



Monitoring Protected Areas in Latin America

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Our mission

**To gather, analyze and disseminate
up-to-date information on the
conservation status of protected areas
by creating in-country partnerships**



Methodology



1. Gather information

- *On-the-ground Data Collection (1 to 3 weeks)*
- *Structured Interviews*
- *Workshops*
- *Photographic and Video Documentation*

Sources

*Protected Areas Staff:
Rangers, Directors,
Technicians
Scientists, Consultants
NGOs, CBOs
Tourists
Tourism companies
Local residents
Literature review*

2. Analyze results: Standardized Questionnaire

- Identifying Threats
- Management
- General Information
- List of Reference Materials

ParksWatch Protected Area Data

GENERAL INFORMATION Data collector: Carlos Albacete Date (m/d/y): 10/10/2001
Country: Guatemala Protected Area Name: Mirador - Rio Azul National Park IUCN category: Ia Ib II III IV V VI
State or Department: Petén

Latitude: 89°55'30" Longitude: 17°45'18" Altitude min (m): 100 Altitude max (m): 400 Area (ha): 116911
Date established (d/m/y): 4/1/1990 Establishment decree number: 5-90
How has area of PA changed since its creation? no change area has been increased area has been decreased
Explain changes to PA area (include decree numbers, amount changed, dates of changes):
No change

Land owner(s): Government NGO Private Multiple owners
Explain ownership: Estate
Access: how is PA accessed? road plane boat trail train Other...
Explain how PA is accessed: This PA is accessible by car during the dry season utilizing the unpaved road crossing Uuaxactún. This road reaches Dos Lagunas and enters Río Azul PA. Similar access from Melchor de Mencos, Tres Banderas, and Ixcán Río, from the southeast of the reserve also connect to the Uuaxactún road. The PA is also accessible by foot from Carmelita, passing el Lechugal, la Lucha, el Nacimiento, el Tintal, el Porvenir and la Muerta chicle camps. The Paxbán forestry concession, west of the PA, has a road that runs closer to the area though not frequently used. From Belize there are good roads reaching the eastern border of the PA, and in the southern Mexico there is a road that reaches the northern boundary of PA.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
Administration: Government NGO Private
Organization and Director (contact information):
CONAP, Región VIII, Petén. Director Joaquín Bonilla. CONAP, San Benito, Petén, Guatemala. Telephone (502) 9260560
Instituto de Antropología e Historia (IDAEH). Director Pedro Córdoba. IDAEH, Flores, Petén

Explain PA administration:
Due to its archaeological importance, the cultural resources of the PA are managed by the Instituto de Antropología e Historia (IDAEH). The natural resources are managed by the Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas. A proposal to share management of the PA with an NGO with adequate biological and economical background is pending.

Total number of staff: 31 Number of park guards: 27 Number of administrative staff: 4 Number of maintenance staff: 0
Type and number of other staff:
Types of management zones in the PA: none core buffer research recreation special use Other...
Describe management zones:
Types of management programs: none only in the past fires fauna forestry hunting fishing humans Other...
Describe management programs:

