



GUIDE TO THE MANAGEMENT FOR THE ROUTE OF LIVING MUSEUMS FOR MELIPONINI BEES IN THE WORLD

1. HISTORY AND IDENTITY

A proposed **Route of Living Museums for Meliponini Bees in the World**, now abbreviated as **Meli-Route**, was conducted by Patricia Vit as Founder Director at the conclusion VIII Mesoamerican Congress on Native Bees, held in Heredia, Costa Rica, in September 2013, chaired by Dr. Ingrid Aguilar PhD National University (UNA), Heredia, Costa Rica. The invitation of Dr. Patricia Vit, PhD, Retired Professor of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Bioanalysis of the University of Los Andes (ULA), Mérida, Venezuela, to baptize the book "Pot-honey. A legacy of stingless bees "(Vit, Pedro, Roubik, editors) New York, USA, Springer 2013, 654 pp., allowed to join two countries with common objectives for ecological tourism with low environmental impact. The meliponaries and nests of stingless bees are less commercial destinations where visitors are guided by the residents of the communities who decide how to manage their time and income. The Living Museum Route of Meliponini Bees in the World are comprised of countries wishing to participate and registered stations in each country, with regional coordinators related to the headquarters. This guide to regulate its management was realized in 2014 by the initiative of Dr. Patricia Vit, PhD researcher Prometheus linked to the Technical University of Machala (UTMACH) in Machala, province of El Oro.; retired professor from the University of Los Andes ULA) in Merida, Venezuela; honorary associate at The University of Sydney (USYD) in Sydney, Australia, who proposed the notion of "**melittotourism**" as a type of ecotourism to observe and preserve bees-, Dr. Maza FAVIAN MGSC Valle, Director of Planning Technical University of Machala (UTMACH) in Machala, province of El Oro; Dr. Julio Cesar Vargas PhD, Rector of the Amazon State University (UEA) in Puyo, Pastaza Province; Professor José Ramírez MGSC, Entomology Laboratory, National University of Loja (UNL) in Loja, Loja province; Dr. Carlos Ruiz PhD and Biol. Sol Martínez-Fortun MSc, Department of Natural Sciences of the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL) in Loja, Loja province; Tech. Aulis Rojas, Production Area Prefecture Loja; Oscar Falconi, Coordinator Altrópico, Esmeraldas Province Esmeraldas. Also, with the

participation of Dr. Viviana Frisone PhD, Naturalist Curator at Agno-Chiampo Museum Network in Montecchio Maggiore in the province of Vicenza, Italy, with its invaluable contribution for this management guide with museology assistance.; Dr. Megan Halcroft Bees Business PhD, Sydney, Australia.; Dr. Fazlul Huq PhD from The University of Sydney, Lidcombe, NSW, Australia; . Dr. Silvia RM Pedro de la Universidade de São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, Dr. Carlos Alfredo Lopez de Carvalho PhD from the Federal University of Reconcavo da Bahia, Cruz das Almas, Brazil; Dr. Ingrid Aguilar PhD from the National University (UNA) in Heredia, Costa Rica.; Dr. Cleofas Cervancia University of the Philippines Los Baños College, Laguna, Philippines; Dr. Elisabetta Schievano Università di Padova in Italy, and Dr. del Dr. Peter Kwapong del International Stingless Bee Centre, Ghana. This alliance between Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Italy, Philippines, and Venezuela allowed consolidating the strengths of Museum Route before its expansion to other countries that recognize meliponiculture tradition. Citizen participation in this route museum is voluntary and the invitation is made after scientific research that identify the practice of ancestral wisdom in handicraft and modern meliponaries, or in locating nests.

