

Fundación Bosque Seco Tropical de Colombia (FUNBST)

Project: Save Wildlife & Magdalena Tinamou in Colombia

Platform: GlobalGiving | Funding

Goal: \$15,000 USD

Location: Honda and Magdalena Valley, Colombia

Executive summary and technical background

1. Project Summary

- Fundación Bosque Seco Tropical de Colombia (FUNBST) submits this technical plan to carry out 20 participatory wildlife monitoring expeditions and living classrooms across fragmented forest patches in the Upper Magdalena Valley. The initiative deploys non-invasive technology (camera traps, bioacoustics, and precision optics owned by FUNBST) alongside community citizen science. By empowering 360 rural youth and farmers, we turn biological data into conservation pacts and deliver authored regional books to rural schools.

2. Justification and Problem Statement

- **Critical Habitat Loss:** Less than 8% of the original Tropical Dry Forest cover survives in Colombia.
- **Territorial Threats:** Uncontrolled deforestation, extensive cattle ranching expansion, and recurrent summer wildfires (both accidentally sparked and triggered by unmanaged agricultural burnings).
- **Community Knowledge Gap:** Cryptic species of high conservation value survive within private boundaries without local communities recognizing their presence, which leads to the unintentional destruction of critical habitat.

3. Technical Track Record and Scientific Milestone

- **Rediscovery of the Magdalena Tinamou (*Crypturellus erythropus saltuarius*):** In 2023, our team was part of the scientific milestone of rediscovering this endemic species alive after more than 230 years without documented records since the 1786 Royal Botanical Expedition.
- **Scientific and Pedagogical Authorship:** FUNBST is the sole author and rights holder of three regional biodiversity works: *Honda, un Río de Aves*, *Vida en el Bosque Seco Tropical*, and the upcoming title *Gigantes del Bosque Seco Tropical*.
- **Foundation-Owned Operational Assets:** Tripod-mounted spotting scope, high-precision binoculars, photography gear with telephoto and macro lenses, bioacoustic recorders, and camera trap monitoring stations.

OPERATIONAL METHODOLOGY & EXPEDITION PLAN (20 EXPEDITIONS)

Operational Workstreams

1. **Non-Invasive Biological Monitoring:** Installation of camera trap stations enclosed in steel security lock boxes with python master cables, paired with passive bioacoustic recorders to document secretive wildlife without disrupting natural behaviors.
2. **Precision Optics & Citizen Science Expeditions:** 20 comprehensive field outings (18 participants per expedition: rural students, teachers, and smallholders) utilizing the foundation's spotting scopes and binoculars, backed by guaranteed 4x4 rural transport, local field catering, and medical insurance policies.
3. **Living Classrooms & Book Endowments:** Direct delivery and donation of our three authored books (*Honda, un Río de Aves*, *Vida en el Bosque Seco Tropical*, and *Gigantes del Bosque Seco Tropical*) to rural schools, establishing permanent local study collections and voluntary no-burn agreements with landowners.

Master Implementation Timeline (12 Months)

- **Q1 (Months 1–3):** Community agreements, camera trap network deployment, and first 5 rural field expeditions.
- **Q2 (Months 4–6):** Station maintenance, 5 field expeditions, and book library donations across local schools.
- **Q3 (Months 7–9):** 5 field expeditions, biodiversity data curation, and initiation of voluntary conservation pacts.
- **Q4 (Months 10–12):** Final 5 field expeditions, formalization of land stewardship agreements, and annual donor reporting.

Detailed master budget \$15,000 usd

Item / Operational Activity	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost (USD) Propuesta y Presupuesto Detallado FUNBST - GlobalGiving (\$15,000 USD)	Total (USD) Propuesta y Presupuesto Detallado FUNBST - GlobalGiving (\$15,000 USD)
COMPONENT 1: EXPEDITION LOGISTICS (40%)				\$6,000
Rural 4x4 transport services (Hired local off-road transport to forest patches)	20	Trips / Days	\$125.00	\$2,500
Field catering & hydration (Nutritious meals for 18 participants x 20 expeditions)	360	Rations	\$6.25	\$2,250
Rural medical assistance and accident coverage insurance policies	360	Policies / day	\$2.50	\$900
Field safety kits, biodegradable insect repellent, and first-aid replenishment	20	Outing kits	\$17.50	\$350
COMPONENT 2: MONITORING & HARDWARE UPKEEP (25%)				\$3,750
High-capacity rechargeable lithium batteries and portable solar power units	80	Units	\$15.00	\$1,200

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Industrial-grade high-speed SD cards (128GB/256GB Class 10 for 4K video)	40	Units	\$25.00	\$1,000
Steel security lock boxes, Python cable locks, and field-hardening hardware	15	Security kits	\$50.00	\$750
Optical servicing, precision calibration, and cleaning for scope and tele/macro lenses	1	Annual service	\$800.00	\$800
COMPONENT 3: EDUCATIONAL BOOKS & OUTREACH (25%)				\$3,750
Printing and binding of our new authored book: <i>Gigantes del Bosque Seco Tropical</i>	200	Books	\$10.00	\$2,000
Reprints and school endowments: <i>Vida en el BST</i> and <i>Honda, un Río de Aves</i>	150	Books	\$7.00	\$1,050

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Laminated folding wildlife identification guides and classroom biodiversity posters	70	School sets	\$10.00	\$700
COMPONENT 4: TECHNICAL REPORTING & COMPLIANCE (10%)				\$1,500
Biological data curation, photo editing, and quarterly reporting for GlobalGiving	4	Quarterly reports	\$200.00	\$800
International wire fees, currency conversion expenses, and platform compliance	1	Annual allocation	\$700.00	\$700
GRAND TOTAL	\$15.000 USD			