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**2019 - International Year of Indigenous Languages**



**Serraniagua**

Environmental Organization  
Community

**Emberá Chamí – Peoples of the Mountains**

Land and languages are the pillars of the Emberá peoples, who are directly related to the origin of human existence and the universe. Land constitutes a common resource and the community defines it as the place they inhabit as well as the place that was used by their ancestors.

While the tribe is related to the ancient culture of the Quimbaya, today declared as extinct, the centre of origin of the Emberá tribe was most probably within the conservation corridor Tatamá-Paraguas. Inspired by the legacy of these native tribes, wild reserves have been established in order to generate spheres of greater harmony between culture and nature.



**Global Mobilisation for the Climate - 27 September 2019**

"It is not simply an action for the climate but for life in its best expression. Our task is to show that through solidarity humans can enjoy their walk through life more while keeping their footprints at a minimum".

**We demand**  
**TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY NOW!**

**Let's declare the rights of nature and a climate emergency in all places over the planet now!!!!**

Paper 100% fiber of sugar cane





Corporación Serraniagua  
ASOPALMAR

**What is a hotspot?** A hotspot is defined as a world's region that has a great richness of animal and plant species, which, at the same time, are under great threat.

**The Tropical Andes Hotspot is**, without a doubt, the hotspot with the greatest biological richness on the planet: it hosts more than 34,000 species, half of them are endemic and their distribution is restricted to this region only. It contains one sixth of the planet's plants and has the highest number of bird species, mammals, fresh water fish and amphibians.

With more than 40 indigenous groups, its cultural diversity is also exceptional. These communities play a critical role in economic activities and soil use, which is why they are important allies in biodiversity conservation.

More information: <http://andestropicales.net/>

Within this hotspot, the Paraguas Munchique corridor has a very high importance given its unique biodiversity in a zone that converges with the biogeographic Chocó (Risaralda, Chocó, Valle, Cauca and Nariño). It has 13 Key Biodiversity Areas with a total of 1,489,891 ha, 17% of which are Protected Areas.

### Leyenda

- PNN of Colombia
- ACB- CEPF
- Tropical Andes Corridor
- Hydrography

## Communications for the Defence of the Territory and its Communities

The aim is to strengthen civil society organisations and ethnic communities, generate alliances, share lessons learnt, and to create more public conscience on the impact of conservation through a communication strategy on the defence of the territory and the communities that protect it.

Under current conditions, it is unthinkable to talk about the connectivity between protected areas, landscapes and territories without the synergies and efforts of organisations and initiatives for its conservation. At the same time, the defence of the territory is impossible

without the strengthening and protection of these communities and organisations.

With a focus on **community communications** for education and local sustainable development, we are striving for greater political initiative for these processes as well as better participation of the local and regional media to make technical and scientific information more accessible while empowering the next generations to care for the planet.

Reports: Corporación Serraniagua –  
[comunicatarias@serraniagua.org](mailto:comunicatarias@serraniagua.org)

# Regional Alliance

## Declaratory process



The Serranía de los Paraguas is an area of global importance when it comes to the conservation of biodiversity. It is demarcated by the river Garrapatas-Sipí and its source in the Alto Galápagos–Gibraltar, which shapes the rich hydrological network of the mighty river San Juan. It forms a natural border between the department of Valle del Cauca and Chocó and represents the meeting point of the Andes and the Pacific region.



## Declaration of a Protected Area and Prior Consultation

Within the framework of the Regional Alliance for the declaration of the Serranía de los Paraguas as a protected area in the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP), workshops were organized with community-based organisations, municipal councils, natural reserves owners and representatives of district aqueducts for the collective identification of pressures, threats and strategies that promote better conservation practices in the territory.

During the same time of the workshop development, the Autonomous Regional Corporation of the Valle del Cauca (CVC) initiated the prior consultation process with the Emberá Chamí de Doxura in El Cairo and Dacha dana in El Dovio. This consultation phase within ethnic territories is required by Interior Ministry's prior to projects inside of territories indigenous or black communities with the aim to create positive social and environmental impacts.

