Project Update: February 2018

I conducted fieldwork from May to October 2017 in the Lacandona rainforest, Mexico. First, I visited all landowners and local authorities in order to obtain required permits for working in their land and explaining them the objectives and methods of the study. We obtained permits for working in all sites.

Then, I began fieldwork, which involved the use of camera traps, ground tracks and sightings to monitor terrestrial mammal communities inside different sized forest patches. I worked with a local field guide, Adolfo Jamangapé, who helped with the surveys, the identification of the ground tracks and placement of the cameras. We conducted five field campaigns, one per month, sampling one forest site per day. In total, we worked on 27 sites (4 inside Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve = MABR, and 23 in the Marques de Comillas Region = MCR).

I returned to Morelia and had a meeting with my supervisor and PhD advisors in order to present project advances. Until now, I have been working on the database of distribution and abundance of terrestrial mammals inside the MABR and the MCR. I am currently analysing datasets, obtaining landscape metrics with GIS software, and analysing information on population tendencies and the landscape predictors of population abundance and species diversity in the region. Also, I have started planning the workshops with the local communities.

My field guide, Adolfo Jamangapé, and me placing a camera trap inside the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve.

Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) captured in a camera trap inside the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve.

Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) captured in a camera trap in a rainforest fragment in the Marques de Comillas Region.