

PROJECT REPORT

JAN 2024

WOMEN FOR CONSERVATION



PROJECT REPORT

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1. EL JAGUAR RESEARCH STATION

Our project site is located in the El Jaguar Nature Reserve, about four hours downstream from the gateway city, San José del Guaviare. The closest town, Mapiripán, is located 25 minutes by motorboat from El Jaguar. The main means of transportation along the river is by small boat, although materials can also be transported from San José del Guaviare to Mapiripán (3 hours), and another 25 minutes by boat to the nature reserve. Visiting researchers and guests can fly into Villavicencio and arrive by small plane, or take an 8-hour bus to Mapiripán. They can also fly in to San José del Guaviare and take a four hour motorboat or three hour car ride to Mapiripán. The main form of transportation for receiving visitors, visiting Mapiripán, and observing birds along the river bank is by motorized boat. The small port of Mapiripán is a 25 minute boat ride upstream from the El Jaguar Nature Reserve.



Map demonstrating the location of the El Jaguar Research Station on the Rio Guaviare.

EL JAGUAR RESEARCH STATION



Left: The El Jaguar Entrance Sign when visitors first arrive by boat, the only way to access the El Jaguar Research Station.

Right: The Ecolodge pictured during the dry season. It is supported by a stilt-like structure to accommodate the river's flooding during the wet season.



Left: The Forest Guard's house is connected by a wooden walkway to the Eco Lodge. It includes a room and private bathroom for the Forest Guard's family.

Right: The two-story Ecolodge houses visitors on the top level and a kitchen and dining area on the lower level. The bathroom house is accessible by a wooden walkway.

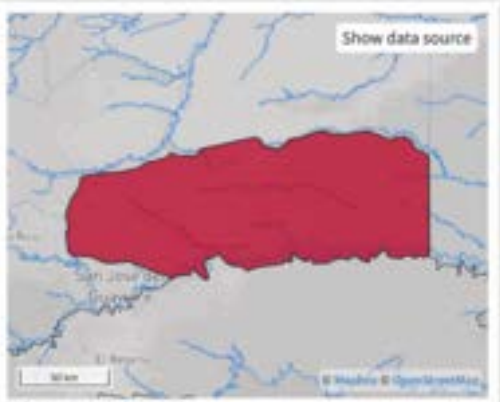
EL JAGUAR RESEARCH STATION – FLOOD ADVISORY

Mapiripan

River flood Hazard level: **High** ⓘ

In the area you have selected (Mapiripan) river flood hazard is classified as high based on modeled flood information currently available to this tool. This means that potentially damaging and life-threatening river floods are expected to occur at least once in the next 10 years. **Project planning decisions, project design, and construction methods must take into account the level of river flood hazard.** Surface flood hazard in urban and rural areas is not included in this hazard classification, and may also be possible in this location. Please see 'Urban Flood' for consideration of urban surface and river flooding. The following is a list of recommendations that could be followed in different phases of the project to help reduce the risk to your project. Please note that these recommendations are generic and not project-specific.

Climate change impacts: In northern Colombia, model projections are inconsistent in changes in rainfall. In southern Colombia, medium confidence in an increase in extreme precipitation and an increase in the number of extreme rainfall events. The present hazard level may increase in the future due to the effects of climate change. It would be prudent to design projects in this area to be robust to river flood hazard in the long-term.



Zoom out to Meta

High Low
Medium Very low

Source: [Think Hazard - Mapiripan - River Flood](#)

The wet season is approximately January to June and the Dry season is July to December. January to March and July to August are the mildest months.



The port of Mapiripán during the dry season. The level of the river rises to the top of the stairs and soil bank during the wet season. During the wet season, transportation, construction, and day-to-day logistics are impeded.

2. GENERAL UPDATES



EDWIN GONZÁLEZ



YEIMI PARRA MENDOZA



LUIS GABRIEL MOSQUERA



LUISA GABRIELA DIAZ

Thanks to the Daughters for Earth grant funding, we've been able to successfully support staff, training, and hosting researchers at El Jaguar Research Station.

