



COLOMBIA

The Inirida Fluvial Star in Colombia is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world, containing 900 plant species, 470 types of birds and over 470 species of fish. It is where three rivers meet, including the third largest river in the world, the Orinoco River. The Inirida Fluvial Star is a vital source of life for communities who rely on the area for food, jobs and clean water.

For the past nine years, WWF has facilitated co-operation between local government authorities and 12 communities to promote the sustainable management of the area. **6**

This inclusive approach to decision-making **16** has created the foundations for breakthrough results. WWF supported the involvement of indigenous communities in the national consultation process to declare the river a Ramsar site. Ramsar is an international treaty aimed at protecting key wetlands. **17**

In addition, local communities and the regional environmental authority have worked together to establish a sustainable fishing strategy for the area **6** and to identify sustainable income generating activities such as ecotourism. **8 15**

There has also been an increase of women assuming leadership roles in the management of the Inirida Fluvial Star. **5** Yohanna Silva, who is a community representative, reflects, 'I owe a lot to this process, because it has formed me as a leader and I have been chosen by my community as captain.'



© WWF Colombia

