



The  
**Species-Saving**  
Time Team



by  
**Lautaro Real**

Illustrated by Verónica Villalba

# **THE SPECIES-SAVING TIME TEAM**

**BY LAUTARO REAL**

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## **Chapter 1**

**This is the story of a boy called Lautaro that lived in a small town surrounded by the forest, sea, and streams.**

**He grew up happy in this magical place, looking in every corner for adventures where he could be the superhero that he always dreamed and that way he would be able to save the world, however, he didn't quite know how to do it!**

**Ever since he was really, really young he felt different from all the children he knew, and his friends always said that he was odd and very special at the same time.**

**One morning Lautaro's friends met to chat and an interesting question emerged, they thought...**

**'Why Lautaro behaves in strange ways?'**

**It was Paulina who offered her opinion first, and said:**

**“Lautaro always dresses the same way; green trousers, shirt and socks, and as if that was not enough, he also wears a green cape. I've seen him dressed in green ever since I know him; besides, he is always surrounded by animals which follow him everywhere!”**

**“Also, these animals seem to have something in common,” added Eugenia, “for example the dog has a blind eye, so he put patch on and named it Pirata, the black cat with green spots that is missing half of its tail and is called Mediacola, and the white rabbit has three green stripes, its name is Rayasverdes...”**

**- “But the truth is that he is always nice to all of us, to animals and he’s always up for wants to help anyone!” added Juan Pedro.**

**- “That’s right” said Nicolas said, “we all should be a little bit more like him, my dad thinks that he is child who feels the need to help others, that makes him happy, and that's great!”**

**“Yes, he is a very happy and funny kid that’s why he is our friend and we love him just the way he is,” said Santiago.**

**“My dad that knows Lautaro well, he always tries to invite him to rescue some little penguin or to go wale watching when the wales reach the shore, and when people gather in groups to clean the beach he is always there.**

**My dad also says that Lautaro helps his parents and neighbours, among other things, my dad says that Lautaro**

himself says that he is very active during the day, and he finds the perfect adventure in everything he does,” said Juan Ignacio.

Then, Guzman said, “he is the perfect friend,” and they continue chatting happily about other issues while admiring his friend.

## Chapter 2

At that very moment, sitting in the he is sitting at the river mouth (called it, like that because that is where the stream flows into the sea) and watching the waves and the sand was Lautaro when he realized that he did not want to be a superhero like all the others he watch on television...

... he didn't want to be like Spiderman, Ironman nor superman, there was already enough superheroes that helped and defended people from evil minds, and big monsters who wanted to destroy everything on their way, he just wanted to be a different superhero but, clearly his concern was that he didn't know how to.

There is where his story actually begins, sitting on the beach watching waves and sand... staring at a huge group of crabs that where coming out the water and settled into the sand making a circle, like they where up to something... that is crazy! crabs planning something!

His mother had told him that the place was part of a larger wetland and it was one of the largest cangrejales of Latin America, which was also home to many other species, such as flamingos, white seagulls, clams and many of them were endangered.

That was a subject that fascinated him and whenever he can he researches about it.

Sitting in that place, and remembering what his mother told him, he started to consider an idea, and suddenly smiled and said:

**“I know, yes! Why I didn’t think of that before!”**

**“That’s it! yes! I want to be an endangered animal rescuer and save vulnerable animals around the world! And I’ll start in this place where there is already much work to be done, I’ll be the superhero of all those species that are about to be extinct, yes!”**

Happy to have found what he really wanted to be, the first thing he had to do was to find a superhero-name, the cape he already had it!

He thought, and thought and none of the names that came to his mind seem suitable, until several hours later he came up with the ideal superhero-name: Capitan.

## Chapter 3

**Every day Capitan went to the river mouth, sat down and looked at the crabs, and thought ‘What could I do to save the crabs, seagulls and flamingos and all the other animals that needed his help?’**

**Very slowly he approached to the crabs and suddenly realized the could understand exactly what they were saying, so quietly he began to listen:**

**“We have to find a way for to conserve our species and all the others, to avoid extinction, because without us the balance of this wetland also disappear and we cannot I allow it.”**

**At that moment Capitan said:**

**“I’m the person you need, I can help you, I’m a superhero, and my name Capitan and my mission is to help the species that are about to disappear.**

**The crabs looked scared, they didn’t understand how a human could understand what they had been saying!**

**“Don’t be alarmed, I want to help you and together we can do it!”**

**Gradually and through daily long talks they became very good friends. In those long talks, they seek for ideas and ways to achieve their objective.**

**His dog, cat, and rabbit joined the group, the seagulls, flamingos, and other animals.**

**All of them share their ideas, sometimes it was a bit difficult to understand because everyone spoke at the same time, but Capitan as the leader, organized them to talk in a civilize way.**

