

Project Update: October 2014

In March 2014, we started to raise the location, age and time of use of salt licks encompassing our study area. We interviewed key hunters in four communities bordering the Lower Purus River, all located in the buffer zone of the SDR Piagaçu-Purus. We asked these hunters about all the licks they knew and whether they were artificially created by hunters or naturally rich in mineral salts. We have accessed 30 licks, being 12 artificial and 18 natural. From March to September 2014, we held the camera-trap survey in 16 of these licks, covering an extension of almost 200 km.

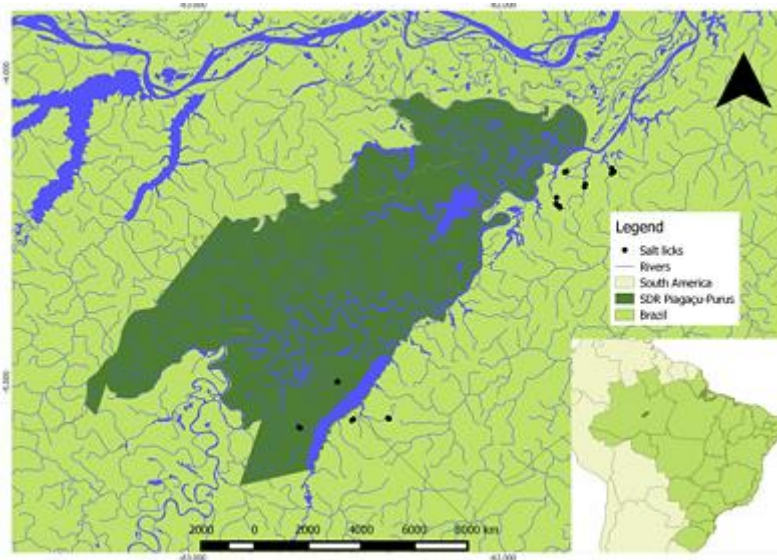


Figure 1: Localisation of the salt licks accessed from the SDR Piagaçu-Purus.

The participation of the key hunters in this process is determinant to the success of the project. By involving them in the choices of each lick to access and in the data collection, they show proud of leading us to these special areas of management where they hold many practices of care and observation. Local people are showing progressive interest as they consider the camera trap survey a way to show to the outsiders the richness of their area, which is consequence of their own care.

Data on species occupancy at the salt licks with different manipulation levels are being assessed and analysed to discuss whether the constant care and use of the licks by the hunters is maintaining game species frequency in both natural and artificial salt licks.

Figure 2: Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) at salt lick (Photo: PROMUF-IPi).

