



Caño Azul [Blue Narrow River], Cerro [Hill] 1800 - Sérranfa Lucas. Photo: Luz Dary Acevedo - WCS Colombia

En Terreno

Newsletter of WCS Colombia - January 2017 - N. 12



Acrocinus longimanus
Photo: William Cardona - WCS Colombia



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**Wildlife
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FUNDACIÓN



MARIO SANTO DOMINGO.
Por el Desarrollo Social de Colombia



Photo: Río Siquila - Denys Zuleta - WCS Colombia

FIELDWORK IN THE SIQUILA RIVER STARTS

It is the beginning of the project "Río Saldaña, una cuenca de vida" [Saldaña River, a basin of life]



The diagnostic phase of the project began **in the jurisdiction of Bilbao, in the municipality of Planadas (Tolima) area of influence of the Siquila River (Sub-basin of Saldaña River)**. A team of researchers of WCS made the route with the intention of learning about the natural and social environment and how it benefits from the waters carried by this river.

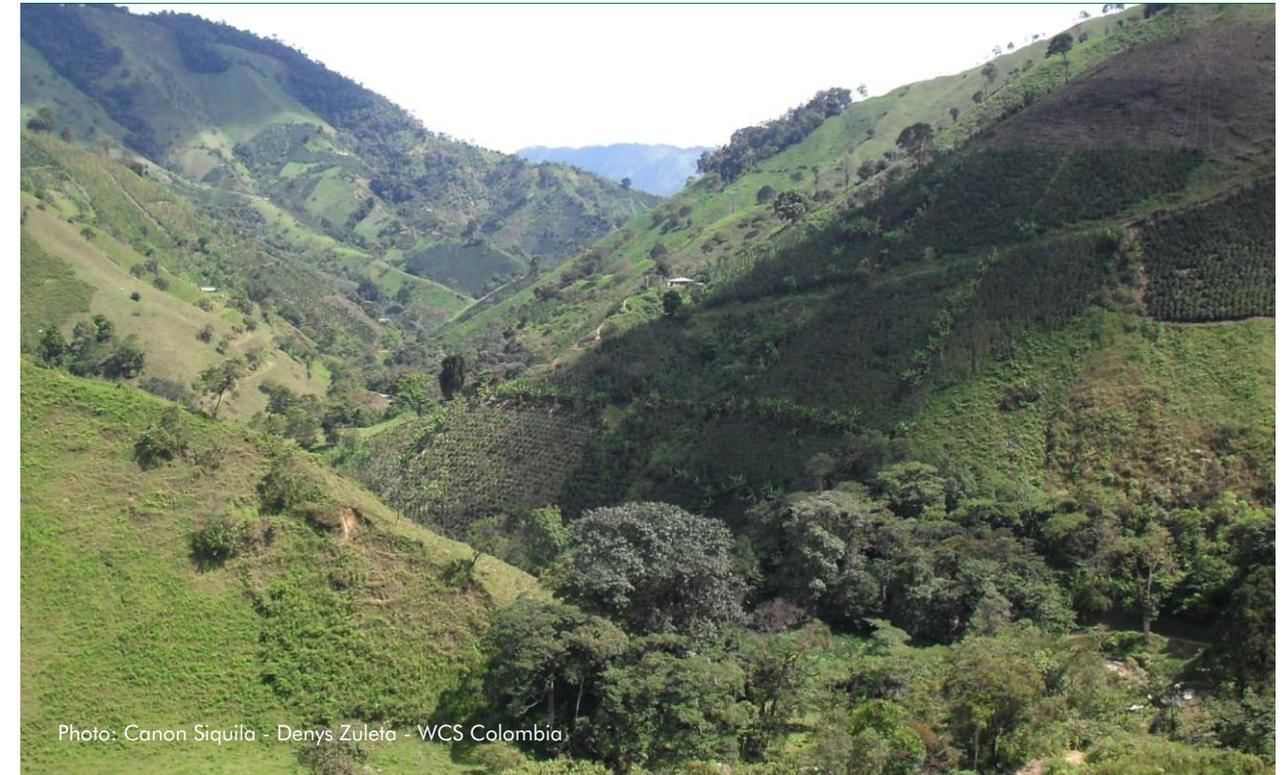


Photo: Canon Siquila - Denys Zuleta - WCS Colombia

The visit served, in addition, to identify the threats on the supply of environmental services provided by this sub-basin, as well as the causes and consequences of the same. Also, in order to know how the processes of existing communication and education are.

