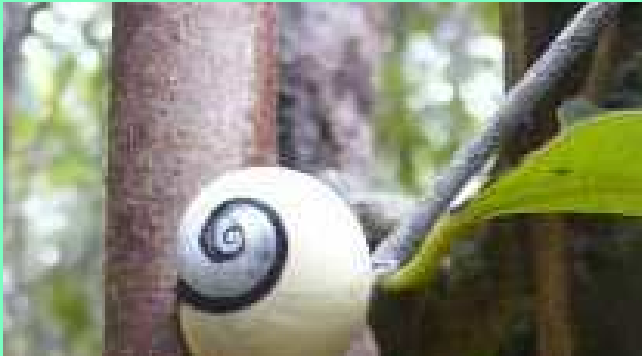


The Polimitas are unique and in danger of extinction!

Please help to protect them!

The Polimitas are snails which only exist on the Cuban Island! They are natural heritage of Cuba and in danger of extinction. The Taínos, the aboriginal people of the Caribic, did already adore these wonderful snails because of their unique beauty. Therefore the polimitas are protected by nature conservation and it is not allowed to destroy, sell or buy them.



Therefore – please – don't allow anybody to offer you the shells of that endangered especie! And don't buy any Polimita-necklaces! Moreover you as well as the dealer risk severe controls by the customs and high penalties.



The Polimitas have marvellous shells in all colours with black and coloured bands. As an endemic, only in few provinces of Cuba existing especie, they are above all endangered by their overwhelming beauty. Some subspecies are already irrecoverably vanished and lost forever! The amount of Polimita-shells are dramatically reduced by the high demand of tourists. Please help to obtain this natural heritage by not allowing the illegal trade of Polimitas.

Above that Polimitas are very useful: They help the coffee-farmer because of their very specific diet by eating the tiny algae and fungi which affect the leaves of coffee plants and other trees. By cleaning organically the leaves and the branches of the plants they protect the plantation to keep healthy and repel infections!



The Polimitas are hermaphroditic. Each individual has got female and male reproduction organs.

After the copulation the snails lay their eggs into the earth. After about three weeks the young Polimitas emerge. Their shell grows within the next eight months until they get sexually mature. Only few individuals survive the dry months in winter. In february you can observe again the tiny young Polimitas. Like all snails they slide slowly and undulatory.



The illegal collecting and killing of Polimitas during the harvesting of coffee in october and november each year is extremely harmful because it is the season of reproduction. If you destroy the Polimitas at that time they won't survive and in a few years Polimitas will be extincted forever. And Baracoa will loose one of its most important emblems and mankind its most beautiful snails!



Nationalpark Alexander von Humboldt