## Community Conservation for Territorial Governance

The Municipal Systems for Protected Areas, natural reserves organisation, ethnic communities, community aqueducts in the municipalities of El Cairo, Versalles and El Dovio are working together so that the Serranía de los Paraguas becomes declared as a new protected area within the SIDAP Valle, showcasing the integration of conservation with

environmentally friendly production systems. A preliminary Group of Collaborative Management has been created, based on the SIMAPs and the Local Working Groups in each municipality, to establish a governance scheme similar to the Regional Working Group for the conservation of the Serranía de los Paraguas.

Get to know the importance of the declaration of the Serranía de los Paraguas as a protected area through an interactive tool that allows you to discover the hidden treasures of the mountains of the Western Cordillera of Colombia!

This is one of the tools developed in ArcGIS Online (Esri Colombia S.A.S) by Ms Sharon Angélica Sánchez during her project for her major in Geographic Information Systems at the University of Manizales and the support of the visual designer Mr Leonardo Gamba. Let's celebrate the implementation of academic projects applied to environmental conservation!

Link to the Story map:  
<https://www.serraniagua.org/declaratoria>



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

# AGROECOLOGY, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR SOVEREIGNTY



**Local Farmer Markets that are connected to regional and national markets** to promote responsible and conscious consumption of products from local, indigenous and black farmer communities.

**Sovereignty is the capacity of rural places and their people to make life choices - through the practices and knowledge of farmers, in harmony with natural resources - that satisfy their own needs as well as those of the community.**

## What we do for sovereignty



**Community-based production that respects the soil and water.** Through the School of Family Agriculture, we are organizing workshops for organic and biodynamic agriculture with organic input for our production as well as agricultural diversification strategies.



**Community-based conservation of seeds** such as beans, soy, corn, tomatoes and potatoes in order to preserve the knowledge of our ancestors and to guarantee the wellbeing and the autonomy of the families and communities.

We say **NO TO TRANSGENETIC SEEDS**



**Social support actions** that seek to positively influence the wellbeing of farmer families. We promote and accompany the traditional cooperative efforts such as "mingas" and "convites".



**Serraniagua, its partners, allies and networks** have managed to implement concrete actions at the municipal, regional and Latin American level that promote respect for fellow humans and the environment, mitigate the impact of agriculture and increase the resilience against climate change.

The extraction model<sup>1</sup> currently imposed by governments impedes the sovereignty of the villages and makes us farmers dependent on input and seeds that eliminate our biodiversity and damage the soil and human health.

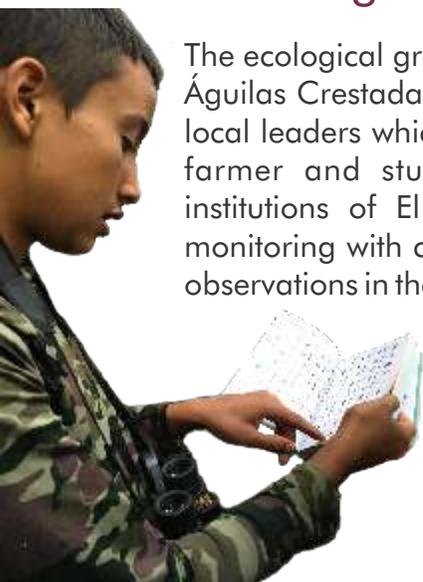
<sup>1</sup> based on the appropriation of huge volumes of natural resources or their intensive exploitation, most of them exported as raw materials to global markets

# Educational Alliances for Childhood and Youth



The Technical Institution for Environmental Education Gilberto Alzate Avendaño has the most important urban green zone in El Cairo. Known as the Arboretum School or Didactic Environmental Unit, it gives students an educational space to learn about the environment and biodiversity. With the support of our partner organisation Rädga Regnskog from Sweden, an open-air lecture hall was built in order to strengthen the unit and to improve the conditions for educational, recreational and cultural activities of students and visitors.

## The Crested Eagles Group



The ecological group The Crested Eagles (Las Águilas Crestadas) is a process of training of local leaders which is implemented by young farmer and students of the educational institutions of El Cairo. It includes wildlife monitoring with camera traps as well as bird observations in the Serranía de los Paraguas.



**Every action intends to leave behind a better planet for our children and youth ...**

Supported by:



## Living and harnessing our present for a good future - Women Farmers Network of the Serranía

While the Women's Network is constantly evolving, we decided to establish our Strategic Plan 2019–2024 entitled "Exploring links of exchange and community empowerment". Our new mission is to "strengthen leadership, offer educational spaces and highlight the processes of women groups, which should serve as a communication channel so as to share our experience and knowledge in strengthening the participation of women farmers".

