

Project Update: May 2010

This period was dedicated principally to conduct different environmental educational activities. We carried out interactive talks in the schools to teach about caves in general with emphasis in the caves of the zone, we included their formation, inhabit fauna, archaeological values and the way to conserve all of them. The talks were used too by the professors to introduce or reaffirm some knowledge about different academic matters. Also we achieved guided excursions for the students to some caves.

The principal actors of these activities were the children, teachers, tourist guides and technicians of the protected area, specialists who work at the area, as well as social and cultural workers that are in charge of this region. Besides, we did didactical games that were very useful to propitiate the necessary reliable ambient with children, and to facilitate the work on group. During this contact with children we took some notes about the real needs of knowledge about caves and the protected area that had been used to prepare the pamphlets. In addition, we conducted other expeditions to the caves under study to acquire field data; we collected and made photos of some specimens that will be used in the fauna inventories and in the fauna cave guide. We elaborated a proposal for the Red List of Threatened Species of a troglobyte species of *Opiliones* (an arachnid) that lives at the La Majana and Los Golondrinos caves; this is under revision for publication. In Cuba, this is one of fewest proposals of invertebrates to be included at the red list of the IUCN and thanks to this project we gathered more information about this enigmatic and endemic species.

