

CARLOS CASTAÑO - URIBE

Environmentalist, Explorer and Anthropologist



Calle 102 No. 3-50
Santa Marta, Colombia
(+57) 318-2804525

direccioncientifica@herenciaambiental.org

Most well-recognized expeditioner and archaeologist in Colombia for his discovery of one of the few Cultural and Natural World Heritage Sites on the Planet, Chiribiquete National Park. For the past 30 years, Carlos has worked endlessly to investigate and protect this park and its uncontacted inhabitants that carry out a millenary traditions still unknown to humanity. 35 years of professional experience in the fields of anthropology and environmental protection; researcher and author of more than 60 publications.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FUNDACION HERENCIA AMBIENTAL CARIBE *Co-founder and Scientific Director*

Santa Marta, Colombia
May 2009– Sept 2010, Nov 2011-present

Responsible for coordinating activities related to project formulation, execution, and monitoring, in the following areas: protected area declaration and management, jaguar conservation and community outreach.

Major Achievements:

- Director of a national outreach program with the National Parks Service and funding by SURA group, to protect Chiribiquete National Park, including the publication of the national best-selling book, “Chiribiquete, the Maloka of the Jaguar-Men.”, with all proceeds donated towards the conservation of the protected area.
- Leader of the archaeological and biological explorations to Chiribiquete National Natural Park, which were the basis for its declaration as a UNESCO World Natural and Cultural Heritage Site (2018) and its expansion to over 4 million hectares.
- Established interinstitutional agreements necessary to build regional (subnational level) and local systems of protected areas, and the technical studies necessary to include over 200,000 hectares of strategic ecosystems in protected areas, including private reserves, indigenous territories, and a wetland of international importance (Ramsar Site).
- Coordinated the formulation and implementation of the Conservation Plan for Felines in the Colombian Caribbean, with advances in public policy, field research and public outreach programs (conflict resolution and environmental education).
- Capacity building of local civil society: approximately 1.000 people and 50 organizations, including indigenous groups, in sustainable development and territorial planning initiatives.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT *Subsecretary of Environment*

Bogotá, Colombia
Sept 2010 – Oct 2011

Responsible for directing the environmental national policies of Colombia.

Major Achievements:

- Led the most ambitious environmental protection goals included in a National Development Plan, with over 2 million hectares in protected areas.
- Directed the efforts to create an independent Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.
- Commanded the national mission to the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity, actively involved in determining the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the 193 member countries.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT *Independent*

Latin America
2003– current

Independent consultant for international and state environmental organizations, both public and private.

Major Achievements:

- Generated the strategy for Green House Gas Reduction Target in the land-use sector, as part of the World Bank team of experts (2017- 2018).
- Led the Water Governance Mission for the Colombia, for the Inter-American Bank of Development (2011-2012).

- Implemented conservation and sustainable development practices in the Colombian Caribbean territory as consultant for Conservation International (2003 – 2009).
- Responsible for analyzing the advances in protected area policy in the Latin American region and organizing the recommendations of the III Congress of Protected Areas of Latin-American, for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization –FAO- (2006- 2007).

INSTITUTE OF HYDROLOGY, METEOROLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES **Bogotá, Colombia**
General Director **2001 – 2002**

Responsible for directing the national institute in charge of carrying out research studies and information management activities that serve to inform environmental policy decision-making in Colombia.

Major Achievements:

- Established and operated the National Environmental System of Colombia, including the first base line study on the state of the country's natural resources.
- Coordinated the formulation of Colombia's First Climate Change Communication for the Climate Change International Convention.
- Established the National Center of Environmental Monitoring and Mobile Units, for real time monitoring of natural resources.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY INSTITUTE OF COLOMBIA (INVIAS) **Bogotá, Colombia**
Sub-director of Environment and Social issues **1999-2000**

Responsible for the creation of a socio-environmental management unit of the highest organizational level within the National Highway Institute, to improve the sustainability of the road sector in Colombia.

Major Achievements:

- Established Socio-Environmental Management Centers in the road concessions, which had a great impact in reducing biodiversity loss due to highway activity.
- Created a national outreach program to incorporate communities in the safeguard of natural and cultural resources associated to highway projects.

NATIONAL NATURAL PARKS OF COLOMBIA **Bogotá, Colombia**
General Director **1986-1998**

Responsible for managing the System of National Natural Parks of Colombia with the purpose of conserving *in situ* the representative biological and ecosystem diversity of the country, providing and maintaining environmental goods and services, and protecting the cultural heritage and natural habitat where traditional cultures develop.