In the meeting on 28 October 2014, Dr. Patricia Vit Prometheus-UTMACH, Eng. Luis Felipe Brito Gaona, Director of Liaison, Institutional Cooperation, Internships and Fellowships's UTMACH with the legal advice of Dr. Hannibal Campoverde UTMACH agreed that meliponicultors and related stakeholders could associated in each country, with an agreement perhaps because it is the minimum organizational support to intervene on behalf of them forming a network to provide visibility and training for those involved in the proposed route. The Living Museum of stingless bees kept his name **Route of Living Museums for Meliponini Bees in the World**, assigned to meliponaries and nests existing, pending a thread for the visiting public, confirming the notion of "melittotourism" This guide can be used by each participating country for its internal regulations. The day 12/11/14 in Meliponicultors Plenary Meeting attendees Bee and Stingless Bee Producers of the Province of Loja Guide was approved the **Guide to the Management for the Route of Living Museums for Meliponini Bees in the World**, which continues to be improved to optimize its implementation. The delivery of license plates and **Guide stations in Ecuador** began.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND SPECIFIC MISSION

The **Route of Living Museum for Meliponini Bees in the World** is a permanent institution, nonprofit, which according to the law, in consistency with their own identity, cure and manages a heritage for the universal benefit and enjoyment, therefore this route of Living Museums:

- a) Performs a service for visitors.
- b) Preserves, catalogs, sorts, exposes, organizes cultural assets in the educational perspective of the cultural heritage and environmental protection.
- c) Directs the activity itself, in particular the observation of the bees of the subfamily Meliponini, the oldest in the world in tropical and subtropical regions, its relations with the man and the genera, their breeding, getting their products (honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, beeswax, wax, pollination service), its biodiversity and its conservation.

- d) Promotes networking with melitologos for the scientific study, humanistic, technological and art of the stingless beekeepers, Meliponini and their products.

The name of the **Route of Living Museums for Meliponini Bees in the World** reflects the major sections which are articulated, both in Meliponini as in the art of caring for them; the activities of scientific research and outreach, as well as the work teams and their initiatives in such scientific fields.

In particular, the **Route of Living Museums for Meliponini Bees in the World**, has the following objectives:

- a) Show the community the importance of the stingless bees.
- b) Encourage the updating of the knowledge society of Meliponini.
- c) Raise awareness of the biodiversity of Meliponini and its meaning.
- d) Provide workshops and talks on interactive and meliponiculture wild crop.
- e) Preserve and assess the identity and cultural heritage of local communities to promote alternatives to self-sustaining growth and sustainable over time.
- f) Link groups of production with the guides of the stations on the **Meli-Route**, according to their interests.
- g) Promote scientific exchange, technological, humanistic and art.
- h) Motivate the disciplined observation bee plants and the interaction with gardens and herbaria of each region.
- i) Link all public with the scientific team of naturalists of **Meli-Route** to guide, to propose and to develop research projects from schools up to the fourth level of studies.
- j) Provide analytical service for pot-honey, subsidised by a public or private benefactor, according to conventions that are achieved in each country for this purpose.
- k) Advise and facilitate the packing of the honeys with label that identifies the belonging to the **Route of Living Museums for Meliponini Bees in the World**.
- l) Create a web site on the portal www.saber.ula.ve with the information for citizen participation in the **Meli-Route**, and visibility to the public visiting, as a society of ubiquitous information and asynchronous. Each country is responsible for the information and layout of its page linked to the portal of the official site, which will be updated according to the criteria of the main headquarters.
- m) Maintain an environment of harmony and trust to facilitate the flow of information between producers, technicians, academics and government officials.

3. REFERENCE CENTER

The main headquarters of each participating country in the **Route of Living Museums for Meliponini Bees in the World** develops a role as a center of reference in the system of Museums of Meliponini, which has a series of objectives, synthesized as follow:

