



**Cimitarra River,**  
between Yondó (Antioquia) and Cantagallo (Bolívar)  
Photo: **William Bonell WCS Colombia**

# En Terreno

WCS Colombia Newsletter - October 2016 - No. 9



**Common stilt**  
(*Himantopus mexicanus*)  
Photo: **Fernando Ayerbe Quiñones**



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**MARIO SANTO DOMINGO.**  
Por el Desarrollo Social de Colombia



Ciénaga San Lorenzo (Cantagallo, Bolívar) - Photo: William Bonell © WCS Colombia

## RURAL COMMUNITIES INTERESTED IN CONSERVATION GET TOGETHER

**The workshops were organized by the Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley.**

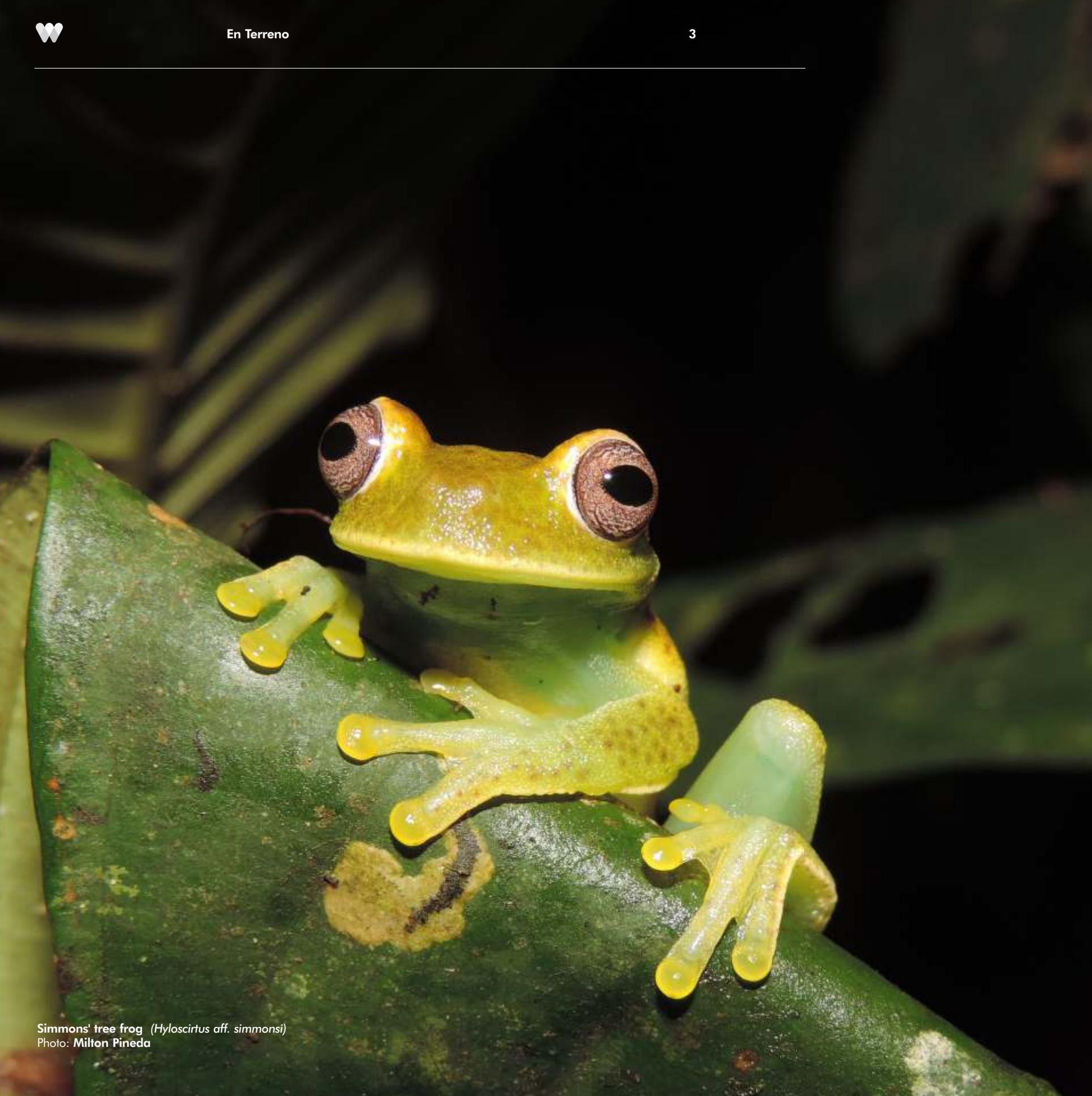
People participated from different villages of **Yondó (Antioquia) and Cantagallo (Bolívar)**, in the swamp zones of the interior, specifically in a farmer reserve located in the **south of the Serranía de San Lucas**. The principal objective of these spaces was to obtain a first contact with a socioeconomic diagnosis of the human populations that live in this area and that use its natural resources.