With the help of the **Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia [Natural National Parks of Colombia]** and the local community, researchers met with leaders, social actors and representatives of educational institutions. In addition, they held a meeting with the owners of some lands located in the high basin of the Siquila, in order to discuss what the expectations of this project are.

One of the main results from the visit to that area of the Cordillera Central is a diagnosis that describes how the territory is organized, which the predominant production systems are, and how this may affect the natural plant cover and the quality of the water resource of the Siquila.

With this type of activities, the project "**Río Saldaña, una Cuenca de vida**" [Saldaña River, a basin of life] expects to build close links with the inhabitants of the region so that with the help of all of us, it might be possible to build the most suitable conservation strategies in the places that require it.

This project is a public-private partnership, and the **Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia [Natural National Parks of Colombia, Cementos Argos and WCS Colombia]** are a part of it.



Photo: Denys Zuleta - WCS Colombia



Photos: Luz Dary Acevedo - WCS Colombia

NEW MEETING REGARDING SAN LUCAS

There was a discussion on this mountain ridge.

The meeting served to exchange knowledge and experiences related to the future protection strategies to be implemented in that region of northern Colombia.

The meeting was attended by local communities, non-governmental organizations and environmental actors who are considered highly strategic for the future of the conservation of the Serranía de San Lucas [San Lucas mountain ridge].

Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia [Natural National Parks of Colombia] led the event, with the support of the **Alianza para el Magdalena Medio [Alliance for the Magdalena Medio]** and the **Alianza para las Nuevas Areas Protegidas [Alliance for the new protected areas]**, both as part of the process of protection of the areas of interest for the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in the country.

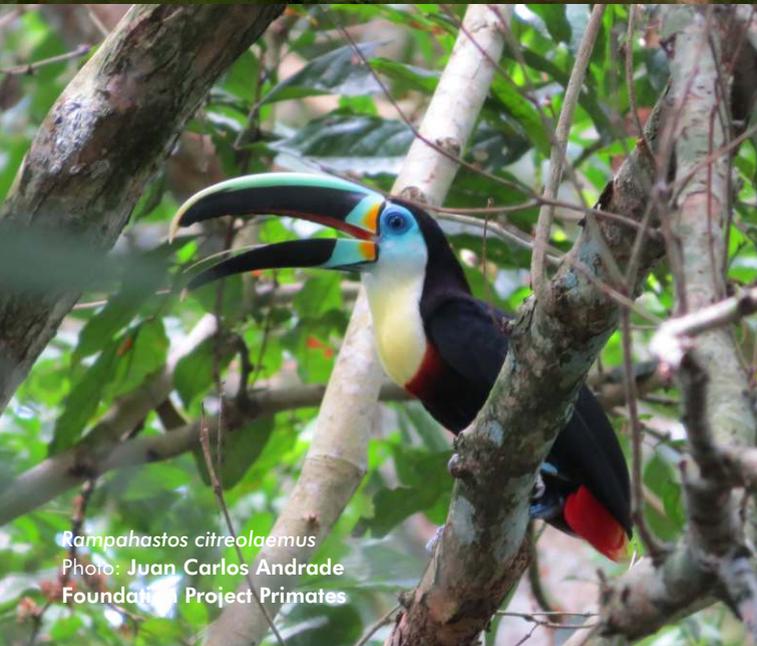


Activities such as this, which are part of the path ahead in the search to declare San Lucas as a natural protected area, seek, among other things, to strengthen the mechanisms for the management of the territory and, therefore, the preservation of natural resources and the environmental services that the mountain ridge provides.

