

Juan and Lorenzo now rescue the babilla (*C.c. fuscus*)

FIRST STAGE



LIBERTAD Y ORDEN
Ministerio de
Ambiente, Vivienda y
Desarrollo Territorial
República de Colombia
FONDO DE COMPENSACION
AMBIENTAL



CORPORACION AUTONOMA
REGIONAL DEL SUR DE
BOLIVAR



ZOOCRIADERO
COLOMBIAN CROCO LTDA



Conservation, actions to **S**olve the stability of the **B**abilla in the south of bolívar

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT COLOMBIA (M.A.V.D.T.)

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Inspections of police and all those persons of the communities of the villages located in the municipalities of
BARRANCO DE LOBA, SAN MARTIN DE LOBA, ACHÍ, PINILLOS and TIQUISIO

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In the south of department of Bolívar, Colombia, there is a beautiful and fertile region of wetlands bathed by the Magdalena River.



The municipalities of Barranco de Loba, San Martin de Loba, Achí, Pinillos and Tiquisio are situated there.



Pinillos



San Martin de Loba

This region is very rich in wildlife: Fish, reptiles, birds and mammals abound.



BOCACHICO



DUCK YUYO



DUCK CUCHARO

They are villages of hard-working people. Some live on fishing, others cultivate their food. Others devote themselves to raising cattle and others to hunting wild animals since the wetlands offer them a richness of resources.



THESE WETLANDS HAVE PROVIDED US WITH MANY BABILLA

WITH SO MANY NATURAL RESOURCES WE'VE BROUGHT FOOD TO OUR FAMILIES.

In San Martin de Loba lives Juan Crespo, a person who like others has devoted himself since childhood to fishing for catfish and bocachico, and hunting the diverse species of animals.

He learnt from his dad, to work the land, fish and hunt in the forest for food



In those times you could catch up to 20 babillas in one night!



When he grew up, like his dad he works the land to feed his family.

And as he learnt all the hunting secrets from him, he looked for food by mixing agriculture and the hunting of wildlife.



¿WHAT DO YOU THINK SINCE I WAS A CHILD I'VE HUNTED TIGRILLOS, NONE ESCAPE ME?



¿AND WHAT IS THE SECRET TO HUNT BABILLAS, BUDDY JUAN?

Juan selfishly taught his good friend how to hunt babillas

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN, COME WITH ME TONIGHT, THERE IS NO MOON AND THE BABILLAS MAY NOT SEE US



IOK, I'M READY!

NIGHT FELL AND THEY GOT READY TO LEAVE....

WE TAKE A TRAP, FORK, LANTERN, SHOTGUN AND A ROPE.



THE CORNER OF THE MARSHES IS WHERE WE FIND THE BABILLAS

HEY BUDDY JUAN, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!



HEY LORENZO, THERE'S ONE; ITHOSE ARE THE EYES, RED DOTS REFLECTING OVER THERE!



JUAN THREW THE TRAP AND CAUGHT THE BABILLA

LORENZO, I CAUGHT ONE, MEASURES FOUR FEET. IWE ARE GOING TO GET GOOD MONEY!



THE HUNT WAS PLENTIFUL....

JUAN, HUNTED 13
BABILLAS AND TWO
CAPYBARAS



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
GOOD FOOD AND WE'LL
SELL THE SURPLUS

THE YEARS WENT BY, THE NUMBER OF FISHERMEN DEVOTED TO EXCESSIVE HUNTING INCREASED, AND BABILLAS BEGAN TO DWINDLE IN THE AREA. JUAN AND LORENZO WEREN'T DOING SO WELL....

I REALLY THOUGHT THAT SOME DAY
THIS WAS GOING TO END.... IT'S
OUR FAULT FOR OVER-HUNTING!

BABILLAS ARE SCARCE, WE
DON'T HUNT ANYTHING
THESE DAYS.



PEOPLE ABUSED THE HUNTING FOR MANY YEARS. THEY HUNTED BABILLAS OF ALL SIZES INCLUDING THEIR EGGS.



