

Screening of documentary: “Chiribiquete, videografía de una expedición” (Colombia BIO)

16th August, 2018

ANU Research School of Biology - Eucalyptus Room

By Ambassador Jaime Bueno-Miranda



CANCILLERÍA

Embajada de Colombia en Australia

Mr. Allen Rodrigo, Director of the ANU Research School of Biology.

Mr. Saul Cunningham, Director of Fenner School of Environment & Society.

Ms. Lorrae van Kerkhoff, Associate Professor of Fenner School of Environment & Society.

Ms Natalia Bateman, Communication Officer of the ANU Research School of Biology.

Ms Claudia Munera, PHD at Fenner School of Environment & Society.

Colleagues and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Fellow Colombians.

Good afternoon and welcome to the Premier of the documentary of “Chiribiquete, videografía de una expedición”. It is a great pleasure and a privilege for the Embassy of Colombia to organise this event, in collaboration with ANU Research School of Biology and Fenner School of Environment & Society in the framework of the National Science Week in Australia.

First, I wish to thank both the ANU Research School of Biology and Fenner School of Environment & Society, for their interest and support to this screening and to Natalia Bateman, and Claudia Munera, Colombians working at ANU and Fenner School, for their enthusiasm and for joining us to highlight the positive aspects of Colombia and the beauty of its nature.

This documentary is part of the project “Colombia Bio” led by Colciencias -the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation of Colombia- , that aims to

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present current scientific expeditions that are happening in remote places of the Colombian geography and their discoveries of the amazing biodiversity within territories that, until recently, remained unexplored and seemed to be vetoed because of the armed conflict.

Colombia is a country that is opening its doors to science: the country is facing the importance and responsibility of knowing and defending its natural legacy of being one of the most biodiverse country in the world, with an astonishing 10 percent of all the species of animals and plants on the planet.

Nine major biological monitoring expeditions have taken place in key areas across the country — some of them unexplored — as part of the Colombia BIO project. Their goal is to study and inventory birds, mammals, insects, plants, and even soil microbes in these poorly studied regions, as well as establish genomic libraries. It is all part of an ambitious plan to protect these areas for conservation and sustainable development of its natural resources.

With the Premiere of the documentary in the framework of the National Science Week, the Embassy of Colombia wishes to celebrate the recent inclusion of the Chiribiquete National Park – “The “Maloca” (or the house) of the Jaguar” as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The inclusion responds to its magnificent biodiversity as well as to the significant cultural and archaeological values that are strongly associated to the beliefs and spiritual values of the indigenous communities of the area.

Chiribiquete was declared a protected area in 1989. With an area of forty-three thousands of square kilometres (43.000 km²), it is the largest national park in Colombia and it is considered a Centre of Plant Diversity, an Important Bird Area, an

Endemic Bird Area and a Key Biodiversity Area. Chiribiquete National Park contains all the elements necessary for the expression of its Outstanding Universal Value.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration and let us start our trip to one of the most extraordinary places on Earth. Please, enjoy the film.