- a) Keep updated cadastre of stations prepared by the Responsible Provincial, guides the Stations (name, sex, age, proof of identity, address, telephone, email, profession), geographic location georeferenced, start date of the collection of Meliponini bees and beehives, list of species of bees Meliponini (ethnic name, species of bees, name of the entomologist who identified, name of the collection where they are deposited), origin of the bees (place of origin of the georeferenced nest if possible, substrate of the nest).
- b) Ratify annually a list of stations, guides of stations and types of bees.
- c) Approve the voluntary inclusion of new stations and their guides, and the withdrawal of stations and guides.
- d) Organize and manage special events.
- e) Create the plate to identify each station with the agreed design for the countries that make up the path of Meliponini living museums in the world.
- f) The coordinate system of plates as rules to identify the nests and beehives, with the number of nests and hives (voluntary information because it is variable, some colonies swarm and others remain for decades in the same place) and station name -designated perhaps with the family name and/or place-, the ethnic name and the scientific name of the bees.
- g) The stations to be sorted in categories of abundance, as having fewer than 10 nests, between 10 and 30 nests, more than 30 nests.
- h) Receive volunteers in outreach and linkage.
- i) Propose networks and interdisciplinary research projects.

4. SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

The **Meli-Route** ensures the permanent exhibition of urban meliponarios and nests of Meliponini. Schedules, costs and days of opening will be entered into by the parties concerned with the Guides of Station, using contacts published in the web page, where the conditions of the visit and the safety standards, informed in the official language of each country, with optional translation to the language of the native stingless beekeepers and English, which is recommended. Other services that can provide the **Meli-Route** to the public are:

- a) Publication of knowledge.
- b) Permanent Exhibition on Stations.
- c) Participation in exhibitions and fairs.
- d) Educational Activity.
- e) Exhibitions.
- f) Cultural Promotion, knowledge and enhance of cultural heritage.
- g) Development of knowledge in relation to the territory and its assets.
- h) Provide visibility for citizen participation.
- i) Connect stingless beekeepers with specialized offices to meet their needs and interests (health registry, packaging, museology, etc.).

5. STRUCTURE AND COMPETENCIES

The technical-administrative bodies are:

1. The Director of the main headquarters, with management responsibility.
2. The Technical Coordinator, with responsibility for technical assistance.
3. The Provincial Coordinators or their equivalents, appointed by the Director of the main headquarters.
4. Cantonal Coordinators, or their equivalents, appointed by the Provincial Coordinator if required.
5. The Guide takes care of the Station hives and/or nests of meliponini..
6. The Naturalist Curator Team, guarantor of scientific consistency.

The minimum requirements to cover the roles in the expected direction, the Provincial Coordination and the curation in the structure of the Museum Route Meli are: 1. To have a university degree, 2. Be of legal age. The Director of the Headquarters of each country must have the nationality of the country it represents. The Provincial Coordinator must know the province and be familiar with topics and meliponicolas apiculture. The Naturalist Curator Team must have scientific publications with Meliponini and maintain scientific contacts for consultations of scientific consistency. The guides of the stations should know the stingless bees (Meliponini) and take care of their nests or hives, as connoisseurs of the ancestral knowledge. The Museum Route Meli recognizes and values its role in the knowledge society, and may mediate the exchange theoretical-practical in communities that request information relevant in production and quality of the products of the meliponiculture.

5.1 The Director of the Headquarters Main

Functions defined by each country.

5.2 The Technical Coordinator

Functions defined by each country.

5.3 The Provincial Coordinator

Functions defined by each country.

5.4 The Cantonal Coordinator

Functions defined by each country.

5.5 The Guide of the Station after their registration will continue with his/her ancestral know to care for hives and/or nests of Meliponini. He/she will voluntary organize activities such as: 1. Visitor Registration, 2. Care of the visitors prior appointment, 3. Locate new nests.

5.6 The Naturalist Curator Team

5.7 The Friends

6. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

In order to provide an adequate level of scientific-museologic guarantee in the management of these activities, it is conformed by a Scientific Committee composed of experts of recognized competence.

The structure of the Committee and the duration in their charges will be defined by the Director of the main headquarters in each country.

The Scientific Committee is the organ of consultation for official institutions.

7. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Contributions, donations, each country develops its own rules of procedure.

8. HERITAGE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COLLECTIONS

The stingless beekeepers are owners of their meliponarios and collections of nests of stingless bees.

The university meliponarios follow their internal rules and heritage management.

CONTACT

vitolivier@gmail.com