

Conservation Beyond Borders: The Value of Collaboration

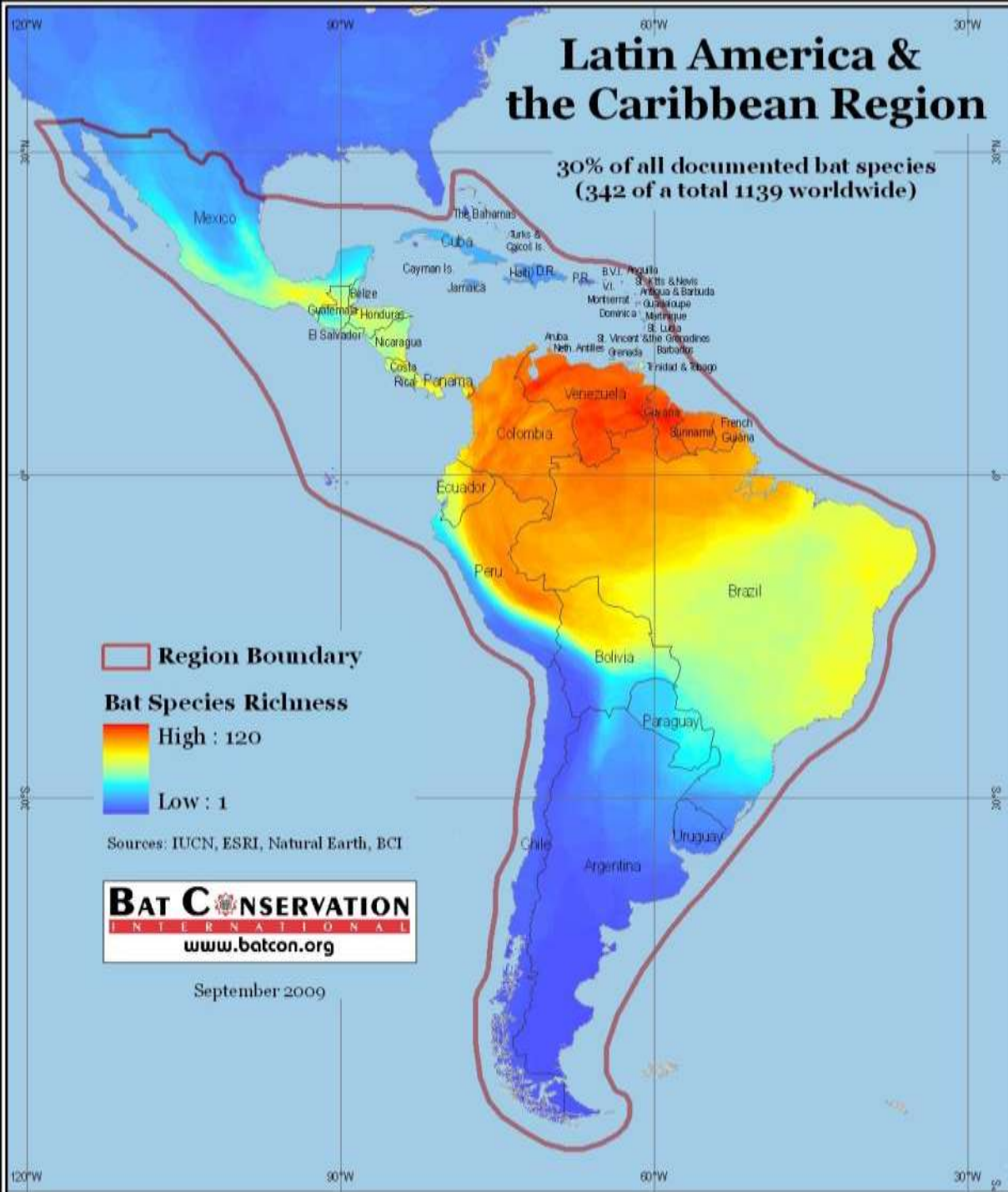
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Latin America & the Caribbean Region

30% of all documented bat species
(342 of a total 1139 worldwide)



- **Insect Control**
- **Pollination**
- **Seed Dispersal**
- **Fertilizer (Guano)**





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Conservation Priorities:

- Migratory Species
- Endangered Species
- Endemic Species
- Biodiversity Hot-spots





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Conservation strategies:

- Find historical roost sites
- Find migration corridors
- Population monitoring
- Bi-National approach
- Create Interest through outreach





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Local Empowerment
through:

➤ Capacity building -
workshops on
management,
research,
conservation and
outreach.





