

# SHARING EXPERIENCES

Urban Trees in public spaces. Heritage as Key to preservation of endangered species.

Study case in Valle de Aburrá, Colombia.

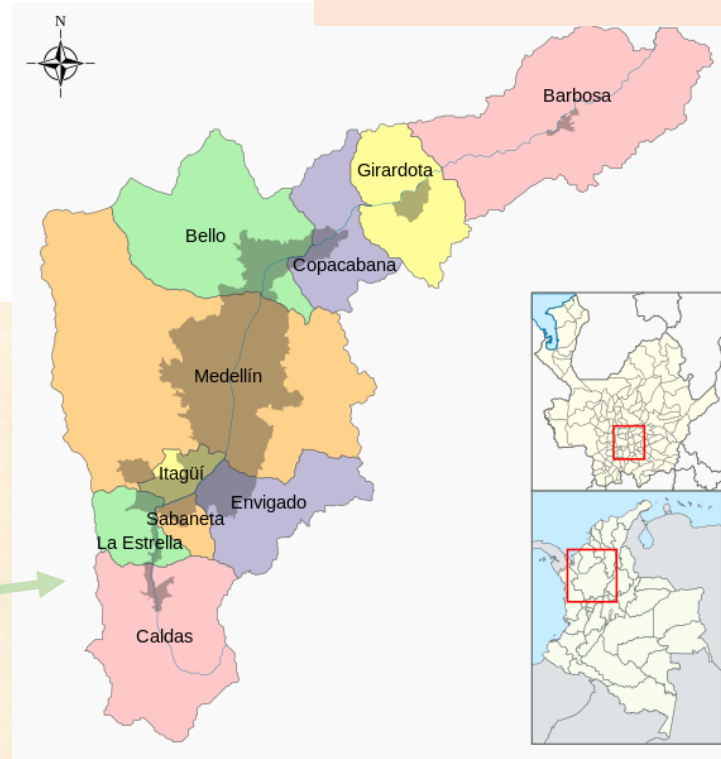
By Ana María Monsalve Cuartas

Forestry Engineer- Landscape Designer. PhD

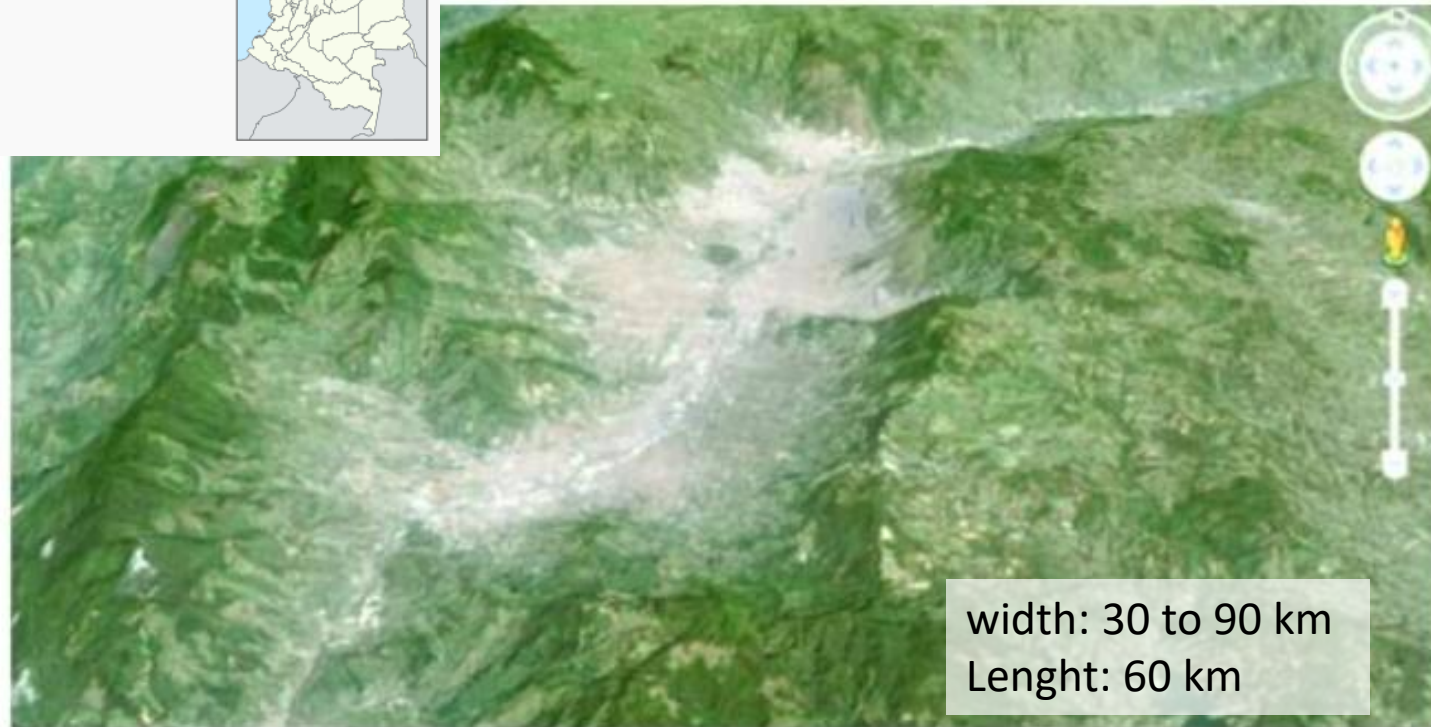
November 2024

Tropical Summit

# Where: Colombia - The Valle de Aburrá

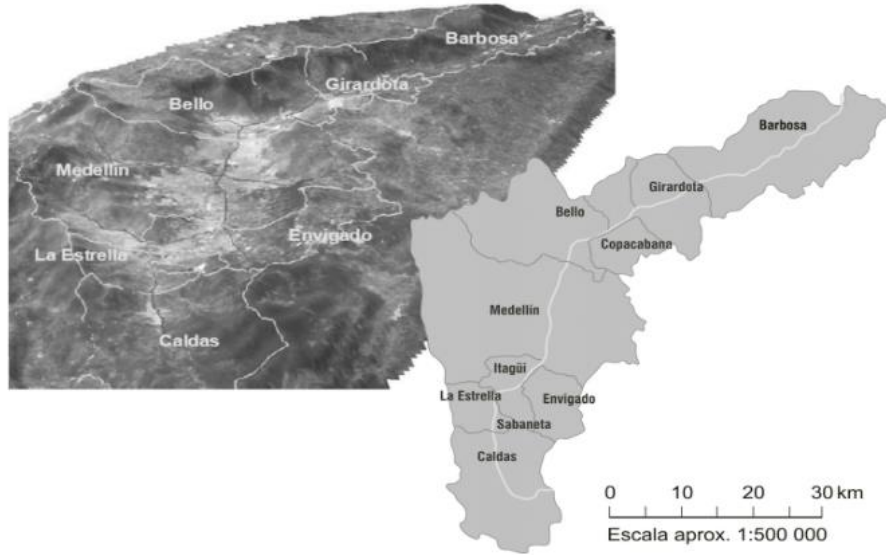


- Framed by an irregular and broken topography.
- Its slopes reach 2,800 meters above sea level.
- 7 tutelary hills.
- Aburra river, runs from south to north.



width: 30 to 90 km  
Length: 60 km

# Where: Metropolitan Area of Valle de Aburrá



The Metropolitan area of Valle de Aburra constitutes the sub-region of the department of Antioquia with the largest number of inhabitants. It is made up of 10 municipalities (Barbosa, Girardota, Bello, Copacabana, Caldas, Itagui, La Estrella; Envigado, Medellín, Sabaneta), concentrating around 5.3 million people



Table 1. Population distribution in Valle de Aburra

Municipality	Population	Ext Km2	Population /km2
Barbosa	55201	208	266
Girardota	55294	71	779
Copacabana	83106	71	1171
Bello	560831	151	3714
Medellin	2573220	387	6650
Envigado	246003	51	4824
Itagui	294551	17	17327
La Estrella	76704	35	2192
Caldas	84734	152	558



