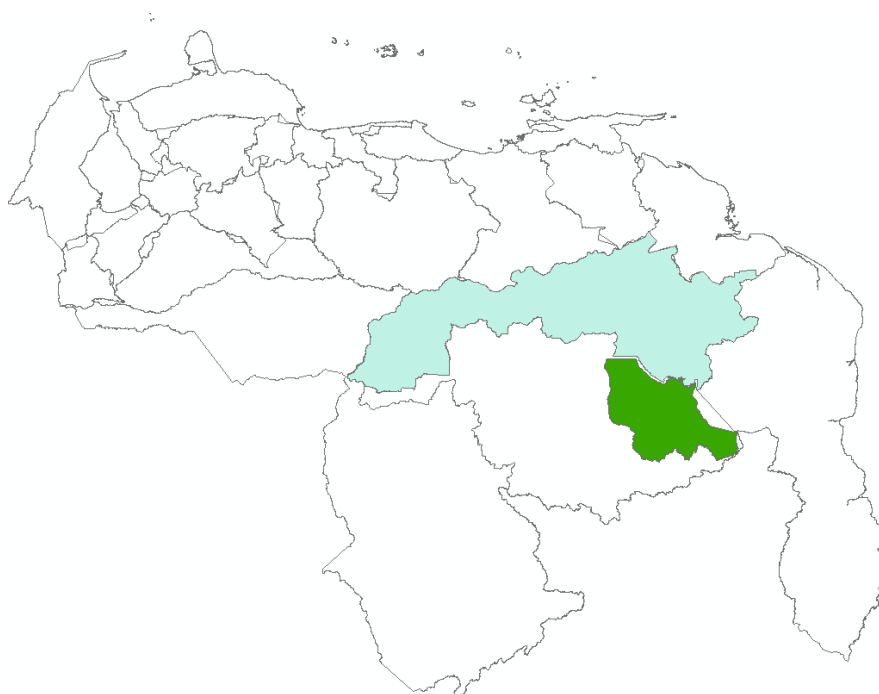


Report in response to Decision 45 COM 7B.71 Canaima National Park (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (N 701)

After carrying out an examination on document WHC/23/45.[COM/7B](#), regarding Decision 44 COM 7B.199 taken at the Extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou/online, 2021), the Venezuelan State ratifies the content of the Report submitted in 2021, which categorically stated in the sub-item: No Spatial Linkage between the Orinoco Mining Arc and Canaima National Park:

"The enactment of the Orinoco Mining Arc National Strategic Development Zone (2016), constitutes a powerful instrument for the promotion and regularization of mining activities. It reaffirms the framework of compliance with the provisions of Article 129 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela regarding the fact that all activities likely to generate damage to ecosystems must be previously accompanied by environmental and socio-cultural impact studies. These are key tools for generating the prior and subsequent control instruments contemplated in the Organic Environmental Law (2006), thus guaranteeing the conservation of Areas under Special Administration Regime (ABRAE) such as Canaima National Park, whose polygonal area does not overlap with that of the Orinoco Mining Arc Figure 04).



Source: INPARQUES (2020).

Figure 04. Boundaries of Canaima National Park and the Orinoco Mining Arc National Strategic Development Zone, Venezuela.

On the other hand, the content of the Report for the year 2023 is ratified, which states in the item entitled **STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSAL VALUE**:

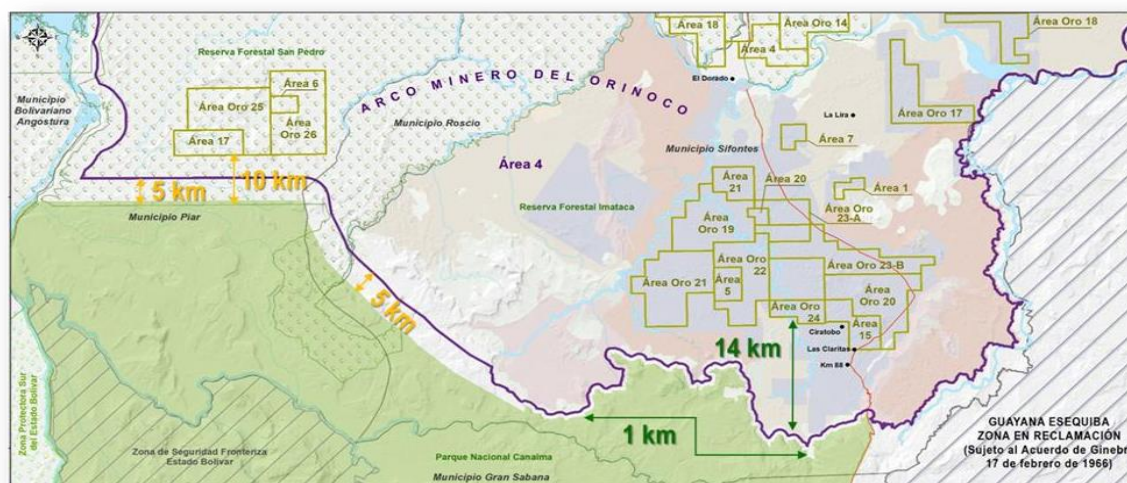
"In response to the proposals made in Annex WHC / 21 / 44.COM / 7B. Add issued by UNESCO, a response is presented to some specific aspects that require a

clarification by the State in relation to **point 3** regarding the establishment of the Orinoco Mining Arc National Strategic Development Zone (ZDENAMO), it has been stated in previous reports that it does not spatially overlap with the property and that despite the existence of a 1 km barrier between ZDENAMO and the property, UNESCO would like to know about a specific assessment of the possible negative impacts of mining activities that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

In this regard, the Ministry of Ecological Mining Development (MIDME) issued Communication 106-OIAI-00171 9/30/2022, in which there is an annex that responds to the concerns with the following consideration:

In response to MIDME's request, the VEIE Office, through the General Directorate of the Mining Information System (DGSIM), conducted a territorial analysis between southern boundary of ZDENAMO - Area 4, the northern boundary of Canaima National Park (PNC) and the Mining Rights in Force (DMV), determining the following (See Figure 1):

- **For the northwestern boundary of Canaima National Park (PNC),** there is a buffer distance of 5 km between the PNC and the ZDENAMO-Area 4 polygonal zone and an average distance of 10 km from existing mining rights.
- **For the northeastern boundary of Canaima National Park (PNC),** there is a buffer distance of 1 km between the PNC and the ZDENAMO-Area 4 polygonal zone and an average distance of 15 km from existing mining rights.



It is important to note that the ZDENAMO's polygonal boundary is located between 1 and 5 km away from the northern border of Canaima National Park, thus guaranteeing the park's protection from mining activities. In addition, current mining rights authorized by MIDME are located at an average distance of 10 km from the northwestern boundary and 15 km northeast of the park.

Regarding the request to provide the World Heritage Center with more information on the scope and current status of mining activities at the site, the content of the 2021 Report of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is likewise ratified, which was stated as follows:

"Based on the analysis of Sentinel 2 satellite images of the years 2020 and 2021 through Geographic Information Systems (GIS), as well as reconnaissance over flights and interviews with various local stakeholders, it was concluded according to Figure 03 that 99.97% of the surface of the Canaima National Park does not present any activities that might have an environmental impact that might threaten the biodiversity of this important natural area" (Emphasis added)

The response indicated in 2021, 2022 and 2023 is ratified in 2024 by a Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) conducted within the framework of the Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Caroní River Basin of Bolívar State (MINEC - FAO - GEF), indicating the following findings for Canaima National Park - PNC (Natural World Heritage Site):

- In the PNC, the floristic composition of vascular plants represents 23.6% (3,377 species) of the country's flora and the fauna 17.8% (773 species) of the country's fauna.
- The PNC's forests currently occupy 67.9% of its surface, 4.4% of the country's forests.
- The carbon stored in the PNC (663.34 Tg C) represents 6.9% of the country's reserves.



NP Canaima 9% of the carbon stored is in forests and offset the emissions produced by forest fires and changes in land cover and land use, and 0.8% of the country's emissions.

- In the last 24 years there was a deforestation of -11,596 ha with an average annual deforestation rate (AADR) of -0.025.
- Forest degradation over the last 20 years was 4.2% (81,221 ha) with an average annual forest degradation of 0.21% (4,061.04 ha).
- During the last 13 seasons, 652,892 ha (21.8% of the PNC) were burned, the season with the highest percentage of fires within the PNC was 2019-2020 with 8.0% (240,473 ha), associated with the last periods of strong drought in the country.
- Within the CNP, 256 points of tourist interest were identified where tourism activities have historically been developed that have strengthened the livelihoods of the local indigenous communities.
- 0.13% (3,867 ha) of the NCP has high to very high alteration of biological diversity levels, mainly in the open savanna and savanna with shrubland ecosystems. 0.95% (28,556 ha) has medium alteration in the open savanna, savanna with shrubland and forest ecosystems. Furthermore, 6.01% has low alteration, 31.31% has very low alteration and 61.53% areas with no alteration at all.
- Forest fires account for 50.4% of the loss of the forest ecosystem *per se*, small-scale agriculture for 44.4% and other uses for 5.2%.
- 53.3% of the PNC has a high and very high ecological potential, specifically in the forest ecosystem *per se* and the tepui grassland.
- Three hot spots for tourism were identified: Laguna de Canaima, Roraima and Angel Falls, the first two of which have a higher rate of visitation, in contrast to the last one.

Additionally, according to decision WHC/23/45 [COM/7B](#), relevant to the invitation by the Venezuelan State of a reactive monitoring mission to assess on the ground the outstanding universal value of the property. To this end, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers carrying out the mission once the necessary conditions are in place.

At that point, the sites to be visited will be informed, taking into account the logistical aspects of security and national sovereignty.

In this regard, the Venezuelan State insists that the visit will not entail a review of the development of activities located outside the boundaries of the NCP, even if they take place close to the site's boundaries.

OTHER KEY ASPECTS

- Similarly, the 2024 resolution does not provide a structural response to Unesco's request. The resolution does not describe the Venezuelan Government's actions to defend the park's area from mining activities, and what has been done to confront this scourge in the neighboring zones.

RESPONSE: As stated in the Site Management Report for the 2024 and specifically noted in item **3. OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE, YEAR 2023** Area of Protection:

During 2023, around 230 surveillance and control rounds have been carried out, highlighting the following:

- **Waterway:** Puerto Ucaima - Mayupa - Kamarata - Kavanayén route, through the Carrao River, and the Yuri and Playa Linda sectors, to monitor and rule out possible mining activities and deforestation.
- **Aerial route:** Kanaimö - Kamarata - Kavac route, to visualize and rule out possible mining camps, and the execution of activities not permitted in the Tepuyes Auyantepuy, Kusari and Kurawaina.
- **By land:** Sierra de Lema - Kukenán River and Luepa - Kavanayén routes, in the Eastern and in the Western Sector of Cucurital, Sakaikapa, Puerto Ucaima, El Taute, Tururiwaipa routes, to monitor and rule out any unauthorized activities, as well as the occurrence of forest fires.