To the event, held in Barrancabermeja (Santander), also attended the representatives of the Asociación Campesina del Valle del río Cimitarra (ACVC) [Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC, by its acronym in Spanish)], Fedegromisbol, Fundación Panthera [Panthera Foundation], Fundación Proyecto Primates, Cabildo Verde Sabana de Torres [Primates Project, Cabildo Verde Sabana de Torres Foundation], Fundación Alma [Alma Foundation], World Wildlife Fund, Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Magdalena Medio [Development and Peace Program of the Magdalena Medio] and the Alexander von Humboldt Institute.



Photo: Carlos Saavedra - WCS Colombia



Ramphastos citreolaemus
Photo: Juan Carlos Andrade
Fundación Proyecto Primates



Bradypus variegatus
Photo: Juan Carlos Andrade
Fundación Proyecto Primates

NEW ALLIES OF THE CONSERVATION IN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO

Haciendas of Antioquia and Santander join together
to work for the benefit of biodiversity.



Ateles hybridus
Photo: Juan Carlos Andrade
Fundación Proyecto Primates



Photo: Carlos Saavedra - WCS Colombia

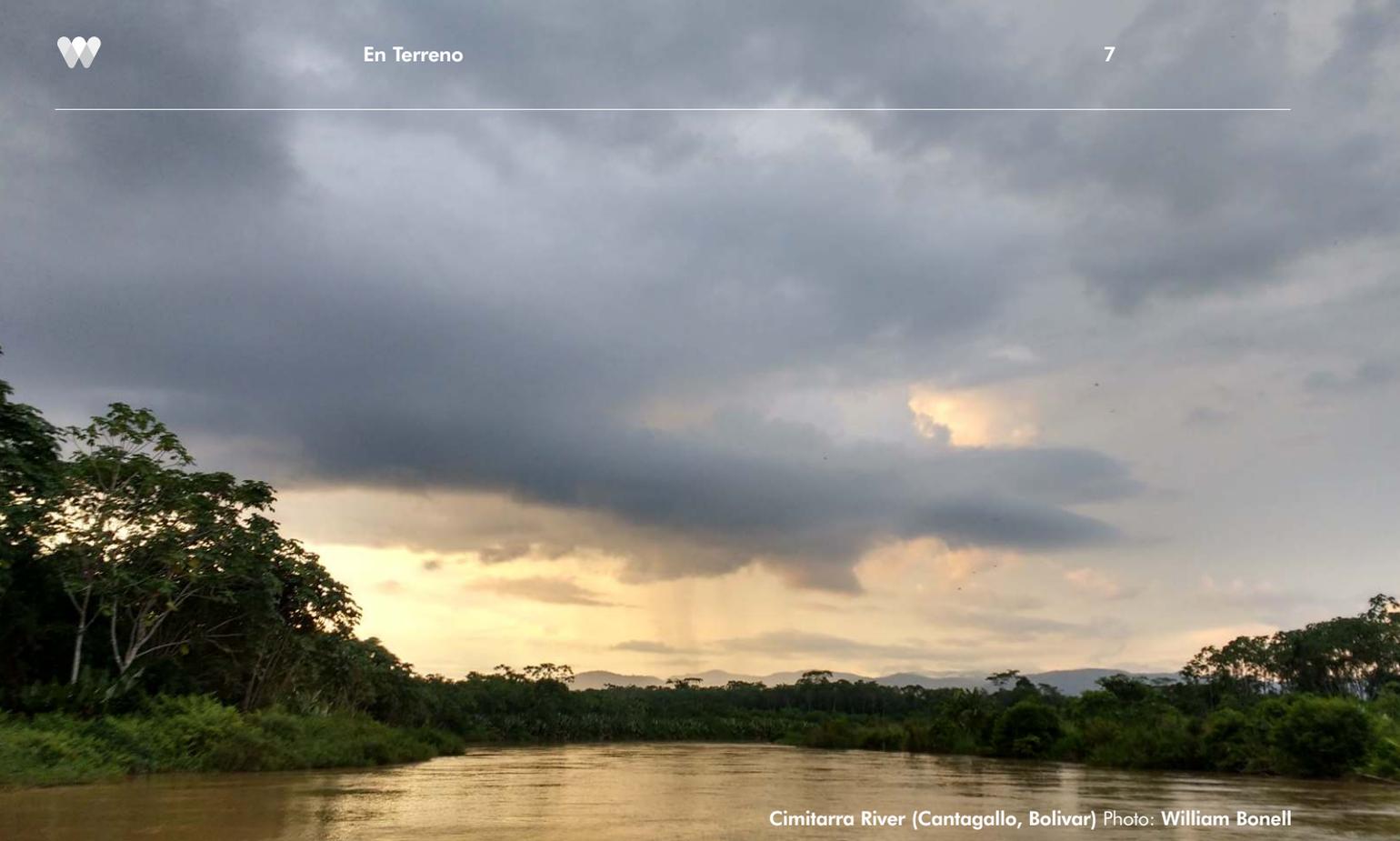
We talk about the farms Lucitania and San Juan (in Cimitarra, Santander) and La Ganadera (in Yondó, Antioquia). Their owners were committed to the protection of **the Marinonda del Magdalena [brown spider monkey]** (*Ateles hybridus*), **the Blue Peak Paujil** (*Crax alberti*) and the many other wild species that inhabit these lands. One of the tasks that will be carried out, is the implementation of some biological corridors that will connect the existing forest patches.