# Why speak about Heritage trees in a city?

Landscape Recognition

RECONOCIMIENTO  
PAISAJE

Conservation Initiatives

INICIATIVAS  
CONSERVACIÓN

Historical Value

VALOR  
HISTÓRICO

Sociocultural Values

VALORES  
SOCIOCULTURALES

Cultural Practices

PRÁCTICAS  
CULTURALES

POTENCIAL  
CONSTRUCCIÓN  
CULTURAL

Potential  
cultural  
construction

INTERÉS  
CIENTÍFICO

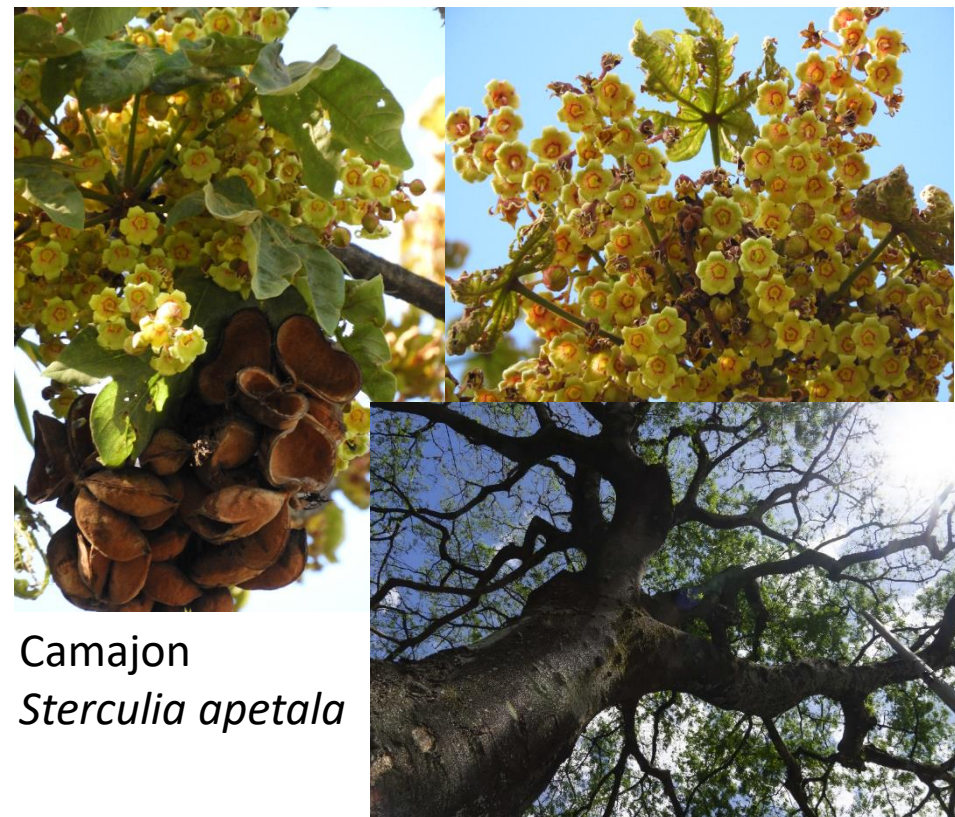
Scientific Interest

POTENCIAL  
EDUCATIVO

Educational Potential

SOSTENIMIENTO  
MODOS DE VIDA

Sustaining ways of life



Camajon  
*Sterculia apetala*

Piñon de oreja  
*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*

Protecting trees with heritage  
value

=

Support contribution of  
ecosystem services

# Why speak about Heritage trees in a city?



Vista aérea de la Plazuela San Ignacio en cuyas inmediaciones se encuentra, desde el año 1870, un Gualanday. Foto: Alcaldía de Medellín.



As trees and palms grow, they take custody of the space. They leave a mark on the landscape.



Ceiba Bonga- *Ceiba pentandra*  
Plazuela San Ignacio (norte)

Trees invite us to expand the traditional concept of heritage. They remind us that heritage is alive and requires care and ethical management. If human do not have a deep connection with the trees or palms, there is not heritage.

