

Project Update: April 2013

The Pacific tropical rainforest is one of the less known ecosystems of South America and is represented in Peru only in a small area of the department of Tumbes, although protected in Cerros de Amotape National Park (CANP). Unfortunately, habitat loss through farming and agriculture is leaving this tropical forest isolated. The aim of this study is to determine the richness and abundance of medium and large mammals and identify priority areas of conservation. Line transects censuses were conducted and 32 camera stations were placed in a 90 km² area in three localities of CANP from August to December 2012. Mammal abundance was calculated with captured frequency (number of photos / 1000 trap nights). The sampling effort was 120 km and 2102 camera days. As a result, 18 species were registered with camera trapping and 10 with line transect censuses. Camera traps proved to be more effective because they registered elusive species that could not be sighted by line transect census. The accumulation curve using camera traps shows the asymptote at 19 species, suggesting adequate sampling effort. *Mazama americana* was the most frequent species (98.61) followed by *Pecari tajacu* (33.5); *Eira barbara* was the least frequent (3.2). The presence of a diverse community of large and medium-size mammals in CANP should move authorities to give the area the highest priority in conservation.