



COLOMBIA WILD CORPORATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bogota, COLOMBIA, JANUARY 3, 2022

Dear reader:

The activities carried out by our organization, **COLOMBIA WILD CORPORATION**, throughout the year 2022, fill me with pride and joy, at this moment when making the official delivery of our management report detailing the work done by the corporation In colombia. I recognize the hard work, efforts and sacrifices made in order to generate clear conservation projects and processes that allow the creation of comprehensive conservation strategies which ensure the country's biodiversity on sustainable development and clear planning processes.

During 2022, we executed 6 conservation projects, integrated water management and promotion of alternative livelihoods, based on the reforestation of forests. In this management report you can find what for us has been a great advance towards the fulfillment of our objectives as an institution, since projects of great importance have been carried out in different regions of Colombia by the hand of various regional entities, National and international. Likewise, it can be seen how little by little we have fulfilled our interest in being leaders in the generation and dissemination of knowledge about conservation processes in tropical ecosystems, finding within our activities, various actions aimed at strengthening both the institutions that manage the ecosystems of the country, such as the training of various groups of people from the academy in order for them to replicate the strategies and models that we have been successfully developing in Colombia and in other countries of the world.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and find our activities and contributions to Biodiversity Research and Conservation interesting.

Cordially,

GINA MARCELA MARQUEZ MINA



PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED DURING THE VALIDITY OF 2022

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION OF CRITICALLY ENDANGERED DUROECOELIA (AOTUS LEMURINUS) IN AND AROUND THE LOWLAND RAINFOREST OF THE COLOMBIAN ANDEAN MOUNTAINS.

The tropical forests of the Colombian Andean mountains is one of the largest remaining lowland tropical forests (>800 m elevation). It is largely surrounded by agricultural land, creating continuous pressure from slash-and-burn practices, illegal logging, and hunting. It is also considered one of the highest priority tropical forests for the conservation of the Oak snails (Aotus lemurinus): the wild population of oak snails (Aotus lemurinus) is estimated at not much more than 1000 and 530 are present in the mountainous region. The large DUROECOELIA have declining populations that suffer from these anthropogenic disturbances.



The main objective of the project was to stabilize or increase populations of critically endangered DUROECOELIA, in addition to protecting valuable habitat in a sustainable manner in collaboration with local communities.

The DUROECOELIA and their habitat were monitored through patrols, infractions will be reported to the corresponding authorities. Villages were made aware of fires, slash-and-burn agriculture, but also illegal logging, forest clearing and hunting. A World Environment Day was celebrated with the communities. Local inhabitants were trained in sustainable living and agricultural projects. A reforestation project was implemented to improve degraded forest areas.

Date	From February, 23/2022 to December 31/2022
Amount	USD 10,000
Beneficiaries	300 families indigenous
Partner	CORPOAMAZONAS; Universiti of Amazon



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AMAZON COMMUNITIES PROJECT: IMPROVING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTICIPATORY COMMUNAL LAND USE PLANNING

This project is the continuation of the previous project, called “Conservation of the biodiversity of the Colombian Amazon through the development of Community Protected Areas and sustainable livelihoods”.



The main objective is to improve the food security and income of the communities living in 34 villages in the Puerto Nariño districts by guaranteeing community access to land and resources, providing training to diversify income from organic and non-forest timber, while protecting globally important forests. biodiversity and sustain its natural carbon sink.

The Amazon Mountains are both a former stronghold of the Ticuna Indians and a densely forested landscape of great conservation importance (containing half of all of Colombia's biodiversity). Many of the beneficiaries of this program belong to the most disadvantaged groups in Colombia (with an annual income of less than 25 EUR).

Fauna and Flora International staff have been carrying out projects in the region since 2019. Significant problems remain due to the loss and degradation of land and community resources (by authorities granting concessions to corporations or powerful groups who simply land grabs), poverty and limited voice and representation at the district planning level. Fauna and Flora International uses innovative training techniques to increase the appropriate skills needed to improve community management of farmland and forestry, while helping to establish the cooperative networks needed to market renewable forest products.