INAPU Route: The following routes for the control and monitoring of tourism activities and to rule out the execution of activities that are not permitted:

- ✓ **Eastern Sector:** Paraitepuy de Roraima - Tepuy Roraima, Arapán Merü - La Piscina, Kakö Parü and Kamá trails.
- ✓ **Western Sector:** Raton Island - Angel Falls and Anatoly Island - El Sapo Falls, Yuri, Sarimpatöy, Santa Marta, Kamarata - Kavac - Uruyen, and Kusari, Kurun and Kurawaina Tepuyes Corridor.

During some of these visits, we had the valuable collaboration of the legitimate indigenous authorities and the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB). This collaboration was essential to address various issues, such as forest fires and deforestation caused by agricultural activities (plots of land), as well as the presence of active and inactive illegal mining camps. Thanks to this joint work, the control and dismantling of these camps was carried out.

In the National Park, six (6) environmental sanitation mega days were carried out. It covered the Tepuy Roraima route, from the Paraitepuy de Roraima Indigenous Community to the top of the Tepuy; the Arapán Merü (Quebrada de Pacheco) and Kakó Parü (Quebrada de Jaspe) recreational areas; the Sierra de Lema; and the Kanaimö and Kamarata indigenous communities;

Canaima Lagoon; Anatoly Island; Puerto Ucaima and El Sapo and El Hacha Falls trails. These days consisted of collecting more than two thousand (2,000) kilograms of waste and solid waste, which were transported outside the park's boundaries to appropriate disposal sites.

In terms of surveillance and control, the distribution of Park Rangers was strengthened. They were deployed from their indigenous communities of origin to recreational areas of great tourist affluence, such as Arapán Merü, Kakö Parü, Kavac, Uruyén and Angel Falls. Likewise, the accompaniment and supervision of officials at the citizen's security agencies control points, and the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) within the national park was intensified. These actions made it possible to monitor and stop equipment and tools, that could be used in activities harmful to the environment, to enter. In this context, the Park Ranger Station located in the Kavanayén Indigenous Community, in the Eastern Sector, was activated. Trained personnel will be in charge of surveillance and control of this area, which is of vital importance due to the high number of tourists and visitors during high season.

We also continue to supervise the tourist camps located in the Kanaimö Indigenous Community to review the commitments acquired with the adequacy of their services and faithful compliance with current environmental regulations.

It is important to highlight the continuation of Operation Roraima. It brought together the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, various governmental institutions, Indigenous Captaincies and members of the Communities, several approaches and work to dismantle illegal mining camps, managing to eradicate these activities that threaten the conservation objectives of Canaima National Park and our people.

Continuing with this important area, permanent efforts were made to combat and extinguish forest fires in Cerros Kuyarimba and El Taute, near Tepuy Kurawaina, near Puerto Ucaima, Kavac (Western Sector), around El Oso Indigenous Communities, Santa Cruz de Mapauri, and Kumarakapay, covering approximately one hundred and fifty-five (105) affected hectares.

Four reforestation campaigns were carried out in the Western Sector of the park, specifically in Tepuy Kurawaina, El Taute, Kanaimö, and Sakaikapa. During these days, 2,600 species of Cashew plants (*Anacardium occidentale*) and Tacamahaca (*Protium heptaphyllum*) were planted, thus initiating the recovery of 45 hectares that had been affected by forest fires.

On the other hand, in the Eastern Sector, seven reforestation days were implemented, in which 1,320 plants of species such as Guamo (*Inga edulis*) and Moriche (*Mauritia flexuosa*) were planted. These days, in conjunction with the Santa Cruz de Mapauri, Kumarakapay and Paraitepuy de Roraima indigenous communities, resulted in the recovery of 37 affected hectares.

In addition to this action, alongside the Public Prosecutor's Office (Environmental Prosecutor's Office),



environmental assessment studies were carried out on the waters of the Carrao, Yuri and Churun Rivers to monitor their quality.

Regarding the boundary of the property, it is important to point out that, in addition to the fact that the boundaries of Canaima National Park (PNC) and the National Strategic Development Zone "Orinoco Mining Arc" (ZDENAMO) are not linked, the Venezuelan State has worked on the redefinition of the area's boundaries, and has also included the

The extension of the Eastern Chain of Tepuyes Natural Monument, considering that the corresponding cartographic update of the CNP's polygon is required in the following terms:

1. Taking into account the physical, natural, social, and cultural elements, which favor both the delimitation and its description, in order to consolidate the management and planning.
2. To the north of the National Park, in Sierra de Lema, it is necessary to expand and strengthen the protection of major rivers that originating in the Sierra, in addition to the provisions of the Water Law, and to give continuity to the protection of the Sierra itself, located in the Imataca Forest Reserve. The extension in this area constitutes approximately 55,498.90 ha, represented with a vegetation of tepui relicts.
3. To the east of the current Canaima National Park, which includes the headwaters of the upper basin of the Mazaruni River, which adds to the Essequibo, including the Cerro Venamo Natural Monument up to the Sadiwuk Rapids, joining with the Kamoiran River basin. This area's natural resources are in a good state of preservation, and it has a significant potential tourist attractions such as the Anaway, Kawi, Sakaika, and Manakachi waterfalls. The extension in this area constitutes approximately 240,996.9 ha, excluding 27,152.94 ha that correspond to the Eastern Chain of Tepuyes Natural Monument.
4. Towards the southeast of the National Park, it is necessary to unite the surrounding areas with the adjacent Parque Nacional do Monte Roraima of the Federative Republic of Brazil, following the Seiad River, seeking to give continuity to both sides of the border of these areas. These areas should be protected in the same category, among other reasons, because of the extraordinary landscape resources present in this area, materialized with the imposing presence of the Roraima, Uei, Wei Assipu and Matawi (Kukenan) tepuyes, and waterfalls of unquestionable scenic beauty. The extension in this area constitutes approximately 44,013.75 ha.

The objective is to adjust and modify the boundaries of Canaima National Park, declared by Decree No. 770 of June 12, 1962, and expanded by Decree No. 1.137 dated September 9, 1975, in the jurisdiction of the municipalities of Sifontes, Gran Sabana, Roscio and Piar, Bolivar State, and the state of Guayana Esequiba, leaving a total area of approximately 3,171,962.23 hectares (3,171,962.23 ha).

However, it represents a technical proposal that is still in the process of technical evaluation so that it can be submitted through the regular channels for evaluation and approval by the different technical and political bodies, including its presentation to the President of the Republic in the Council of Ministers.



MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024 CANAIMA NATIONAL PARK

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the request for action by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in a state of conservation report regarding the Canaima National Park, as well as the implementation of its recommendations for future consideration, the Venezuelan State, through the People's Power Ministry for Ecosocialism (MINEC) and the National Parks Institute (INPARQUES), as the managing entity of the site, carried out activities within the Outstanding Universal Value site, in order to maintain its state of conservation.

Therefore, this document compiles information that responds to the requests made by the committee and includes the management actions implemented during the years 2023-2024.

2. THE NATIONAL PARK IN THE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT

a. Canaima National Park in the national context:

Canaima National Park was officially created on June 12th, 1962, in accordance with Decree No. 770 published in the Official Gazette No. 26,873 of June 13 of the same year. Initially, it covered an area of one million hectares. However, in order to protect an even larger area, which has a great ecological and landscape value, it was expanded to three million hectares pursuant to Decree No. 1,137 of September 9th, 1975 (published in Official Gazette No. 30,809 of October 1st, 1975). This expansion, based on the recommendations of the park's Master Plan, annexed new zones to the north, east and south of the park's original limits, thus guaranteeing the preservation of crucial ecosystems.

Canaima National Park is managed and administered by the National Parks Institute, and because of its extension, in order to facilitate the comprehensive management of the area, it is divided into two sectors: the eastern sector, better known as the Gran Sabana, and the western sector, in which the Canaima Lagoon, Kamarata and Kavac are located.

The main objective of its creation includes the preservation and conservation of the important environmental assets represented in the ecosystems that make up the park, achieved through the following specific objectives:

- 1) To preserve the structure of the ecosystems, avoiding irreversible modifications in the dominant vegetation of the different landscape units: savannahs, forests, scrublands, moriche palm swamps, and tepuis.
- 2) To conserve the genetic resources of wild flora and fauna, thus guaranteeing the survival of native, endemic, threatened or endangered species.
- 3) To maintain the natural levels of plant and animal communities, as well as biodiversity.
- 4) To preserve the quality of the landscape and the exceptional scenic values that characterize it, such as: tepuis, waterfalls, streams, undulating savannahs, and plant formations.
- 5) To safeguard the cultural values of the Pemón ethnic group, their settlement areas, and environmentally conceived traditions.

6) Maintain the stability of watersheds, by protecting the watercourses that drain them.

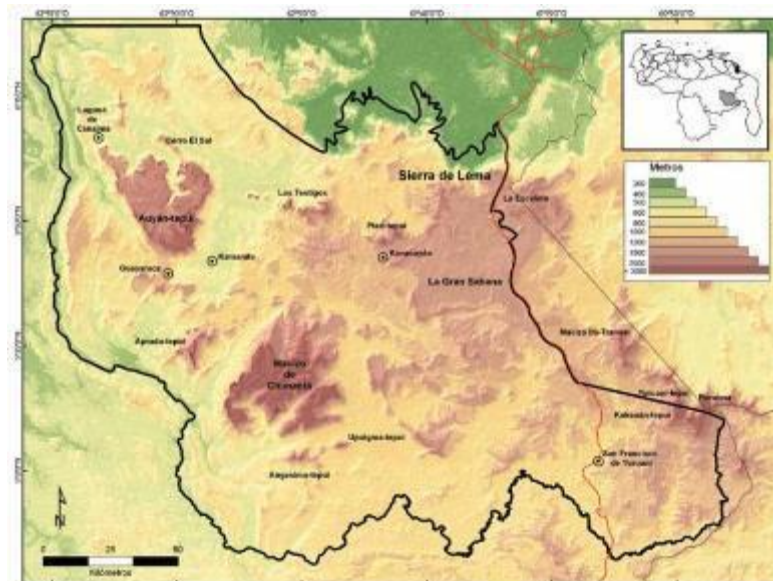
In this regard, Canaima National Park has the following conservation values:

- 1) It is a relevant sample that represents the major stages of the earth's evolutionary history.
- 2) It is an outstanding example representing significant on-going geological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial and water ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
- 3) It contains superlative, rare or unique natural phenomena, as well as formations, features and areas of exceptional beauty.
- 4) It is a habitat in which a big population of rare or endangered plant and animal species survive.

