads that gather along the streams and rivers to mate and breed. We take advantage to broaden our monitoring and assess the general amphibian diversity in our study area. While diurnal frogs show less activity and are barely seen these weeks the nights are filled with a concert of frog calls and individuals can be spotted on the ground or situated on vegetation close by the water.

In cooperation with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama City we were able to take swab tests from various frogs in order to investigate the spread of the Chytrid fungus disease. The Cocobolo Nature Reserve is up to date free of fungus, nonetheless we are aware of the imminent threat and take all precautions to prevent the introduction of the disease through cleaning and bleaching all items, namely boots, that could carry infected material from outside to the reserve.

Chytrid could condemn vulnerable small populations such as *Atelopus limosus* to extinction and we will keep monitoring the area for signs of the disease.