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Local Empowerment through:

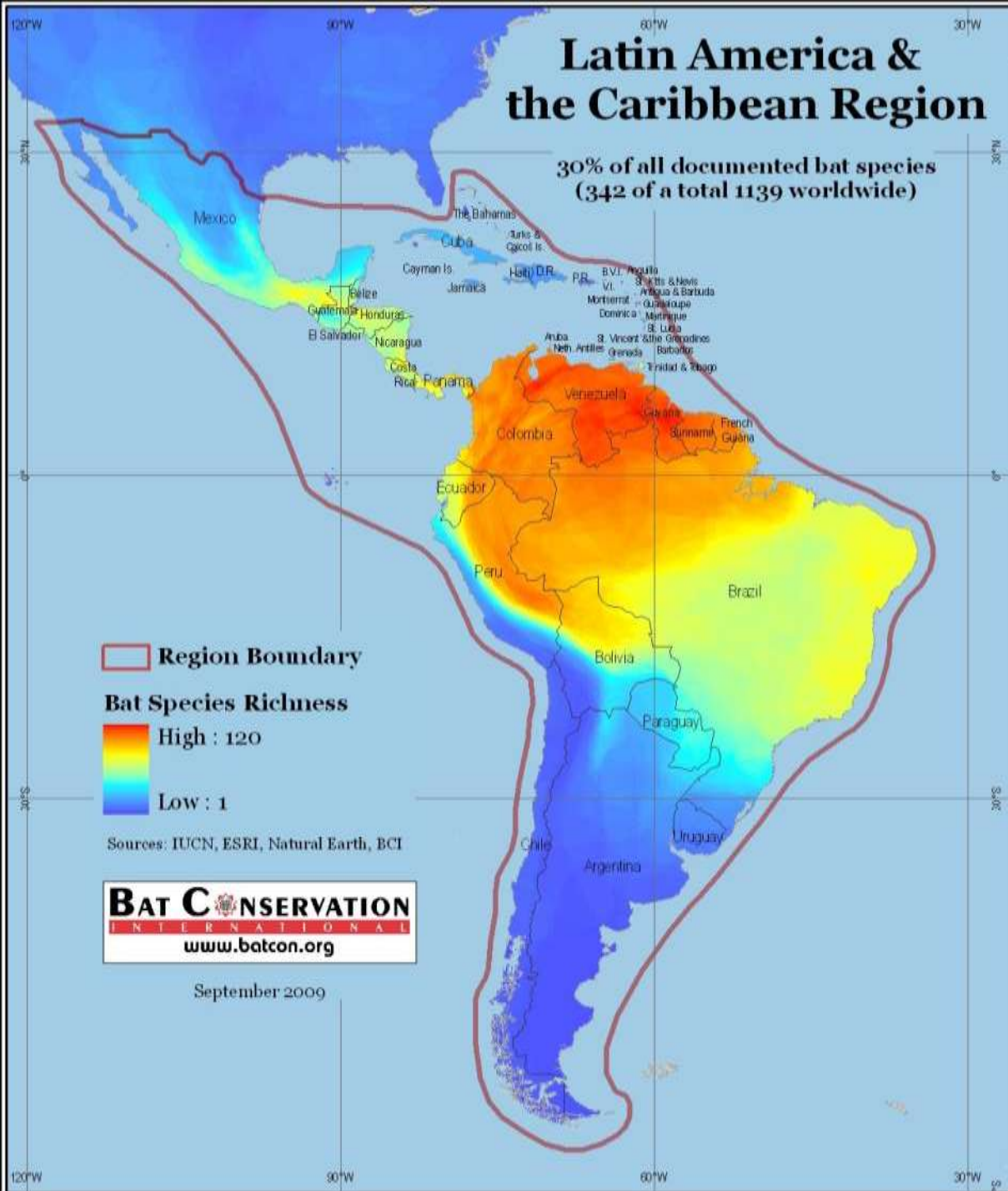
- Follow-up support of people and conservation projects through assistance, feedback and equipment donations.
- Collaborative long-term projects with trained local conservation forces under local leadership of individuals, NGO's, and the government.

