

Project Update: July 2014

Goal I. Provide ecological information and determine current threats of freshwater fish in western Cuba

Activities related to goal I, completed so far:

1. Two field trips were done to the proposed areas in the project: one trip to Cienaga de Zapata National Park and one trip to Los Indios Ecological Reserve. The other field trip proposed in this period (one trip to Sierra del Rosario Reserve Biosphere) will be done in this week
2. Were accomplished fish collection of alien species and samples of their stomach contents? By this way the diet of the main piscivorous species was described both in dry and wet season in each area
3. We identified any evident threats to the native fish populations and recorded water parameters like pH, Salinity, Temperature, Conductivity, etc.
4. Living individuals and their habitats was photographed *in situ* too.

Note: The first proposed goal will be achieved completely in the current month.

Goal II. Improve a training programme in rural communities for conservation both fish and their habitats.

Activities related to goal II, completed so far:

1. All native fish species collected in each area were photographed to form the photo gallery which will be used to create educative materials.
2. Meetings with the technical staff in each locality were done in order to plan logistical requirements to carry out educational activities.
3. We start to produce educative pamphlets concerning to the conservation of native fish take into account the situation in each area.



Left: Appears a gill net (floating line) placed in a lowland stream using to catch piscivorous alien species. Middle: Appears MSc. Javier Torres Lopez and BSc. Ruben Marrero Romero (two project participants) processing ecological data in the field. Right: Appears an endemic freshwater fish from Cuba (*Rivulus insulaepinorum*). This species is one of the most colourful fish native species from Cuba. This is an example of the pictures that will be used to produce educative materials to carry out educational activities.