- We welcomed five women researchers to El Jaguar Research Station – Yenni Paola Caicedo Cárdenas, Lizzeth Viviana Pinilla Ortigoza, Maria Alejandra Segura Giraldo, Luisa Gabriela Diaz, and Yeimi Natalia Parra Mendoza
- Subdirector Luis Gabriel Mosquera, a long-term employee of our partner organization ProAves, became the director for the Amazon Region in October 2023. He has extensive experience in protecting Colombia's endangered species as Subdirector of various reserves, and is now bringing his expertise to supervise activities of the research station and the Amazon region.
- Subdirector Andrea del Pilar Cáceres Franco finalized her community activities in the Amazon region and has now become the Subdirector of the Caribbean region.
- In August 2023, our Forest Guard Edwin Esneider González from Aguila Arpia Reserve transferred to the El Jaguar Nature Reserve. Our forest guards in El Jaguar and Aguila Arpia (4 hours downstream) are hired locally from Raudal de Mapiripana, a town of 300 people with Indigenous Sikuani, Kurripako, Piapoco, and Cubeo heritage, and from the nearest city San José del Guaviare.
- Yeri Viviana Rodriguez works in the EcoLodge to cook, clean, and maintain the lodge for visitors arriving at the El Jaguar Research Station. She and Edwin González live in the Forest Guard Lodge with their young daughter.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to your support, we've been able to make several critical infrastructure improvements in preparation of our visitors and researchers.

- Due to the extreme flooding and moist conditions during the wet season, the wood from the walkway had eroded and some of the walkways that connect the cabins internally had deteriorated. Therefore it became necessary to replace the damaged wood, and it was treated to enhance its durability.
- In November, the damaged wood on the exterior, including the windows, was removed. New frames with mosquito netting were installed on the windows to prevent insects from entering into the bathroom.
- In December, we purchased and installed the Starlink system which aimed to provide internet access to the El Jaguar Reserve. The Starlink kit includes a base, a router, an antenna, and a power cable. This satellite internet is now accessible from the Research Station, which helps to increase communication across work teams, researchers and visitors, and with our partners at ProAves.
- Additionally, the Daughters for Earth grant helps support the ongoing maintenance of the trails and signage surrounding the El Jaguar Nature Reserve.
- Previous updates in the last grant report included updating mosquito netting torn by monkeys to prevent mosquitos, zancudos, and jenenenes from entering the EcoLodge. Several important items were purchased including life jackets for transportation on the river, vital medical supplies, a first aid kit, emergency stretcher, and fire extinguisher. Additionally preventative measures were taken such as updating electrical wiring and ensuring stable electricity to avoid potential fire hazards. The plumbing was also updated due to corrosion from the wet season.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



Left and Right: New wooden walkways were installed from the kitchen to the laundry area and from the Forest Guard's house to the kitchen and laundry area.



Left and Right: The walkway between the kitchen and the bathroom was improved and renovated due to damage from the rainy season.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



Left and Right: Updated frames and mosquito netting for bathroom windows.



Left and Right: Starlink kit set up including router and antenna.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



Forest Guard Edwin González maintains the infrastructure of the lodge and surrounding paths on a regular basis.



Forest Guard Edwin González continuously maintains the trails, clearing paths, chopping down fallen trees, and putting up new signage.

4. WOMEN'S RESEARCH GRANTS



In order to increase research opportunities for women scientists and researchers in Colombia, Women for Conservation launched five (5) scholarships for women scientists interested in conducting undergraduate or postgraduate research focused on the conservation of species and their habitats in the El Jaguar Research Station, located in the municipality of Mapiripán – Meta, on the Guaviare River. This initiative seeks to contribute to the protection of 5,800 hectares in the Guaviare River corridor between Meta and Guainía, and to enhance the protection of biodiversity and threatened species in this territory.

The application period closed on October 15th, 2023 and the application process included a formal application and presentation of proposed research and community projects. The scholarships include a grant for transportation, research materials, and food and a grant to cover housing, living costs, and logistical support from the Forest Guard and Subdirector from our partner organization ProAves. The proposed field research projects are between 1-1.5 months long.

The application was specifically for women scientists pursuing their undergraduate or graduate degrees or enrolled in a current academic degree course. The projects must focus on the conservation of species, their habitats, and/or bacterial or biological communities in the El Jaguar area. Requirements for the research grant include submitting a final report on the activities carried out and leading community workshops based on their research topic. The grantees must also submit a scientific article to the Colombian Conservation journal.

