Project Update: October 2015

Fieldwork was carried out create high-fidelity soundscapes of human agents of threat (chainsaws, gunshots, car engines and human voices) in tropical forests of the Yucatán Peninsula. PhD student Evelyn Piña Covarrubias visited dry forests in El Edén Ecological Reserve and El Zapotal Conservation Area in Mexico during July-August 2015, and rainforest in Pook's Hill, Belize during September 2015. Two experiments were designed to calibrate detectability and ease of location of sounds.

1. Sound-detectability experiment. Three SM3+ listening devices were positioned in a tree at heights of 2, 4 and 6 m, one above each other, and human agents of threat were replicated at different distances up to 1 km away from the devices.

2. Sound-location experiment. The SM3+ listening devices were positioned at each vertex of an approximately equilateral triangle with 1-km sides, at a height of 6 m, and human agents of threat were replicated at different locations within the triangle.



Left: Triggering of a gunshot in a tropical dry forest of Mexico. Right: Placement of SM3 listening devices in experiment 1.