This project, designed in consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, is closely aligned with the National Strategic Development Plan and contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Date	From January, 2/2022 to December 31/2022
Amount	USD 10,000
Beneficiaries	300 families indigenous
Partner	CORPOAMAZONAS; University of Amazon; Fauna and Flora International



CONSERVATION OF THE SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK IN THE GULF OF MORROSQUILLO, COLOMBIA: COMMUNITY AND SCIENCE GENERATING EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

The scalloped hammerhead is protected on oceanic islands of the Tropical Eastern Atlantic. However, for decades, the lack of conservation efforts in the coastal and nursery areas (considered as critical habitats) left the future source of population vulnerable.



Golfo de Morrosquillos is located in the northern part of Colombia and has an area of 700 km². In 2010 it was declared a Marine Zone for Responsible Fishing. Thanks to this, shrimp trawling boats and gill nets are prohibited, and fishing is regulated. It is also a shark breeding area identified by Misión Tiburón. Artisanal fishers generally do not focus their efforts on sharks, however they are a significant bycatch. They represent almost 40% of the total catch of the artisanal bottom lines, and *S. lewini* represented more than 50% of them.

The objective of the project was to improve the conservation of sharks in the Tropical Eastern Atlantic through the protection of the Morrosquillo Gulf. This project was divided into two sub-objectives:

- Implement the strategy for the protection of the scalloped hammerhead shark population, prepared and approved by local actors and Government Institutions.
- Involve local communities in shark protection, through the development of educational and training programs.

The association will implement the educational and training programs proposed by the strategy to support local fishermen during the rainy season, when bottom longlining is not permitted throughout the Gulf. In this period, the females enter the gulf to give birth and the abundance of hammerheads is greater. The strategy includes training for fishermen on aquaculture and tourism projects and an educational program for children.

SUMMARY OF THE FINAL REPORT (AUGUST 2022):

Within the project period, workshops and meetings have been held with fishermen, members of government institutions and community leaders. An application is being developed to denounce illegal fishing practices. 18 people also took a diving course, as an alternative income generation activity.

Date	From January, 2/2021 to July 31/2022
Amount	USD 15,000
Beneficiaries	300 families indigenous
Partner	CORPOMAGDALENA; University of Magdalena



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON FISHING AGREEMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

To compensate for the decline in catches off their coasts, industrialized countries have subsidized their industrial fishing fleets to extend their activities to more distant waters from other countries, including off the Colombian coast. This expansion has been carried out mainly through fishing agreements, established in the early 1980s, to supply Western markets.

These fishing agreements were widely criticized for their opacity and inequity. They include few incentives for good behavior by foreign fishermen, and revenues for 'partner countries' are often ridiculously small, while foreign boats compete with small-scale local fishermen. In addition, the fishing practices used under these agreements have a significant impact on ecosystems. Therefore, several target species are overexploited (such as several tuna species in the Atlantic Oceans) and numerous "bycatch" catches of sharks, sea turtles, manta rays, etc. are made each year.

While scientists believe that much of the industrial fishing in these areas would not be viable without subsidies, the ultimate goal of this project will be to improve the conservation of the marine environment in Colombia to preserve threatened species, to stop the export of fish. overcapacity from north to south and protect fishing communities by limiting competition with foreign industrial fisheries.



To achieve this objective, COLOMBIA WILD CORP initially evaluated the economic model of the Colombian fishing fleets that operate within the framework of these agreements to confirm whether or not their viability is assured without subsidies. In a second opportunity, the fishing agreements between developed countries and African countries will be studied to produce a road map designed to profoundly transform these agreements, within the United Nations sustainable development goals.

