



PACUARE RESERVE
ECOLOGY PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

OBSERVATION OF AGAMI HERON PROTOCOL



We are thankful for your interest in visiting Pacuare Reserve, place of observation and research of the Agami Heron. We invite you to read this information related to the monitoring program and the guidelines to visit this sanctuary.

The Monitoring Program for the Nesting Colony of Agami Heron is running since 2004. We have all the requisites of the National System of Protected Areas in Costa Rica (SINAC acronym in Spanish)

The Agami heron:

This heron is considered the most beautiful of all the herons mainly because the color of its plumage during the reproduction stage. Agami Heron is classified as "vulnerable" in The Red List of the UICN, also in registers it appears as a species with little information about. Due to different threats, especially habitat lost, it is possible to witness a decrease in the populations during the next years.



Target of the Research:

- Monitor the nesting colony to count, keep track of the nests per year, and the success of the hatching (percentage of alive hatchlings) and the amount of successful births per year.
- Document threats for the nesting population.
- Recommend actions to decrease the impact of the found threats.
- Measure and know the impact of the human visitation in the behavior of the species-

There is no record that says this population is big, regards its wide general range. However, it is documented that this is a congregated species which depends on few sites for big colonies spread in the area of distribution. This fact shows clearly vulnerability towards perturbations in other places, feeding habitat lost for the colonies or changes in the non-reproductive seasons.



Pacuare Reserve as a Key Spot in Monitoring

Pacuare Reserve keeps active the research of the Nesting Colony of Agami (*Agamia agami*), reasons why all the visits to the place must be within the frame of research and data collection. The visitation guidelines must be followed.

Visitation Guidelines:

1. All the visitors should hear a talk in which the introductory protocol is explained, before the visit to the sanctuary. The Protocol for the Monitoring Project with Agamis include: ecology, natural history, research, and others.
2. Visits can be only between 6:00hrs and 16:00hrs
3. Due to this is a fragile ecosystem no more than six people should go in each group, including people of our staff. For bigger groups, people must be split up and take turns.
4. All the visitors must be accompanied by authorized research staff. The visit includes data collection and that can take more than only 20 minutes.

Visitation Guidelines:

5. Photographers can stay up to 2 or 3 hours, but they must inform previously the time they will need to the research staff member. It is necessary to do it before getting the place for an appropriate coordination.
6. All visitors must be within the limits of the main viewpoint, behind the protection net. They are not allowed to walk or surround the barriers.
7. Complete silence is required during the monitoring process.
8. Pictures without flash are allowed only in the morning. Lights or lasers are prohibited.
9. Clothing must camouflage with the vegetation and colorful clothing is inconvenient. You must wear black, green, brown or camouflage patterns. Avoid White, yellow or red in your clothing.

For more info:

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