**One day Capitan had a genius idea, well, he thought it was a great idea- and when he told the crabs and the rest of the animals, they said:**

**“It is not it is going to work, how we will do it? it is impossible!”**

**The idea of our superhero was to build a time machine to travel back in time; and there was when their big operation initiated.**

**Then, crabs and other animals asked:**

**“How are we going to build a time machine?” everyone looked at each other wondering....**

**“It won’t be difficult,” Capitan said, “I have several ideas, I just need you to trust me and help me build it!”**

**“I'll recruit my friends, I will tell them my idea and surely will have with their help too!**

**At 9 o'clock the next day they had arranged to meet in the same place, the first to arrive were Sebastian, Lucas and Martina, and then everybody arrived. Once everyone was there, Capitan told them all that had happened with crabs, and also told them about his idea!**

**Everyone looked incredulously:**

**“A time machine?” Joaquin asked, “... to return to the past and do what?”**

**“That's a super idea!” said Lucas.**

**“We'll get things that we can recycle from our homes, we all must have something that we can use,” added Camila.**

**“My dad certainly not going to let me join you in this idea...” said Sol, letting herself fall into the sand with a sad face.**

**“But this is a story, the parents don't get a say, we can do everything we want, as long as it for the welfare of others” said Juan Bautista.**

**“Well, well” added Sol “... we'll meet tomorrow at the forest clearing, where we used to meet to play hide and seek, and don't forget to bring recycling materials from your homes?”**



**After that, Capitan went to talk to the crabs, they had to come up with a plan thus, once the time machine was ready, they could make the journey right away!**

## **Chapter 4**

**The next day, everyone was excited about the new project; after the sunset, they headed to the forest, bringing the recycling materials that they thought useful for the construction of the time machine.**

**All of them were exchanging ideas happily, laughing, and discussing on how each piece they were creating started to look as the idea that Capitan had.**

**And so, after many hours and much work they were exhausted, then with a new moon has a companion, they sat on the meadow to watch the wonder they just created.**

**“Incredible!” they shouted at once.**

**“There is only a small detail,” said Emma.**

**“What?” the rest wondered.**

**“I hope it works...” hmmm tiny, little, detail!**

**They observed and if they had to describe it, they would say that it was a green ball, with an ovoid shape as a door with four chairs with seatbelts and brain of the machine was a computer, which they called Issa and it commanded along with the pilot of the ship! It was perfect and you know what?**

**- It worked!!**

**After they finished putting it together and to look at it, all went to their houses to rest, but the green man, who was still thinking about what would be the next step.**

**All met again, this time Capitan's friends were there -the crabs, flamingos, seagulls, and many others.**

**"The first thing that we need to know it's what caused that the extinction of many species and why so many others are dying out?"**

**Then a crab that very intellectual said:**

**"From what I've read, the animals are endanger because there has been a large increment in world's population, and there is a lack of commitment to everything related with the environment, there has been a significant loss of many habitats...**

**... specially, in those where the endangered animal's live, and humankind have much to do with this destruction... they sell exotic animals, and practice something they call sport hunting."**

**“Do you that there are over 16,000 endangered species in the world?” added a flamingo sitting next to Nicolas.**

**“-That many? I didn’t think of it before...” said Pirata!**

**“Knowing this, we should go back to the year 1500, after the discovery of America and begin our mission there, the best thing we can do is to talk to people to make them aware of what will happen in the future if we don’t to protect animals, nature and the environment, we also have to talk to the senior officers to help us, we have to make them understand the actual importance of this issue”. Added Nicolas.**

**“After that, we will continue our trip and to land in the year 1600 and do the same in 1800, and 1900, then we can go back to home and see if our mission was successful. Well... Who will go with me?” said, Capitan.**

**“Me!” said Sebastian,**

**“And me!” said Eugenia raising her hand.**

**“Although I’m a bit scared I will go! said Santiago.**

**“I want to go too...” said Camila**

**“And don’t forget about me...” shouted Sebastian “So do I” said the rest.**

**I’m sorry, but we won’t all fit inside the time machine...  
So, how are we going to decide who is going? asked Nicolas.**

**“The only possible way... talking, listening and understanding”  
said Capitan.**

**“Like we already said, not all of us will fit, but I have an idea...  
If our mission is successful, we could do other trips and keep  
on helping our planet in many ways...” explained Emma.**

**Everyone liked the idea and agreed.**

**Thus, Capitan, Camila, Emma, and Sebastian got inside the  
time machine and waved to friends who stayed.  
Let’s the journey begin! Said Issa.**

