



Photo courtesy of Reserva la Pedregosa



endangered native tree species. The idea is to plant a sufficient amount of these endangered trees to insure their survival and to act as a seed bank, thereby allowing others to plant them in the future. The second program involves the rescue of the giant Podocnemis river turtles. The eggs are collected before poachers can take them, incubated in artificial nests, and when the baby turtles hatch they are looked after until their shells are hard enough to withstand predators, thereby increasing their survival rate.

The La Pedregoza Environmental Corporation's third program is biodiversity education. Traditional practices such as turtle egg consumption, or the removal of trees from the forest without replanting, simply are no longer sustainable. As a result they are looking to raise funds to build an Interpretive Center at La Pedregoza that will explain the importance of the rainforest, inundation and



gallery forest, and the wildlife and plants that depend on it for their survival. The Interpretive Center would be the only one of its kind in the region and a valuable resource for local schools, residents and visitors alike.

Another program is a Sacred Seeds garden. Together with the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Reserva Natural La Pedregoza is busy setting up a specialized botanical garden that will feature the traditional medicinal and alimentary trees and plants used by indigenous people, before that knowledge is lost to the world.

Whether your interests are conservation, biodiversity, bird watching, endangered wildlife or rainforest preservation, there is something for everyone at La Pedregoza. Your support of their programs would be much appreciated.

You can visit their web site at www.pedregoza.org.