**The workshops focused on four main subjects: social and organization; environment and territorial planning; economic development and productive alternatives; and health and basic sanitation.** The attendees were able to identify problems of the territory regarding these themes, propose solutions, and commit to make community advance.



At the same time, **the flora and fauna inventory** that will soon take place in the area was collectivized. This was part of a process that seeks to **declare some areas as protected** in the still existing forest patches, and that could become part of **the mosaic conservation around the Serranía de San Lucas**.

Photo: Ángela Corredor - ACVC



Simmons' tree frog (*Hyloscirtus aff. simmonsii*)  
Photo: Milton Pineda

## PRESENTATION OF THE AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION PROJECT IN TATAMÁ NATURAL NATIONAL PARK

Gathering of primary information will be planned as a base for decision making.



*Rulyrana Susatamai* Photo: Milton Pineda

Around twelve members of the Tatamá Natural National Park and WCS Colombia shared a space where the central theme was the “**Conservation Strategy of Threatened Amphibians in the Protected Areas of Colombia**”. At the meeting, generalities of the work to be done were presented and the conceptual model of direct and indirect existing threats for such species was built. Also, the presentation of field work protocol and proposal of sampling places was held.

As part of the same project, WCS researchers also made a field **visit to Selva de Florencia NNP**. There, the officers were trained on how to **identify amphibians**. The route covered six locations of two townships (Pensilvania, Florencia, and Samaná, in Caldas). Samples for amphibian **chytrid fungus** (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) and ranavirus were taken from the species found. This was done with the purpose of evaluating the health of the taxonomic group in that protected zone.

The project “**Conservation Strategy of Threatened Amphibians in the Protected Areas of Colombia**” is part of an agreement signed by the **Zürich Zoo, the Cali Zoo and WCS**, together with the **Natural National Parks of Colombia** and the participation of the **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development**.



**Neotropical otter** (*Lontra longicaudis*)  
Photo: Juan Carlos Andrade  
Fundación Proyecto Primates

## THE SAN JUAN RIVER SPECIES

It is a key refuge for significant flora and fauna of the Middle Magdalena.



Caño San Juan - Photo: Katherine Arévalo CVST

It drains its waters to Magdalena River, in the township of Cimitarra (Santander). This river and the surrounding areas have outstanding inhabitants that makes it rich in biodiversity.

Four important species of primates can be found in the forests: **the red howler monkey** (*Alouatta seniculus*), **the white-fronted capuchin** (*Cebus albifrons*), **the gray-handed night monkey** (*Aotus griseimembra*), and **the brown spider monkey** (*Ateles Hybridus*). Its waters are home to turtles, common caimans and many fish, including **the tiger catfish** (*Pseudoplatystoma magdaleniatum*) that flows seasonally between the San Juan and Magdalena Rivers.



**Red howler monkey** (*Alouatta seniculus*)  
Photo: Juan Carlos Andrade - Fundación Proyecto Primates

One example of the rich panorama is the **neotropical otter** (*Lontra longicaudis*). Recently, one of this species was observed and photographed on the edge of San Juan land. There, **Fundación Proyecto Primates** prepares different scientific research related to conservation of the **brown spider monkey**.

**The otter** –we must add– is an **aquatic carnivore** that feeds itself mainly on fish, reason why it is **persecuted by fishermen**, since they consider that the supply of fish resource is reduced and it also eats the bait off the hooks.

**Recent register** of this **graceful mammal enhances the health of the San Juan River** and the importance of the work that Fundación Proyecto Primates and the rest of partners of the Wildlife Project (Proyecto Vida Silvestre)\* develop in this region.



