

Asuncion
Green City
of the Americas
Pathways to Sustainability



BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON THE

PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

PROFESSIONAL PARK RANGERS

IMPROVING MANAGEMENT IN URBAN GREEN AREAS

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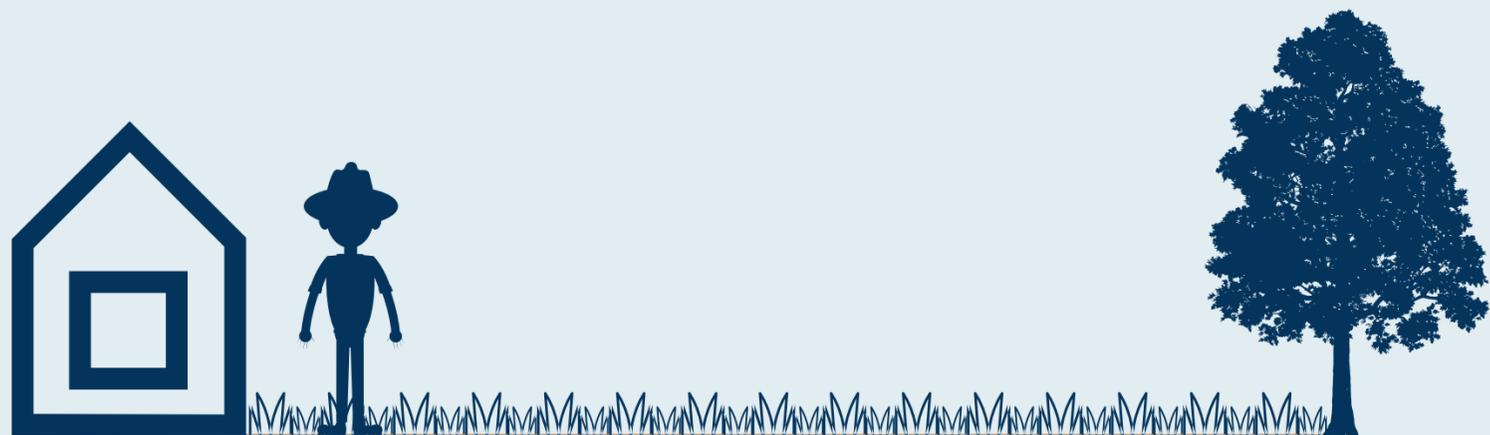
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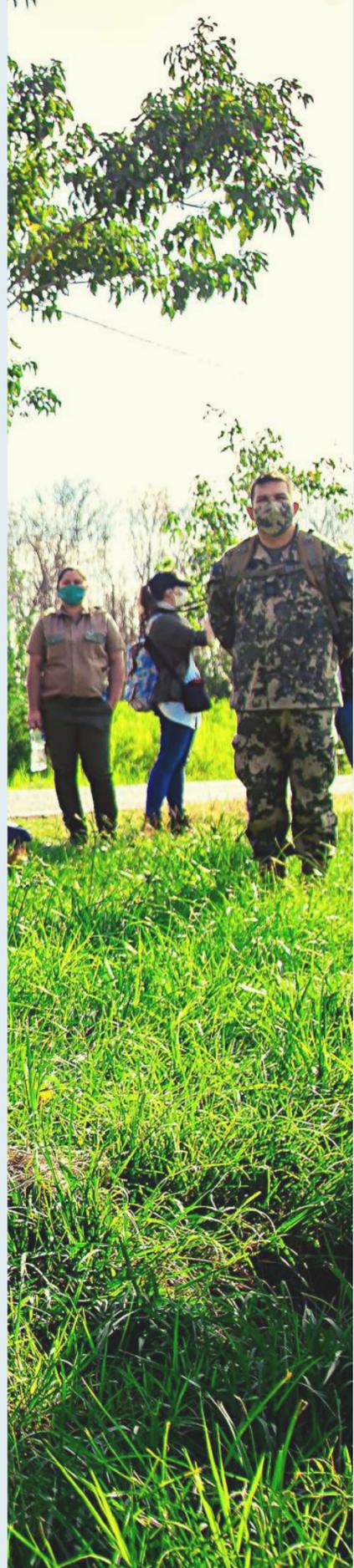
PROTECTING CONSERVATION UNITS

FACING THE CHALLENGE

The importance of conservation units in urban areas lies in the fact that they are mitigating elements of environmental impact. We must make every effort to ensure effective environmental management and nature conservation.