The park borders the mouth of the Antabará River to the Lema Mountain Range at the north, El Dorado - Santa Elena de Uairén highway from a place called Piedra de la Virgen to the El Oso Sector, from which it follows a straight line until the international border landmark located on Mount Roraima to the east. To the south, it borders the headwaters of the Arabopó River, which flows into the Kukenán River, and then into the Caroní River. To the west, the park borders the Caroní River up to the confluence with the Antabará River.

This emblematic park, in addition to being an area of strategic national importance due to its location close to the border, plays a crucial role in the protection of the upper eastern basin of the Caroní River. The Hydroelectric Complex, made up of the Guri, Tocoma, Caruachi and Macagua dams, which is responsible for supplying electricity to 70% of the country, depends on this basin.

Canaima National Park, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is the most important protected landscape in Venezuela. Its privileged location and extension give it an extraordinary mega diversity and sociocultural richness, nourished by the presence of indigenous communities. Its exceptional scenic beauty makes it a crucial area for the country.



b. Canaima National Park in the global context:

In 1994, Canaima National Park was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with Doñana National Park in Spain, Los Katios National Park in Colombia, and the Ruwenzori Mountains in Uganda. In the case of Canaima, the decision was based on the fact that the protected area is a natural reserve with special and unique abrupt reliefs, such as the tepuis, which are a kind of plateaus that are millions of years old, with almost flat walls and summits.

The criteria that were considered for its designation as a World Heritage Site were as follows:

- 1) It contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.
- 2) It is an outstanding example representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphologic or physiographic features.
- 3) It is an outstanding example representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh-water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
- 4) It contains the most important and significant natural habitats for the in-situ conservation of the Biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

With an area of 30,000 square kilometers, it is the third largest park in Venezuela. It has a diverse relief that ranges from the primitive elevations of the Guiana Shield to the high plateaus of Nuria and the Gran Sabana and the valleys of the Caura and Erebató Rivers. The park's importance is due to the great variety of biotopes and the diversity of its natural and socio-cultural resources. Some of these features are so outstanding and exclusive that they make it a unique park with enormous possibilities for cultural and scientific development. Canaima is home to the Pemón people and their Kueka grandmother Stone.

In this region of great contrasts, lush vegetation thrives in spite of low fertility of the soils, thanks to an efficient nutrient recycling strategy. This scenic and biological wonder, however, is sustained by a delicate balance. The park, one of the most spectacular natural sceneries on the planet, is characterized by imposing sandstone and quartzite plateaus, called "tepui", which rise like islands above the green sea of forests and savannas. Here is the "Kerepacupay Vená" (Waterfall of the deepest place), known worldwide as Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world with 979 meters of height. The region also has abundant water resources from the Caroní River basin, the third largest in the country, whose course feeds the Guri reservoir.

The landscape values are one of the most important resources of Canaima National Park. The enormous geographic amplitude creates panoramas of singular and unique landscape value. They offer the masterful combination of forest formations, savannas, the characteristic and unique tepuis, rivers and clear skies. Others, very often, are loaded with that mantle of humidity that then gives us a thousand waterfalls. The great variety of landscapes that make up Canaima National Park ranges from 350 to 2,810 m.a.s.l., in which a very complex range of different ecosystems has developed. Each of these ecosystems has its plant and animal communities.



All of them, as a whole, are the result of the millenary interactions between biological nature and its physical environment. Therefore, they constitute other great attractions.

3. THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE, YEAR 2023

a. Scope of Protection:

During the year 2023, around 230 surveillance and control rounds have been carried out. The following ones are noteworthy:

- ✓ **By River:** Puerto Ucaima - Mayupa - Kamarata - Kavanayén route, through the Carrao River, and to the Yuri and Playa Linda Sectors, to monitor and rule out the development of possible mining activities and deforestation.
- ✓ **By Airway:** Kanaimö - Kamarata - Kavac route, to identify and rule out possible mining camps, and the carrying out of activities that are banned in the Auyantepuy, Kusari, and Kurawaina Tepuis.
- ✓ **By Road:** Sierra de Lema – Kukenán river and Luepa - Kavanayén routes, in the eastern sector. As well as the routes of Cucurital, Sakaikapa, Puerto Ucaima, El Taute, Tururiwaipa at the west, in order to monitor and rule out any unauthorized activities, as well as the occurrence of forest fires.
- ✓ **Pedestrian Route:** The following routes for the control and monitoring of tourism activities and to rule out the carrying out of banned activities:

- **Eastern Sector:** Paraitepuy de Roraima – Mount Roraima Roads, Arapán Merü - La Piscina, Kakö Parü and Kamá trails.

- **Western Sector:** Raton Island - Angel Falls and Anatoly Island - El Sapo Falls, Yuri, Sarimpatöy, Santa Marta, Kamarata - Kavac - Uruyen, Kusari, Kurun and Kurawaina Tepui Corridor.

During some of these visits, we had the valuable collaboration of the legitimate indigenous authorities and the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB). This collaboration was essential to address various problems, such as forest fires and deforestation caused by agricultural activities (small crops), as well as the presence of active and inactive illegal mining camps. Thanks to this joint work, we carried out the control and dismantling of these camps.

In the National Park, six (6) Environmental intense sanitation campaigns were carried out, covering the Mount Roraima route, from the Paraitepuy de Roraima Indigenous Community to the top of the Tepui; the recreational areas Arapán Merú (Quebrada de Pacheco) and Kakó Parú (Quebrada de Jaspe); the Sierra de Lema; the Kanaimö and Kamarata indigenous communities; the Canaima Lagoon; Anatoly Island; Puerto Ucaima and the trails to the El Sapo and El Hacha waterfalls. These campaigns consisted in collecting more than two thousand (2,000) kilograms of solid residues and waste, which were transported outside the park's boundaries to appropriate disposal sites; the roadsides were cleared and the service areas were weeded.

In terms of surveillance and control, the distribution of park rangers was strengthened and they were deployed from their indigenous communities of origin to the recreational areas of greatest tourist affluence, such as Arapán Merú, Kakö Parú, Kavac, Uruyén and Angel Falls. Likewise, the accompaniment and supervision of officials at the law enforcement checkpoint, as well as the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) checkpoints within the national park was intensified. These actions made it possible to monitor and stop the entry of equipment and tools that could be used in activities that could be detrimental for the environment.



In this context, the activation of the Park Ranger Station located in the Kavanayén Indigenous Community in the Eastern Sector was achieved. It will have trained personnel so as to monitor and control this area, which is of vital importance due to the high influx of tourists and visitors during the high season.

We also keep on supervising the tourist camps located in the Kanaimö Indigenous Community, to follow up on the commitments acquired regarding the adequacy of their services and faithful compliance with current environmental regulations.

It is important to highlight the continuation of Operation Roraima, in which, along with the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, various governmental institutions, Indigenous Captaincies, and members of the Communities, several initiatives and works to dismantle illegal mining camps were carried out, thus managing to eradicate these activities that threaten the conservation objectives of Canaima National Park and our people.

Deepening on this important field, permanent efforts were made to combat and extinguish forest fires in Mount Kuyarimba and Mount El Taute, near Kurawaina Tepui, near Puerto Ucaima, Kavac (Western Sector), around the indigenous communities of El Oso, Santa Cruz de Mapauri, and Kumaracapay, covering approximately fifty-five (55) hectares which were affected.

Four reforestation campaigns were carried out in the western sector of the park, specifically in Kurawaina Tepui, El Taute, Kanaimö, and Sakaikapa. During these campaigns, 2,600 Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*) and Tacamahaca (*Protium heptaphyllum*) trees were planted, thus initiating the recovery of 45 hectares that had been affected by forest fires.

On the other hand, in the eastern sector, seven reforestation campaigns were carried out, in which 1,320 plants of species such as Guama (*Inga edulis*) and Moriche Palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*) were planted. These campaigns, carried out along with the Santa Cruz de Mapauri, Kumaracapay and Paraitepuy de Roraima indigenous communities, resulted in the recovery of 37 affected hectares.

In addition to this action, along with the Public Prosecutor's Office (Environmental Prosecutor's Office), environmental assessment studies were carried out on the waters of the Carrao, Yuri and Churun Rivers to monitor their quality.

b. Resource Management:

In order to obtain plants that can be used in the phytoremediation of areas degraded by mining activities within the National Park, two (2) experimental nurseries are kept for the production of plants that can adapt to these conditions.

Similarly, in El Yuri sector, an experimental plot of 200 square meters (200 m²) was established. In it, different species with phytoremediation capacity were planted to evaluate their behavior and recovery capacity.

In the same way, two (2) campaigns to make four thousand (4,000) seed balls were carried out. The seed balls were airdropped in areas of difficult access for their recovery, along with our Bolivarian National Armed Forces, thus covering all the spaces that require reforestation activities for their subsequent restoration.

Regarding the granting of administrative authorizations, in the Western Sector, eighteen (18) permits have been issued for sports activities, infrastructure changes and filming, always with the approval of the Indigenous Captaincies.

The Santa Cruz de Mapaurí Indigenous Community was accompanied during the beginning of the implementation of its Socio-Productive Development Plan, supervising and supporting the establishment of natural pond pools for fish farming, causing the least possible environmental impact. This helped to create alternatives for their livelihood and economic income, and to get them to migrate from practices that are not consistent with the conservation of the National Park.