3. Disseminate results: Park Profile

Español Profile in PDF Home | News | Forum | Site Map | Contact

PARKS WATCH

Venezuela

Park Profiles

Photo: Yann Arthus Bertrand Overview

1. Choose a Country 2. Choose a Park

Los Roques Archipelago National Park

Enlarge

Aerial view of the Los Roques archipelago

General information

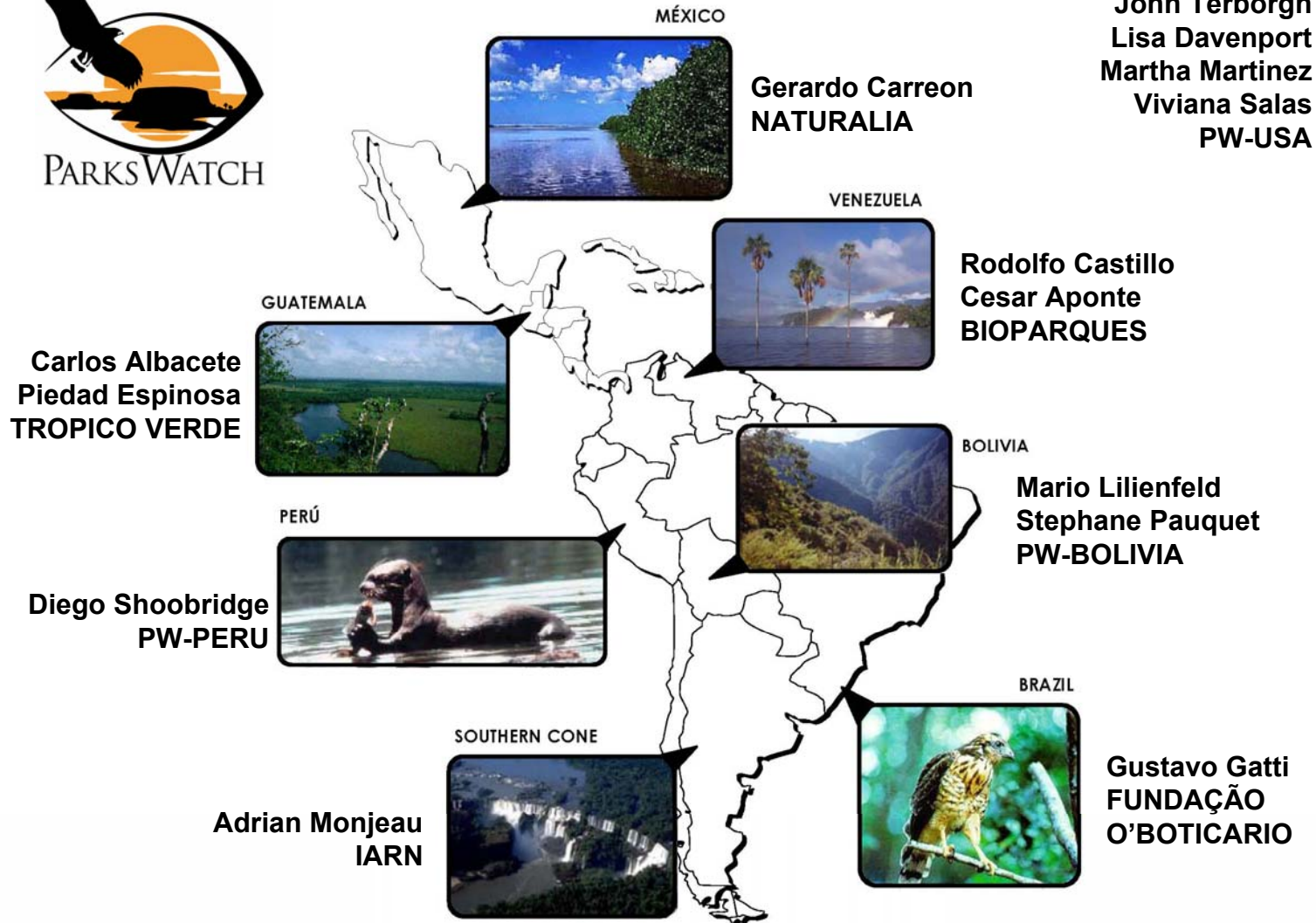
Date of most recent on-site evaluation	May 2002
Location	Federal Dependency, Venezuelan Caribbean Sea
Year Created	1972
Area	221,120 ha
Ecoregions	Coastal Venezuelan mangroves
Habitats	Coral reefs, seagrass (Thalassia) beds

www.parkswatch.org

- *Incentive for Data Providers*
- *Information Available*
- *Regular*
- *Updated*