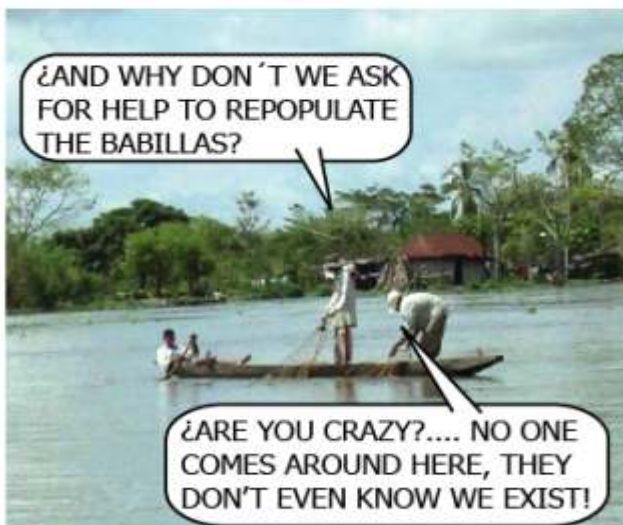
ADDITIONALLY TUPINAMBIS, PREDATOR OF MANY SPECIES, ATE THE EGGS, SO THAT JUAN DESIGNED A FENCE TO PROTECT THEM, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS



THROUGHOUT THE REGION OF LOBA PEOPLE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF THE BABILLA THE PEOPLE WERE VERY CONCERNED



AFTER A YEAR WITHOUT HUNTING....



A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS CAME TO THE REGION, SENT BY C.S.B. IVAN, THE COORDINATOR OF THE BABILLA CONSERVATION PROGRAM, AND HIS TEAM PLANNED THE THINGS TO DO.



THAT SATURDAY, 14 HUNTERS SHOWED UP IN CHIMÍ

WE NEED YOU TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BABILLAS

OK, PROFESSOR..
¿WHAT CAN WE DO?

WE NEED TO DETERMINE THE BABILLA POPULATION IN THIS AREA.



PIECE OF CAKE, WE KNOW THE AREA VERY WELL.

YOU WILL BE PAID TO WORK AS GUIDES, AND SHOW US WHERE THE ANIMALS AND THE NESTS ARE.



THE HUNTERS JOINED THE PROGRAM AND WERE TRAINED. LATER THE FIRST ACTION PHASE PRESENTED BY BIOLOGIST PABLO, WAS STARTED.



SO, WE'RE GOING TO LOCATE THOSE PLACES IN THE MAP, IN ORDER TO PLAN THE TRIPS.

FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO RECOGNIZE THE AREA AND THEN LOOK FOR NESTS. ¿DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING LORENZO?

YES, I DO KNOW WHERE THEY NEST.



LORENZO GUIDED THE GROUP TO THE NESTING AREAS.

I'VE SEEN BABILLAS LIKE THIS ONE, ALWAYS NESTING AT THE SAME PLACE.

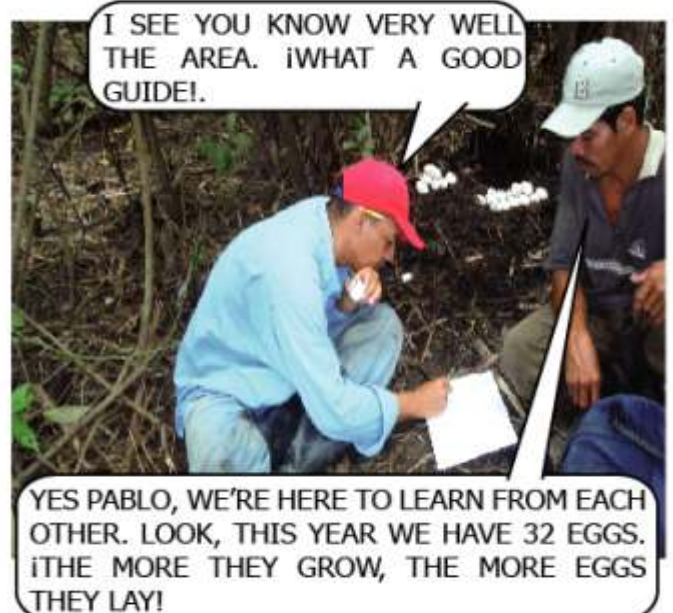




LORENZO FIRST CHECKED THE TEMPERATURE OF THE NEST.