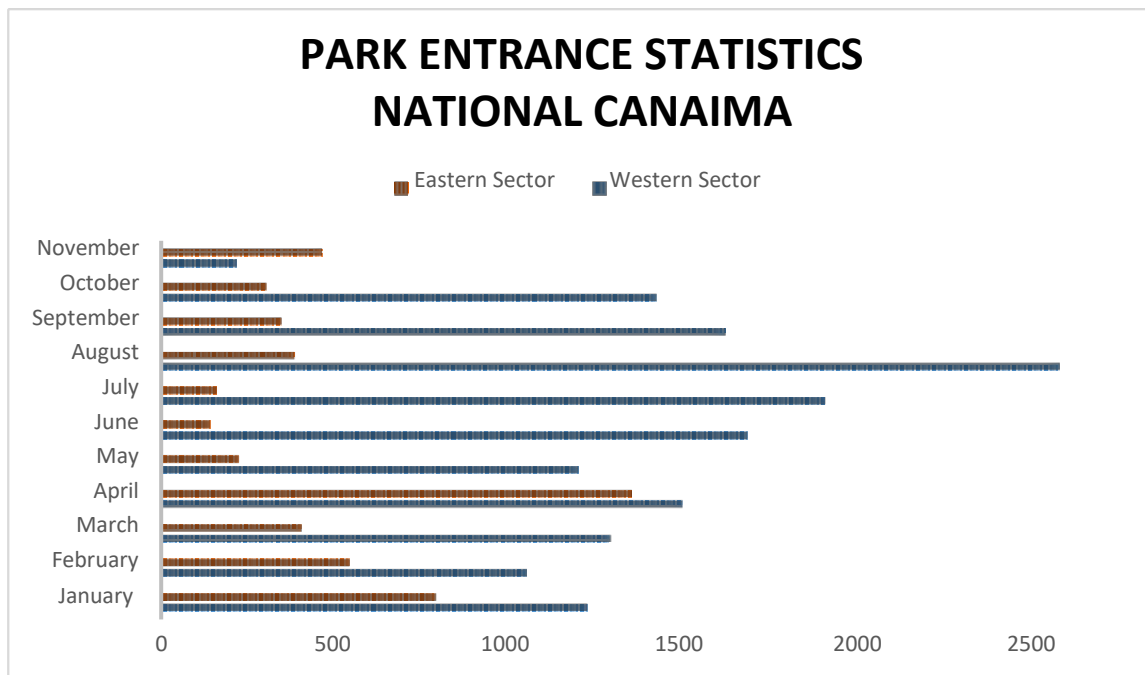
A new evaluation of the space where the Kueka Grandparents' Museum will be built was carried out, as well as the development of a project in accordance with the objectives of the National Park and the essence of the ancestral culture of the Pemón people.



c. Public Use-Tourism:

During 2023, there was a notable increase in tourism activity, with the arrival of more than 20,000 visitors, both domestic and foreign. The most visited recreational areas were Arapán Merú and Kakö Parú, as well as the spectacular route to Mount Roraima in the eastern sector, and Kavac, Uruyén and Angel Falls in the western sector.

To provide better service to tourists, the park rangers received training to inform them about the regulations of each area, the services available and recommendations for the conservation of the area, in addition to accompanying them in the recreational areas. It should be noted that the Little Park Rangers also participate in these tasks, promoting indigenous ancestral culture and environmental preservation.



d. Public Use Area - Environmental Interpretation:

This year, the reinvestment of the National Park's own income made it possible to improve the interpretive trails in the Kamá Merú and Kakö Parú recreational areas, as well as Mirador El Oso, which offers an unparalleled panoramic view of the Eastern Tepui Chain Natural Monument.

In addition, a descriptive map of the National Park, carved in wood, was prepared to provide complete information to tourists visiting the Aponwaö I Visitor Center, located in Luepa, for the first time. This map details the permitted areas, restricted areas, available services, and other information of interest.



e. Environmental Education:

During this year, 49 environmental education activities were carried out as part of the "INPARQUES goes to School" educational program. These activities, which included discussions and recreational activities related to environmental conservation, recognition of the fauna and flora, and the conservation objectives of the National Park, raised awareness among more than 200 children from the indigenous communities of Paraitepuy de Roraima, San Ignacio de Yuruaní, Santa Cruz de Mapauri, Kanaimö, and Kamarata.

In this regard, we continued to strengthen the comprehensive training of the Little Park Rangers in the Paraitepuy de Roraima, Santa Cruz de Mapauri and Kanaimö indigenous communities through the educational program that has the same name. It is important to note that these groups of children have several functions, such as participating in ecological activities, accompanying sanitation and reforestation activities, and assisting tourists entering the park.

New Little Park Rangers were also trained in the indigenous communities of San Ignacio de Yuruaní, Tururiwaipa and Sarimpatöy, which increases the number of children who are part of this important program to more than 120.

Furthermore, 13 training workshops were held in the indigenous communities of Kanaimö, Kamarata, Santa Cruz de Mapauri, Paraitepuy de Roraima and Kavanayén, on various topics such as: Pre-hospital care, environmental emergencies, and the ecological importance of our natural resources, thus generating expectations to continue with this initiative by our technical staff and park rangers.

On another note, we continued to strengthen the ancestral indigenous culture of the Pemón people, accompanying them during the 3rd Anniversary of the Repatriation of the Kueka Grandmother Stone, giving due honor to this emblematic cultural manifestation.



f. Planning - Governance:

During 2023, four (4) meetings were held to coordinate and assess proposals for the Shared Management Agreement for the Eastern Sector of Canaima National Park. These meetings were held with the General Captaincy of Indigenous Sector No. 5, which represents the twenty-four (24) Indigenous Communities located within this area of the National Park.

The purpose of this agreement is to organize each of the recreational areas of the protected area, evaluate which activities can and cannot be carried out, always with the authorization of the National Parks Institute and the endorsement of the Indigenous Captaincy. This document also establishes the implementation of coordinated policies to execute plans, programs, and projects to optimize tourism services, encourage participation in environmental conservation and improvement, as well as to strengthen surveillance, control, and protection activities. It also seeks to establish mechanisms that guarantee the reinvestment of resources from access to the protected area and the sustainable use of recreational spaces.

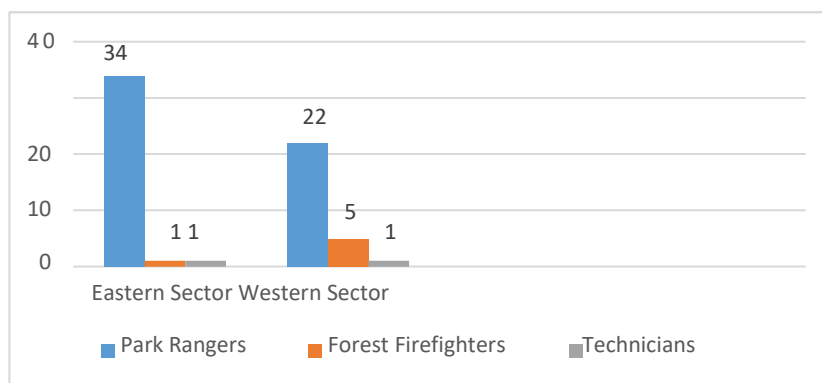
In the same vein, in the Western Sector of the National Park, an *Addendum* to the Cooperation Agreement between INPARQUES and the Kanaimö and Sarimpatöy Indigenous Communities was established with the objective of empowering this indigenous community in the management of their recreational spaces, thus strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples in ecotourism and in the preservation of natural spaces, for their sustainable use.

Throughout the year, we participated in several inter-institutional meetings, with the presence of the Indigenous Captaincies, with the goal of joining efforts in the development and enforcement of the regulations of Canaima National Park, establishing a new paradigm of shared use, prioritizing the value of the Protected Area and the participation of the Indigenous Communities, as the main guarantors of its conservation. These meetings have generated a Compendium of Rules of Use, establishing new rules for the sustainable use of natural spaces.



g. Administration - Human Resources:

Currently, Canaima National Park has fifty-six (56) park rangers, six (6) forest firefighters and two (2) technicians, distributed as follows:



It also has a reserve team of sixty-nine (69) park rangers, sixty-five (65) forest firefighters and four (4) technicians. Similarly, in the Eastern Sector there are 24 aspiring park rangers and 7 forest firefighters, who are currently in an internship period to join our ranks, and to continue increasing the strength of this protected area. This system allows us to strengthen the monitoring of areas such as Kavanayén, Angel Falls, Kavac and Uruyén.

The staff is deployed as follows:

- Eastern Sector:

Location	Number of Personnel
Aponwaö I Administrative Center	2 Park Rangers 3 Interns
Kavanayén	1 Park Ranger 6 Interns
Arapán Merü	2 Park Rangers 2 Interns

Kumarakapay (Entrance to Paraitepuy de Roraima)	1 Park Ranger 1 Applicant
Paraitepuy of Roraima	14 Park Rangers 1 Interns
San Ignacio de Yuruaní	2 Park Rangers 1 Forest Firefighter 3 Interns (GP) 7 Interns (BF) 1 Technician
Kakö Parü	12 Park Rangers 6 Interns

- Western Sector:

Location	Number of Personnel
Kanaimö (Gustavo Heny-Canaima Aerodrome), Körepa Kupai Wena - Angel Falls, Puerto Ucama, Kanaimö Lagoon)	14 Park Rangers 1 Technician
Kamarata (Kavac, Uruyén)	8 Park Rangers



In the Eastern Sector of the National Park, the comprehensive management structure was strengthened by appointing a professional who will take on the role of Coordinator of this sector, thus ensuring the faithful fulfillment of the functions of surveillance, control, and distribution of all the staff assigned to this area. In addition, a new methodology was established for entering the Protected Area, which will serve as a pilot for future control actions.

In this context, thirty-one (31) new Park Rangers and Forest Firefighters were trained from the Kavanayén, Paraitepuy de Roraima, San Francisco de Yuruaní (Kumarakapay) and Santa Cruz de Mapauri Indigenous Communities, along with the General Indigenous Captaincy of Sector V and the Community Indigenous Captains, thus consolidating the participation of these communities directly in the Conservation of the Site's Value, and expanding the scope of our work in areas that had been lacking due to insufficient personnel.

It also consolidated the creation of a new forest firefighters' outpost located at the San Ignacio de Yuruaní Indigenous Community, which will have trained personnel to combat and prevent forest fires, as well as equipment and motorized units for immediate attention in the event of fires or emergencies, thus expanding scope of our functions.

Based on the above, a training workshop was held by the Environmental Prosecutor's Office regarding Environmental Protection, Environmental Crimes and Environmental Regulations in force for our technical personnel and the Civilian Ranger Corps, generating comprehensive knowledge of the procedures necessary to carry out surveillance and control tasks effectively and efficiently.

h. Administration - Infrastructure:

Continuing with the Infrastructure Recovery Plan of the National Parks Institute, the rehabilitation and equipping of the Park Ranger Station located in the Kanaimö Indigenous Community, Western Sector of the National Park, was carried out to provide a better space for the Park Rangers and Forest Firefighters during their work days and to offer rooms to receive students and researchers who carry out studies in the National Park. This work required an investment of VED. 1,837,234.83.

A carpentry shop was installed in the western sector of the park for the production of signage for recreational areas. This carpentry shop, equipped with tools to maintain the production of signage, represented an investment of VED 332,265.17.

Furthermore, 200 wooden signs were made with messages identifying the areas in which recreational activities, prevention, and environmental awareness are carried out. With an investment of VED 34,863.74, old signs were renewed and new ones were placed in places that lacked them.

