



# TIGRE GENTE

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

## Environmental Defender Marcos Uzquiano Faces Retaliation and Human Rights Violations in Bolivia

### *Tigre Gente* calls for International Support and Urges Bolivia to Uphold its Obligations Under the Escazú Agreement

**Santa Cruz, Bolivia** — The team behind *Tigre Gente*, a documentary film and impact campaign committed to the conservation of the jaguar and those who protect it, has issued a call for urgent international attention following the unjust dismissal and ongoing harassment of Mr. Marcos Uzquiano, a prominent park ranger and head of Protection at the Beni Ecological Station (EEB). Uzquiano, known for his tireless work in defending Bolivia's Madidi National Park, is facing severe retaliation after exposing illegal activities threatening both the environment and local communities.

Mr. Uzquiano's case is a part of a broader pattern of human and labor rights violations faced by environmental defenders in Bolivia, who have long been subjected to intimidation, harassment, and threats as they work to protect the country's precious natural resources.

### Background on the Case

Marcos Uzquiano has dedicated his life to the protection of Madidi National Park, one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet. His work has brought international attention to the importance of conserving this critical ecosystem. Uzquiano is known for his role in the acclaimed **National Geographic LATAM** documentary *Tigre Gente*, which follows Marcos' investigation into a rapidly rising demand for jaguar parts on the Chinese black market. As the former director of Madidi National Park and a dedicated park ranger for over twenty years, Marcos' leadership and courage in the face of extreme threats to biodiversity and the environment have earned him widespread acclaim.

Uzquiano has received multiple **international awards** for his work in environmental conservation and human rights. His collaborations with global organizations such as **WWF**, **Rainforest Alliance**, and **IUCN** have played a pivotal role in advancing conservation efforts in

Bolivia and the Amazon. These prestigious partnerships underscore his commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection, and the defense of local communities.

Uzquiano is now facing retaliatory actions from Bolivian authorities, including his **unjust dismissal** from his position as Chief Protection Officer at the Beni Ecological Station. These actions not only threaten his livelihood but also send a dangerous message to others who defend the environment.

In addition to his specific case, environmental defenders in Bolivia face widespread violations, such as:

- **Harassment and intimidation** from both local authorities and criminal groups involved in illegal activities;
- **Prohibition on making public statements** about critical issues within protected areas;
- **Severe underfunding** and lack of resources necessary for effective protection of Bolivia's national parks;
- **Non-payment of basic subsidies**, such as for meals and transportation, undermining the well-being and safety of those working on the frontlines.

### **International Concern for Uzquiano's Well-Being**

Uzquiano's case has sparked international concern, with numerous NGOs, human rights defenders, and conservation groups calling for action. The international community is deeply worried about his safety, well-being, and the wider implications for Bolivia's commitment to environmental protection and human rights.

"Marcos Uzquiano's work has been a beacon of hope for conservationists and environmental defenders around the world. His contributions to global environmental causes, from his role in the *Tigre Gente* documentary to his collaborations with international NGOs, have had a lasting impact on both the environment and indigenous communities in Bolivia. The retaliation against him is not only a violation of his rights, but a dangerous precedent for other environmental defenders," said Daniela Justiniano Nuñez, Co-Founder of Alas Chiquitanas Voluntarios.

### **Call for Action**

*Tigre Gente* is urging international organizations, governments, and human rights groups to take the following actions:

1. **Issue a public statement** condemning the harassment and unjust dismissal of Marcos Uzquiano, and calling on the Bolivian government to comply with its obligations under the Escazú Agreement to protect environmental defenders;
2. **Monitor and follow up** on Uzquiano's case and the broader situation of environmental defenders in Bolivia, ensuring accountability and protection;
3. **Promote international dialogue** on the protection of environmental defenders, emphasizing the need to safeguard those who risk their lives to protect ecosystems, biodiversity, and human rights.

“Bolivia must honor its international obligations to ensure the safety of those who protect its natural heritage,” said Justiniano Nuñez. “The international community must stand united in demanding that Bolivia end the harassment of environmental defenders and uphold the principles of the Escazú Agreement.”

**About the film [Tigre Gente](#)**

A Bolivian park ranger discovers a new, deadly jaguar trade galvanized by the Chinese black market. On the other side of the world, a Hong Kongese journalist weaves through her community to understand what is really driving the demand.

For more information or to support the campaign, please contact:

**Natalie Conneely**

Impact Producer

Email: [pachamamasabia@gmail.com](mailto:pachamamasabia@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: ±14155197723