

Project Update: August 2020

During initial project steps, unfortunately, we faced important issues that we had kept in mind since the pandemic outbreak was announced globally, but satisfactory we covered those concerns shortly to take a progressive advance of the project. This unwanted situation was approached by concurrent teammates virtual meetings where we discussed how to keep and make progress in our study and planning protocols to adequately implement all sanitary safety to guarantee the human integrity of the team and also prioritize people's health in those faraway villages inside the Sierra Madre del Sur, exactly where our project is pointed, settled, and linked currently with native people's participation.

The team agreed to replant some initial activities to avoid loss of significant time and human effort due to critical circumstances pushing a bit later dates for start compiling fieldwork data and reschedule social meetings until further and better news comes from the World Health Organization.

Activities rescheduled:

- Meetings with local villages to establish a plan for fieldwork and selection of volunteers/guides: ~~June 2020~~ (August 2020, by online meetings when accessible for communities and physically late December)
- Start writing permits to be presented in assembly meetings in the villages over targeted sites. ~~June 2020~~ (July 2020)
- Talk to communities to explain the project goals and expected outcomes. ~~July 2020~~ (August 2020, by online meetings when accessible for communities and physically late December)
- Field sampling: ~~July 2020 – December 2020~~ (September 2020 - February 2020)

In mid-July to late August, we started selecting during our frequent online meetings which communities might have access to internet or usual telephone call. Once the list has done, we headed to establish concurrent communication with leaders in communities. For those, who lack this via of communication we generated a strategy following the next protocol for future field sampling.

Guide to make contact with communities:

- 1- Wear mask and face shield in public settings
- 2- Distribute masks and face shields to people
- 3- Explain the circumstances of covid-19: why and how to use correctly safety materials donated
- 4- Setting of meetings: obligatory clothing, rules for social distancing, and sanitary regalements during meetings
- 5- Distribute informative posters and brochures generated by government and translate it to native language when necessary

Along August we tested equipment, repair when an abnormal function was observed and bought new materials which will disseminating in part with head leaders in villages or communities in contact with us.

Selecting volunteers: with the previous contact in July by video or phone calling we scheduled several meetings during august for interview people interested to collaborate along the project in their respective areas. A success of 80% localities (figure below) was reached in all communities and remaining percentage belong to uncommunicated villages (which those will be covered during sampling).

