

## **Project Update: January 2014**

The objectives that the teamwork and I are working up to date are:

1. To develop a species-habitat monitoring programme.
2. To measure, with in each one of the areas actually used by the species

We visited the study area in two opportunities. The field campaigns were carry out from May 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 and September 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2013. In each visit, we undertook a systematic search at a number of localities, of confirmed sightings of hyacinth macaws and also we interviewed local people about the presence of the species in the area and all locations were investigated to confirm the presence of the hyacinth macaw.

As result of the two field campaigns and taking into account the macaw's location fidelity as well as roosting and nesting behavior, we counted 124 different individuals. This number include three macaws that are at local houses. On the other hand, in each locality visited we also collected data about the habitat characteristics for comparative analysis according the objectives.

Additionally all of s investigated during the second campaign, were found in sujo trees (*Sterculia apetala*). The wood of this tree is soft and when a branch falls a cavity frequently forms at this point, which is the excavated further by the macaws to accommodate the nest.

### **Other results**

1. The project has established an agreement of wills and alliances with the careers of Biological Sciences and Environmental Sciences (Gabriel René Moreno University). This alliance includes:
  - a. Facilitation of infrastructure and media equipment for develop the training session for park rangers and students.
  - b. Help in the design of effective education campaigns.
2. We are working on two scientific articles, one about the population and conservation status of the hyacinth macaw and other about the potential distribution in face to climate change. The last one is a cooperative research with Sara Varela of the Department of Ecology, Charles University in Prague.

### **Next steps**

- a. We continue with the field campaigns in February 2014.
- b. Design and apply effective education campaigns, for local children and stakeholders.



Photo 1. Maya Paredes and Miguel Eguez (Park ranger) taking data about the habitat of the hyacinth macaw



Photo 2. A child with a juvenile hyacinth macaw, in San Fernando locality.



Photo 3. The teamwork, preparing the equipment. Above: Steven Mullucundo and Ricardo Barbery (Park ranger). Below: Antonio Tacuchaba (Park ranger) on a horse, in El Gato locality.





Photo 4. Group photo after the presentation of the hyacinth macaw project to group of students of 8th semester in the Biological Sciences Carrer, UAGRM.