



RELCOM - Latin American and Caribbean Bat Conservation Network



What is RELCOM?

The Latin American and Caribbean Bat Conservation Network (RELCOM) was founded in 2007 and gathered the most relevant groups of bat scientists in the region to unite efforts for the study and conservation of bats in the region. RELCOM includes 23 National Bat Conservation Programs (PCMs) from 25 countries.

What does RELCOM do?

- Builds capacity of Latin American and Caribbean scientists in three main areas of work: research, conservation, and education
- Designs and implements regional initiatives for bat conservation with a broad geographic scope and long-term impact
- Provide institutional support to all the national research and conservation projects developed by the National Bat Conservation Programs (PCMs)
- Communicate RELCOM's successful initiatives and actions using a broad spectrum of communication tools and social networks



Why is it needed?

Latin America and the Caribbean have a great diversity of bats (~454 species), gathering over 30% of the world's diversity, including migratory, threatened, and endemic species. Bats perform keystone environmental services like seed dispersal, insect pest control and pollination of economically and ecologically important plants in the region, but this is usually not recognized. Bats face severe threats throughout the region due to: habitat loss, roost disturbance and destruction, human-bat conflicts, pollution with toxic substances and other emergent threats.

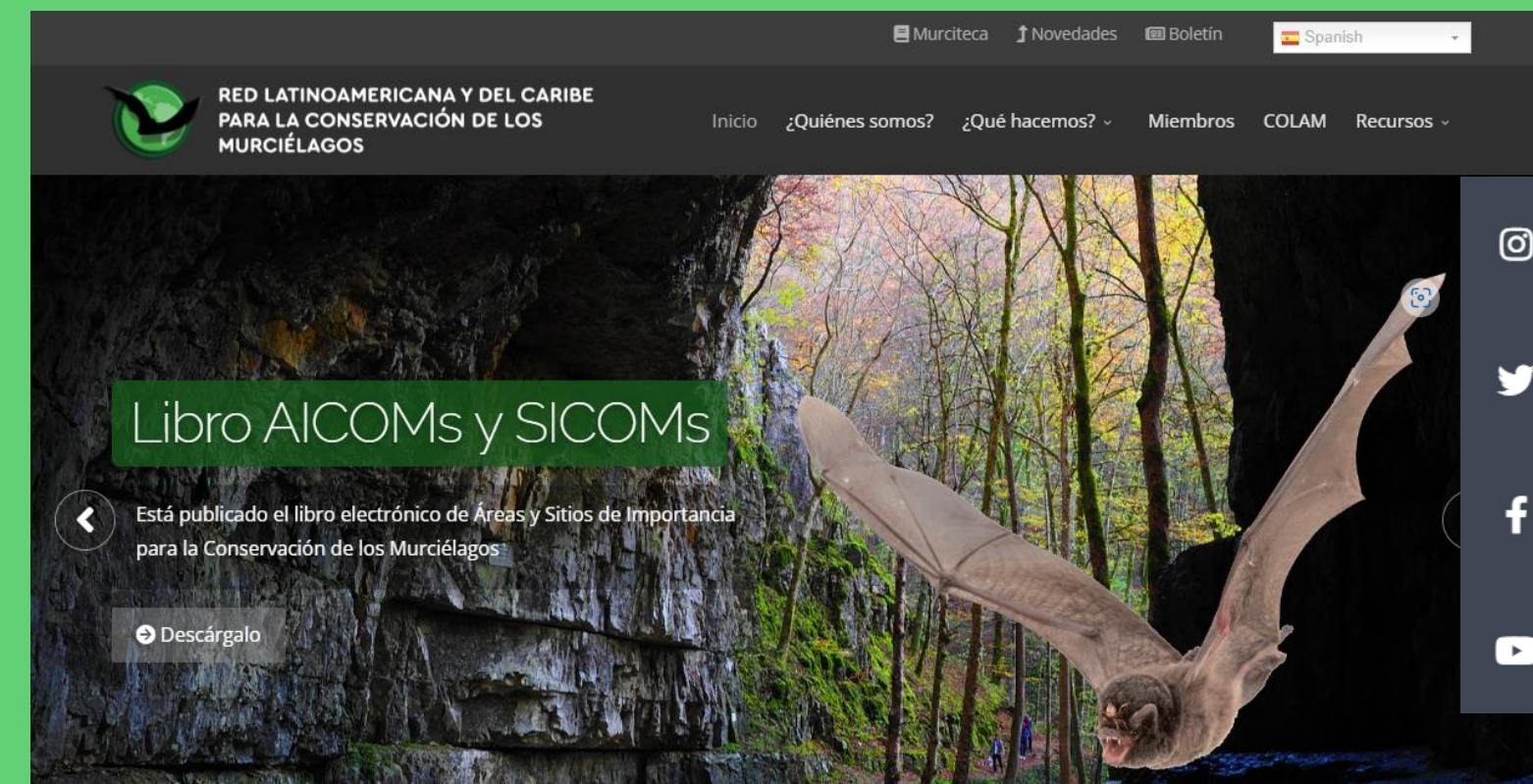


What are RELCOM priorities?

RELCOM works to change the fact that bats are the most frequently ignored group of mammals in conservation plans across the region, highlighting their ecological roles and ecosystem services.

What is our impact?

- RELCOM is a recognized technical consultant on bat conservation supporting governments' environmental policies
- Hundreds of members actively working on bat conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Certification of more than 200 Areas and Sites Important for Bat Conservation (AICOMs and SICOMs) in the region
- Regional initiatives and projects covering research, education and conservation actions
- Broad and permanent circulation of information on bat conservation to the scientific community and the general public in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Three Latin American and the Caribbean Bat Congresses (COLAM)
- Dozens of scientific and general publications



Visit our webpage, social media and Bulletin



AICOMs & SICOMs

A book compiling information from the AICOMs and SICOMs up to 2003 is available for download, so environmental authorities and activist can make conservation decisions based on valid information.

The book will be updated every five years:

- Accounts for 154 AICOMs, 51 SICOMs
- More than 300 authors (editors and authors of each account)
- Description of the bats in the region and most important threats
- Accounts of Mesoamerica, Caribbean and South America and each of the countries involved

