

Project Update: February 2006

Introduction

The Red Uakari Monkey Project started with a Rufford small grant of £4990 in 2003 awarded to Mark Bowler of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE). Much of the Yavari river basin is covered by logging concessions and one of the key aims of the project was to predict how the selective logging in these areas would impact on the populations of this endangered primate. Following two years of ecological research, several scientific papers are in preparation.

After the first research period of 2 years, and a long process of preparing proposals and reports, the study area was awarded to DICE and WCS-Peru to manage as a conservation concession; "Lago Preto Conservation Concession".

A continuation grant was sought to work with the DICE & WCS team to gather the information necessary to manage the uakari monkey population within the concession area.

Objectives

- ◆ The erect signs and mark the boundaries of the Lago Preto Conservation Concession.
- ◆ To locate additional uakari monkey groups within the new conservation concession and to find out which areas might be important for the species.
- ◆ To estimate the number of uakari groups within the conservation concession.
- ◆ To record the age structure of other groups for further evidence for the seasonality of births.
- ◆ To observe the logging and hunting activities of logging concession holders near to the conservation concession.
- ◆ To train Peruvian staff in data collection to monitor the uakari populations at Lago Preto.

Work Completed

June and July 2005

Red Uakari Monkey Project principal researcher Mark Bowler made an expedition with Dr. Richard Bodmer and biologists from DICE and WCS.

Signs were erected showing the area of the Lago Preto Conservation Concession.

Census data on all primates was taken by a number of members of the expedition from which Uakari densities can be estimated.

Just over one half the area of the concession was searched over the duration of the expedition, and several new uakari groups were located with a total of around 75

individuals. During this time period 160 to 200 uakari monkeys were also using the area of the original study site, and these are thought to be the original groups studied. Using these figures, and taking the distribution of habitat into account, we estimated conservatively that about 350 red uakari monkeys might be using the conservation concession area in June and July 2005.

The age structure in the groups observed provided further evidence that births occur mainly between August and November.

The North-eastern corner of the conservation concession is close to a logging concession and their timber is floated out on a stream that runs through the conservation concession. The timbermen are entitled to pass through the conservation concession, but must not extract timber from it or hunt there. We discovered a small logging camp inside the conservation concession, in which we found evidence of hunting, including red uakari monkey fur. The camp was not in use, but had been used when the water levels were high enough to float out timber. We also discovered that timber trees had been felled within the Lago Preto Conservation Concession. Peruvian biologists from WCS-Peru will negotiate with the logging concession owners to try to make sure that they do not hunt or extract timber from the conservation concession, and that they do not make further camps within the reserve boundaries.

Work to be completed

April 2006

Mark Bowler will give training to Peruvian biologists and WCS-Peru staff so that they can take data and monitor the uakari populations at Lago Preto. Part of the training will be completed in the city of Iquitos following meetings with WCS-Peru and part will be conducted at the Lago Preto field site.

Information on the logging close to the Lago Preto Conservation Concession will be collected, visiting the logging concession if possible. This will help make predictions on the likely effects on uakari populations.