



FUNDACION BIODIVERSA COLOMBIA

Fundacion Biodiversa Colombia (FBC) is a Colombian non-profit non-governmental organization formed in 2005 by a team of 20 volunteer professionals with strong academic backgrounds in complementary areas and committed to the conservation of Colombian biodiversity.

Mission: conservation of Colombia's biodiversity through participative scientific research, through community-based conservation programs and through productive sustainable projects that aim towards conservation, social development and self-sufficiency of local communities.

Vision: to be a self-sufficient organization that carries out projects and research in several areas in the country, which social and environmental impacts are positive, increase in time and have a long-term viability.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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MEMBERS

Directive board

President: Fernando Arbeláez MSc.
Secretary: Catalina Giraldo
Treasurer: Andrés F. Almonacid MSc.
Vocal: Alba Lucía Morales-Jiménez PhD (c)
Vocal: Silvia Vejarano MSc.
Vocal: Nicolás Castaño MSc.

Associated members

Dr. Katja Poveda	Agroecology	Javier Díaz MSc.	Mastozoology
Mario Vargas Ramírez PhD (c)	Herpetology	Diana Teresa Gutiérrez	Anthropology
José Manuel Ochoa MSc.	Ornithology	Juan Fernando Phillips MSc.	Ecology
Isabel Melo MSc.	Ornithology	Félix Andrés Castellanos	Entomology
Aída Vaso Palacio MSc.	Mycology	María Teresa Gámez	Photography and visual media
Dafna Camila Ángel MSc.	Ecology	Omar Gaona	Visual media producer
Adriana Acosta	Ecology	Andrés Felipe Aponte	Herpetology

MAIN PROJECTS

The white-footed tamarin (*Saguinus leucopus*) national conservation program

The white-footed tamarin conservation program is the starting point towards conservation of this endemic, highly endangered species of Colombia. The program has been running for four years and has carried out effective actions focused on in-situ and ex-situ conservation, reintroduction of captive individuals, capacity-building among project members and education to control the pet trade and habitat destruction.

The program has counted with the collaboration and participation of seven Colombian zoos and 20 European zoos, the EAZA and ACOPAZOA. It has achieved collaboration agreements with Corpocaldas and Cortolima, two regional environmental authorities to carry out research projects in their action ranges.

FBC collaborated with the Ministry of the Environment and Corpocaldas to publish in 2008 the "National Conservation Program towards conservation of the endemic species of Colombia *Saguinus leucopus*".

Coordinator: Alba lucía Morales-Jiménez PhD (c)

Duration: 5 years

Budget to date: U\$ 111.000

The community-based conservation program of three species of endangered river turtles (*Podocnemis* spp.) with Peruvian and Colombian indigenous communities of the Amazon River

This program was born as an initiative of the Curuinsi Huasi Indigenous Association of the Santa Sofia Indigenous Reserve, Amazonas, Colombia. It seeks appropriation of river turtles conservation by Colombian and Peruvian indigenous communities of the area, through formation and capacity-building of local conservation groups (LCGs), specific conservation actions and environmental education. During 2009 and 2010, the program seeks to form and train six local conservation groups of 12 to 15 people from five indigenous communities of both countries, and carry out an extensive awareness-raising campaign in participating and neighbor communities about the importance of turtle conservation. It also aims to achieve a greater involvement of the environmental authorities from Colombia and Peru to support the LCGs. It will also support conservation-based economic alternatives of participating communities as a reward for their conservation actions. In 2011, the program will encourage and support design, fund-raising and execution of specific turtle conservation actions by the six trained LCGs.

This program has counted with support and collaboration of the Curuinsi Huasi Indigenous Association, the Turtle Conservation Fund, the Rufford Small Grant Foundation, the Cleveland Zoological Society, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Idea Wild and WWF - Education for Nature Program.

Coordinator: Fernando Arbeláez MSc.

Projected duration: 4 years

Budget to date: U\$ 39.000

The community-based conservation program for the Magdalena River turtle (*Podocnemis lewyana*) in the Upper Magdalena and Lower Sinu Rivers

Since 2004, FBC has been carrying out the "Initial actions towards knowledge and conservation of the endemic and threatened species *Podocnemis lewyana* and its habitat in the upper Magdalena River, Colombia". This project has been carried out by researchers of FBC and the Continental Turtle Line of the Conservation and BioDiversity Group of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. It has also counted with the support of Turtle Conservation Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, Ideawild and Cleveland Zoo.

