Project Update: May 2016

Activities during January and March 2016

During this phase of our project

We analysed the first results of plant survival and growth of grass in three different treatments. The highest plant mortality occurred in the plots with grazing, while the highest grass growth was in the exotic grass plots *(Hyparrhenia rufa)* 1.40 m and *(Melinis minutiflora)* 1.20 m. In native grass plots *(Trachypogon spicatus)* the growth was low, 0.60 m.

At the end of March 2016, during dry season, we measured height and diameter of our seedlings. We have not carried out statistical analyses, but we expect significant differences between the three treatments.

We interviewed farmers from Tres Picos and California village to know their interests of future forest use, and ecological and technical problems related to pine recruitment and forest conservation practice in the buffer zone of the La Sepultura Biosphere Reserve. Since the resin project was implemented, local farmers have an interest in protecting and reforesting the pine oak forest near the core zone of the Reserve. Together with members of the Biosphere Reserve staff and local people I walked throughout the transition zone between buffer and core area, the forest is high diversity and well conserved. At the moment, local people comply with maintain these forests.

Next steps of this study are to continue monitoring of the experimental plots, to arrange a workshop with local farmer to discuss problems related to pine recruitment, to analyze the results of our experiment and interviews, and at the end of this year we will publish these survey in a scientific paper.

Left: California Village: Farmer s vegetable garden, backyard view during an interview with a local Farmer. Right: Experimental Plot: Experimental plot during the dry season, left: control plot, center: cutting plot and extreme right grazing plot.


Left: Fieldwork: measuring Plant survival of the pine seedlings. Right: Jaragua Grass; Fieldwork measuring height of Jaragua grass.