Project Update: October 2017

Sampling season started with an unusual snowy-windy spring but in the middle of October 2017 we were able to reach our firsts sampling sites. At the west end of the "Tristeza" Nahuel Huapi lake branch we sampled old *N. dombeyi* forests that burned about 100 years ago. We monitored tree-hollow abundance, fire severity and cored trees for age and time-since-fire determinations. Preliminary results indicate that these forests suffered intermediate-severity fires and that the fire-scarred trees tend to present more cavities, particularly in the case of wider trees. However, further analysis and sampling is needed to validate these initial findings. We registered the presence of *Pygarrhichas albogularis*, *Scytalopus magellanicus*, *Sephanoides sephanoides*, *Aphrastura spinicauda*, *Pteroptochos tarnii, Scelorchilus rubecula* and *Veniliornis lignarius* native cavity-users. We will continue sampling many other intermediate and mature *N. dombeyi* forests until April-May and will do the dendrochronological analysis that will reveal the fire history and secrets of these beautiful forests.

Natalie coring an old *N. dombeyi* tree in "Tristeza" area. ©Valeria Ojeda

The "Tristeza" branch of the Nahuel Huapi Lake. ©Natalie Dudinszky

Natalie pointing at a big hollow in a 400cm-perimeter fire-scarred *N. dombeyi* tree. ©Valeria Ojeda