



La Esperanza Village, Municipality of Cravo Norte (Arauca)
Photo: Rodrigo Durán Bahamón - Alianza para la conservación - Conservation Alliance - WCS Colombia

En Terreno

Newsletter of WCS Colombia - February 2017 - No. 13



Burrow Owl
Athene cucularia
Photo: Fernando Ayerbe Quiñones
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MARIO SANTO DOMINGO.
Por el Desarrollo Social de Colombia



Sunset on the Meta River - Sidewalk La Virgen (Cravo Norte, Arauca) - Photo: Mara Ibeth Contreras Avila - WCS Colombia

NEIGHBORS OF CINARUCO SHARE ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL VISION OF THEIR TERRITORY

The meeting carried out in that region of Arauca, is part of the the declaration route of new protected areas.



Photos: Mara Ibeth Contreras Avila - WCS Colombia

The meeting provided an opportunity for reflection regarding the relationship between the human species, and nature, as of the daily use of natural resources in communities.

he exercise demonstrated how important is the local knowledge for the best practices on the benefit of the environment, condition that has allowed –for example- that the communities themselves regulate the use of the species and the use of the places in which they live at. In other words: **the local communities might be great allies for the conservation.**

In this meeting, the inhabitants of the **villages of Lejanías de Juriepe, Jueriepe, La Esperanza y La Virgen**, all of them belonging to the municipality of **Cravo Norte (Arauca)**, participated. Also, it had the accompaniment of Parque Nacionales Naturales -National Natural Parks-, WCS Colombia and the World Wildlife Fund. (WWF).

Fundación Mario Santo Domingo –Mario Santo Domingo Foundation- and the Fundación para el Beneficio – the Foundation for the Benefit (Grupo Argos), support this process as well, regarding the declaratory of the new protected areas for the country.



Photo: Catalina Gutiérrez - WCS Colombia

BEEKEEPING PILOT PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED

Proyecto Vida Silvestre –Wildlife Project- heads this idea that seeks to benefit the Riberas de San Juan (Magdalena Medio) inhabitants

A group of researchers of WCS Colombia went till the farm **El Sinai, in the municipality of Cimitarra (Santander)**, in order to provide training to the residents and neighbors about the management and breeding of the common honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) and regarding to the fact on how to establish a community apiary or colmenar for the production of honey.



Photos: Catalina Gutiérrez - WCS Colombia

Those participants in the workshops learned, among other things, about the role played by bees in nature; how to use of personal protective equipment; which are the beekeeping basic tools; which characteristics has a modern hive; how is an apiary and what its location must be; which are the steps to review a colony and how to handle the emergencies with people and animals.

The participants were very interested in the beekeeping as a sustainable productive activity, because it offers an alternative source of income for their family and represents environmental gains while promoting the conservation of forests and other natural ecosystems.

In order to keep the colonies, let's remember- it is necessary to ensure a good supply of food resources for bees (such as nectar, pollen and resins). Also, it is also necessary to have a free of chemicals environment, since they are harmful to these insects.



Photo: Germán Lotero

The owners of El Sinai have also committed themselves to the conservation of two species of mammals and a tree: the **Marinonda del Magdalena** (*Ateles hybridus*) –the brown spider monkey- and the **Caribbean Manatee** (*Trichechus manatus*), and the **Carreto colorado** (*Aspidosperma polyneuron*).

The beekeeping project is developed in the framework of productive landscapes of WCS Colombia, and it counts with the funding of the Fundación Mario Santo Domingo –Mario Santo Domingo Foundation.



THEORETICAL-PRACTICAL WORKSHOP ABOUT THE INSTALLATION OF THE CAMERA TRAPS

Third day of biodiversity monitoring,
In the Proyecto Vida Silvestre –Wildlife Project-



Photo: Ana Paola Yusfi - WCS Colombia

The main purpose of this initiative was to providing an overview of **the basic guidelines for the use of the camera traps**, a tool increasingly used by science in the study of the wildlife.

The topics of the workshop included, among others: how to select properly the places in which the photo-trap is intended to be done; how to setup and install the equipment; and which protocols must be followed for this type of monitoring.

Since the year 2014, and regarding the Proyecto Vida Silvestre –Wildlife Project-, WCS Colombia, uses camera traps as monitoring tools to assess the effectiveness of the conservation actions that have been developed in the Llanos Orientales -Eastern Plains- and in the Magdalena Medio.

The workshop took place at the **Universidad Del Valle – Del Valle University-**, with the participation of biologists of the **WCS monitoring equipment and the Asociación Calidris –Calidris Association-**. Also, students of the biology programs of the **universities: Del Valle, ICESI and the Javeriana;** in addition to **professionals of Cementos Argos,** attended to the same.



Photo: Evelin Gómez - WCS Colombia

COMMUNITIES OF THE ARAUCA TAKE CARE OF THE WILD CLUTCHES OF CAIMÁN LLANERO-ORINOCO CROCODILE-

It seeks to increase the annual birth of species of this threatened reptile, on the Ele River.

