

Project Update: March 2011

The 2011 field season in the Peruvian Amazon began with a huge amount of rainfall. We started to explore the area with our research boat looking for scarlet macaw nests and clay-licks. So far we monitored 961 km of river system and collected a great quantity of samples: 273 feathers and 25 blood samples.

The highlight of this season is that we accessed the Candamo Basin. The scope of natural habitats contained within this area result in spectacular biodiversity. Last year we couldn't get into the basin but this year we succeeded due to the high rainfall. This is an amazing, isolated valley in the foothills of the Andes, without any human inhabitants. First time in history we managed to get genetic samples of scarlet macaws from this basin that will have huge importance during the genetic analyses of samples from this biodiversity hotspot.