Click here to see [Luisa Gabriela Diaz in the field](#) as she researches antimicrobial-resistant pathogens in water inhabited by Pink Amazonian River Dolphins (Endangered) and Giant Amazon River Otters (Endangered). Click [here to read more about](#) why these women scientists' research projects are so critical.

WOMEN'S RESEARCH GRANTS



El **Delfín Rosado** es uno de las especies emblemáticas del Amazonas, según las categorías de amenaza de la Unión para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (IUCN), esta especie se encuentra **En Peligro (EN)**, debido a la destrucción acelerada de su hábitat.

Desde el programa de Becas: **Mujeres en la Investigación y la Ciencia** se adelanta la siguiente investigación:

Detección de patógenos resistentes a antimicrobianos considerados prioritarios para la salud pública, según la OMS, en cuerpos de agua cercanos a la Reserva ProAves El Jaguar, Meta: Estudio preliminar del hábitat y la distribución de la Nutria gigante de río (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) y el Delfín rosado de río (*Inia geoffrensis*).

A cargo de:



Luisa Gabriela Diaz Mesa
Universidad Nacional de Colombia
Medicina Veterinaria

En el marco del programa Becas: **Mujeres en la Investigación y la Ciencia** queremos aportar a la conservación de esta especie.

Actualmente, se proyecta el desarrollo de la investigación:

Estrategias para mitigar las amenazas y promover la coexistencia entre la *Pteronura brasiliensis* y las comunidades locales de Mapiripán, Meta.

A cargo de:



Yeimi Natalia Parra Mendoza
Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas
Licenciatura en Biología

Scientists Luisa Gabriela Diaz and Yeimi Natalia Parra's projects are the first of the five research projects to be held at the El Jaguar Research Station.

Con el propósito de contribuir al empoderamiento de las mujeres científicas e investigadores de nuestro país, ProAves lanza su programa de becas **para cinco (5) mujeres** que estén interesadas en desarrollar procesos de investigación de pregrado o posgrado enfocados en la conservación de las especies y sus hábitats en la Reserva ProAves El Jaguar, ubicada en el municipio de Mapiripán – Meta, Río Guaviare.



¿Quieres ser un guardián del DELFÍN ROSADO y la NUTRIA GIGANTE DE RÍO?

Únete a nuestros talleres comunitarios para aportar a la conservación de estas importantes especies en peligro de extinción.

TALLER 1

Dirigido a: Mujeres

Entre títulos y mujeres. Taller de fotoidentificación.

En este taller podrás aprender sobre la solución de problemáticas en tu territorio. Además, aprenderás a registrar por medio de la fotografía especies como: el **Delfín Rosado** y la **Nutria Gigante**.

📅 Fecha:
🕒 Hora:
📍 Lugar:

TALLER 2

Dirigido a: Estudiantes de colegios

Misión toninas y nutrias.

Por medio de actividades lúdicas podrás aprender a conservar el **Delfín Rosado** y la **Nutria Gigante de Río**.

📅 Fecha:
🕒 Hora:
📍 Lugar:

Más información:
Celular / WhatsApp:
☎ 310 5375059
👤 Luis Gabriel Mosquera

Organizado por:
WOMEN INVESTIGACIÓN
ProAves

Mujeres en la INVESTIGACIÓN CIENCIA

The call for applications was publicized to universities in Colombia (left) and the community workshops were publicized with leaflets to community members (right).

WOMEN'S RESEARCH GRANTS

Five women scientists were awarded research grants to carry out critical research at the El Jaguar Research station. Here is more information about our 5 awardees.