In the case of **Lucitania hacienda, the signing of that conservation agreement** is the first one that endorses the Wild Life Project with a ranch of the Magdalena Medio Santander. In order to achieve this result, the work of the Fundación Proyecto Primates [Primate Project Foundation] with the support of WCS was essential.

Regarding the second agreement, its main objective is that **five hectares of the San Juan hacienda are destined, exclusively, to the restoration of the narrow river banks and to the connection of isolated green areas.** For several years, researchers of the Fundación Proyecto Primates [Primates Project Foundation] have overtaken studies on the marimondas [brown spider monkey] groups that have their home there.

Also, **the owners of La Ganadera expressed to the Fundación Biodiversa Colombia [Biodiversa Colombia Foundation] and to WCS, their interest in implementing conservation actions** that include the signing of a voluntary agreement to protect natural areas of the farm and its surroundings. This agreement will also allow to do scientific research in the place.

The Proyecto Vida Silvestre [Wildlife Project] expects that, in the future, other lands will join to this initiative. It also seeks to ensure that the environmental authorities, as well as the local and regional governments, recognize and value the contribution of those landowners who want to improve the conditions of the forest fragments that still remain in the Magdalena Medio.



Cimitarra River (Cantagallo, Bolivar) Photo: William Bonell

IMPORTANT PHOTOS IN ZONA DE RESERVA CAMPESINA [PEASANT FARMER RESERVE ZONE]