DECRETO 0598 DE 2019  
(Julio 05)

*“Por medio del cual se define el manejo y protección para la preservación de los Árboles y Palmas, Patrimonio Natural y Cultural del Municipio de Medellín y se asignan unas funciones”*



Connection with human timelessness



Identity and belonging with nature

Contemplating a tree soothes the spirit,  
gives tranquility to the soul and produces  
well-being.



Aesthetic and recreational value



## Definition of trees with heritage value

All arboreal specimens, including palms as they are part of people's individual and collective memory, which, according to historical, symbolic, ecological and landscape criteria, are defined as having heritage value

The objective is to safeguard and protect them, through the heritage component management plan so that they are present in our environment with quality of life for as long as possible.



# How Methodology (three components)

## 1. Forestry Component secondary and primary information collection



- a. SAU- trees and palms entered (2022)
- b. Tree catalog (trees and species analysis) >4m
- c. Technical data sheets for trees



## 3. Social dissemination and communication plan

Social cartography-socialization-visibility in local social networks

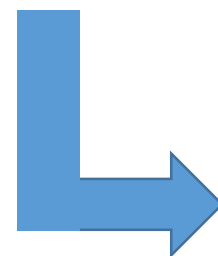
*Communication*

ways..Photographic exhibition, video, interviews, social networks, guided local tourism

## 2. Cultural assessment

(historical, symbolic, religious, spiritual)

Documentary research, Social research (interviews, focus group)



## 4 Legal document

Construction of decree and Justification report



Palma de vino - *Attalea butyracea*  
Centro Comercial Los Molinos

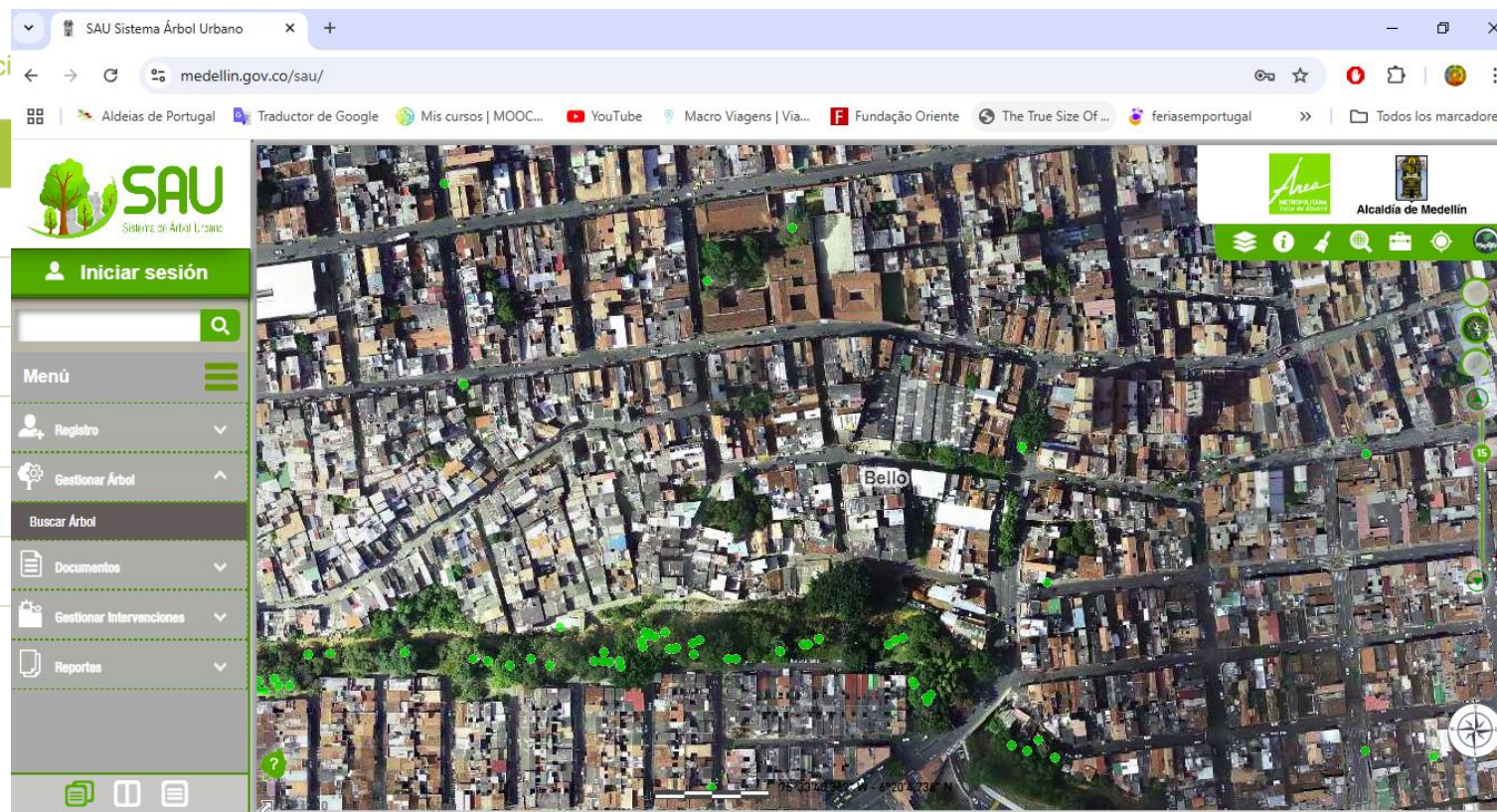
SAU= Sistema de arbolado urbano= Tree urban Sistem App

