



# SAAVITA WILDLIFE REFUGE

"LA SERPIENTE DE PLATA"

*Help Preserve the Hidden Treasures of  
the High Andean Forest*



**OSWALDO VILLAMIZAR ESCOBAR**



# HELLO



I am Osvaldo Villamizar Escobar, a passionate wildlife photographer and naturalist. For over 30 years, I have been immersing myself in the wonders of Colombia's rich flora and wild fauna. I've called the enchanting town of Barichara my home for the last 21 years.

Nestled in a unique geographical spot, Barichara is not just a place to be admired but also to be studied in-depth.



¿WHY THIS PLACE?

# TERRITORY



*Through the decades, I've gained intimate knowledge of our region's high Andean dry forest, a rare ecosystem that covers just 1% of our nation. Shockingly, its intricate diversity remains largely unknown. From its endemic species to the adaptations these creatures have developed to thrive at 1400 meters altitude, there is so much to uncover. More critically, several species teeter on the brink of extinction.*

# ***ENTER SAVITA: A REFUGE FOR ENDANGERED WONDERS***

To prevent the loss of these precious species, I've taken a heartfelt decision to purchase a 4500-meter plot of land right by the canyon of the Suarez River. Here, we aim to establish the 'Savita' wildlife refuge. Named after the term 'silver snake' in the language of the ancient Guanes tribe, it pays homage to the life-sustaining Suarez River.

At Savita, our vision spans:

- **Conservation Efforts:** We've begun reforesting the area with endemic species. Plans for a nursery are also underway. By creating organic fertilizers and joining hands with the local community and scientists, our mission is to understand, protect, and rejuvenate the high Andean forest's natural life.
- **Education and Awareness:** Savita will also be a hub for all age groups eager to delve into this ecosystem's secrets. Through a mix of educational, touristic, and social initiatives, we aim to foster greater appreciation and stewardship for our unique high Andean dry forest.
- **Research Opportunities:** Scientists and volunteers keen to document and safeguard this ecosystem's intricacies will find a welcoming platform at Savita.





# ¿HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**To turn this dream into a reality, we earnestly seek your support and commitment. Our ongoing fundraising efforts include educational programs and exhibitions of beautiful bird feeder sculptures crafted from ancestral materials. In constructing Savita, we pledge to employ ancient 'bareque' techniques, preserving the very essence of the land.**

**If the call of the high Andean forest resonates with you, join us on this profound journey. It's not just about saving an ecosystem – it's about preserving a world where nature and humans thrive in harmony.**

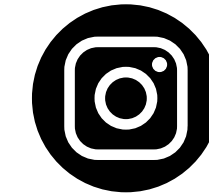
**Let's come together for the high dry Andean forest. It needs us, as much as we need it.**





# SOCIAL MEDIA

**INSTAGRAM: AVES DEL BOSQUE SECO**



<https://www.instagram.com/avesdelbosquesecobarichara/?hl=es>

**FACEBOOK: OSWALDO VILLAMIZAR**



<https://www.facebook.com/oswaldovillamizar1971>



# **HELP PRESERVE THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE HIGH ANDEAN FOREST**



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**THANK YOU!**