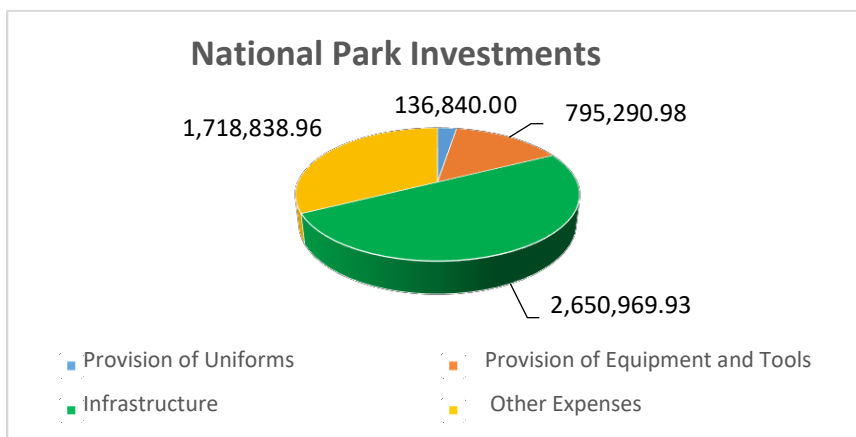
In compliance with the commitments of the Cooperation Agreement with the community of Kanaimö, two dewatering pumps were acquired to improve the community's sewage drainage system, with an investment of VED 28,000.00. A "MULE" type vehicle was also repaired to guarantee the surveillance and control work of the officers, with an investment of VED 349,587.12. The Observation Post in the Canaima Lagoon was also rehabilitated, from where surveillance and control of this area is carried out. In the same context, communication equipment and tools for fighting forest fires were provided, which allows for a more effective response when these phenomena occur, for this the investment was VED 70,549.14.

It should be noted that all of these investments possible thanks to the National Park's own revenues.



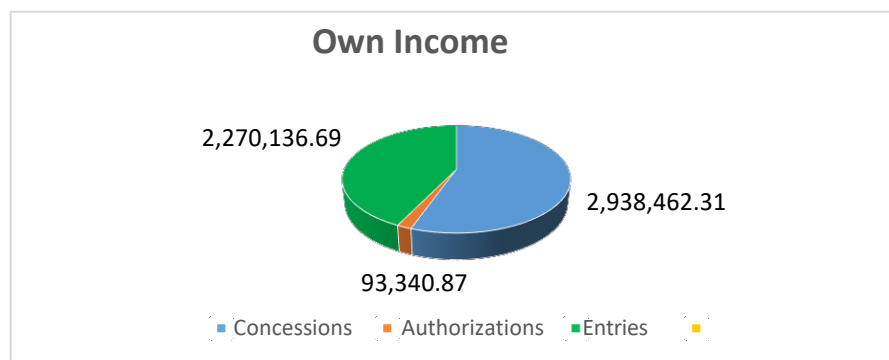
i. Administration - financial:

In order to protect and conserve the different areas of Canaima National Park, 20% of the income from access to the National Park, concessions, and authorizations has been invested in infrastructure works for park ranger stations, tourist lodges, administrative offices, uniforms for park rangers, forest firefighters, technical and administrative personnel, equipment and tools, among other expenses.



**PROGRESS IN THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE
JANUARY-OCTOBER 2024**

a. PROTECTION:



During the year 2024, about one hundred and twenty (120) surveillance and control tours have been carried out on the following routes:

✓ **By River:** Puerto Ucaima - Mayupa - Kamarata - Kavanayén route, through the Carrao River, and to the Yuri and Playa Linda Sectors, to monitor and rule out the development of possible mining activities and deforestation, as well as damage by forest fires.

✓ **By Airway:** Kanaimö - Kamarata - Kavac route, to find and rule out possible mining camps, and the carrying out of activities that are banned in the Auyantepuy, Kusari, and Kurawaina Tepuis, as well as damage by forest fires.

✓ **By Road:** Sierra de Lema - Río Kukenán and Luepa - Kavanayén routes, in the eastern sector. As well as the routes of Cucurital, Sakaikapa, Puerto Ucaima, El Taute, Tururiwaipa at the west, in order to monitor and rule out any unauthorized activities, as well as the occurrence of forest fires.

✓ **Pedestrian Route:** The following routes for the control and monitoring of tourism activities and to rule out the carrying out of banned activities:

- **Eastern Sector:** Paraitepuy de Roraima – Mount Roraima Roads, Arapán Merü – La Piscina, Kakö Parü and Kamá trails.
- **Western Sector:** Raton Island - Angel Falls and Anatoly Island - El Sapo Falls, Yuri, Sarimpatöy, Santa Marta, Kamarata - Kavac - Uruyen, Kusari, Kurun and Kurawaina Tepui Corridor



✓ Special inspections and tours.

- **Mount Roraima Technical Inspection:** The Bolívar Regional Management and the Coordination of the Eastern Sector of Canaima National Park carried out two (2) general technical inspections along the trail to Mount Roraima and its summit in order to evaluate risk factors, environmental impact caused by tourist activities and the status of the caves called "hotels" in the Tepui. In this sense, the following situations were assessed:

- * Risk factors that could affect tourists.
- * Vulnerability and threats to the fragile Tepui ecosystem.
- * Dimensions of the caves called "hotels": Caracas, La Laguna, Tewöasen and Valbina.
- * Presence of solid waste on the trails.



- **Special Environmental Protection Commission for the Antavare River:** A special environmental guarding commission was carried out for five (5) continuous days through the insular area of Canaima National Park, adjacent to the Antavare River, in which the existence of eighteen (18) active and inactive raft boats was determined, These were duly geo-referenced and the respective report was issued for the activation of control and dismantling activities in conjunction with the Bolivarian National Armed Forces and the legitimate indigenous authorities.

- **Unified Command Against Forest Fires:**

Following instructions from the People's Power Ministry for Ecosocialism, the Unified Command against Forest Fires was installed in the state of Bolivar. This command, formed by MINEC Bolivar, Misión Árbol, Misión Piar, the Public Ministry, the GNB Environmental Guard, the People's Guard, the Civilian Park Rangers and the Forest Fire Brigade of the National Parks Institute, aims to comply with the Fifth Historical Objective of the Plan of the Homeland: "To contribute to the preservation of life on the planet and the salvation of the human species...". The creation of this command seeks to unify criteria and coordinate actions for an effective deployment in the areas of Bolívar state prone to forest fires.

It is important to point out that, since one of the priority actions in the fight against forest fires is the hand-to-hand combat carried out by the Park Rangers and Forest Firefighters, it was appropriate to deliver new uniforms to the personnel.



Due to the critical period of drought that affected the country between January and April, there was a high rate of forest fires that required the activation of special firefighting operations. Around 80 park rangers and forest firefighters from the National Parks Institute participated in these operations, with the support of the People's Power through the Captaincy of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community and the inhabitants of the affected areas.

A total of 43 forest fires were fought: 32 in the western sector and 11 in the eastern sector. These fires affected 1,697.02 hectares in the indigenous communities Mayupa, Kukurital, Taute, San Félix, Atapa, Kurun Tüpü, Sarintatöy, Karaurin, Mirador El Oso, Paraitepuy, Nonoi Tüpü, Mapauri, Imeru, Sakaika, Kusari Tüpü, Jaspe I, Kuyarinpa Tüpü, Kururey Mu Paru, Morocco, Kavak, Kamarata, Cementerio, Kanaupan, Kuaywa, Kavanayen, Parakaupa, and Kurawaina Tüpü.

It is worth noting that in the case of the forest fires on the summit of Audan Tüpü (Auyantepuy) from the Kamarata - Kavak slope, and the valleys adjacent to the Kusari and Kurun Tepuis, it was necessary to transfer combat personnel and logistics by rotary-wing aircraft (helicopters) and fixed-wing aircraft.



- Reactivation of the vehicle fleet for Environmental Guard activities:

In order to strengthen the land routes of the Environmental Guard's activities, a process of reactivation of the vehicle fleet was initiated, in conjunction with the Captaincy of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community, to put into operation two (2) units, complying with the established schedule.



- Environmental Sanitation Campaign: Seven (7) environmental sanitation mega campaigns were carried out throughout the National Park, covering the Mount Roraima route, from the Paraitepuy de Roraima Indigenous Community to the top of the Tepui, as well as Arapán Merú (Quebrada de Pacheco) and Kakó Parú (Quebrada de Jaspe) Recreational Areas, Sierra de Lema. In the western sector, work was carried out in the Kanaimö and Kamarata indigenous communities, Canaima Lagoon, Anatoly Island, Puerto Ucaima and the trails to El Sapo and El Hacha falls. These campaigns included the collection of more than five hundred (500) kilograms of garbage and solid waste, transporting them outside the park's borders to appropriate disposal sites, clearing roadsides and weeding the service areas.



-Sierra de Lema Mega Campaigns: In order to guarantee the safety of the people who travel along the road that crosses the Sierra de Lema, a mega campaign for roadside clearing, phytosanitary pruning, weeding of service areas and collection of solid waste and scrap metal, through sixty (60) kilometers, was carried out. This activity was done over three (3) continuous days.



- Reforestation Campaigns: In the Western Sector, four (4) reforestation campaigns were held in the Kurawaina Tepui, El Taute, Kanaimö and Sakaikapa Sectors, where two thousand six hundred (2,600) Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*) and Tacamahaca (*Protium heptaphyllum*) plants were planted, managing to initiate the recovery of forty-five (45) Hectares that had been affected by the occurrence of forest fires.

As part of the recovery activities of the areas affected by the forest fires, and as part of the commemoration of the 62nd anniversary of Canaima National Park, a reforestation campaign was carried out in the western sector.

On this day, the Kanaimö indigenous community, the Bolívar State Management of INPARQUES, the Bolívar Misión Árbol Management, park rangers, Bolivarian National Guard, tour operators, students and teachers of U.E.N. Canaima and E.T.C. Arawönu planted 200 moriche palms near the Kanaimö Lagoon. The participants committed themselves to care for and protect the plants to ensure their development and contribute to the improvement of Kanaimö's natural areas. In turn, in the Eastern Sector, seven (7) reforestation days were carried out, with the planting of one thousand three hundred and twenty (1,320) plants of species such as Guama (*Inga edulis*) and Moriche palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*), along with the Indigenous Communities, Santa Cruz de Mapauri, Kumaracapay, and Paraitepuy de Roraima, thus recovering thirty seven (37) affected hectares.



- **Seed Collection Campaigns:** During the first quarter of 2024, six (6) simultaneous activities were carried out in the framework of the National Seed Collection Campaign, in the Leonardo Ruiz Pineda Recreation Park, Heritage Museum "Fortin El Zamuro", La Llovizna Recreation Park, Kanaimö Indigenous Community, Sarinpatöy Indigenous Community, and Kamarata Indigenous Community. This was done in order to increase the production of plants in the Agroforestry nurseries, whose purpose is the recovery of degraded natural areas and to face the climate crisis. The Bolívar Ecosocialist Territorial Unit (UTE), the National Tourism Institute (INATUR), the Ecosocialist Brigades of the Orinoco (CEIS), Park Rangers, Forest Firefighters, Technicians, and Little Park Rangers of the National Parks Institute participated in the workshops. Oak, Araguaneý, Rain tree, Peacock flower, Merecure, Copaiba balsam, Acacia, Tamarind, Divi-divi, Gumbo limbo, Carob, Sangre de Drago, Cashew, Ficus, Tacamahaca and Moriche palm seeds were collected.



