



**International Seminar 2014  
Naturalizing Santa Marta  
November 7 and 8 - 2014**

Social Dynamics and the role of nature in the city

The seminar is part of an Institutional initiative led by the Bachaqueros Biological Research Foundation seeking to stimulate the participation of public organizations, professionals and research groups on different approaches and visions of the role of nature in the city and the relationships interwoven between human communities and public spaces, both natural and built, in Colombia and around the world.

This year, the seminar is carried out in partnership with the Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia UCC., and corporate and institutional allies interested in supporting the conservation of the built, patrimonial and historic public spaces in relation to the natural spaces in the context of the city, represented in the form of Dry Forest Ecosystems, rivers, lakes and wetlands both inside and in the periphery of many Caribbean cities.

During roundtables, keynote speeches and national and international talks, the following questions will be addressed among others:

What is a built public space?

What is a natural public space?

What is a sacred site?

What is their purpose?

What are their limits?

Why are they necessary for the life of the city?

How are dynamics between nature and the social behavior of people in a city formed?

Place: Main Auditorium Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia – Santa Marta

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### **Seminar Objectives**

1. To address reflections and experiences in the perception and management of nature in public space: the function, importance and contributions of nature to social, economic and ecological, dynamics and processes, especially regard to identity, sense of belonging and welfare of communities.
2. To foster analysis and discussion on ways to integrate natural and built public spaces and explore cases and in different contexts of how public spaces can be inclusive, exclusive, egalitarian, demonstrating innovative architectural and landscaping proposals, social and community processes, academic and inter-institutional participation projects in the transformation of the city.
3. Present the past, present and future of "the natural" in the city, documenting the effects of Urban, Environmental and Architectural Proposals, and public policy on ecosystem health, human neighborly relationships, youth and children's, rights, indigenous communities, and urban and suburban communities.
4. Demonstrate the actions that citizens exert over the natural environment to attain their needs in terms of subsistence, welfare and civic education.