



Chingaza Natural National Park – Photo: **Zaira Ríos** - WCS Colombia

En Terreno

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Titi Monkey
Callicebus cf. ornatus
Photo: **Néstor Roncancio**



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



Photo: María Antonia Espitia - WCS Colombia

LLANEROS -PLAINSMEN- IN THE MAGDALENA MEDIO

Communities of both regions that participate in the Proyecto Vida Silvestre -Wildlife Project- shared work experiences in pro of the conservation.

A delegation of Llanos Orientales –the Eastern Plains- visited Magdalena Medio.

During the meeting, the participants mentioned the impact caused in each region, the actions carried out by Proyecto Vida Silvestre -Wildlife Project- (PVS by its acronym in Spanish). The meeting was handled in the framework of the third edition of Choibo festival and its Friends, in Bocas del Carare sidewalks (Puerto Parra, Santander).

With this approach, both communities (Plains and those who live in the Magdalena Medio) had the opportunity to know the different processes that are being carried out in order to **preserve the fauna and flora species, which are the focal point of the PVS.** Also, they made evident the strong commitment they have protecting not only Proyecto Vida Silvestre -The Wildlife Project-, but the many others that define the biodiversity of both regions.

We share here some testimonials gathered during the meeting:



“It has been very important for us to acquire knowledge on species such as the Caribbean Manatee, that we have it in our Ciénaga de la San Juana, in Caño San Juan, and the Carare River. And we didn’t know that this little animal is the guardian of the water, and that it was an endangered species. With this project, we have learned to know it a little bit more, to learn about him, and to defend him. If many people were used to hunt him previously, now, we don’t allow an animal to be hunted because we know that if it is disappeared, then, the water will also end”.

Epifanio Rentería, guardián del manatí, -guardian of the manatee, -from the village Riberas del San Juan (Cimitarra, Santander)-.



“The moriche swamps is a plant that preserves water, but due to a cultural thing, the Llaneros –plainsmen- set fire in the pastures so that the grass can sprout, and this has deteriorated the moriche swamps. We, with the PVS are working for its conservation, since the plain depends on the water from the moriche swamps. Also, we work for the conservation of the Charapa Turtle. Its greatest threat is that the people take out the clutches of eggs and sell them to a very good price. This is a problem that has affected this specie. But our plain is different than here. There are not settlements as we have here, there are big farms and it is difficult for us to get together, so the project has worked with farmers directly. We have made conservation agreements and we work on that”.

Don Wilson Velandia, visitor of the Plains -La Libertad village (Puerto Carreño, Vichada)-.

Photos: Nataly Castelblanco - Diana Jiménez



Photo: Mauricio “Pato” Salcedo - WCS Colombia

“Thanks to the Fundación Humedales -Humedales Foundation- and the Wildlife Project, there have been agreements between the communities for the conservation of the Bagre Rayado del Magdalena –the Tiger Catfish of the Magdalena-. We got together first separately and made some proposals. Then, we had a meeting with the community Bocas del Carare in Puerto Parra -Parra Port- and of the ciénaga of Chucurí, and each of us discuss about our proposals and realized that we were talking about the same preserved areas and about the same agreements. We found a few differences. And, through this dialog, we have made an agreement and proposed to have a meeting so that our ideas could be listened by the fishing node that is integrated by several entities, institutions and fishermen organizations. In this way, we are working so that our livelihood does not end, and we are talking with some other fishermen to get their support as well”.

Nidio Vásquez, of the Asociación de Pescadores de San Rafael de Chucurí (Barrancabermeja) –the Fishermen Association of San Rafael de Chucurí-.



Photos: Alejandra Hurtado

FIRST TESTS FOR SMART CONNECT

Is the new extension of the space monitoring and information tool for the control and surveillance in protected areas, SMART

During the next two months, the pilot tests will allow to process information as of the **Prevention, Surveillance, and Control tours (PVC for its acronym in Spanish)** made in the selected protected areas. Also, they will help to prove the functionality and effectiveness of the data model generated since 2016, under the conceptualization* and the leadership of WCS Colombia and Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia -Natural National Parks of Colombia- (PNN for its acronym in Spanish).



The recent tests were carried out in the **Natural National Parks of Farallones of Cali, Chingaza and Tayrona**. In that place, some pressures that affect the ecosystems and their species were identified, as well as their possible causes (political, economic, and social). Also, the importance of preventing, surveillance, and controlling, was noticed.

During the first two days of this theoretical-practical workshop, the participants learned about the more basic functions of the tool. They learned, among other aspects, to configure the information necessary for each conservation area, and to install the application that allows the data registration of the tours, directly, in the mobile devices.

After that, the participants walked through some trails, registering several observed affectations. **Then, the information taken was “uploaded” to a server that allows to have it available in real time for all system levels of the Natural National Parks: protected areas, territorial, and central level.**

Around 70 officials, among professionals, park ranges, technicians of the protected areas, the territorial direction and the central level attended the training.

*The conceptualization takes as a basis, the needs of each area and identifies the minimum information that has to be taken into account in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the PVC strategy, and to help in the decision-making process. It is from that point where a set of variables comes to shape the data model used in the pilot test of SMART Connect.



THE (EMBALLONURID) BATS “ALIENVAINADOS” OF THE BITA RIVER

More than a half of dozen was clinging to the bark of a tree, going almost unnoticed.

Los emballonurid or alienvainados bats - also known as “daytime bats” are not easy to detect. This family of small mammals have about 50 species of tropical distribution. Some of these present white color lines on their back that help them to camouflaging with the bark of the trees, where they find a shelter. They are also characterized because when they rest, they bend the last phalanx of their little fingers in an inverted way.

It was in **the Rancho Bravo farm of La Esmeralda village (Puerto Carreño, Vichada)**, where some researchers of the monitoring equipment of Wildlife Project, found a group of bats, more specifically of the *Rhynchonycteris naso* species (**also named as the big nose bat**).

The presence of this bats in the Bitá river basin not only increases the knowledge we have about the distribution of this species, but also, it increases the list of mammals registered in the area, so that it makes this area more important for the preservation of the biodiversity.

Photo: Baltazar González - WCS Colombia



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OUR SPECIES: THE CONGRIO (*Acosmium nitens*)

Photo: Mauricio "Pato" Salcedo - WCS Colombia

It is a timber species with a great reputation due to its excellent resistance to ants and termites. Additionally, once it is cut, it may last more than 30 years in direct contact with the soil or with the water, without being damaged. For this reason, it is used in construction.

Currently, **WCS Colombia coordinates the Wildlife Project (PVS)***, a conservationist initiative in which in cooperation with the **Corporación Ambiental La Pedregoza -Environmental Corporation La Pedregoza-**, they work in favor of this species in Llanos Orientales -Eastern Plains-.

Part of the activities of the PVS have included **the accompaniment, training, and awareness of the communities and owners of the farms close to the Bitá river basin, in order to reduce the overexploitation of the Conger Eels**, looking for the contribution of the restoration of the degraded areas in the orinocense landscape.

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