



# MERALVIS

Asociación sin fines de lucro

C. J. 3-002-332734

.... Mejorando al desarrollo rural de la región a través de la conservación de la vida silvestre y el entendimiento cultural entre los pueblos

**PONENCIA PRESENTADA ANTE EL  
3<sup>er</sup> CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL EN MANEJO DE VIDA SILVESTRE,  
LLEVADO A CABO EN DICIEMBRE DEL AÑO 2003,  
EN NUEVA ZELANDIA.**

Favor citar este documento de acuerdo a:

Torrealba, I y F. Carbonell. 2003. Learned Lessons in environmental education and Wildlife's investigation with Costa Rica peasants and natives. ONG MERALVIS, Costa Rica. *Third International Wildlife Management Congress, New Zealand. Abstract y ponencia oral.*

## **TORREALBA, ISA AND FABRICIO CARBONELL**

Learned Lessons in environmental education and Wildlife's investigation with Costa Rica peasants and natives.

Non Profit Association MERALVIS. P. O. Box. 1854-3000, Heredia, Costa Rica

"Improving Regional Rural Development through Wildlife Conservation" is a non-profit not governmental organization that focuses human dimension in sustainable development through investigations done on Latin rural people common practices. From 16 projects done in the past 5 years (8 with peasants and 8 with indigenous people) using methodologies that mixed applied ecology with social research, main results showed that: 1- Both groups have commitment and proactive interested persons on empirical experimentation that might act as reproducers of Wildlife research and environmental education processes; 2- Wildlife management is done mainly by farming at a local scale, Wildlife ranching in larger areas and in semi-captivity is rare; 3- The establishment of non governmental reserves, animal sanctuaries and other Wilderness Areas in a community administration for Wildlife management, still it is not perceived as a current need; 4- Wildlife conservation is perceived as a constraint for community forestry and agricultural development; 5- In more than 30 communities in four Latin American countries subsistence hunting and Wildlife pets are the rule. Management guidelines suggested are: (a) Wildlife management and conservation should be focused currently more in preserving what is left, besides natural resources sustainable use; (b) even in countries seen as strongly conservationists as Costa Rica with more than 25% of its territory as protected areas with different management categories, and with recent policies declared on 2002 concerning Constitutionally Environmental Guarantees, there is a room and a need for Wildlife Management training in order to benefit Wildlife and human beings.

*Conservation and empowerment together with local rural communities*

Apdo. 1854-3000, Heredia, Costa Rica. ☎ (506) 2618276 (tel/fax). E-mail: [ong\\_meralvis@yahoo.com](mailto:ong_meralvis@yahoo.com)  
[www.geocities.com/maralvis](http://www.geocities.com/maralvis) (revisar enlace con esta ONG)