

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF

BIODIVERSITY



22 MAY

Biodiversity in Colombia and
Fundación Natütama

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY AND WHY IS IT AT RISK?

Biodiversity describes the totality and variety of life on Earth. Scientists estimate that there are around **8.7 million** species of plants and animals in existence, however, only around 1.2 million species have been identified so far.

According to the 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service, around **1 million** animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, many within decades.



BIODIVERSITY IN COLOMBIA



70% of the world's species are found in 12 countries, amongst them Colombia, which hosts close to 10% of the planet's biodiversity.

With **314 types** of ecosystems and the second-highest number of plant and amphibian species, Colombia is home to more than **1,800** species of birds, **456** mammal species, and **208** endangered amphibian species.

Colombia's natural ecosystems have been transformed by agriculture, an estimated **95%** of the country's dry forests, including close to 70% of Andean forests, have been reduced to **2%** of their original cover.

FUNDACIÓN NATÜTAMA

Fundación Natütama is a **Colombian NGO**, founded by three women in 2005, that works with indigenous communities along the River Amazon near Puerto Nariño and aims to educate local people about how they can **protect Amazonian wildlife** while living and working in the same environment. Natütama also runs a **conservation monitoring** program, which gathers regular information about wildlife numbers, distribution, and trends with the aim of identifying and preventing potential threats. Monitored species include the **Amazonian manatee**, Amazon River **Dolphin** (Pink Dolphin), Two-Toed **Sloth**, Amazonian River turtles, and Boa Constrictors.



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FUNDACIÓN NATÜTAMA

Fundación Natütama also works in schools in some of Colombia's major cities as part of its **extensive environmental education** program. The team of educators, most of them young adults themselves, take weekly classes with grades 1-5 in local primary schools, thereby reaching more than **twenty communities** in the Puerto Nariño area.

The Foundation aims to achieve **sustainable use of resources**, especially aquatic ecosystems, to ensure the quality of life for future generations.



COVID-19 AND BIODIVERSITY



The Covid-19 pandemic has emboldened land-grabbers and **illegal gold miners** since March 2020 due to a diminished state presence and the **self-imposed isolation of vulnerable Indigenous communities** who have long served as stewards of these forests.

Since Colombia went into global lockdown in late March 2020, **forest fires** and ensuing deforestation have skyrocketed in the Colombian Amazon, while illegal gold miners have been encroaching upon Indigenous territories and protected areas throughout the region.

HOW TO HELP

DONATE

Donate to the Fundación Natütama through the donation links in our bio.

READ

Read more information about Fundación Natütama on the Children of Colombia website.

SHARE

Raise awareness for the declining biodiversity in Colombia by sharing this post.

SOURCES

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