## **Chapter 5**

**The children never imagine that travelling in time could be so  
exiting; they barely believe what they were seeing, like super  
bright stars so incredibly colourful as planets.**

**It was such a beautiful journey through space, where the  
children admire so many things that they never have dreamt  
of seeing.**

**Issa took the role of the guide, while they were still amazed,  
trying to remember everything, so they could tell the friends  
they left behind.**

**Suddenly, the machine landed near to a river. The place was inhospitable; it looked like no one lived there...**

**Issa said: "Information processing... location: Amazonian region, Ecuador... year: 1562.**

**They climbed down the machine and very carefully began to walk around, after crossing a rainforest they unexpectedly encountered a Huaorani tribe. They didn't have a very warm welcoming, but eventually managed to communicate with the tribe in their language.**

**The Huaorani people lived off the hunt and the harvest, it that was a good start for their mission.**

**They had a fun time with them, they chatted about their interests, beliefs, and traditions and they were able to understand each other very well. They left with joy after the chief assure them he and his people will help to preserve and care for the animals, and the 'environment' even though they had never heard that word before.**

**So, they returned to the time machine and travel to 1690. They stopped at a place called, Santiago, according to Issa, in Chile, where they saw very different people to those they were used to deal with, the people in Santiago wore curious**

**clothes, their means of transport were carriages with horses, and their way to live in this was very unusual.**

**“I can’t believe that they don’t have computers, phones or cars” said Emma**

**“... and very few know how to write and read” added Sebastian.**

**Then, the children started discussing about the future and showed them books, clippings of newspapers; as they explained them that many animal species would disappear, if they people don’t care about them, that nature its amazing, and it gives all that everybody needs.**

**The people, just stared at them incredulously, but they ended up trusting them and promise that they will try to enforce it into an agreement to protect the animals and the environment.**

**Back on the time machine and feeling more relaxed, they continue their journey and stopped in 1868, in a small village in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountains called San Pablo, Guelatao.**

**While they were walking through the forest, they could not believe their eyes... many trees around the forests were cut down and there were not many animals around. They talked to an indigenous boy, who introduced himself as Benito.**

**“What is happening here, where are all the animals?” asked Camila.**

**“People are cutting down the trees a lot lately...” Benito answered sadly.**

**Later, a big curious crowd of the Zapotec people came closer to meet Capitan, Camila, Emma, and Sebastian, because they were told that the children had something very important to share.**

**They began to explain the importance of protecting animals and their habitats, including trees and the rest of the ecosystem.**

**“These are resources that provide for us all” added Sebastian.**

**“What you have said makes a lot of sense... we will do our part as well!” said Benito exited.**

**The crowd looked at each other wondering, and they agreed to it, and to pass on the message to other people of the region and so on...**

**They said farewell to the kind people and got back to the machine, Capitan wondered if the boy was Benito Juarez, the one who made history in Mexico.**

## **Chapter 6**

**It was almost time to return, so they decided to make a last visit, they decided to visit in 1992.**

**Capitan believed that there was a lot of work to do there, they reached their destination at: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**

**There was a gathering of many people heads of their states, they were discussing about environmental problems and its importance to humans and other living creatures.**

**They finalized the gathering with the establishment of a document called: the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, aimed to conserve and protect the ecosystem, it established 27 principles to guide the sustainable development around the world.**

**We will win this fight because we are more... because we are right, it said.**

**The children celebrated all their achievements.**

**A euphoric person came to closer to congratulate them on their many accomplishments through the years, he and thanked them, and told them that it couldn't have been possible without their help...**



**It was time to return home and continue their mission of committing all people to be good towards the environment, and that would bring them closer to live in the world they have always wanted.**

**Then, they returned home, and the time machine stopped, when they came out a big crowd of people (...and animals) was waiting their faithful companions, the dog, cat and rabbit; thousands of crabs, flamingos, seagulls and other species that where extinct when before they left as:**

**anteaters, tapirs, sloths, howler monkeys, jaguars, pumas and different species of macaws and other birds; all waiting for the superheroes with great joy and happiness of what had been achieved...**

**Capitan over excited, thanked everyone, especially his friends, the crabs, and everyone involved, he said every contribution big or small makes a difference;**

**therefore, they all became great superheroes!**

**THE END**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**The author of this story is Lautaro Real. He lives in Uruguay.**

**Laurtaro's whole family – his parents and his little brother Lorenzo – helped with ideas for this story. At first he thought he wouldn't be able to write a story, but he is pleased with the results. He is a shy boy, except when he plays football – he loves the game and loves working in a team when he plays.**

**Everyday Lautaro tries to help take care of the planet. He hopes one day to study engineering or architecture or to become a writer – playing football and saving the world at the same time, of course!**