**Chestnut-mandibled toucan** (*diostedé-Ramphastos swainsonii*)  
Photo: Juan Carlos Andrade - Fundación Proyecto Primates

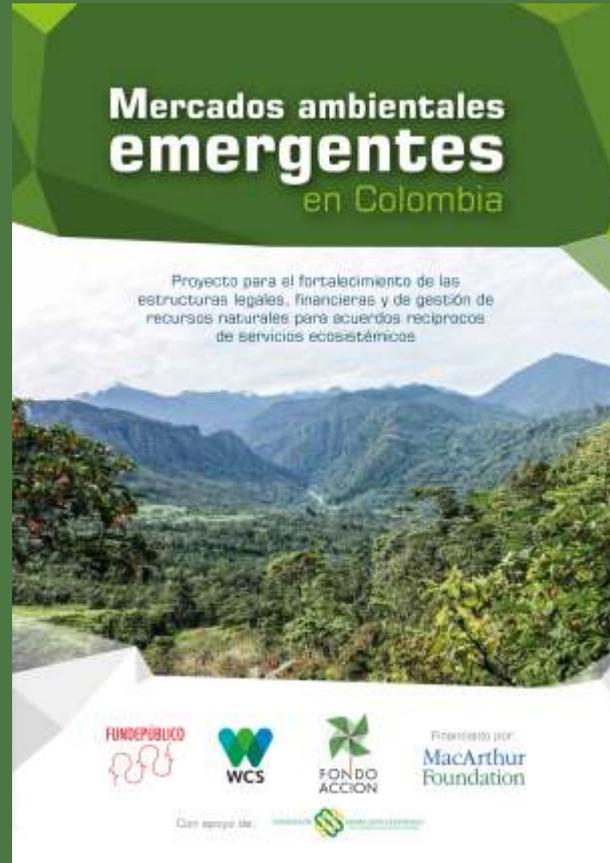
\*The Wildlife Project works for the conservation of ten species of flora and fauna in the Middle Magdalena Medio and the Eastern Plains. It is funded by Ecopetrol and coordinated by WCS Colombia. Ten implementing organizations are part of this initiative, which is supported by Fundación Mario Santo Domingo.

## FIRST ANALYSIS OF EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS IN COLOMBIA

Publication prepared by WCS, Fondo Acción, and Fundepúblico is launched

This document offers a conceptual framework of the environmental markets and shows the most common classification and the actors involved in each one of them. It also discusses the economic instruments that have further development and visible transactions in Colombia. It specifically analyzes:

- ♥ Compensations for biodiversity loss.
- ♥ Investment for the use of water from natural sources.
- ♥ Acquisition and maintenance of areas of interest of municipal and regional water distribution systems.
- ♥ Payment for voluntary environment services.



**The objective of the publication is to evidence the dynamic of these markets and promote transparency and communication of information in this matter,** keeping in mind the interest to be more efficient and effective when encouraging conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of natural areas and ecosystems. Similarly, it also intends to offer more income opportunities to the rural communities based on better decision making and lessons learned.

The Publication **"Emerging Environmental Markets in Colombia"** was funded by the **MacArthur Foundation** and it had the support of **Fundación Mario Santo Domingo**.

See details in: [www.mercadosambientalescolombia.com](http://www.mercadosambientalescolombia.com)



Photo: Mauricio "El Pato" Salcedo - WCS

## OUR SPECIES: BLUE-BILLED CURASSOW (*Crax alberti*)

**It is a bird that is very sensitive to changes in its surroundings.** Its geographic range requires great areas of tropical forests; therefore, its presence is considered as an indicator of their state of conservation. Around 15 species of different plants are part of its diet. It eats directly from the forest floor (fruits, sprouts, and some invertebrates) and has never been observed eating on a tree.

**The expansion of agriculture limits, the construction of roads, hunting, and removal of its eggs** are some reasons why **the blue-billed curassow is currently endangered**. Currently, WCS coordinates the Wildlife Project (PVS, by its acronym in Spanish), an initiative in which jointly with Fundación Biodiversa Colombia, works in favor of this bird in the Middle Magdalena lands.

Part of the PVS activities are developed with the participation of the landowners in the **swamp complex Carare-Barbacoas**. Conservation agreements have been established with them, which include the implementation of biological corridors to facilitate the mobility of the blue-billed curassow.



## THE LANDSCAPE

### Rock formation of the El Tuparro Natural National Park (Vichada)

Particular ecosystems are formed in this geographic region, **since they are part of the Guiana Shield, one of the most ancient geographic formations on Earth.** They have a large amount of endemic species, both flora and fauna, and are considered holy places by the indigenous ethnic groups present in the area. The removal of vegetation coverage, fires, and non-regulated tourism are their principal threats.

Photo: Mauricio "El Pato" Salcedo

Currently, El Tuparro NNP has a monitoring program designed for a national protected area, under the framework of adaptive management. It was developed by WCS Colombia, the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, and the Red de Reservas de la Sociedad Civil (Resnatur). It had the economic support from the Tropical Forest Conservation Agreement (TFCA), managed by Fondo Acción.