Date	From January, 2/2022 ONGOING
Amount	USD 15,000
Beneficiaries	300 families indigenous
Partner	CORPOMAGDALENA; University of Magdalena



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EXPANSION OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR THE LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BELLO ROCKET FROG (HYLOXALUS ABDITARRANTIUS) IN COLOMBIA

The BELLO ROCKET FROG (*Hyloxalus abditarrantius*) is a rare species that lives in a single site of less than 10 square kilometers and the extent of its forest habitat is decreasing. It is ranked among the 100 most genetically distinct and globally threatened amphibians in the world. Recent population estimates reveal a steady decline from 335 in 2018 to fewer than 226 individuals in a 2020 estimate.

Habitat degradation and hunting are causing the frog population to decline. Habitat degradation is caused by uncontrolled withdrawal of water from the village stream (which is the only habitat for the last remaining population of the species), reducing the quantity and quality of stream water necessary for successful development of the tadpoles. In some cases, tadpoles are accidentally removed and/or killed from the stream during water extraction. Hunting, on the other hand, is done by young school-age children mainly as an after-school activity.

The objective of this project is to save from extinction the last remaining population of the critically endangered BELLO ROCKET FROG (*Hyloxalus abditarrantius*) of Colombia. Two objectives will be targeted:

Improve the community's water supply by introducing rainwater harvesting and storage technology that eliminates its reliance on stream water. Existing roof systems on public buildings will be used as rainwater collection areas. Five large reservoirs will be purchased and installed to serve as the main storage facilities. Water quality will be routinely tested and water treatment will be performed when necessary. In addition, education and training will be provided to enable individual households to set up their own water collection system using basic household items.



SUMMARY OF THE FINAL REPORT (NOVEMBER 2022):

After consultation with the villagers and engineers, the water collection system and reservoirs have been replaced by a mechanized pump. The planned reservoirs would not store enough water during the dry season (4 months). Simultaneously, an ecotourism project has been launched to pay for the maintenance of the water system and has already received 3,000 people in one year.

Date	From January, 2/2022 – November 2022
Amount	USD 5,000
Beneficiaries	100 families indigenous
Partner	CORPOAMAZONAS; University of Amazonas



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'REFUGES FOR THE ARAHUAC GECKO (LEPIDOBLEPHARIS MIYATAI)', A PARTICIPATORY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE TO PRESERVE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN AN URBAN SETTING

The Arahuac Gecko (*Lepidoblepharis miyatai*) is an endemic species to Colombia. Now it is found only in the north on a narrow 11 km long coastal strip. The population is estimated to be between 300 and 500, with a sharp decline in numbers observed in the last 20 years. The species is now classified as "critically endangered" on the IUCN Red List.

The survival of this arboreal lizard depends on maintaining its habitat, which is gradually disappearing. It lives in the native vegetation of the coastal cliffs and in private gardens. Since these gardens are a privileged habitat (home to almost half of the lizards), it is vital that the local population get involved in conservation efforts.

Adopting a participatory conservation approach, COLOMBIA WILD CORPORATION was launched on an initiative to fulfill two main objectives:

Ensure the long-term protection and conservation of gecko populations in private gardens;

Improve the living conditions of the species and favor the installation of geckos in new gardens.

The creation of a shelter is based on the signing of an agreement, which commits the signatory to take the lizard into account in the day-to-day life of the house (garden maintenance, recommendations for the work that is required, etc.) and includes other optional measures (planting of suitable species, monitoring of geckos on the person's land).



SUMMARY OF THE FINAL REPORT (JUNE 2022):

Fondation Arigato first supported this project between July 2021 and July 2022. During this period, 41 new shelters were created, bringing the total to 143. At the same time, 173 seedlings conducive to the development of the geckos. A collective initiative was organized involving 13 participants, which made it possible to restore 300 m2 of habitat and plant 30 seedlings. Finally, gecko monitoring through photo identification was introduced in 10 of the participating refuges, which allowed the identification of 80 individuals and the creation of a database.

Date	From June, 2/2021 – November 2022
Amount	USD 10,000
Beneficiaries	300 families indigenous
Partner	CORPOMAGDALENA; University of Magdalena



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