

Project Update: April 2017

We began the project with the socialisation to the Environmental Government Institution of Cauca Department-Colombia (CRC- Corporación Autónoma Regional del Cauca) to explain the objectives of the project, show the importance to do a long-term monitoring of the Andean Bear with cameras trap in the high part of Totoro municipality and search the government logistic support for the project. After this, we visited the Vereda Chuscales (study area for the project) to concert a general socialisation with four rural spokespeople of Gabriel Lopez corregiment (Fig. 1) (High part of Totoro Municipality) and one officer of CRC.



Figure 1. Socialisation with 4 rural spokesman's of Gabriel Lopez corregiment

We bought the equipment and tools to realise the project that includes cameras trap, GPS, digital camera, binoculars and materials for the sampling of Andean bear traces.

We did the general socialisation of the project with the support of CRC, where we had a massive participation of the rural community (Fig. 2, 3). We expose general information about biology of Andean Bear and the methodology that we were going to use (study area, cameras traps and search of traces using transects). The rural community expose the problematic that they have with Andean bear because the species is observed in livestock and it attacks the cows without a restitution or support of government agencies.

They to like the project for mitigate this problematic because it is a way to show the actions of conservation of Andean bear and his habitat and call the attention of government agencies



Figure 2. Socialization to the rural community



Figure 3. Socialization to the rural community

We did a workshop in the local school (Educative Institution Victor Manuel Chaux Villamil) with the participation of 20 students and two teachers (Fig. 4), where we talked about the biology and status conservation of Andean Bear, the management of cameras trap, binoculars and GPS.



Figure 4. Workshop in the local school

Also we began the surveys and semi-structured interviews to the people that lives in Vereda Chuscales where we proposed the project (Fig. 5, 6). We walk house to house and we talk about the objectives of project, the methodology and the tools again, looking the participation of them. We obtained valuable information like key areas to search the Andean bear, their traces and put the cameras trap.



Figure 5. Surveys and semi-structured interviews to the people



Figure 6. Surveys and semi-structured interviews to the people

At the moment, we are working on the search for the Andean bear (Fig. 7), its footprints and feeders (we find Bromeliaceae, Espeletia, Puya feeders) (Fig. 8), scratches (Fig. 9), traces, poop (Fig. 10) and hair at the same time. We are putting and checking the camera trap, where we obtained the first results detecting *Cuniculus taczanowskii* (Fig. 11), unidentified Rodentia (Fig. 12), a species of Galliforme (we have a bad video but we observed the presence of two species *Chamaepetes goudotii* (Fig. 13) and *Penelope montagnii* in the study area), *Turdus fuscater* and an Andean bear individual (Fig. 14). The Andean bear was detected in a sector called 7 lagoons, but we have a problem with registration because the animal moves the camera trap (Fig. 15), we believe that the plastic smell attracted the individual and the curious behaviour of the species affects the position as we put the house. We said it because we follow the protocol to use the traps cameras and the videos show how the Andean bear arrives behind the plant of *Espeletia* where we put the trap of the camera. At this time, we put a double station in the area that we recorded the individual with a bait.



Figure 7. Working on the search for the Andean Bear



Figure 8. Bromeliaceae, Espeletia, Puya feeders



Figure 9. Scratches track.



Figure 10. Poop track.



Figure 11. *Cuniculus taczanowskii*



Figure 12. Unidentified Rodentia



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Figure 13. *Chamaepetes goudotii*



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Figure 14. Andean bear



Figure 15.

Our personal opinion about the current project is that it is very satisfactory and pleasure because we are achieving the objectives, we have a big acceptance of the rural community about the project and they exposed the importance of this project in their territory. Like additional achievement, the environmental government agency (CRC) is involucrate directly in the project supporting two workshops and they are proposing the putting of an informative fence about the project and the importance to protect this species including a government telephone number to inform negative interactions between Andean Bear-Rural Community (we wait that it would be reality).

The steps to follow.

1. Finish the surveys, the semi structured interviews and collect more information about the perspective of the rural community of Vereda Chuscales about Andean bear with their se pretende terminar con las entrevistas a los pobladores de la comunidad.
2. To follow the review of cameras trap to check the effectiveness in the area, otherwise we're going to change of place.
3. To follow the register and geo-referencing of simple and compounds traces of Andean Bear on the study area.
4. To do the analysis of results and socialize them with the rural community.