# 1. A. SAU trees entered 397209>4m (2023)

# Results



CÓDIGO ARBOL	ESPECIE	NOMBRE COMÚN	FAMILIA
00102040020219	Hymenaea courbaril	Algarrobo	CAESALPINIACEAE
00103020100187	Cupressus lusitanica	Cipres	CUPRESSACEAE
00103020100188	Tabebuia rosea	Guayacán Rosado, Roble	BIGNONIACEAE
00103020100189	Washingtonia robusta	Palma washingtonia	PALMAE
00104010000179	Cananga odorata	Cadmio, Ilang-ilang, Cananga	ANNONACEAE
00104010110121	Hymenaea courbaril	Algarrobo	CAESALPINIACEAE



	Medellin	Barbosa	Bello	Caldas	Copacabana	Envigado	Girardota	Itagüí	Estrella	Sabaneta
<b>Total trees and palms</b>	<b>235.716</b>	<b>3.842</b>	<b>44.941</b>	<b>3.219</b>	<b>5.991</b>	<b>40.691</b>	<b>6.727</b>	<b>33.374</b>	<b>8.843</b>	<b>13.865</b>
Trees and palms with heritage value	777	151	29	121	31	51	234	101	93	91
Trees and palms in endangered species with heritage value	46	126	2	99	11	11	223	11	35	26

# 1. B. Tree catalog = 1676

# Results

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### INFORMACIÓN GENERAL

<b>Especie:</b> Bulnesia arborea	<b>Tipo de Árbol:</b> Patrimonio Cultural	<b>Municipio:</b> Medellín
<b>Nombre Común:</b> Guayacan, Carrapo	<b>Coordenada:</b> 835550.6416404466	<b>Comuna:</b> La Candelaria
<b>Familia:</b> ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	<b>Coordenada:</b> 1183464.2651477444	<b>Barrio:</b> Villa Nueva
<b>Localización:</b> Zona Publica	<b>Procedencia:</b> Desconocida	
<b>Código árbol:</b> 00110180170019		

### GALERÍA



04/11/2014



02/07/2018



06/11/2014

## 1. C. A data sheets that contain Technical and cultural information

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### Aesthetic and landscape value.

Phenotypic characteristics (flowers, fruits, bark, roots, shape, leaves, size) that contribute to the quality, beauty and general view of the landscape.