- **Luisa Gabriela Díaz Mesa**, Veterinary Medicine Student
 - **Affiliation:** National University of Colombia, Bogotá campus.
 - **Project Title:** "Detection of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens considered priorities for public health, according to the WHO, in bodies of water near the El Jaguar Reserve, Meta: Preliminary study of the habitat and distribution of the Giant River Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and the Amazon Pink Dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*)."
 - **Project Start Date:** December 26, 2023
- **Yeimi Natalia Parra Mendoza**, Undergraduate Biology Student
 - **Affiliation:** Francisco José de Caldas District University, Bogotá, Colombia.
 - **Project Title:** "Effective Strategies to Mitigate Threats and Promote Coexistence between *Pteronura brasiliensis* and Local Communities in the Municipality of Mapiripán."
 - **Project Start Date:** January 15, 2024
- **María Alejandra Segura Giraldo**, Biology Student
 - **Affiliation:** University of Antioquia, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences. Medellín, Antioquia.
 - **Project Title:** "Characterization of the Herpetofauna Present in the El Jaguar Reserve, Municipality of Mapiripán, Meta."
 - **Project Start Date:** January 15, 2024
- **Lizzeth Viviana Pinilla Ortigoza**, Undergraduate Biology Student
 - **Affiliation:** Francisco José de Caldas District University, Bogotá, Colombia.
 - **Project Title:** "Population Structure and Habitat Use of the Terecay Turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*) in the El Jaguar Reserve, Mapiripán, Meta, Guaviare River."
 - **Project Start Date:** January 15, 2024
- **Katherine Becerra Cárdenas**, Social Communicator – Journalist
 - **Affiliation:** Master's in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development. Cali, Valle del Cauca.
 - **Project Title:** "La educomunicación: Strategy to Strengthen Governance and Protect the Jaguar and Its Habitat in the El Jaguar Reserve, Mapiripán, Meta."
 - **Project Start Date:** January 22, 2024

5. COMMUNITY BIODIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

Each Women's Research Grant Awardee carries out community science workshops to help community response to protecting surrounding animals. Throughout the grantee's research grant period, a number of Community Biodiversity Workshops were held. The following is a list of research-related biodiversity workshops held and scheduled for the first quarter of 2024.

- **Led by Scientist Viviana Pinilla Ortigoza:**
 - a. "At a Turtle's Pace! An Approach to the Study and Conservation of Continental Turtles"
 - b. "Llanerazas, Llanerazas"– "Freshwater Turtles in the Culture and Traditional Knowledge of Communities"
- **Led by Scientist Luisa Gabriela Díaz Mesa:**
 - a. "Community Science in the Context of One Health: Organization to Address a Problem in the Local Environment through Science"
 - b. "Photographic Record, Play, and Creative Activity, in Search of Solutions to Protect *Inia geoffrensis* and *Pteronura brasiliensis*"
 - c. "Waste Management in the Municipal Seat, Seeking to Minimize Impacts on Different Species of Interest"
- **Led by Scientist María Alejandra Segura:**
 - a. "Diversity, Ecosystem Roles, and Generalities Concerning Amphibians and Reptiles in Mapiripán"
 - b. "How to Identify, Avoid, and Treat Snakebite Accidents"
 - c. "Addressing Common Myths and Beliefs about Amphibians and Reptiles"



Scientist Luisa Gabriela (left) and Subdirector Luis Gabriel (right) leading a community biodiversity workshop to local participants in Mapiripán, Meta.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

The key to maintaining excellent community relations and promoting community conservation efforts is recurring, reliable, and community-centered events.

- **Community Bird Watching**

- On October 14th, students and teachers from Institución Educativa Jorge Eliécer Gaitán in Mapiripán were invited to El Jaguar to birdwatch.
- Previously, on March 30th, Women for Conservation organized a community bird watching trip to El Jaguar and along the Rio Guaviare River Banks.

- **Jiw Indigenous Community School Workshops**

- On October 6th, Women for Conservation led another bird identification workshop at the community school located 25 minutes from Mapiripán.
- Previously, W4C led an environmental education mural project in collaboration with school children and teachers from the Jiw Community School.

- **Global Big Day**

- On May 13th Women for Conservation participated with Amigos de los Aves (Friends of the Birds) in Mapiripán, Meta to register species on eBird.

- **Family Planning Event**

- Previously, in collaboration with ProFamilia, our family planning day in April enabled 89 women from our waitlist to receive free access to family planning.



Jiw Community School bird identification workshop (left) and Institución Educativa Jorge Eliécer Gaitán birdwatching workshop (left).

NATURE CONSERVATION: RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS – DECEMBER 2023

Here are several recent bird sightings near El Jaguar Research Station. Photo credit and species identification is thanks to Subdirector Luis Gabriel Mosquera.