- Operation Safe Carnival and Safe Easter 2024:

During the holiday seasons, the staff of the National Parks Institute (forest firefighters, park rangers and technicians) are deployed in the different tourist destinations of Canaima National Park and recreational areas of the state of Bolívar. Their main objective is to attend to the large number of tourists that visit these natural areas.

Green Points were established in several recreational areas, such as Leonardo Ruiz Pineda, La Cocuyera, Mirador Angostura and La Llovizna to assist the travelers. In Canaima National Park, the Green Points were located at the Aponwaö I Administrative Center, Kavanayén, Arapán Merú, Kumarakapay (entrance to Paraitepuy de Roraima), Paraitepuy de Roraima, San Ignacio de Yuruaní, Kakö Parü, Mirador El Oso, Gustavo Heny Aerodrome, Körepa Kupai Wena - Angel Falls, Puerto Ucaima, Kanaimö Lagoon, Kamarata, Kavac, and Uruyen.

At these Green Points, visitors are offered relevant information about the site, short talks on environmental awareness with the "Give your Trash a Ride" and "Forest Fire Prevention" programs, as well as environmental and pre-hospital emergency care.

Supervision of the tourist camps located in the Kanaimö Indigenous Community also continues, to review the commitments acquired with the adequacy of their services and faithful compliance with current environmental regulations.



a. AREA OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Addressing the need to produce plants that phytoremediate areas degraded by mining activities within the National Park, two (2) experimental nurseries are kept so there can be plants that can adapt to these conditions.



Four (4) days of throwing seed balls took place in affected areas, such as Pela Pa' Tras - Campo Carrao. And three (3) mega pedestrian days had the participation of the Administrative Personnel, Forest Firefighters, Park Rangers, Little Park Rangers, Tour Operators and the Captancy of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community, in which the seed balls were thrown from the top to the areas affected by the forest fires in the Tepuyarinpa, Kurawaina and El Taute, for a total of two thousand (2,000) seed balls launched.



A total of fourteen (14) administrative rulings were given in the Western Sector of Canaima National Park distributed in the following manner: six (6) by authorized signatory to the Coordination of the Western Sector of Canaima National Park and (8) to the Presidency of the National Parks Institute to execute sports and recreational activities, filming, remodeling, and improvements to properties; always with the approval of the indigenous captaincies.

With the purpose of strengthening the cultural aspects of our indigenous communities, two new assessments were conducted: one where the "Kueka Grandparents" are located, and another one to understand in which areas a museum could be built. These took place with the participation of technical personnel, park rangers, and members of the Mapauri Indigenous Community. These assessments became the "Project for the Construction of the Kueka Stone Monument - Kueka Grandparents", whose main objective is to safeguard and make known the cultural and ancestral values of the Pemón people.



b. AREA OF PUBLIC USE-TOURISM:

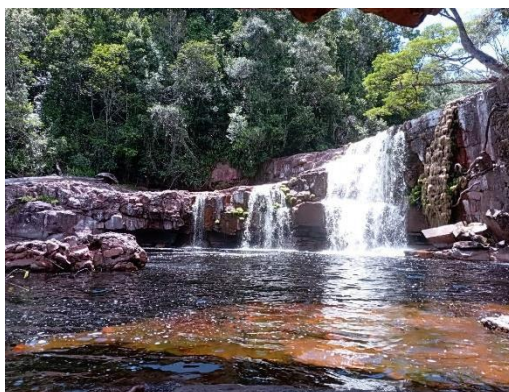
With the objective of improving tourist services and guaranteeing the quality of the services provided by the National Parks Institute, three (3) workshops have taken place in 2024 in the Western Sector. These workshops were aimed at the Administrative Personnel and Park Rangers on customer service, accompaniment in recreational areas, first aid assistance in medical emergencies, and orientations for users who require special activities within the Venezuelan National Parks System.



c. AREA OF PUBLIC USE - ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATION:

Two assessments were conducted during the first quarter of 2024. The first one at the **"Körepa Kupai Vena" Nature Interpretation Trail**, which is one of the most important tourist destinations in the country. This helped determine what required improvement and conditioning in the trail, determining the need to renew the system of bridges in the flooded-prone areas of the trail, the renovation and inclusion of a rope system to facilitate the ascent and descent of tourists in areas with slopes of more than 20°.

The second assessment had the purpose of establishing a **new tourist route through the basin of the Antavare River, Tüpöchi River, to the La Catira waterfall**, located in the Tüpöchi Tüpü. Park rangers, Local Guides, and Guides from the Kanaimö Indigenous Community, and indigenous guides from the Antavare River participated in this inspection. This resulted in the establishment of a trekking-type tourist route, coexistence camps with the indigenous culture, fishing practices and ecological agriculture. This route represents an alternative for people who wish to live alongside indigenous people and their native culture, and it can be done by waterway and later by foot. It consists of a walking route from Camp Tüpöchi for approximately two (2) hours to reach the Salto La Catira and enjoy its waters, then it requires to climb for thirty (30) minutes to reach the lookout point of the Salto La Catira. Lastly, there is an aerial option, which can be enjoyed by overflight with a rotary wing aircraft (helicopter), for the observation of the Salto La Catira, landing on a helipad established and conditioned by the villagers, and the recreational enjoyment of the Salto La Catira.



d. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AREA:

In the first quarter of 2024, eighteen (18) environmental educational activities were carried out as part of the **"INPARQUES goes to School" Educational Program**, raising awareness to more than two hundred (200) children from the following indigenous communities: Paraitepuy de Roraima, San Ignacio de Yuruaní, Santa Cruz de Mapauri, Kanaimö and Kamarata, with talks and recreational activities related to environmental conservation, recognition of their fauna and flora, and the National Park's conservation objectives. The main themes are selected according to the environmental events of the month.

On the anniversary of the Declaration of the Araguaneý tree (*Tabebuia chrysantha*) as the National Tree of Venezuela, members of the Civil Ranger Corps of Canaima National Park held an emotional meeting to share knowledge with the children of the Santa Cruz de Mapauri School. At the same time, the brigadiers of the San Ignacio Indigenous Community of Yuruaní, filled bags with substrate to germinate one hundred and thirty-four (134) strawberry tree (*Arbustus unedo*) seeds, which will be planted, once the ideal conditions are met, in areas that were affected by forest fires.



Likewise, we have been continued with the comprehensive training of the Little Park Rangers in the Paraitepuy de Roraima, Santa Cruz de Mapauri, San Ignacio de Yuruaní, Tururiwaipa, Sarinpatöy, and Kanaimö Indigenous Communities, that now have more than 120 children participating. This important program allows children to enjoy outdoor activities and learn about different aspects of nature, and connect with it. It also gives them the opportunity to learn about first aid, environmental emergencies, recycling, user care, biological diversity, natural sciences, among other topics. All is done in a dynamic and fun way, which encourages so many children and guardians to join in various ecological and conservation activities in the areas of Canaima National Park.

As part of the **Climate Change Awareness Days**, the children of the Little Park Rangers Brigade of the Kanaimö, Sarinpatöy, Santa Cruz de Mapauri and Paraitepuy de Roraima Indigenous Communities had the opportunity to draw pictures showcasing the importance of protecting the natural resources found in Canaima National Park. They also enjoyed educational talks on forest fires and had the possibility to learn about and identify the tools used to fight forest fires, their causes and consequences of forest fires, as well as the measures that should be taken to prevent their occurrence.



Special activities were also carried out, such as:

Celebration of the 62nd Anniversary of Canaima National Park. It took place with a commemorative ceremony and drawing contest at the Canaima Elementary School, reforestation days in the Kanaimö Lagoon with Moriche palms, and reforestation of the main street of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community, with Moriche Palms and Cashew trees. A special event was held at the Kuyarinpa Community House, with a play alluding to the protection of the natural and cultural resources of the National Park. In this event, Tour Operators, Pilots, and members of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community were awarded for their contribution to the protection of this important natural area.

Celebration of World Beaches Day. On this occasion, a talk was held for the Little Park Rangers and the community in general to educate on the importance of knowing, through the collection of solid waste and the collection of statistics, which pollutants are present in the community's beaches, and to highlight the need to avoid littering in natural areas. Children were the protagonists as they were responsible for taking the message of protection to tourists and locals under the slogan "Dale la cola a tu basura" (Give your garbage a ride).

Indigenous Resistance Day had the participation of the Little Ranger Parks, students and teachers from the Canaima Basic School, Araiwonü Technical School, and inhabitants of the Kanaimö and Kamarata indigenous communities. Its purpose was to highlight the natural and cultural values of the Venezuelan indigenous people. There were exhibitions that showcase the preparation of staple food with taste samples, creation of traditional costumes, and articles used for hunting, fishing, food gathering, and clothing of the Pemón Kamarakoto ethnic group, as well as the performance of traditional dances.

To commemorate **Indigenous Women's Day**, a talk on "Canaima National Park and its cultural and natural heritage" was given to members of the Empowered Women's Guild of the Kanaimö "Pemón Pachi" indigenous Community, tourist guides, council of elders, park rangers, and the community in general. The objective of the activity was to highlight the cultural and natural values of this important national park, giving special emphasis on reminding those present of the benefits offered by this important natural area and the need to protect and maintain it as a World Heritage Site.



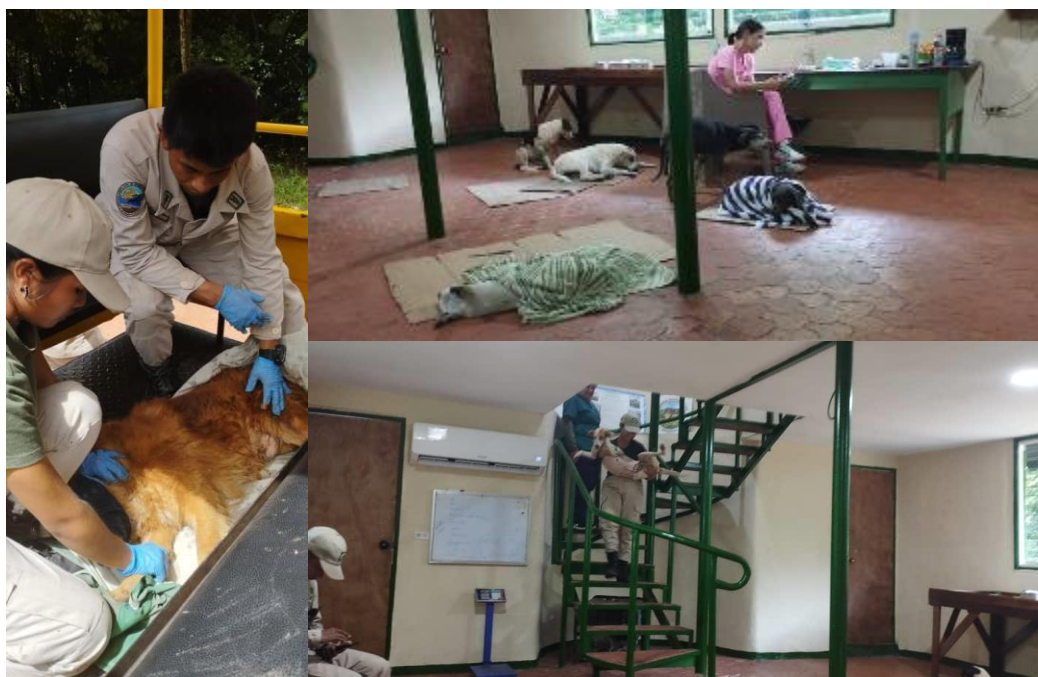
The **"House-to-House" Awareness-raising Days** took place in the municipality of Angostura del Orinoco. Their citizens had lessons on climate change, preservation measures to protect the planet, as well as launching the **"adopt a tree"** program. It works as a way for people to commit to safeguard and ensure the growth of a tree in the early stages of its development, so that once it has the ideal conditions, it can be transplanted in areas of the Canaima National Park affected by deforestation and forest fires.

