

Project Update: November 2020

We had some problems with the pandemic period. However, we were able to finish collecting ecological and behavioural data. Initially, we monitored two groups of caatinga howler monkeys monthly between June 2019 and March 2020. We also installed fruit traps, marked feeding trees and installed two thermo-hygrometers. So, we monitored fruit productivity and climatic aspects in the months surveyed.

Although we had to interrupt part of our collection of ecological and behavioural data due to the pandemic period, this did not affect our analyses. However, we decided to enter information that we collected in months prior to the studied period. So, we analysed the data of both dry and rainy periods.

The pandemic is being a very complicated period to carry out activities related to environmental education. Our objective was to work with schools and community centres, but we are totally stuck in these aspects. However, as an alternative, we are producing a booklet of virtual classes addressing key aspects of our environmental education campaigns (the impact of hunting, diseases acquired with the consumption of wild animals, the maintenance of captive primates and conservation of the caatinga howler monkey).

Such booklets will be sent to public school teachers, enabling them to use in virtual classes. However, we continue to work on the prospect of running environmental education campaigns in 2021. We consider this stage of the project essential for the conservation of the caatinga howler monkey.

In addition to our project objectives, in January 2020, we started monitoring a population of caatinga howler monkey in a private reserve ("Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural Serra das Almas"). For this, we are using five camera traps in the canopy of trees. This method had never been used in the caatinga biome and we are obtaining important information about the methods and arboreal animals of the reserve.