

Project Update: September 2009

The aim of this project is to develop an environmental education programme in mountain communities to improve the awareness in relation to the habitat conservation in mountains and to try to obtain field references and general data about the natural history of the Cuban kite, a Critically Endangered bird of Cuba).

In September 2009, our team was in the mountains in the east of Cuba to develop our first stage of the project. We visited three different localities in the reserve, that localities were Quivijan ($-74^{\circ} 39' 32''$ W ; $20^{\circ} 20' 26''$ N), El Imbano ($-74^{\circ} 42' 11''$ W ; $20^{\circ} 17' 29''$ N) and Viento Frio ($-74^{\circ} 43' 25''$ W , $20^{\circ} 17' 3''$ N). During a week we were training forest guards and applying surveys in different communities of the Biosphere Reserve Alexander V Humboldt, Guantánamo Province; we interviewed seven Forest Guards and 21 local people from the localities that we visited. During this first trip we obtained valid information about the presence of the Cuban kite in different localities where the birds could exist. Forest guards and some local people give us information about a bird that is very not common, usually found near to the river and that eats snails.



Left: Land Snails depredated by Cuban Kite. Right: Expeditions to Yateras. ©Ernesto Reyes.