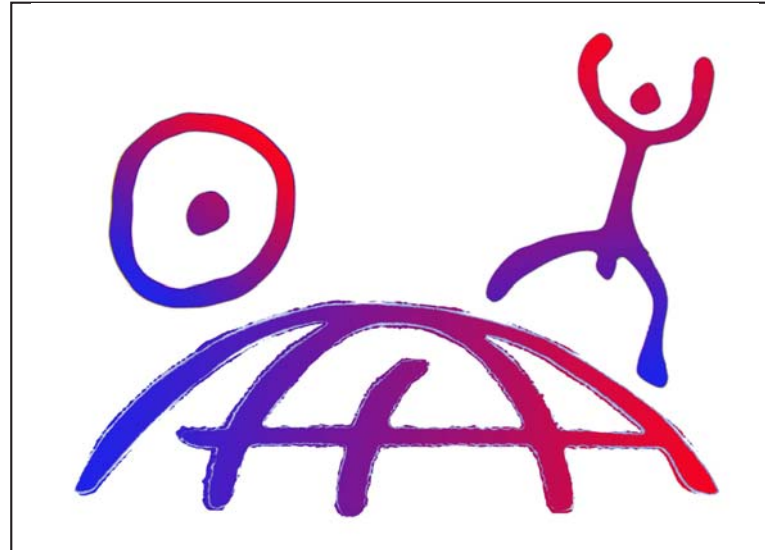


STONEWATCH

The World of Petroglyphs



Petroglyphs found within the limits of the Sumaco Biosphere Reserve in the Northern Ecuadorian Amazon Region

by: Bastienne Paliz - Corporación of the Reserva de Biosfera Sumaco (CoRBS)

Computerworks by STONEWATCH

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The Sumaco Biosphere Reserve (931.215ha) was declared on November 10th, 2000 by the UNESCO. Location 00°32'S; 77°28'W (central point)
Humid tropical forest, Natural forest including *Alnus acuminata*, *Jacaranda copaia*, *Phragmothecha ecuadoriensis* etc.; natural bush vegetation characterized by *Blechnum loxense*, *Cortaderia nitida*, *Chusquea scandes* etc.; natural grass vegetation on high altitude characterized by *Azorrella* sp., *Werneria* sp., *Hipochaeris* sp., *Senecio canescens* etc.; cultivated grasslands with *Axonopus scoparius*, *A. micay*, *Setaria splendida* etc.; cultivated land including *Coffea robusta*, *C. arabica*, *Theobroma cacao*, *Musa paradisiaca* etc.; agroforestry systems; residential areas.

Approximately 80.000 subsistence farmers live in the area surrounding the National Park Sumaco- Napo- Galeras. 70% pertain to the indigenous group “quichua”. They not only speak a different language, that is “quichua”, but also have a different history, culture and ideology than the rest of ecuadorians.

The “Quichua” have been home to this area since many hundreds of years. How and why several figures were carved into the enormous volcanic stones found close to the many caverns in the area, as well as into uncountable smaller stones, however still remains a mistery, even to them.

Some say they tell stories of the daily life of the people of the region, others that they were carved in by the many “Shamans” (Medicine Men), common healers of the quichua culture, while taking the “Ayahuasca ” (a hallucinogen used by ghosthealers)...