NOW, MEASURE THE WIDTH



YES PABLO, WE'RE HERE TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. LOOK, THIS YEAR WE HAVE 32 EGGS. THE MORE THEY GROW, THE MORE EGGS THEY LAY!

THEN, HE TOOK THE EGGS AND MARKED AND WEIGHED THEM



AND, ALSO THE LENGTH



AND LORENZO LAY THE EGGS
IN THE SAME POSITION
THAT HE FOUND THEM.



NOW, WE COVER THE NEST
WITH THE SAME MATERIAL

PERFECT LORENZO,
YOU HAVE LEARNT!



FINALLY, HE MARK
THE LOCATION AS
N34, NEST 34.

THE RESEARCHERS
RECORD THE DATA.



LORENZO, THIS DATA WILL HELP US
FIND OUT HOW MANY MATURE
FEMALES NEST IN THE AREA.

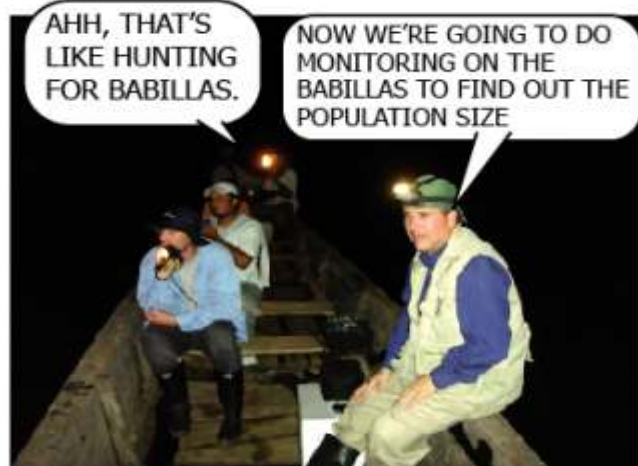


INTERESTING
PABLO, WE KEEP
LEARNING.

AFTER THE HUNTERS FINISHED
SEARCHING FOR NESTS, WE MOVED TO
THE SECOND ACTIVITY: MONITORING.

AHH, THAT'S
LIKE HUNTING
FOR BABILLAS.

NOW WE'RE GOING TO DO
MONITORING ON THE
BABILLAS TO FIND OUT THE
POPULATION SIZE



JUAN, LIKE EXPERT
SEARCHER, GUIDED
THE INVESTIGATORS
TO WHERE THE
BABILLAS ARE.



YES JUAN, BUT WITHOUT
KILLING THEM...

THEY STARTED THE
SEARCH FOR BABILLAS
BUT THEY WERE VERY
HARD TO FIND.



AFTER A LONG DAY....

THAT ONE IS 108 CM
LONG, CATEGORY 3,
BETWEEN 101 AND
150 CM.

¡PABLO,
THERE'S ONE
OVER THERE



THEY TRIED TO
LOOK FOR THEM
AND CAPTURE AS
MANY AS THEY
COULD.

NOW, I'M GOING TO TRY TO CATCH IT.



JUAN MANAGES TO CATCH IT, AND WRAPS A PIECE OF RUBBER AROUND ITS MOUTH TO STOP IT BITING, AND TO CHECK IT OUT.



NOW, HE MEASURES IT.



LOOK PABLO, IT'S 106 CM LONG, WHAT A GOOD EYE I HAVE, AHH???



NOW, I'LL CHECK THE WEIGHT.



AND TAKE THE TEMPERATURE.



NOW I CHECK THE CLOACA TO SEX IT, MALE OR FEMALE. AHH, THIS IS A MALE.

THEN JUAN, PROCEEDS TO MARK THE BABILLA USING AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF AMPUTATION OF SCALES



EVERY SCALE CUT HAS A NUMBER.



AT LAST, JUAN RELEASES IT.

ANTONIO, FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, JOINS THE GROUP...

SO LONG LITTLE BABILLA, SEE YOU WHEN YOU GROW UP.



MY BABILLA IS ALREADY MARKED, NOW I WILL RELEASE IT TOO.