~ 3 to 4 months per audit

Bottom-up approach: In-country partnerships



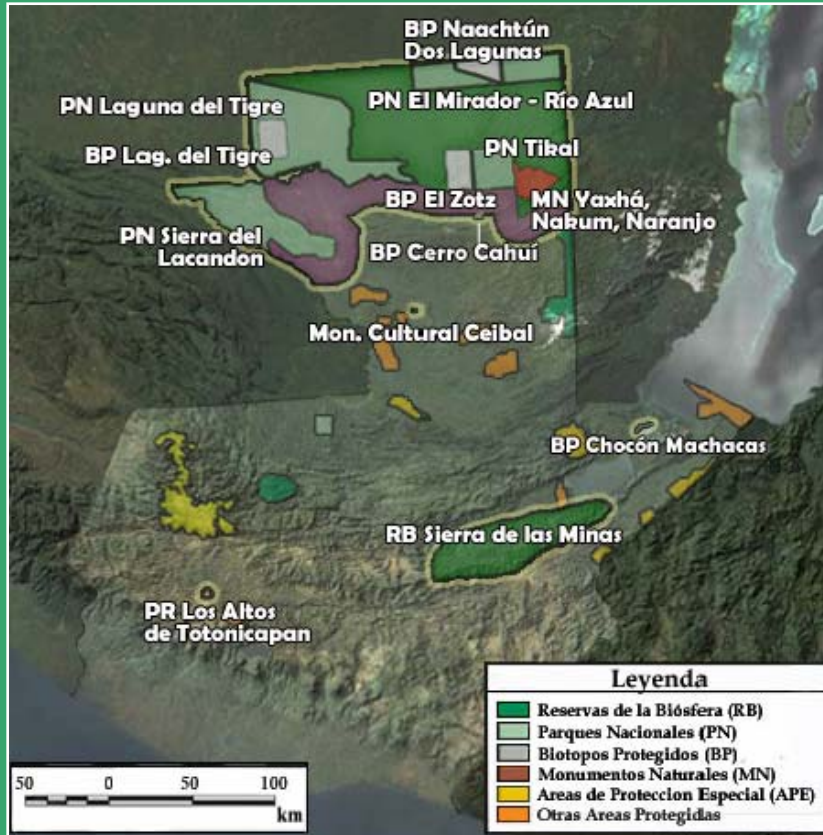
Country	# Protected areas
Mexico	13
Guatemala	16
Venezuela	24
Peru	27
Bolivia	7
Brazil	7
Argentina	4
TOTAL	98



**Protected
areas
monitored
2001 - 2005**

Mostly on tropical moist forests

Key areas for biodiversity conservation



Guatemala:
Reserva de Biosfera Maya

Peru-Bolivia:
Corredor Vilcabamba-Amboro



IUCN Categories of monitored areas

Country	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI	Reserved Zone
Mexico		1		2		10	
Guatemala		4	7			5	
Venezuela		20	4				
Peru		6	3		3	12	3
Bolivia		1				6	
Brazil	1	6					
Argentina		4					
TOTAL	1	42	14	2	3	33	3



Conservation status of monitored areas

Conservation Status	Description	# Protected Areas
Currently not threatened	There is no evidence that gives reason to believe that the protected area will fail to protect and maintain biological diversity in the near future.	0
Vulnerable	There is a tangible risk that the protected area will fail to protect and maintain biological diversity in the medium-term future. Monitoring is needed.	30
Threatened	There is a high risk that the protected area will fail to protect and maintain biological diversity in the near future. Remedial action is needed.	21
Critically threatened	The protected area is currently failing to protect and maintain biological diversity; or, there is an extremely high risk that the protected area will fail to protect and maintain biological diversity in the immediate future. Urgent solutions are needed.	26



Fires, Laguna del Tigre National Park, Guatemala



Logging, El Sira Communal Reserve, Peru



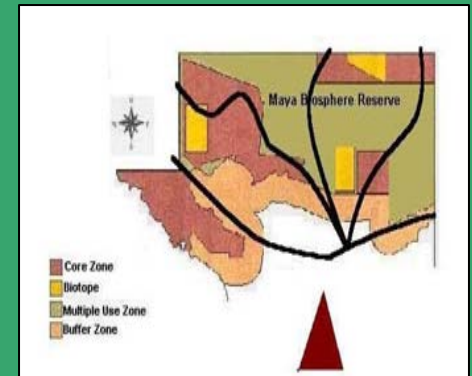
Pollution, El Avila National Park, Venezuela



