

### PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS

#### **Niceforo's Wren** *Thryothorus nicefori*



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#### **Background**

Niceforo's Wren is known from just three sites in the west slope of the east Andes in Colombia, a region where the environment is highly modified and habitat degradation is apparently continuing. The species went unrecorded between 1948 and 1989 but has been found at several locations since the year 2000. The Chicamocha valley Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site represents a highly important locality for the species, the estimated global population of which is less than 400 individuals.

The species occurs in dry forest habitat, and has also been recorded along the edges of shaded coffee and cacao plantations between 1,100 and 1,850 m. All territories of individuals in the Santander population were located along water courses where vegetation is dense and perennial, and individuals were absent from areas devoid of a dense understory due to grazing by goats.

#### **Actions being implemented**

1. Research in the dry enclave in San Gil (Santander) including obtaining the first descriptive record of Niceforo's Wren vocalization. As a result of this research it was possible to identify habitat fragmentation as the species's principal threat and recommendations included conducting awareness campaigns in the communities in the species's range.
2. In 2009 Niceforo's Wren Natural Bird Reserve was established by ProAves, covering 1,400 ha of the species' tropical dry forest habitat and protecting a population of 21 individuals discovered in Santander province.
3. Surveys have been conducted to search for the species in a number of new areas, and more are planned for the future.

## **Recommendations**

- Conduct field surveys to determine its population size and distribution and assess threats to the species.
2. Use any new data collected to draft and execute a conservation strategy for the species.
  3. Raise the profile of this species in Soata and promote an environmental pride campaign to facilitate its conservation.
  4. Protect areas of dry forest within the species's range, sensitizing the community.

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