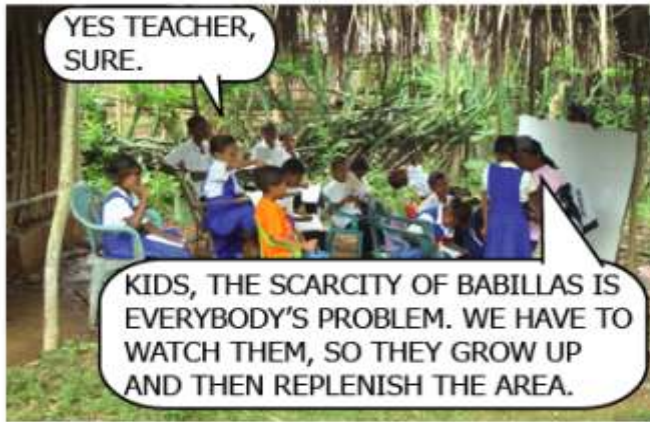
OUR RESULTS INDICATE THERE ARE FEW BABILLAS OF **CLASS 3**, 101 TO 150 CM, IN THE MARSHES

MOST OF THEM ARE BETWEEN 40 AND 70 CM, I MEAN, **CLASS 1** (21 TO 50 CM) Y **CLASS 2** (51 TO 100 CM)

AND IN THIS WAY, THE MONITORING WAS DONE FOR OVER 8 MONTHS WITH THE HUNTING COMMUNITY AND FOUND OUT WHAT WE SUSPECTED.



AND, IN ALL OF THE LA LOBA AREA, THERE WAS A BUZZ ABOUT THE CENSUS RESULTS AND THE BENEFITS OF THE BABILLA CONSERVATION PROJECT.



THE RESEARCHERS AND MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, SET A MEETING IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT. FIRST, HUGO OF C.S.B. SPOKE.



ANTONIO, FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROPOSED.



Iván, coordinator of the conservation program, assured them: In the short-term, the Environmental Authorities (C.S.B.) and Private Sector (Caiman farm Colombian croco Ltda) they are going to create employment to caiman hunters while help rebuild the population of (*C.c.fuscus*)



In the long-term employment opportunities will really come when the wild population rebuilds, and they can all agree on how many can be taken each year sustainably with the respective license of approach..

AND IF WE COMMIT TO CONSERVATION OF THE RESOURCE; TOGETHER, THERE IS GOING TO BE BABILLAS FOR A MODERATE HUNT IN AT LEAST 4 YEARS.



AFTER THE MEETING THE HUNTERS COMMENTED...

The *C. c. fuscus* conservation program is financed for the Ministry of the Environmental with the 70% and Colombian croco Ltda farm with the other 30%.

The farm contribution corresponds with the payment in money of repopulation quotas according with the Colombian laws.





AND THE MONEY WE DON'T MAKE BY HUNTING, WE MAKE IT WITH THE JOB ... UHMM... ITHAT'S GOOD!



YES RENZO, WE HAVE TO MAKE ALL OF THE COMMUNITY COMMIT TO THE PROJECT TO GET IT DONE, THAT'S VERY CONVENIENT.

¿SO, READY TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SECOND PHASE?