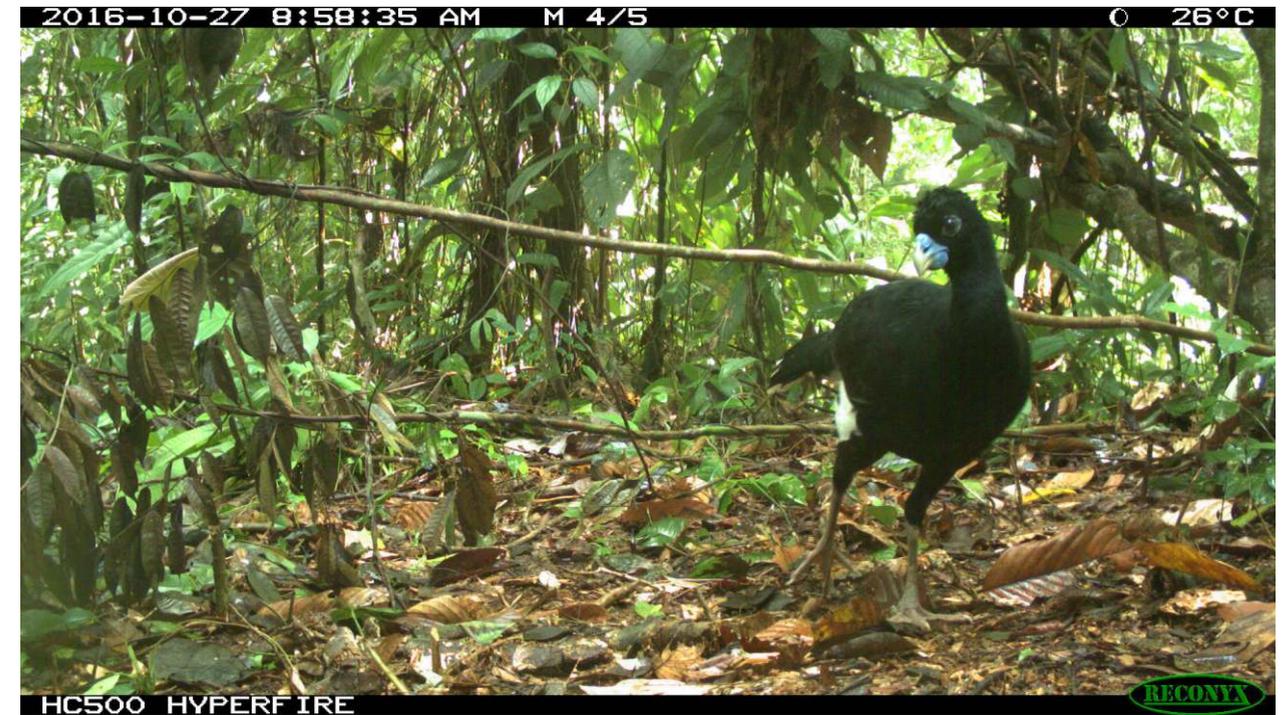
Camera traps installed in the Cimitarra river valley Obtained the records.

The study is led by the **Asociación Campesina del Valle del Río Cimitarra [Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC, by its acronym in Spanish)], Red Agroecológica Nacional (RAN) [National Agro-ecological Network (RAN) by its acronym in Spanish]**, and it belongs to a project co-financed by the "Fondo Acción" and supported by **Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia [Natural National Parks of Colombia]**.

The idea is to generate information that will help to consolidate the protection of some natural spaces protected by community agreements of the **Zona de Reserva Campesina Valle del Río Cimitarra [Cimitarra River Valley Peasant Farmer Reserve Zone]**. These lands belong to Yondo (Antioquia) and Cantagallo (Bolívar).

The camera traps were installed by a group of researchers of **WCS and the Fundación Panthera [Panthera Foundation]**, and the photos reveal the important wildlife that lives in that area of the **Magdalena Medio**.

Big mammals such as the **jaguar (*Panthera onca*)**, the tapir or lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), **the puma (*Puma concolor*)** and **giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)** are highlighted. And birds such as blue-billed curassow (*Crax alberti*), an endemic species from Colombia and which is currently in critical danger of extinction.