Major Achievements:

- Led the division of protected areas of the country from a third-level unit of the Agricultural Ministry to an autonomous agency of the Ministry of Environment, which he also helped design and establish.
- Increased the representativity of ecosystems safeguarded in protected areas, expanded the area of the system to twice its size, and declared over 15 new protected areas, including Chiribiquete National Park, one of the largest protected areas in the Amazon.
- Established the Park Ranger System and the University in Parks Program for college students to volunteer and research protected area issues.
- Directed the national policy for the decentralization of protected areas and the systematization of conservation categories, including private reserves and indigenous territories.
- Coordinated the formulation and implementation of various national forest projects in Colombia dealing with the conservation of mangroves, the restoration of the Caquetá mountain-foot ecosystems, the National Forest Policy (1993-4) and the National Programs for National Forest Ordainment and for Forest Fires (1995-7).
- Directed the national program for the protection of the Amazon, serving as coordinator of the environmental programs of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty and as Secretary of the Protected Area Programs of the same international treaty (1994-1997).

EDUCATION

UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

Doctoral studies in American Anthropology

Madrid, Spain

1981-1984

UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES

Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology

Bogotá, Colombia

1981

Senior thesis on the restoration of the Lost City of Teyuna, in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta National Park.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

1. Member of the Science Panel for the Amazon, led by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2020.
2. *Order Río Sinú*, distinction to Scientific and Altruistic Merit (CVS, the environmental authority of the State of Córdoba, Colombia), 2019.
3. Member of the Experts Panel for assessment of impacts on the natural and cultural biodiversity of Colombia by mining activities (Government of Colombia), 2018.
4. Formulas for Change, Recognition to scientific innovators (COLCIENCIAS, now Ministry of Science), 2017.
<http://www.todoesciencia.gov.co/carlos-castano-uribe>
5. FESTIVER (Green Film Festival of Barichara) Award for contributions to research in conservation and protection of the environment in Colombia (Festiver Film Festival, Colombia), 2017.
6. Top 100 National Personalities of 2013 (*Semana Magazine*, Bogotá, Colombia), 2013.
<http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/ambientalistas-por-el-parque-chiribiquete-personajes-del-ano-2013/369223-3>
7. *Orden Dorada* Award (CVS, the environmental authority of the State of Córdoba, Colombia), 2011.
8. Award in Excellence for Services to Colombian Anthropology (University of Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia), 2003.
9. *Frailejon Dorado* Award (local government and community organizations of the municipality of Monguí, department of Boyacá, Colombia), 2002.
10. Best Government Official in the National Level (Presidency of the Republic of Colombia), 1997.
11. Diploma in recognition and distinction for work in protected areas (IUCN, First Latin-American and Caribbean Congress on National Parks and other Protected Areas), 1997.
12. Honorary International Distinction (Fundación Parques Nacionales y Otros Patrimonios, Caracas, Venezuela), 1997.
13. Top 70 Outstanding Colombians (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia), 1996.
14. Fred M. Packard International Parks Merit Award (International Union for Nature Conservation –IUCN–), 1992.
15. *Drago de Oro* International Merits Medal (Government of Spain), 1989.

NEWS AND MEDIA

- February 24, 2020. Caracol National TV, Colombia. <https://www.caracoltv.com/enterate/parque-nacional-natural-sierra-de-chiribiquete-un-patrimonio-mixto-de-la-humanidad-ie5163>
- February 23, 2020. Bocas Magazine of El Tiempo national newspaper, Colombia.
<https://www.eltiempo.com/bocas/carlos-castano-uribe-el-descubridor-de-la-capilla-sixtina-de-america-464530>
- February 17, 2020. El País national newspaper, Spain. <https://www.elpais.com.co/cultura/gaceta/entrevista-carlos-castano-uribe-el-hombre-que-no-queria-descubrir-chiribiquete.html>
- January 30, 2020. El Heraldo, Caribbean newspaper, Colombia. <https://www.elheraldo.co/cultura/lo-que-tenemos-en-chiribiquete-es-un-patrimonio-muy-singular-carlos-castano-uribe-698093>
- January 29, 2020. Las 2 Orillas, news portal. <https://www.las2orillas.co/la-obsesion-de-carlos-castano-uribe-que-develo-el-misterio-de-chiribiquete/>
- January 20, 2020. Arcadia Cultural Magazine, Colombia.
<https://www.revistaarcadia.com/libros/articulo/chiribiquete-un-fragmento-de-la-investigacion-de-carlos-castano-uribe/80073>
- December 1, 2019. El Tiempo national newspaper, Colombia. <https://www.eltiempo.com/cultura/musica-y-libros/chiribiquete-ya-no-aguanta-mas-silencio-439046>
- November 29, 2019. Semana Magazine, Colombia. <https://sostenibilidad.semana.com/medio-ambiente/articulo/lanzan-nuevo-libro-de-chiribiquete-en-bogota/47778>
- February 5, 2019. El Espectador national newspaper, Colombia.
<https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/cultura/carlos-castano-las-condiciones-de-proteccion-de-chiribiquete-son-un-gran-reto-articulo-838094>