### Symbolic value.

Associated to processes, practices, beliefs, events or activities significant to the memory, as well as identity and cultural roots.

### Historical value.

Witness of the pass of time, political, economic, social and cultural processes, events and practices

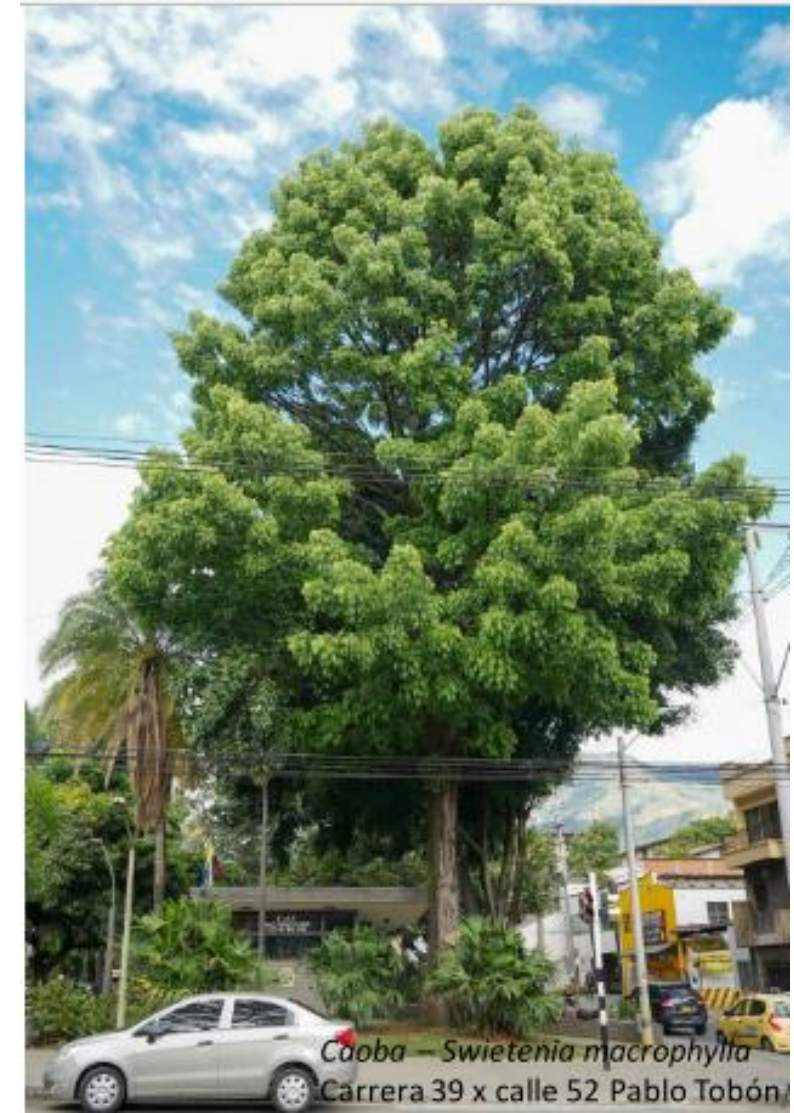
### Ecological value.

Native or endemic species play a fundamental role in the conservation of fauna and/or flora

## Endangered species



## 2. Cultural assessment. Documentary and Social research (interviews, focus group) **Results**



Each tree or palm has or is associated with a use and a character of interest. It can be scientific (ecological, environmental), aesthetic (beauty, uniqueness), landscape (landmark, composition, form, structure), symbolic and historical.

# 3. Social dissemination

<https://elcolectivocomunicacion.wordpress.com/2018/10/16/ar>

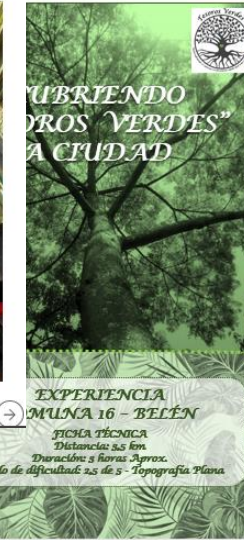


## Estos son los árboles más viejos e impresionantes de Medellín

La ciudad tiene más de 600 árboles que son patrimonio, ejemplares centenarios que nos recuerdan nuestra historia. Crónica arbórea.



