

# English Transcript Identidad Madidi

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**Nicole:** Hi, I'm Nicole,

**Olivia:** And I'm Olivia,

**N:** We're educators at the Wildlife conservation society headquartered here at the Bronx Zoo

**O:** WCS works all over the world to protect wildlife and wild places.

**N:** One of the many ways to do that is through protected areas, such as national parks. Our team in Bolivia has been working in Madidi National Park to understand the diversity of life in this unique habitat, and to help show the Bolivian people just how valuable this area is.

**O:** Through their initiative Identidad Madidi our researchers documented thousands of species found in the park, including some that had never been discovered before. Let's hear more about from our team in Bolivia!

**Maria Estela Viscara:** Identidad Madidi is a scientific advancement of more than 10 public institutions and governmental agencies with the same purpose of sharing information about Madidi's biodiversity with those that otherwise would not know, with the people of Bolivia, and to the world.

**Freddy Zenteno:** Madidi is as its name says; to understand. To understand the identity of the park. In this case, we have the privilege to understand the diversity of plant life. We are advancing in our understanding of Madidi.

**Rob Wallace:** We visited 15 different sites, that was across about 10 different field trips. Because Madidi is so large and it has this unique altitudinal range which is really the reason it is so biologically diverse because it has an altitudinal range of almost 6000m or 20,000 feet. So we were in the mountains on some trips and the next trip would be in the Amazon rainforest and then we would be visiting all sorts of different kinds of cloud forests in the Andes.

**Maria Estela Viscara:** To coordinate an expedition of this magnitude and with a team this large, you need three things: the first is that the entire team has the same objective which in this case was to obtain information about unknown areas of the park. The second important factor is to have leadership, such as Robert Wallace and Guido Ayala in this case, that coordinated continuously with the team. The third factor is to have a group dedicated solely to the logistics of the expedition, which in this case, included Guido Ayala, Hermi Eticon, and myself, who were in charge of all the details needed to get to our points of interest.

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**Rob Wallace:** Madidi is one of Bolivia's largest national parks, but it is also the park in Bolivia that protects the most biodiversity, that means it has more plants and animal species than any other park in Bolivia, but it also has more plants and species than any other protected area in the world. Identidad Madid is a project we developed to on the one hand generate more and better information about Madidi's biodiversity but it's also a project that was committed right from the beginning to share that information with the public and especially the Bolivian public.

**Cynthia Jurado:** What we try to generate is a sense of responsibility and consciousness of the urban population, and that it depends on the good conservation state of natural and protected areas. We also try to involve young people and the public in general to participate in city wide initiatives. We hope young people will be aware of the biodiversity that is found in the city, and generate consciousness and responsibility for the conservation of the protected areas. Between 2015 and 2018, we have visited 296 academic institutions in La Paz and El Alto, a total of 54.5% of the city and about 47,000 students. When we give the chats, many students mentioned that cities were not part of nature. And with this information, they learned that we are all part of this ecosystem.

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