

Project Update: January 2016

Goal I. To educate local communities for catching and breeding foreign fish species for their diet instead fishing vulnerable endemic species.

Activities related to goal I, completed so far:

1. Local people started the construction of their own ponds for breeding fish species for human diet. The project team has supervised this activity all the time.
2. We continue training activities with local people on the conservation problems facing up endemic fish species.
3. We provided some specific fishing items to the local people to help those fishing foreign species in natural habitats.

Goal II. To link local team members in a pilot programme aimed to save threatened fish species in Cienaga de Zapata National Park.

Activities related to goal II, completed so far:

1. We accomplished the rest of field trips proposed in the project. Were visited different biotopes in Cienaga de Zapata National Park located near the following human communities: Palpite, Soplillar, Santo Tomas and Los Hondones.
2. Population parameters were assessed for endemic fish species in each area.
3. Vulnerable fish species were identified, and we started a pilot captivity-breeding programme aimed to save them.
4. We accomplished maintenance works in the first pond constructed and we proved the effectiveness of this installation in the reproduction of native freshwater fish.
5. We are preparing a manuscript on the conservation status of freshwater fish from Cienaga de Zapata to publish in a scientific journal.



Constructing proper parapets to avoid escape of captive foreign freshwater fish. Appears a person from the local community (Los Hondones) and Rodet Rodriguez (leader of the project).



Final view of the parapets in a pond designed to maintain captive foreign freshwater fish.



Supervising the construction of another pond accomplished by a local person in Los Hondones.



Supervising the construction of another pond accomplished by a local person in Los Hondones.



Preparing some fishing items to give to the local people for fishing foreign species in natural habitats



Preparing some fishing items to give to the local people for fishing foreign species in natural habitats



Visiting the human community and biological station at Santo Tomas in Cienaga de Zapata National Park.



Visiting the human community and biological station at Santo Tomas in Cienaga de Zapata National Park.



Collecting endemic freshwater fish in natural habitats located near to Santo Tomas.



Collecting endemic freshwater fish in natural habitats located near to Santo Tomas.



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Collecting endemic freshwater fish in natural habitats located near to Santo Tomas.



Interview with a local child (who was fishing) at Playa Larga, the most urbanized community in Cienaga de Zapata National Park.



Interview with a local child (who was fishing) at Playa Larga, the most urbanized community in Ciénaga de Zapata National Park.



Doing maintenance works in the pond previously constructed.



Doing maintenance works in the pond previously constructed.



Collecting native fish breeding in the first pond. We verified the success in the reproduction of endemic fish species in this kind of installations.



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