Belleza y más con este Piñón de oreja en la Plazuela de San Ignacio. FOTO Camilo Suárez



**1. PARQUE DE BELÉN**  
Protagonistas:  
• Bala de cañón (*Couroupita guianensis*)  
• Tromador o ceiba bruja (*Hura crepitans*)  
• Palma zancona (*Syagrus sancona*)

**2. CORREDOR VERDE AV. BOLIVARIANA**  
Protagonistas:  
• Cauchos (*Ficus elástica*)  
• Samanes (*Samanea saman*)

**3. PARQUE MALIBÚ**  
Protagonistas:  
• Ébano (*Casolpinea ébano*)  
• Nogal cañero (*Cordia alliodora*)  
• Zapote (*Matisia cordata*)

**4. CORREDOR VERDE Q. LA PICACHA**  
Protagonistas:  
• Cauchos (*Ficus elástica*)  
• Suribios (*Pithecellobium longifolium*)



El falso laurel es un árbol originario del trópico asiático, puede medir 35 metros de altura, su copa es densa y sus raíces son superficiales e incluso aéreas. Lo vemos en varios lugares, pero en el Barrio Laureles están los más representativos 🌿💚.  
#MedellínMeEnamora  
Translate post

## Qué dirían los árboles de Medellín si hablaran

697 ejemplares están declarados como patrimonio natural y cultural. Este es un recorrido por su historia.

<https://www.elcolombiano.com/cultura/arboles-patrimoniales-de-medellin-clasificacion-y-proteccion-KF13705359>



Ceiba bonga (Ceiba pentandra) ubicada en el parque Olano de Prado. Este ejemplar es testigo de la fundación del barrio, en 1926. FOTO EDWIN BUSTAMANTE



[https://youtu.be/X\\_\\_oFWtgE94?si=GSMYD4RcdKRR33D5](https://youtu.be/X__oFWtgE94?si=GSMYD4RcdKRR33D5)

<https://youtu.be/luoQFye5e2k?si=aYkQNIDhzHfh2cWm>

[https://youtu.be/X\\_\\_oFWtgE94?si=GSMYD4RcdKRR33D5](https://youtu.be/X__oFWtgE94?si=GSMYD4RcdKRR33D5)



## 4 Legal document: Construction of decree and Justification report

### Next work

Diagnose and define management criteria for each georeferenced individual

Develop 9 municipal decrees as a legal instrument

Formulate and execute the project's social dissemination plan through different strategies for connecting with the community and project visibility.

Recognition and assessment of trees and palms identified with heritage value and in endangered species as seed trees and palms.

