

# COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

September 13, 2013

## Colombia Doubles Size of Its Largest National Park

### *Senator Leahy Calls Expansion of Chiribiquete National Park ‘An Historic Leap Forward,’ Commends Environmental Conservation Efforts*

Colombia is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, and is home to:

- An estimated **55,000 types of plant species**, accounting for 15 percent of the existing species in the world.
- More than **1,800 species of birds, 600 species of amphibians, 400 species of mammals, 500 species of reptiles and 3,200 species of fish.**

Colombia’s natural parks are treasure troves of biodiversity, including the **Chiribiquete National Park**, located in the heart of the Amazon rainforest.

Recently, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, as part of a “commitment to life, sustainability and welfare of the citizens and of humanity,” announced the **expansion of Chiribiquete to 6.9 million acres – approximately three times the size of Yellowstone National Park – more than doubling its current size.** With the expansion, more than a fifth of the Colombian Amazon will be protected under Colombia’s national park system.

#### Chiribiquete National Park’s Vast Biodiversity

7 primate species



41 reptile species



313 butterfly species



261 ant species



U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), commended the expansion, stating:

*“... President Santos took an historic leap forward by doubling the size of Chiribiquete National Park, which is home to a myriad of species including jaguars and is comprised of extraordinary rock formations and dense jungle. Chiribiquete was already Colombia’s largest park, and it has now become the size of Belgium.*

*“... President Santos’ single stroke of the pen has done more for environmental conservation and species protection than what most heads of state do in a lifetime. I commend him for it and congratulate the Colombian people. Colombia has set an example for all of us who care about the environment and recognize that we have a responsibility to protect it for future generations.”*

Click [here](#) for more information on the expansion. Click [here](#) for more information on the Park.

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