

### **Project Update: September 2015**

One of the objectives of this project is to develop educational activities about tent roosting bats and the importance of seed dispersers for informal and formal education and for different grade levels. The activities were implemented at elementary (1st-6th grade) and middle (7th-8th) schools of the community of Chajul, Chiapas. For younger students, the lessons include crafting a bat leaf tent out of green paper by simulating the biting of the leaves by the bats. For older students, some lessons allow them to explore the effects of seed dispersal by calculating the percentage of seed predation for non-dispersed and dispersed seeds right there in their schoolyards. Teachers and students responded positively to the lessons; the students seemed more interested about bats and their services after the lessons were implemented. Working with students during the development of the activities has allowed me to improve the easiness and effectiveness of the lessons.



Students from the elementary school in the community of Chajul make a bat tent roost using green paper and simulating the bites of a bat using plastic forks. Instructor: Maripaula Valdes-Berriz. © Begoña Iñarritu