Photos: WCS Colombia, ACVC, Action Fund, Foundation Panthera



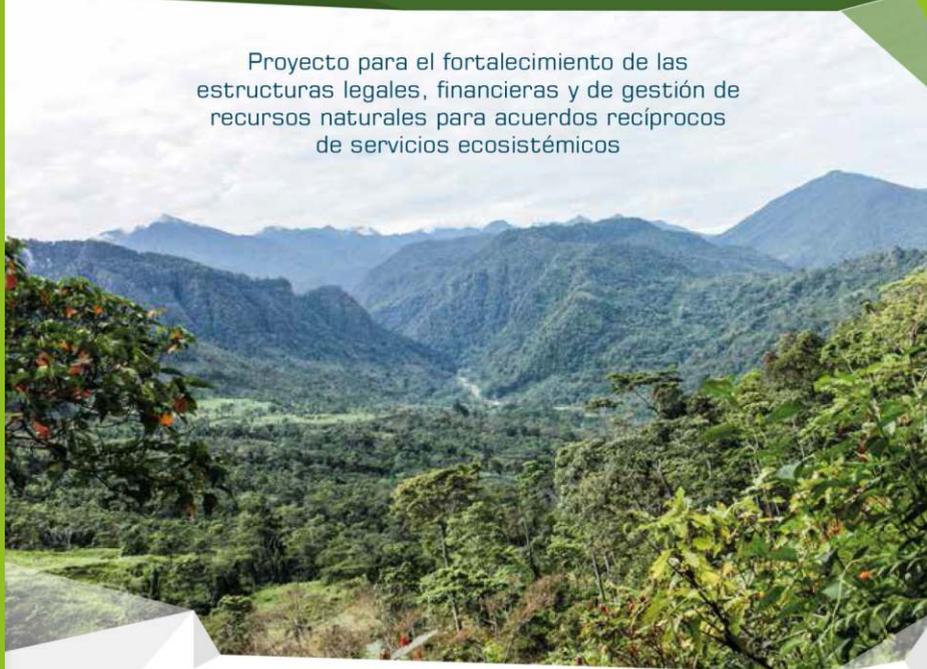
There were also individuals of medium species as the tayras (*Eira barbara*), ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*), peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*), raccoons (*Procyon cancrivorus*), tamanduas (*Tamandua mexicana*), otter (*Lontra longicaudis*), chigüiros (*Hydrochoerus sp*) and yaguarundies (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*).

Based on the wildlife listings known up to now for that region of Colombia, the recently obtained photos demonstrate **the good conservation work carried out by the communities that inhabit that area of Zona de Reserva Campesina [Peasant Farmer Reserve Zone] and the importance of continuing to support its preservation.**

RECOMMENDED PUBLICATION

Mercados ambientales emergentes en Colombia

Proyecto para el fortalecimiento de las estructuras legales, financieras y de gestión de recursos naturales para acuerdos recíprocos de servicios ecosistémicos



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Por el Desarrollo Social de Colombia

Emerging Environmental Markets in Colombia - A work carried out by Fundepublico, WCS Colombia and Fondo Acción, funded by the MacArthur Foundation with the support of the Fundación Mario Santo Domingo [Mario Santo Domingo Foundation].

Download it here: <http://bit.ly/2d1usoT>

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OUR SPECIES: THE MARIMONDA [MAGDALENA BROWN SPIDER MONKEY] (*Ateles hybridus*)

It is also known as **Brown Spider Monkey** or **Choibo**. In Colombia, it is **located on the Magdalena river**, in the territorial divisions of Magdalena and Cesar (toward the north to the south side of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta); in the southwest of the Guajira (more northern areas of the Serranía de Perijá); and in the middle valley of the Magdalena river (Caldas and Cundinamarca). Also, in the basin of the Catatumbo river in Norte de Santander, and Santander, in Puerto Parra and Cimitarra. In addition, in Arauca, it is found in the forests of the foothills of the north-west of that territory.

It is one of the 25 most endangered primates in the world. The transformation of natural ecosystems to agriculture and livestock areas, as well as hunting, are the main causes for which it is critically threatened.

Currently, **WCS Colombia coordinates the Proyecto Vida Silvestre (PVS)* [Wildlife Project]**, an initiative in which, in combination with the **Fundación Proyecto Primates [Primates Project Foundation]**, works in favor of this species.

Part of the activities of the PVS [WP] have included coaching and training communities that share the same habitat for the establishment of garden nurseries and planting of native species that will allow the restoration of the forests where the Marimonnda lives.

PVS: *The Proyecto Vida Silvestre [Wildlife Project] works for the conservation of ten species of flora and fauna in the Magdalena Medio and the Eastern Plains. It is funded by Ecopetrol and coordinated by WCS Colombia. As part of this initiative, 10 implementing organizations work with the support of the Fundación Mario Santo Domingo [Mario Santo Domingo Foundation].