Since 2006, the program has aimed to collect and analyze preliminary biological data and social basic information on the Magdalena River turtle, to design and implement adequate and coherent actions towards its protection, conservation and sustainable use. Its objectives are: 1) to research genetic variability of the species

and to examine the relation between populations from different localities along its distribution range; 2) to carry out a preliminary assessment of threats of the species in relation to human communities in different localities along its distribution range; and 3) to open a participative scenario for awareness-raising about the species situation and identify possible locations and conditions for designing and implementing community-based conservation initiatives.

This project earned the first prize as best student presentation in the sixth annual symposium of turtle conservation and biology, carried out in September 2008 in Tucson, Arizona.

Coordinator: Mario Vargas-Ramírez PhD (c)

Duration to date: 4 years

Budget to date: US\$ 23.500

The spider monkey (*Ateles hybridus* & *Ateles fusciceps*) national conservation program 2006-2010

These two understudied and endangered species have been identified as a priority for conservation and research in Colombia. This program is the starting point towards their conservation, and aims to bring solutions to the illegal pet trade by offering support to zoos and rescue centers to establish an ex-situ conservation program, linked with an educational campaign. It also has an ex-situ component that aims to research population densities and consolidation of protected areas for the species.

Coordinator: Alba lucía Morales-Jiménez PhD (c)

Duration: 5 years

Budget to date: U\$ 80.500

Establishment of a reserve area in the Middle Magdalena Valley

Currently, FBC's main priority is establishing a reserve area in the rainforests of the Middle Magdalena Valley, aiming to join efforts towards creating a regional reserve. This area holds forests and wetlands with invaluable biodiversity and high endemism and is the habitat of many endangered species of plants and animals, including three species that are subjects of FBC's programs. However, due to competition with extensive agriculture and cattle farming, it is also one of the most endangered ecosystems in Colombia. Besides the reserve, FBC is developing a reforestation project with a high social and environmental impact that will allow expansion of the protected area and improvement in the social conditions of local inhabitants.

This project was finalist in the social non-profit category of the Ventures 2007 contest. It was also selected to be presented in the Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation 2010 course that will take place in Norrköping, Sweden between March 1-26 of 2010, programmed by Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) and financed by The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Coordinator: Silvia Vejarano MSc.

OTHER ONGOING PROJECTS

Appropriation and use of social cartography by local communities

Coordinator: Javier Díaz MSc

Appropriation of audiovisual tools by local communities

Coordinator: María Teresa Gámez

Study of the role of ectomycorrhizal fungi in functioning and dynamics of a monospecific and endemic *Pseudomonotes tropenbosii* forest, in the Colombian Amazonia

Coordinator: Aída Vaso Palacio PhD(c)

PUBLICATIONS

Gutiérrez DT y Arbeláez F. 2009. "La Danza Yalcón". Short documentary. Fundación BioDiversa Colombia and Fundación Raíces Vivas. Available online at: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=1CEF0D25B024FF00

Morales-Jimenez AL, Vejarano S, Rodríguez C y Ospina O. 2008. Programa nacional para la conservación de la especie endémica de Colombia tití gris (*Saguinus leucopus*). First Edition. MAVDT, Corpocaldas and Fundación BioDiversa Colombia. Bogotá D.C. Index available online at: http://www.invemar.org.co/redcostera1/invemar/docs/RinconLiterario/2009/abril/GA_34.pdf

Arbeláez F, Gutierrez DT. 2008. "Torichiga" (Historia de taricayas). Video of the Torichiga stageplay. Grupo de jóvenes de la comunidad de Nuevo Jardín, Amazonas and Fundación BioDiversa Colombia. Available online at: <http://video.google.es/videoplay?docid=6075199196786203964&ei=ul-DS-eWO5PorALN7M3VBg&q=torichiga#>

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Morales-Jimenez AL. 2005. Studbook colombiano para los monos araña (*Ateles spp.*). First Edition. Fundación BioDiversa Colombia. Bogotá D.C. Available online at: http://www.fundacionbiodiversa.org/pdf/Ateles/studbook_colombiano_ateles.pdf