



Blue lines indicate the area meeting the ISRA Criteria; dashed lines indicate the suggested buffer for use in the development of appropriate place-based conservation measures. Buffers for freshwater areas are determined based on hydroBASINS to capture watershed boundaries.

BETANIA ISRA

South American Inland Waters Region

SUMMARY

Betania is located in the upper Magdalena River basin, in the Huila department, in centralsouthern Colombia. The area is a reservoir situated at the mouth of the Yaguará River and the beginning of the Magdalena River. The habitat is characterised by sandy and rocky substrates with leaf litter. Within this area there are: **range-restricted species** (Magdalena Freshwater Stingray *Potamotrygon magdalenae*).

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COLOMBIA	4
-	-
0-59 metre	S
-	-
53.36 km²	
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CRITERIA

Criterion B - Range Restricted



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DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Betania is located in the upper Magdalena River basin, in the Huila department, in south-central Colombia, within the major Orinoco basin. The area is a reservoir situated at the mouth of the Yaguará River and the beginning of the Magdalena River. The reservoir is spread across 74 km² and has a maximum depth of 90 m. It was filled between November 1986 and June 1987 (Martinez-Silva 2015). Sandy and muddy substrates dominate (35%) the upper Magdalena River, followed by rocky leaf litter (23%) (Mejia-Falla et al. 2013).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is benthic and is delineated from surface waters (O m) to 59 m based on the depth range of Qualifying Species globally.

ISRA CRITERIA

CRITERION B - RANGE RESTRICTED

This area holds the regular presence of the Magdalena Freshwater Stingray as a resident rangerestricted species. This species occurs year-round in the area and is regularly encountered (Mejia-Falla et al. 2013, 2016). According to 150 fishers interviewed at 24 locations along the Magdalena River between 2010-2013, animals are frequently captured in local fisheries as incidental catch and for local consumption (Mejia-Falla et al. 2013, 2016).

Between 2010–2013, 237 fishing sets were examined along the Magdalena River to estimate the number of rays captured in each (Mejia-Falla et al. 2013, 2016). In the upper Magdalena River, the most used fishing gear to catch this species was the trammel net. The average number of rays captured per fishing set was 2.7, with a maximum capture of seven rays in one set. This represented the highest values compared to the lower and mid Magdalena River, this species is reportedly mostly captured for consumption in the upper basin section, where this area is located (Mejia-Falla et al. 2013, 2016).

Magdalena Freshwater Stingray is endemic to Colombia where it is restricted to three basins: Magdalena-Cauca basin (including the Magdalena, Cauca, San Jorge rivers), Atrato basin (composed of the Atrato River), and Sinú basin (composed of the Sinú River) (Mejia-Falla et al. 2024). This species is found in rivers, swamps, wetlands, and dams along these basins (Mejia-Falla et al. 2024).



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QUALIFYING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met								
				Α	В	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	Dı	D2
RAYS												
Potamotrygon magdalenae	Magdalena Freshwater Stingray	NT	0-59		Х							



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