

## Project Update: August 2015

Last week we were informed that two abstracts related to our project have been approved for two important conferences to be held next August and September. The first one is an international conference on population modelling and epidemiology, and will be held in Niteroi from the 24th-28th August 2016. There we will be presenting a talk regarding population structure and dynamics of the rock cavy. In September 2016, a conference regarding research in Brazilian islands will be held in Fernando de Noronha and we will be presenting a poster regarding our project and showing the results we have acquired so far to the national park managers, researchers and the local community. This poster will be donated to the national park for permanent exhibition in their headquarters. Although we have faced some difficulties in the project, I am positive that the results and outcomes made all the work worthy. The local community, although more cautious than we expected in the beginning, is starting not only to accept our project, but also to contribute to it with valuable information and opinions. The managers of the national park in Fernando de Noronha are excited with our project and our poster in their congress and we are hoping to have constructive meetings once we are in the island in September.

I am sending a video and two pictures as well, from our last field work. The video shows the first recording (to our knowledge) of feral cat (another invasive species) predation on rock cavy in Fernando de Noronha. The first picture shows the rock cavy feeding on linseed (*Leucaena leucocephala*), an invasive plant species. This all shows how important invasive species might be on the whole food web mechanism in the island. This fact definitely increases the complexity of our work, as we have to consider more factors to understand how the cavy are inserted in the whole island system. On the other hand, it makes this whole system even more interesting! The second picture is also the first recording (to our knowledge) of rock cavy twins in the wild. So far, only females in captivity have been seen having twins.

