

Fly high! Orlando Jorge Mera

BirdLife International expresses deep condolences and regret at the assassination of the Minister of the Environment of the Dominican Republic: Orlando Jorge Mera.

We are deeply saddened to lose such an outstanding conservationist as Orlando Jorge Mera. Our nature and planet need more passionate and committed warriors like Orlando, not less." Patricia Zurita, BirdLife International, CEO.

"Orlando Jorge Mera was a great friend. A passionate conservationist, always willing to listen to all parties and propose solutions. His murder has left us in shock", Yvonne Arias, executive director of Grupo Jaragua: our partner in the Dominican Republic, says with pain.

Yvonne's words encapsulate a lifelong conservation legacy. Orlando was an ambassador and guardian of nature, committed to protecting it. His management promoted active listening, participatory dialogue, and joint solutions. Orlando sought to safeguard the most important heritage we can have and aspire to: a healthy and protected environment.

Unfortunately, his life was taken prematurely in his office. Our deep condolences and sorrow go out to his family, loved ones, colleagues, and compatriots. At BirdLife International, we reject all kinds of violence.

Without a doubt, Orlando planted a seed that germinated into a forest of optimism and hope. His legacy lies mainly in the recovery of protected areas, compliance with environmental regulations, and the fight against climate change.

"We are deeply saddened to lose such an outstanding conservationist as Orlando Jorge Mera. Our nature and planet need more passionate and committed warriors like Orlando, not less. His legacy, commitment, love for nature, and conviction that sustainable development is possible will be honored with our work and that of our partners worldwide. Our feelings of regret go to his family, his colleagues in the Ministry of the Environment, the staff of our partner Jaragua and the conservationist world of the Dominican Republic and Latin America. Peace in his grave," says Patricia Zurita, Executive Director of BirdLife International.