"Give your garbage a ride" Awareness Days, with the intention of raising awareness in the General Public, Park Rangers, Forest Firefighters, and Little Park Rangers on how to approach locals and tourists to share environmental awareness messages, urging them to be conscious of the proper management and disposal of solid waste; to improve the environmental conditions of the natural areas. These activities are carried out during the weekends, when there are more tourists in the various Green Points of Canaima National Park.



Special Day of Spaying and Neutering of Canines. In compliance with the strategies framed in the conservation of natural spaces, and responding to the needs of the indigenous communities of the Canaima National Park - Western Sector, two (2) spaying and neutering days for female and male canines were carried out as part of the activities for the care of domestic animals. A census of domestic animals in the different sectors of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community was previously started, in addition to including in the census those animals that are homeless and without owners. The first Spaying and Neutering Day began under the care of the Veterinarian Dr. Yajaira Piñerua, on August 26th, to commemorate the International Dog Day, an important date to remember we must pay attention in taken care of the animal that many consider they best friend. The spaying and neutering continued through the 27th and the 28th, reaching a total of thirty-two (32) male dogs, including pets and community dogs. The second Day was supported by the following Veterinarians: Dr. Yajaira Piñerua, Dr. Bathsheba Ortega, Dr. Sol Martinez, Veterinary Assistant Lucia Martinez. In this opportunity, thirty-seven (37) canines, between females and males, were spayed.

In addition, an educational talk was given to our Little Park Rangers on the attention and care they should have with their pets and the importance of spaying and neutering to control the domestic fauna populations, inside and outside the natural areas. This activity had the support of BA Milena Peña, Waku Lodge, C.A. tourist services, and the voluntary participation of veterinarians and auxiliary doctors. As well as the support and participation of the Coordination of the Canaima N.P. Western Sector and officials of the Civil Body of the Kanaimö Park Rangers.



e. PLANNING AREA - GOVERNANCE:

As an effort to develop projects aimed at preservation, conservation, and environmental awareness, the People's Power Ministry for Ecosocialism (MINEC) and the National Parks Institute (INPARQUES) established the National Workshop of the **“Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Diversity of the Caroní River Basin”**, in the state of Bolivar. This activity is backed by the joint work of MINEC and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Program represents an important step forward for Venezuela in terms of management and governance actions, and institutional and community empowerment for the sustainable use of the areas, and the defense, provision and care of ecosystem elements.

Based on this important project, three (3) macro activities were initially developed. First with a meeting in which three (3) working groups were set up to articulate lines of action to guarantee the recovery and well-being of the communities and nature, to face the degradation of natural spaces, and the effects of the climate crisis.

Subsequently, the General Manager of National Parks, the Geographer Hilda Ángel, Park Rangers and Forest Firefighters, represented the National Parks Institute, participated in the National Workshop of the **“Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Diversity of the Caroní River Basin,”** "Yei Pütok" in the Pemón language, led by FAO, the Bolivar Territorial Unit (UTEC) of MINEC and the General Captaincy of Sector V Kavanayen; It was held in the "San Francisco de Yuruani" Pemón Indigenous Community, located in the Eastern Sector of Canaima National Park. During the meeting, roundtables were established for the indigenous communities to present their proposals for



sustainable development by promoting the conservation of the national park's biodiversity. The following were some of the points addressed in the discussions:

- Ecotourism development.
- Recovery of productive spaces for tourism and agriculture.
- Investment to expand on the implementation of environmental education programs, infrastructure improvements in INPARQUES service posts, and effective training of human talent (Park Rangers and Forest Firefighters).
- Provision of necessary equipment and tools for fighting forest fires.

In the framework of the **“Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Diversity of the Caroní River Basin”**, a visit to the Gran Sabana Municipality was organized with the participation of the General Management of National Parks and the Bolívar Regional Management of INPARQUES, FAO, the Bolívar UTEC of MINEC and the Secretary of the Environment of the Bolívar State Government. The Mayor's Office of La Gran Sabana, Fe y Alegría School and UTEC N° 6 were visited to unify criteria for the implementation of the project and to receive and discuss proposals.

It is important to highlight that the implementation of the **"Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Diversity of the Caroní River Basin"** is structured in four essential components:

1. Systemic, institutional, and individual capacity for the sustainable management of the landscape of uses with a gender, generational and intercultural approach.
2. Integrated landscape management for the sustainable use of biodiversity and the increase in the provision of ecosystem services.
3. Diversification of livelihoods in indigenous and Creole communities for sustainable landscape management.
4. Knowledge management, monitoring, and evaluation with a gender, generational and intercultural approach.



Concerning to strengthen surveillance and control activities, **alliances** were established with the Ciudad Bolívar Regional Directorate of the **People's Power Ministry of Petroleum to provide the necessary fuel for river and land routes** to help prevent the transportation of equipment and tools that could be used in activities detrimental to natural resources. This is also paramount to attend environmental and pre-hospital emergencies, and to attend to the high number of tourists and visitors that visit the national park during the high season.

Communities: To date, twelve (12) coordination meetings have been held with the Captaincy of the Sarinpatöy Indigenous Community, Captaincy of the Kamarata Indigenous Community, Captaincy of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community, Kanaimö Tourism Coordination and the General Captaincy of Sector II Kamarata - Kanaimö (covering 16 indigenous communities), in order to raise and assess tourism proposals, and set regulations for the use of tourist areas.

Pursuant to the idea of strengthening integration of the National Parks Institute with the communities present in Canaima National Park, the Coordination of the Eastern Sector of Canaima National Park and Park Rangers participated in a meeting with the General Captaincy of Sector V, Kavanayen and the community in general, at which topics of interest related to the conservation of the national park were discussed, with emphasis on forest fires. The meeting was an opportunity to raise awareness for the protection of the natural resources of the territory and to avoid uncontrolled burning.



Inter-institutional integration: With the intention of strengthening inter-institutional teamwork, the National Parks Institute participated, once again, in the Extraordinary Assembly held in the Kanaimö Indigenous Community. Its objective was to bringing together the communities of the area and shareholders to solve conflicts between them. The development of it was led by the General Captaincy of Sector II Kamarata - Kanaimö, it was attended by representatives of the People's Power Ministry for Ecosocialism, Vice Ministry of Tourism, People's Power Ministry for Petroleum - Bolivar City Management, Bolivarian National Armed Forces, Hidrobolivar, Corpoelec and the Bolivar Regional Management of the National Parks Institute. They were in charge of assessing and taking the necessary decisions to solve issues discussed. In this sense, roundtables were held to implement the following objectives:

- Promote the generation of sustainable energy through the implementation of a new micro hydroelectric power plant project.
- Assess the current state of the wastewater treatment plant to improve its conditions and thus the proper disposal of effluents.
- Encourage the creation of working groups with inter-institutional teams to help consolidate the implementation of actions focused on optimizing public services and thus enhance tourism as the main driver of the local economy.



Specialized Environmental Technical Evaluation: The People's Power Ministry for Ecosocialism, People's Power Ministry for Water Attention, People's Power Ministry for Electric Energy, National Parks Institute, Kanaimö Tourist Operators and Captaincy of the Kanaimö Indigenous Community joined efforts to perform a specialized technical inspection to determine problems associated with solid waste collection, sewage systems, water system for human consumption and hydroelectric power plant system, with the purpose of proposing sustainable ecological alternatives for the Kanaimö Indigenous Community. These activities were carried out over three (3) continuous days with the participation of eight (8) Specialized Technicians, one (1) INPARQUES Technician, two (2) Park Rangers, one (1) Community Captain, as well as maintenance managers from the various tourism operators.





Construction of the "Grandparents Kueka" Museum: In the Kakö Parü sector of Canaima National Park, the "Grandparents Kueka" Museum was inaugurated. It is a space built jointly by the People's Power Ministry for Ecosocialism and the National Parks Institute, as part of the Bolivarian Government's commitment to the preservation and defense of its cultural heritage. Its objective is to honor the wisdom and ancestral traditions of the Pemón people, becoming a center of encounter and intercultural dialogue through interactive exhibitions, workshops, and various activities.



f. AREA OF ADMINISTRATION - HUMAN RESOURCES:

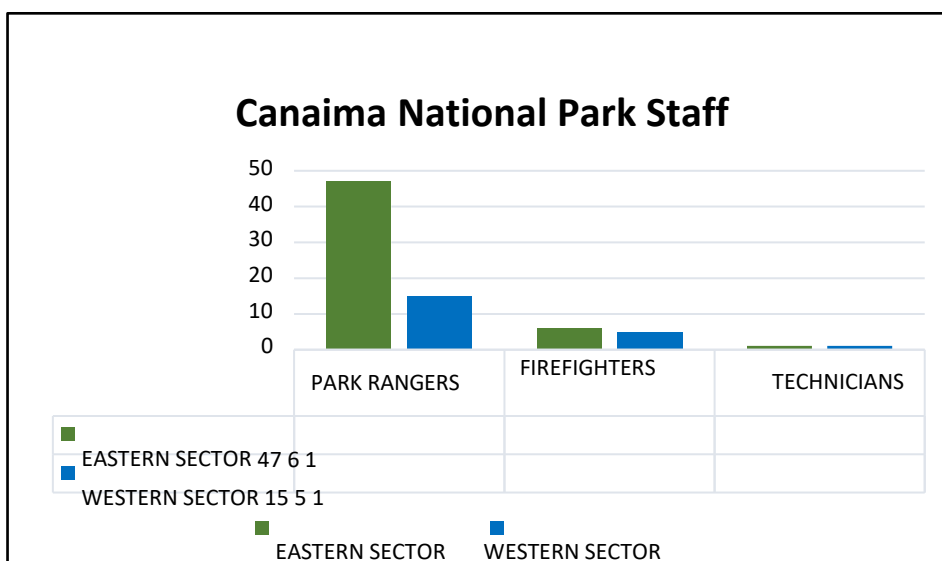
Currently, Canaima National Park has fifty-two (52) Park Rangers, eleven (11) Forest Firefighters, and two (2) technicians, distributed as follows:

- Eastern Sector:

Park Rangers	47
Forest Firefighters	6
Technicians	1

- Western Sector:

Park Rangers	15
Forest Firefighters	5
Technicians	1



It also has a reserve team of fifty-three (53) Park Rangers, sixty-five (65) Forest Firefighters, and four (4) Technicians, who are commissioned to different parts of Canaima National Park. This system allows us to monitor areas such as Kavanayén, Angel Falls, Kavac and Uruyén, which previously could not be monitored due to the lack of personnel.