As cities are not isolated or disconnected from the natural world, the challenge they must face now is how to give nature its rightful place at the center of urban life. Providing professional training to urban park rangers can be key to achieving it.





STRENGTHENING CAPABILITIES

Urban park rangers usually face different challenges and play many roles. In their constant interaction with large groups of visitors, they often find themselves acting as interpreters and environmental educators. With the appropriate set of tools, park rangers can strengthen and improve their conservation actions within an institutional, social and environmental framework.

The project sought to provide those tools, designing and implementing a **complete professional training program** and a **guide for urban park rangers**, including practical lessons on fire prevention, biodiversity conservation and managing conflicts.



TRAINING TRAINERS

The first section of the "**Urban Park Ranger Guide Manual**" is dedicated to forming future educators, covering the following topics:

- 1. Basic concepts on training and learning:** Planning education strategies and group integration techniques.
- 2. Considerations about trainers:** Recommendations for instructors to build efficient skills.
- 3. Training and learning events:** Planning sessions, developing content, designing and choosing teaching techniques.
- 4. Organizing and implementing training events:** Working schedule, selecting and targeting an audience, operative support, evaluation and feedback.



"Through this course, I have improved my management skill, my interactions with park visitors and my overall impact on the community. These trainings are a meaningful opportunity for women working in management positions to acquire new skills."

CLAUDIA NUÑEZ

CHIEF - PARQUE DE LA SALUD DEL IPS



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

During their professional training, park rangers were instructed on topics ranging from the importance and characteristics of ecosystems, to the skills required for a better performance of their tasks. Proper management of conservation units was also a priority, to ensure efficient implementation of their respective Management Plans.

Ursulina Figueredo is a park ranger at "Parque Nacional de Ybycuí", working directly with visitor groups. In her experience, caring for protected areas and conservation units is not only a job for rangers, but for citizens as well, which is why she connects with them by teaching visitors as much as she can.



BUILDING SKILLS TO MAKE AN IMPACT

The guide and the training sessions are divided into three main workshops, aimed at building the necessary skills for all urban park rangers:

- Theoretical basis and foundations for the **protection of biodiversity and protected areas.**
- Specific aspects of **management and administration for conservation units.**
- **Tools, instruments and resources to manage protected areas** and develop a relationship with the community.



"Park visitors often see deers during their visit and children look at them amazed. I have learned to take advantage of that curiosity, to help them understand that the deer is still there thanks to proper conservation work, so they learn to appreciate and protect it."

URSULINA FIGUEREDO

PARK RANGER - PARQUE NACIONAL DE YBYCUÍ



Urban park rangers visit "Cerro Koi y Chorori" natural monument.

DIFFERENT ROLES OF A PARK RANGER

Through lectures and field practice sessions, participants addressed the different tasks fulfilled by park rangers, as well as their roles in society. The training covered:

- **Surveillance and fire prevention**
- **Visitor safety and experience**
- **Environmental education and interpretation of nature**
- **Support to scientific research**
- **Relationship with communities and conflict resolution**





MOVING FORWARD

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

In recent years, forest fires have become a recurring problem during the dry seasons in Paraguay, usually around August and September. Last year, park rangers rose as the heroes alongside firefighters, in the efforts of putting out fires and protecting bystanders, testing their newly acquired skills on the field.

Ursulina has learned to be hopeful about the future: "I believe we will see great improvement, because as we learn to educate people you can see the impact on youth. They now care more about urban green areas and are already striving to make a difference".



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