**I promise to
stop for all
geopolitical
boundaries!**



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Lessons Learned:

- Set conservation priorities WITH local partners.
- Reliable local partners are critical for getting training initiatives off the ground and for participating in or leading follow-up actions is essential.
- Workshop instructors should include local and international specialists as they are essential for follow-up networking opportunities for workshop participants.



Bats of Latin America & Caribbean

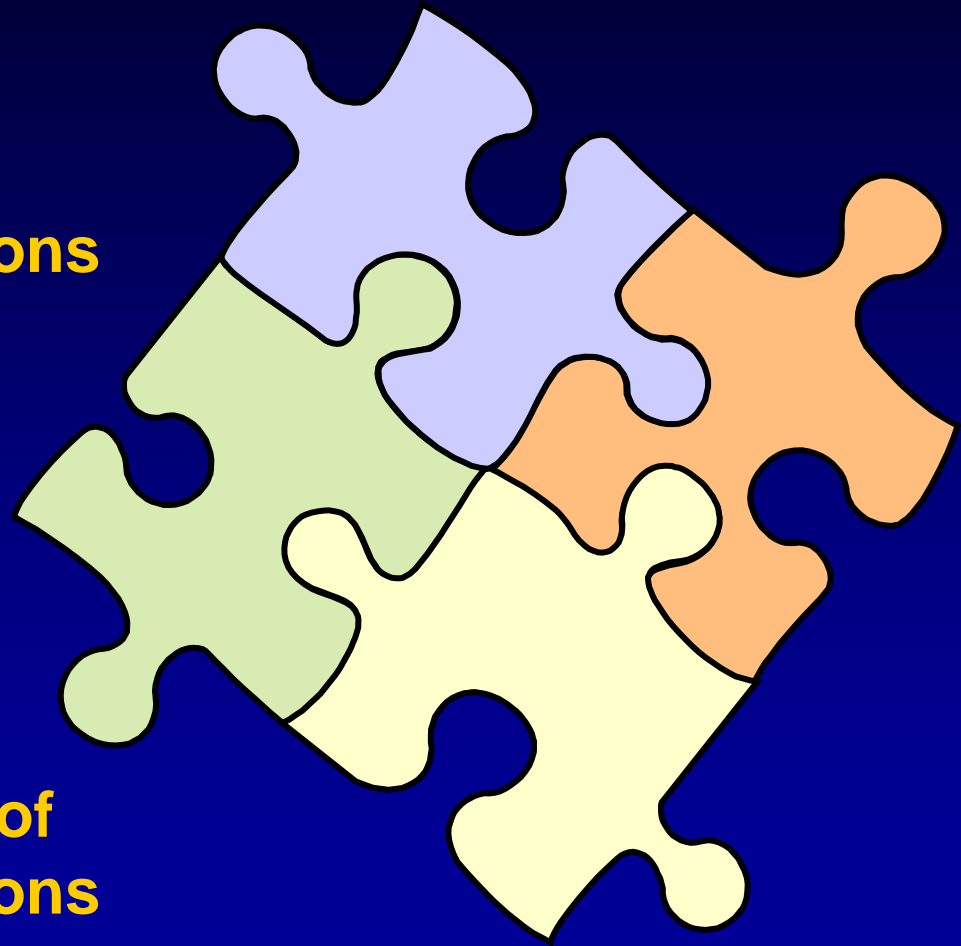
Lessons Learned:

- Workshop participants should be come from diverse backgrounds such as to promote networking opportunities and collaboration among participants after training.
- Direct conservation funding to where it has maximum impact.
- Follow-up is essential as one-off initiatives rarely result in long-term sustainable conservation.

Successful conservation programming requires using all of the resources available to your team!

Maximize the strengths of individuals and organizations

Minimize the weaknesses of individuals and organizations



“Successful global strategies for biodiversity conservation require increasing reliance on local leadership and major investment in local capacity.”

Rodriguez et al., Science 2007



**Trusted partnerships
are not built over
night – but they can
be destroyed with a
misinterpreted word
or action.**

**ALWAYS nurture
good
communications!**



**When you find great partners,
do not let them go!**

Work through the issues...