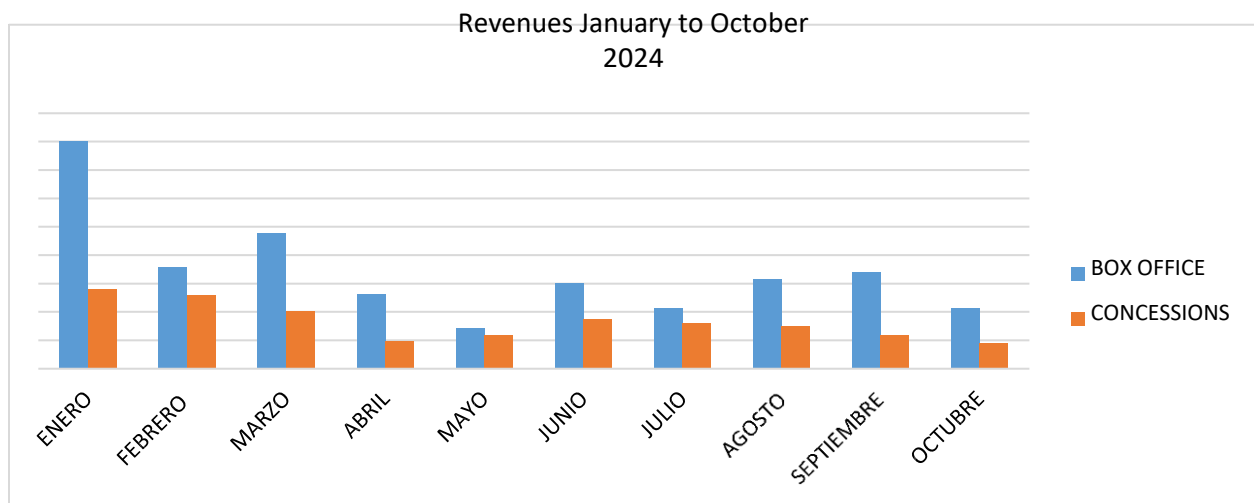
Training Workshops: Ranger Personnel, Forest Firefighters and Technicians are provided with training workshops and continuous updating. In compliance with this, during 2024, training workshops have been given on the following topics: whitewater rescue, attention to the public, technical aspects of forest fires (throwing cloths, cutting techniques with chainsaw and Pulaski), mountain rescue, stabilization of injured, and first aid assistance in emergency medical emergency.

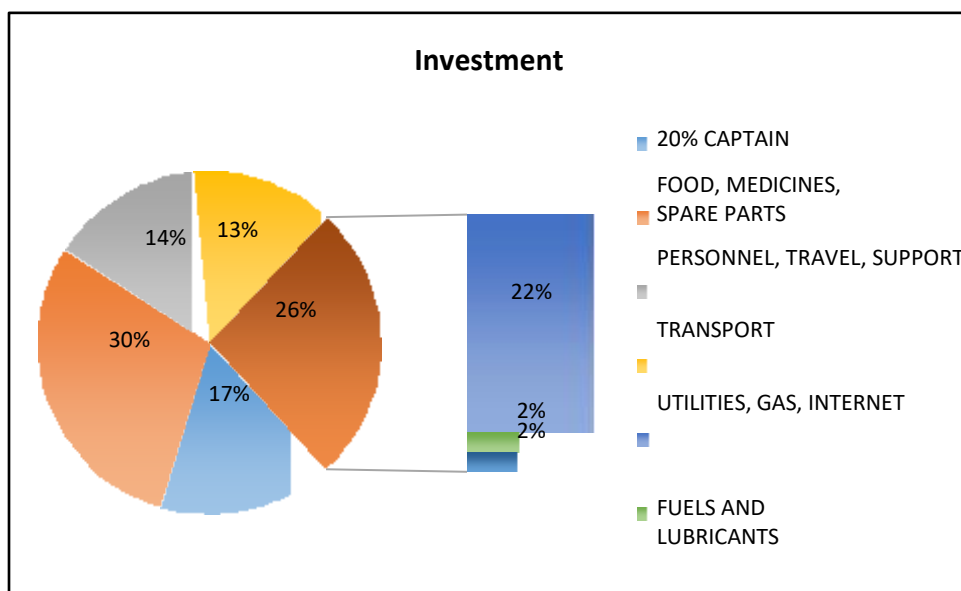




g. AREA OF ADMINISTRATION - FINANCIAL:

With the interest of protecting and conserving the different areas of Canaima National Park, 20% of the income from park access fees, concessions and authorizations has been invested in infrastructure for Park Ranger stations, tourist lodges, administrative offices, uniforms for Park Rangers, Forest Firefighters, Technical and Administrative Personnel, equipment and tools, and other expenses. However, the park's own income needs to increase by 200% in order to implement the necessary actions to strengthen the park's management programs.





h. AREA OF RESEARCH

During July 2024, the presentation of the Project: **"Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity in the Caroní River basin in the State of Bolívar"** was held, which sought to present the most relevant findings of the evaluation of the current state of conservation of the landscape of Canaima National Park (PNC).

The results showed that the national park is made up of three landscape units and five ecosystems: the forest currently occupies 67.9% of the NCP and 4.4% of the country's forests, open savanna 14.3%, shrub savanna 12.3%, tepuyan shrubland and grassland 2.8%, and evergreen shrubland 1.1%. These ecosystems have a florist composition of vascular plants consisting of 3,377 species (23.6% of the country), belonging to 994 genera and 188 families. Out of these flora species, 992 (29.38%) have some category of conservation status. There are 773 fauna species (17.8% of the country), 485 genera, 113 families and 36 orders. Birds are the group with the highest number of sightings with 19,283 (95.11%), followed by mammals with 615 (3.03%). Out of the vertebrate species reported, at least one of them is classified in some conservation status.

Currently, the NCP has a total carbon stock of 561.18 Tg C, which represents 6.2% of the country's reserves. 43.7% of the NCP's carbon is stored in above-ground biomass (AGB), 38.16% in soil (COS), 11.64% in below-ground biomass (BGB), 5.70% in dead wood and 1.14% in detritus. The highest amount of carbon, being 96.80%, is stored in the forests of the NCP. These forests are a sink, despite the fact that in the last two five-year periods the emissions generated by forest fires (2.45 Tg CO₂ e yr⁻¹) and by changes in forest cover and land use (2.45 Tg CO₂ e yr⁻¹) have been increasing.



emissions (0.62 Tg CO₂ e yr⁻¹) were 3.08 Tg CO₂ e yr⁻¹, the carbon balance was positive with a removal of -2.04 Tg CO₂ e yr⁻¹. In other words, it can be said that the NPC forests offset the emissions generated by forest fires and land use changes, likewise, they offset 0.8% of the country's emissions (243.38 Mt CO₂ e yr⁻¹) (MINEA, 2017).

b. PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND CONSOLIDATION DURING 2024

1) As part of the management of the Eastern Sector of the National Park, the following actions are planned for development and execution:

- Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the National Parks Institute and the General Captancy of the Indigenous Sector V Kavanayén.
- Signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the National Parks Institute and the General Captancy of the Indigenous Sector VIII Wonken.
- Repairing of vehicle units to consolidate the area's permanent monitoring system.
- Construction of ticket offices at both entrances to the National Park, with a view to increasing the park's own revenues.
- Execution of new training courses for park rangers and forest firefighters to strengthen the surveillance and control program.
- Provision of equipment and tools for surveillance and control tasks.
- Strengthening the authorization systems for special activities and concessions to tourism service providers to generate income that can be reinvested in park management.
- Follow-up of the Educational Program "INPARQUES goes to School" and training of Little Park Rangers in the different indigenous communities of the sector, to comply with the Environmental Education plans.
- Establishment of new nurseries to produce plants for phytoremediation of areas affected by environmentally unfriendly activities.

2) As part of the management of the Western Sector of the National Park, the following actions are planned for development and execution:

- Construction of Park Ranger stations located in Isla Orquídea and El Angel Falls Base Camp, consolidating spaces for the proper functioning of the Civilian Park Ranger Corps.
- Establishment of trails and new tourist routes, with their respective signage, referring to the specific regulations of each area, strengthening the ecotourism development of the park, the environmental interpretation, and the added value of the park.
- Training Little Park Rangers in the Kamarata and Santa Marta indigenous communities, increasing the number of rangers needed for this program.
- Consolidation of a project to create sources of employment in the Kamarata Indigenous Communities, considering the agroforestry characteristics to use of native fruit species.
- Execution of the Community Service of the Faculty of Agronomy of the Universidad Central de Venezuela, to promote sustainable agroforestry production that generates income for the inhabitants of the indigenous communities.
- Reforestation plan for affected areas, with a goal of planting 100,000 phytoremediation plants.

3) CONCLUSIONS:

2024 saw the implementation of new strategies in the areas of Management the protected areas, Protection, the Surveillance and Environmental Guard program, the distribution of the Park Ranger staff from their indigenous communities of origin to the Recreational Areas of greater tourist affluence, such as Arapán Merü, Kakö Parü, Kavac, Uruyén and Angel Falls. In addition to the accompaniment and supervision of our officials at the checkpoints of the Citizen Security Organizations and the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, deployed within the National Park, monitoring and stopping the passage of equipment and tools that can be used in environmentally degrading activities.

Likewise, in Public Use, environmental education and awareness-raising activities and the incorporation of children into the "Little Park Rangers" program have been maintained.

As for the results of the Resource Management area, two (02) species with phytoremediating capacity have been established for the recovery of areas deforested for different reasons and four (04) days of seed balls have been launched for a total of 2000 seed balls launched.

Finally, in governance, the project for the **“Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Caroní River Basin”**, Bolívar State, which seeks to strengthen the systemic, institutional and individual capacity for the sustainable management of the multiple-use landscape with a gender, generational, and intercultural approach, has been initiated.