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Insights for sustaining life on Earth

AZE Mexico: A new list to contribute with species conservation

Topic: Conservation in Latin America

Release

The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), led by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), is a joint initiative of biodiversity conservation organizations around the world working together to prevent species extinctions, through the identification and protection of key sites that represent their last refuge. 87 Countries participate in this initiative, and Mexico is the Country with more AZE species and sites with 151 and 69 respectively.

Considering the vast amount of underrepresented species for a megadiverse country such as Mexico, and the bias towards certain taxonomic groups, an update of the AZE sites and species was needed. Therefore in 2015, the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) along with researchers from the Instituto de Biología UNAM (IBUNAM) started working on a reassessment of the Mexican AZE list and on identifying new trigger species and sites.

As the methodology in use restricts the inclusion of many Mexican species that although imperiled have not been assessed by the IUCN, the current review process also included a series of new parameters, such as the inclusion of evolutionary lineages rather than relying only on biological species, species with unique biological phenomena such as migrations, and species vulnerable to climate change.

The new proposal includes a total of 115 species and eight sites, bringing the Mexican list to 263 species and 76 sites. The newly proposed species include 18 plants, 33 invertebrates, 22 fresh water fishes, 1 bird, 5 amphibians, 29 reptiles, and 8 mammals. The list is especially relevant as it is the first time ever that invertebrates and fresh water fishes are considered as AZE species. Moreover, the amount of new species highlighters not only the importance of having a wide range of top of the line specialists working on this effort, but also the megadiverse nature of Mexico along with its richness in microendemisms.

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Please note: The Society for Conservation Biology does not endorse the information in this press release.



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Websites:

<http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx>

<https://www.gob.mx/conabio/prensa/alianza-para-la-extincion-cero?idiom=es>

<https://abcbirds.org/program/aze/>

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