These processes are a tribute to women farmers who, with all their passion, represent embroiders of experience, ambassadors of hope, poets of struggles, singers of courage, guardians of faith, nourishers of the world, seeds of life, weavers of new worlds, women of peace and of resilience. The women's groups currently are: Women's groups of the Pacific District, Women's group of Camigua, Women's group of Seeds for Tomorrow, Women's group for a Good Future, School of Family Agriculture, Women's group Balcony of Enchantment, Women's Group of Native Delicacies, Seeds of Life Doxura Reserve, Young Women's group (in formation)



# Alliance for Cultural Landscapes of Specialty Coffees

## Working for a clean and high-quality coffee agriculture

Through the School of Family Agriculture, the Specialty Coffee Group works to improve practices in the field and to recover soils through organic fertilisation as well as pest control through practices that respect the forests, the water and biodiversity. This effort goes parallel to the emphasis on quality during post-harvest processes, giving additional value to a coffee with already exceptional worth.



## Providing us with the tools to understand our soil and improve our cup profile

With the support of the Climate Alliance Vorarlberg, the Environmental Community House of Serraniagua have built a laboratory that enables us to evaluate the in-field processes, i.e. to understand our soils thanks to chromatographic technic and to improve the cupping scores of associated producers' coffee.

## Achieving fair markets that value our conservation efforts

The coffee market remains unstable, unjust and incoherent when put against the hard work of the coffee producer. However, global allies such as Nativos in France, Climate Alliance in Austria, Future Earth and Rädga Regnskog in Sweden, value our conservation efforts and the clean and high-quality agriculture of our coffee producers. Through a fair trade concept, they support our processes and help us obtain fair prices while promoting and sharing our mission and work beyond Colombia.



## And offering the best of our conservation coffee at the local level



This process simply aims to present and give value to the specialty coffees of our community. With that in mind, we are always improving roasting and preparation processes, and training the young generation to expand local knowledge so that everyone can enjoy the magical coffee from the Serranía mountains.





The Annual Assembly of the Network took place in Chinauta near to Bogotá, in last March, where important aspects regarding the strengthening of lines of action were discussed through the lens of different activities of the country's six nodes and its organisations.

More than one year ago, Serraniagua formed part of the National Network for Democracy and Peace, which integrates social, cultural and environmental organisations. It recognises the local, regional, national and international context in the defence of rights, the territory and the environment, the promotion of democracy, the building of civil society, and the strengthening of the social fabric in order to contribute to peace and social justice.

## The Southwest Node

Through Ms Isabel Cristina Lopez, Serraniagua coordinates the Southwest network node, in which more than 20 social, cultural and environmental organisations from Valle, Cauca and Nariño take part. Since its integration in the RNDP, Serraniagua has carried out the following activities:

- The Second Meeting of the Southwest node, which constituted the framework for the Forum on Civil Society and Territorial Governance on the 10th of August 2018. The Women's Farmers Group of the Serranía and other associations of producers and the community participated. Experiences were shared between the political scientist Ms Natalia Rico (IMCA – The Major Farmers Institute), the sociologist Mr Jaime Díaz (National Network on Democracy and Peace) and Mr Cesar Franco (Serraniagua).
- The Third Meeting of the Southwest node in Tuluá and the Session on Defence of the Territory in Lago Chilicote, Tuluá.
- Following the Workshop "Experience and Knowledge Market - Strategies to think of us as a Network", exchanges have begun in the territory such as: 1. Support of the youth education process in Santander de Quilichao with Wipala and Otra Escuela Corporation; 2. Manda la Vida Festival in indigenous reservation of Nasa community and 3. "Montañeros en los Paraguas" Festival with Otra Escuela Corporation y Serraniagua; 4. Session on Community Mural Painting in El Cairo with Wipala and Serraniagua.



## Youth Meetings

Another success story was the Youth Meeting of the National Network for Democracy and Peace in Duitama. Ms Camila Montoya from Serraniagua, together with young leaders from the whole country discussed strategies for the Defence of the Territory and the Building of Peace.

