15 Years Committed to Bat Conservation in the Neotropics:

The Latin American and Caribbean Bat Conservation Network (RELCOM)

RELCOM Board



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 Latin America and the Caribbean to work and unite efforts for the study and conservation of bats in the region. RELCOM includes 23 National Bat Conservation Programs (PCMs) that correspond to 25 countries.



What do we do?

- Build the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean scientists in three main areas of work: research, conservation, and education
- Design and implement regional conservation initiatives for bat conservation with a broad geographic scope and longterm 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 the broad spectrum of communication tools and social networks



DLAM-Quito, Ecuador, 20

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 for this group, including migratory, threatened, and endemic species. Bats are a very important group of vertebrates, performing keystone environmental services like seed dispersal, insect pest control and pollination of economically and ecologically important plants in the region. Also, they face severe threats throughout the region due to five major threats: habitat loss, roost disturbance and destruction, human-bat conflicts, pollution with toxic substances and emergent threats.





atha Bóveda



Foto: PCMA

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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.

Communicate





https://www.relcomlatinoamerica.net/



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Workshops CYTED-RELCOM







What is our impact?

- Hundreds of members actively working on bat conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Certification of 203 Areas and Sites Important for Bat Conservation (AICOMs and SICOMs) in Latin America and the Caribbean
- RELCOM is a recognized technical consultant on bat conservation supporting governments' environmental policies
- Over 10 regional initiatives 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









