SURE BUDDY JUAN, THERE WILL BE GOOD BABILLA

FINALLY WE WILL RETURN TO THE TIMES OF MY FATHER WHEN IT WAS HUNTED GALORE

I ENCOURAGE GUYS! YOU WHO ARE THE EXPERTS, YOU HAVE TO BE THE LEADERS OF THE PROGRAM OF CONSERVATION OF THE BABILLA

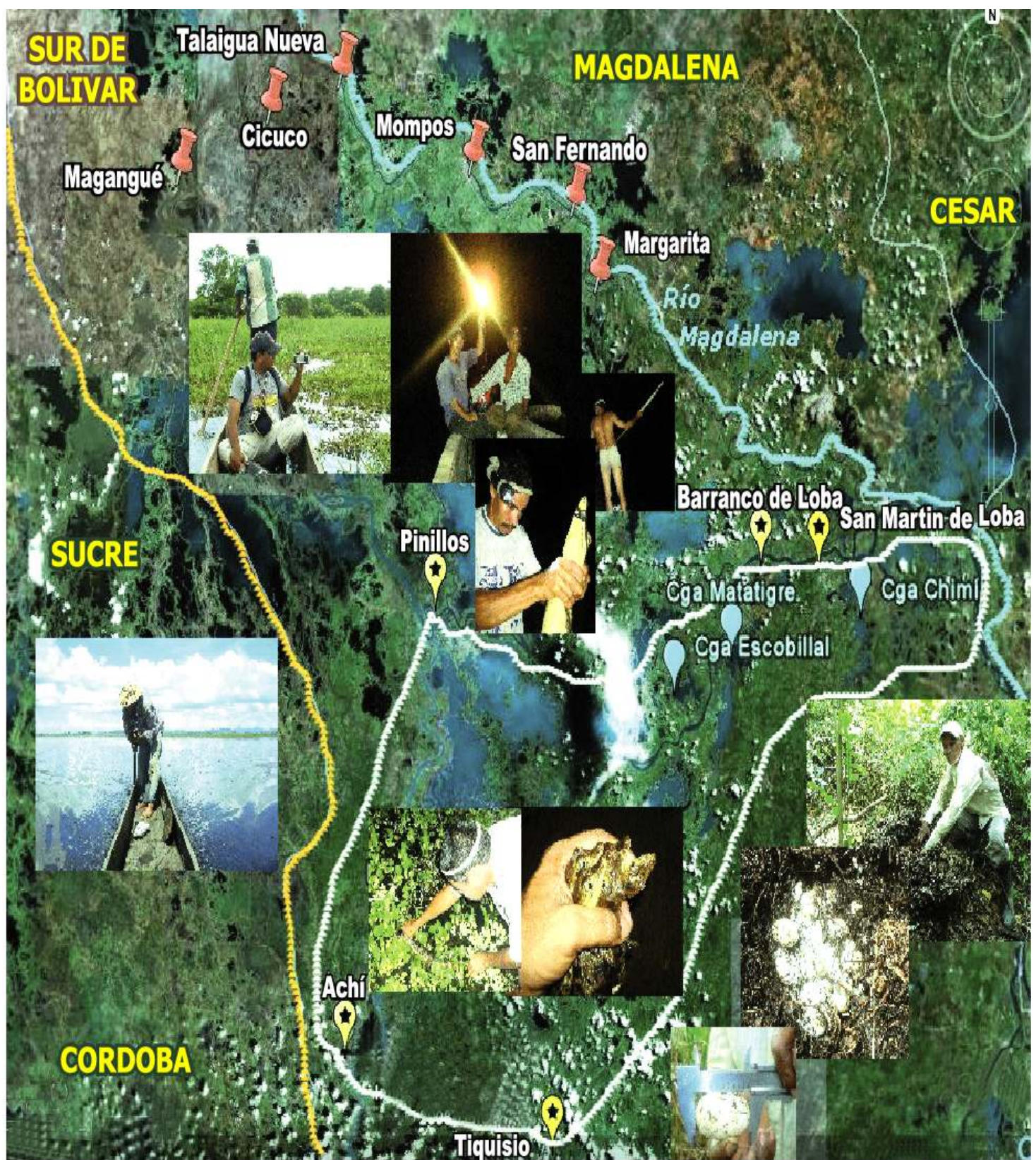
JUAN AND LORENZO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO BEGIN THE **SECOND STAGE** OF THE PROGRAM OF CONSERVATION AND TRANSMIT AS LEADERS ALL THEIR KNOWLEDGE. IN THE SOUTH OF BOLIVAR OTHER COMMUNITIES HAVE RECEIVED THE NEWS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LOBA REGION AND WANT TO BEGIN WITH THE **FIRST STAGE**.



HOW WELL GOES THE PROJECT BUDDY JUAN.

YES! IF IT IS ALREADY GIVING RESULTS

It will continue....



Action plan for conservation of babilla (*Caiman crocodilus fuscus*) in the marshland complex B15, municipalities of Achí, Altos del Rosario, Barranco de Loba, Pinillos, San Martín de Loba and Tiquisio, , in the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Corporation of South of Bolivar - C.S.B., COLOMBIA