The inhabitants of the **Ele Perocero village**, in the **municipality of Puerto Rondon**, have joined to the initiative of conservation of the emblematic **Orinoco Crocodile** (*Crocodylus intermedius*). The Junta de Acción Comunal –the Community Action Board- and the families that inhabit the area, have shown special interest in participating in the activities of socialization and training offered by WCS in the framework of the Proyecto Vida Silvestre – Wildlife Project (PVS) by its acronym in Spanish-.

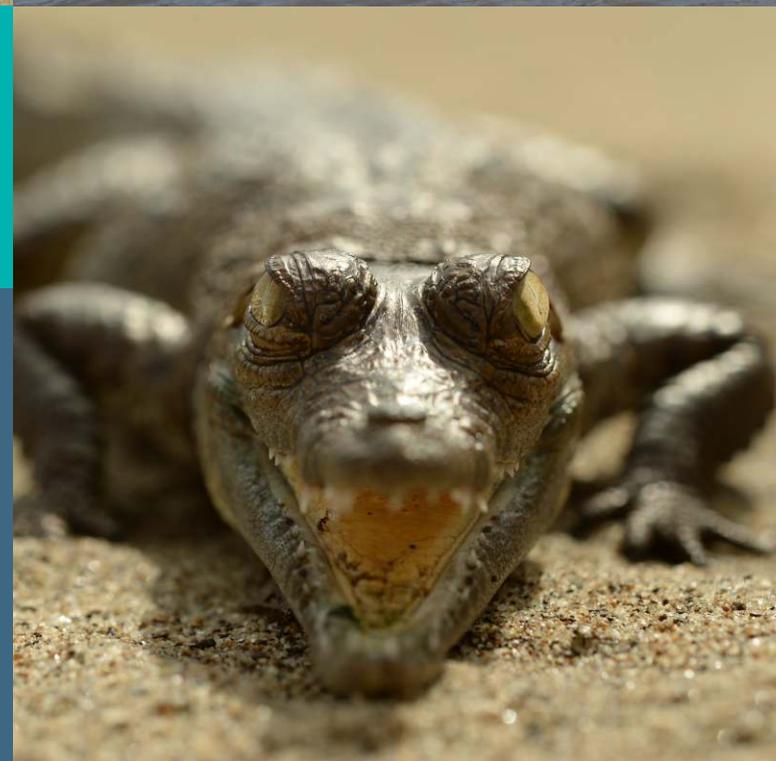
After the first meetings, a working group was integrated **with three local people who possess extensive knowledge about the location of the Orinoco crocodile nests**. Part of its tasks include **the monitoring of beaches, and as a strategy, the deletion of prints left by the females in order to prevent the plundering**. So far, four clutches **have been obtained in three nestbeaches located in the Ele river**. This river channel belongs to the river basin of the Cravo Norte River (Arauca).



Photo: Evelin Gómez - WCS Colombia

It is expected that through future monitoring activities, the results of this and other actions implemented in favor of this species, might be evaluated. It should be recalled that the PVS –Wildlife Project- also works with the **Fundación Palmarito –Palmarito Foundation- for the conservation of the Orinoco Crocodile, in areas of the Casanare and Vichada**, which has included two successful reintroductions to the natural environment in the basin of the Tomo River, in the **National Natural Park El Tuparro (Vichada)**.

Photo: Mauricio "Pato" Salcedo - WCS Colombia



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Photo: Mauricio "Pato" Salcedo - WCS Colombia

OUR SPECIES: **THE CHARAPA TURTLE** (*Podocnemis expansa*)

It is the largest river turtle in South America. The female can reach a carapace length of nearly 90 cm and a weight above 50 kg; while the male is slightly smaller: it reaches a carapace length of up to 50 cm. It inhabits in lakes, swamps and flooded forests. In addition to Colombia, it is also found in Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela. **The indiscriminate consumption of its eggs and meat, as well as the illegal traffic, have it critically threatened.**

Currently, **WCS Colombia coordinates the Proyecto Vida Silvestre –Wildlife Project, (PVS by its acronym in Spanish)***, an initiative in which, in conjunction **with the Fundación Omacha - Omacha Foundation, they work in favor of this species.** Part of the activities of the PVS –the Wild Project- have included coaching and training to the communities that live with the Charapa Turtle, in order to establish a program for the control and monitoring of beaches that allows to reduce the consumption of eggs and adults.

WCS also supports the Parque Nacional Natural Cahuinarí- Cahuinarí Natural National Park- and the Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas –Native Traditional Authorities Association (PANI by its acronym in Spanish) in the elaboration of the monitoring program of the species in that protected area. PANI territory groups five communities of the Bora and Mira ethnicities mainly.

PVS: **Proyecto Vida Silvestre -Wildlife Project- works for the conservation of ten species of flora and fauna in the Magdalena Medio and the Llanos Orientales -Eastern Plains-. It is funded by Ecopetrol and coordinated by WCS Colombia. 10 implementing organizations, with the support of the Fundación Mario Santo Domingo –Mario Santo Domingo Foundation- belong to this initiative.