

Project Update: February 2011

After several months, I have managed to contact and acquire GIS information, especially for Statutory Conservation Areas (SCAs), from NGOs and government agencies. Despite the interest of these institutions regarding the project, the data acquisition has been a slow process, especially because it is unclear the rights about the use of information or because part of the information has been generated in cooperation with other agencies. Institutions like Instituto Alexander Von Humboldt, The Nature Conservancy, Asociacion Colombiana Red de Reservas Naturales de la Sociedad Civil, Fundacion Omacha and Fundacion Horizonte Verde have provided shape files that provide enough information to create a preliminary GIS database.

With this database we start a filtering of the available shape files for the region, and we have identified major geographic gaps specially in some Private Owned Nature Reserves (PONRs) because the cartographic information is very old (e.g. some of it was created by INCORA a government institution that does not exist anymore). Some of the information also is very inaccurate and requires field confirmation. The data for SCAs has been analysed now.

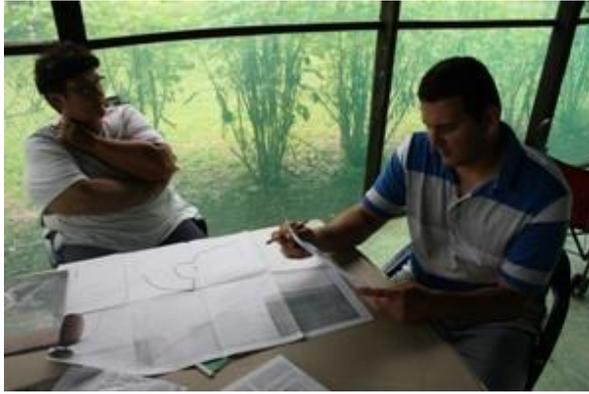
Meanwhile we created a PONR database and contact directly their owners of 31 PONRs exist in four departamentos (states) in the Colombian Orinoco basin.

A field trip was made to Puerto Carreño on the border with Venezuela where we contacted the owners and visited three PONRs that have been involved in a regional conservation project. That involves the Tuparro National Natural Park and some PONRs of the area whose aim was to increase connectivity in the region. We collect GIS data that completed the information for these Reserves.

In the next months we will start field trips to acquire GIS data for some PONRs and continue with data analysis. Also I will set up the ornithology workshop for the local stakeholders.



Left: Working with the regional coordinator of Bojonawi . PONR located in Orinoco River.
Right: Local stakeholders of Bojonawi PONR.



Left: Collecting general data with Refugion Nimajay PONR Owners. Right: Field trip in Ventanas PONR to verify GIS points.