Grazing, Los Tuxtlas Biosphere Reserve, Mexico



Impacts



- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Stop large development projects
- ✓ Change the category of protected areas (PA)
- ✓ Increase budgets of PA
- ✓ Elaborate management plans for PA
- ✓ Towards increasing public support
 - ✓ Over 200,000 visits to www.parkswatch.org in 2005
 - ✓ Venezuela: Over 120,000 visits to our articles in the environmental section of cantv.net (2003-2005)



Lessons learned

Our challenge: Become an information source for key actors to generate public and political support

Our role: Support for Protected Areas Stakeholders

- ✓ Government agencies
- ✓ NGOs (local, national, international)
- ✓ Donors
- ✓ International initiatives (**IABIN**, WDPA)



❖ Strengths:

- ✓ Standard methodology over a large geographic area
- ✓ In-country partnerships
- ✓ On-the-ground audit
- ✓ Different stakeholders involved
- ✓ Tangible product (incentive)
- ✓ Threats: news + baseline data

❖ Weaknesses:

- ✓ One questionnaire per area
- ✓ Questionnaire length
- ✓ On-line database and GIS information

❖ Threats:

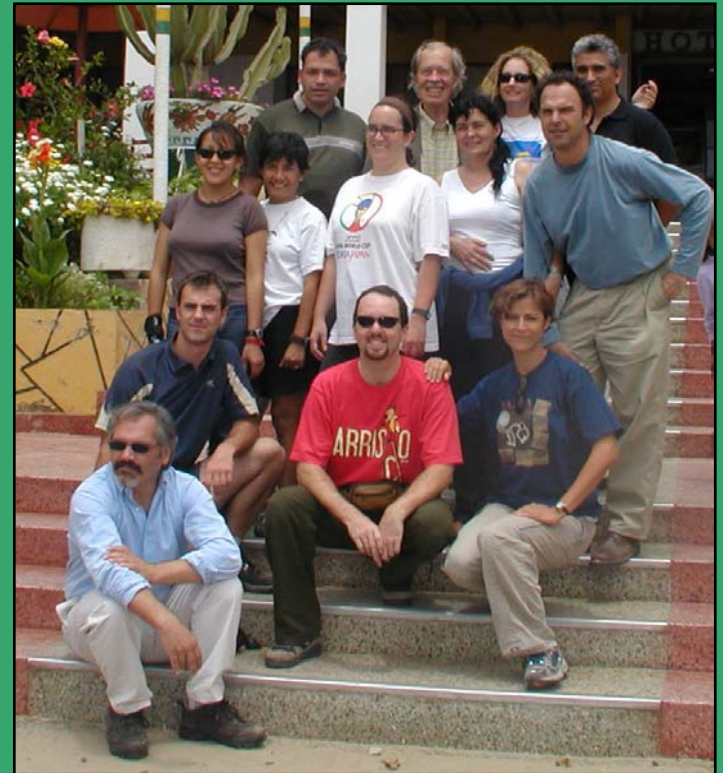
- ✓ Resistance to audits (hierarchy effect)
- ✓ Information used out of context
- ✓ Environmental issues not priorities
- ✓ Long-term sustainability plan

❖ Surprises:

- ✓ Unexpected target audiences

Thank you!

- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Netherlands Committee of IUCN
- Foundation for Deep Ecology
- Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- W. Alton Jones Foundation
- Overbrook Foundation
- Summit Foundation
- Embassies of UK and Germany
- Conservation International
- The Nature Conservancy
- IdeaWild
- Individuals
- Partners in countries (In-kind)



“Never doubt that a small, committed, dedicated group of people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever can”

Margaret Mead