White-necked puffbird
Notharchus hyperrhynchus



Neotropic cormorant
Nannopterum brasilianum



Red-breasted Meadowlark
Leistes militaris



Jabiru
Jabiru mycteria



Blue-tailed Emerald
Chlorostilbon mellisugus



White-eared Jacamar
Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis

NATURE CONSERVATION: RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS – DECEMBER 2023

Here are several recent bird sightings near El Jaguar Research Station. Photo credit and species identification is thanks to Subdirector Luis Gabriel Mosquera.



Magpie Tanager
Cissopis leverianus



Amazon kingfisher
Chloroceryle amazona



Horned screamer
Anhima cornuta



Cinnamon Attila
Attila cinnamomeus



Amazonian umbrellabird
Cephalopterus ornatus



Chestnut-capped puffbird
Bucco macrodactylus

NATURE CONSERVATION: CAMERA TRAP SITINGS 2023

We've had some incredible wildlife sightings since the beginning of your support in December 2022. These sightings are incredibly important confirmation of our work as conservationists. In addition to regular daily sightings of birds and monkeys, we've had sightings of several IUCN registered Threatened, Vulnerable, and Endangered species. Here is an overview of animals recently observed on our camera traps, with several of them listed as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, and Endangered on IUCN's Red List.

- Jaguar (*Panthera Onca*) – Near Threatened (NT)
- Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) – Vulnerable (V)
- Giant River Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) – Endangered (EN)
- South American tapir (*Tapirus terrestris colombianus*) – Vulnerable (V)
- Cougar (*Puma concolor*)
- Central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*)
- Black-eared Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*)
- Capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*)
- Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*)
- White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus goudotii*)
- Humboldt's squirrel monkey (*Saimiri cassiquiarensis*)
- Tufted capuchin monkey (*Sapajus apella*)
- Red-tailed squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*)

El Jaguar – (*Panthera Onca*) – Near Threatened (VU)



Click here to watch the full video [here](#).

NATURE CONSERVATION: CAMERA TRAP SITINGS 2023

South American Tapir- *Tapirus terrestris colombianus* Vulnerable (VU)



Click here to watch the full videos [here](#) and [here](#).

Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) Vulnerable (VU)



Note: The Anteater on the left is carrying its young!
Click here for the full videos [here](#) and [here](#).

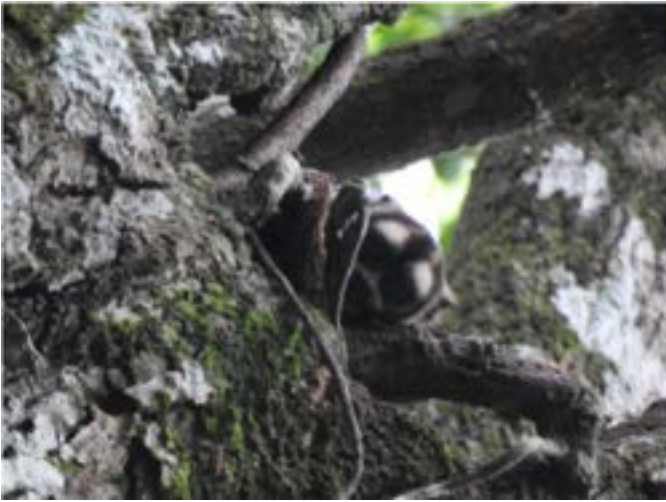
Black-eared Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*)



Click to watch the full videos [here](#) and [here](#).

NATURE CONSERVATION: CAMERA TRAP SITINGS 2023

Humboldt's squirrel monkey (*Saimiri cassiquiarensis*)



Crestless curassow (*Mitu tomentosum*)



Click to watch the full videos [here](#) and [here](#).

Cougar (*Puma concolor*)



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus goudotii*)



Click here to watch the full [video](#).

Click here for the full [video](#).

Dear Daughters for Earth,

From all of us at Women for Conservation, we would like to thank you! If you have any additional requests about specific updates, we are more than happy to answer them. We hope to invite you to visit our project site in the near future.

Best wishes,
The Women for Conservation Team

THANK YOU

JAN 2024

WOMEN FOR
CONSERVATION