Heritage trees as bioindicators



# Conclusions

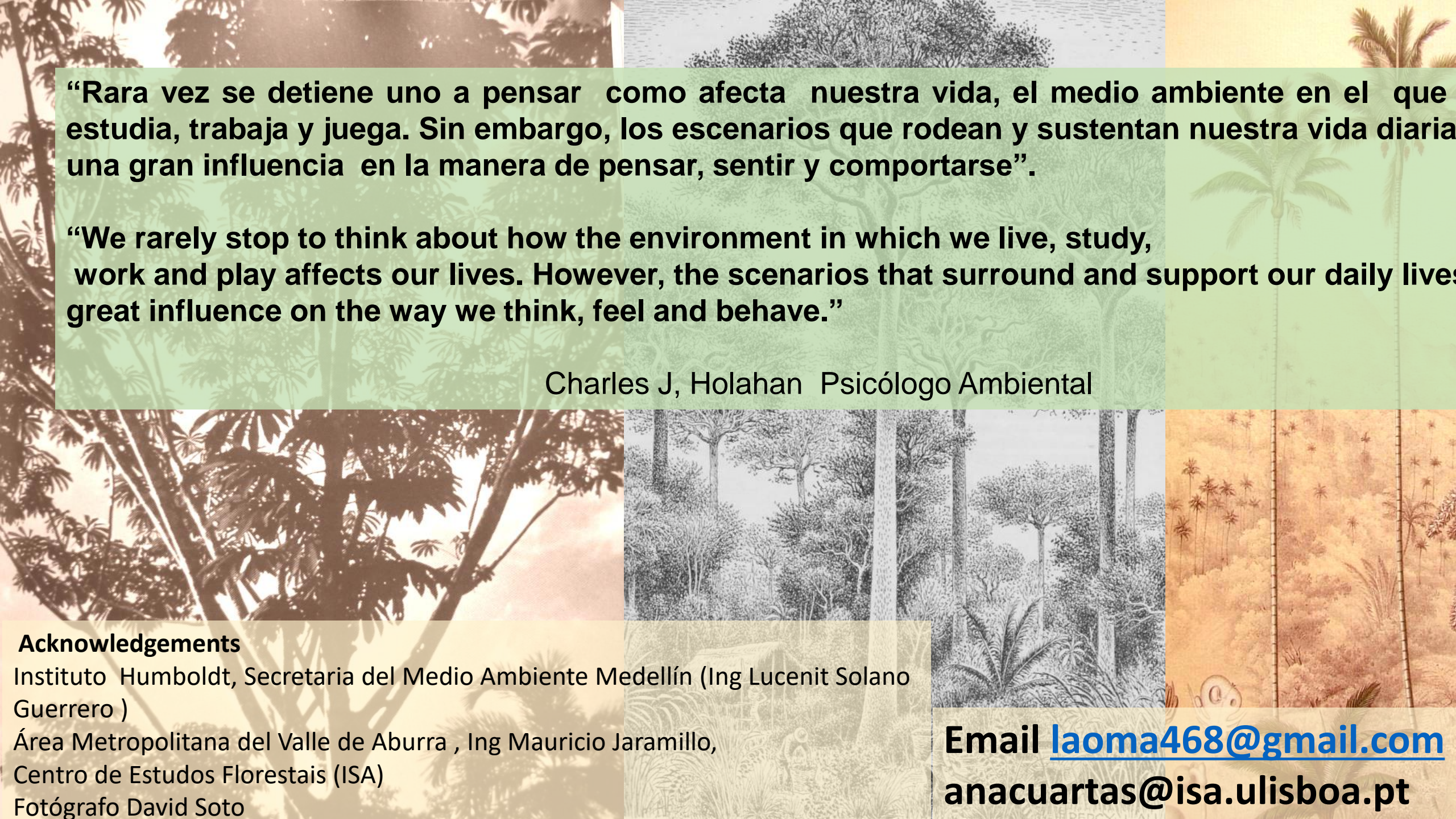
30 tree species identified in urban areas with some degree of danger of extinction = Cedro (*Cedrela odorata*); Choiba (*Dipteryx oleifera*); Pino Chaquiro (*Retrophyllum rospigliosii*); Guayacan azul (*Guaiacum officinale*); Abarco (*Cariniana pyriformis*)

Key public space

The conservation of heritage trees promotes diversity, allowing different species and cultural groups to express themselves and integrate, enriching social life.

Making visible the existence of trees with heritage value in the urban areas, connections and relationships between trees and urban inhabitants and visitors are renewed.

The other no human being is also recognized as a citizen (the tree).



**“Rara vez se detiene uno a pensar como afecta nuestra vida, el medio ambiente en el que estudia, trabaja y juega. Sin embargo, los escenarios que rodean y sustentan nuestra vida diaria una gran influencia en la manera de pensar, sentir y comportarse”.**

**“We rarely stop to think about how the environment in which we live, study, work and play affects our lives. However, the scenarios that surround and support our daily lives great influence on the way we think, feel and behave.”**

**Charles J, Holahan Psicólogo Ambiental**

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Fotógrafo David Soto

**Email [laoma468@gmail.com](mailto:laoma468@gmail.com)**

**[anacuartas@isa.ulisboa.pt](mailto:anacuartas@isa.ulisboa.pt)**