

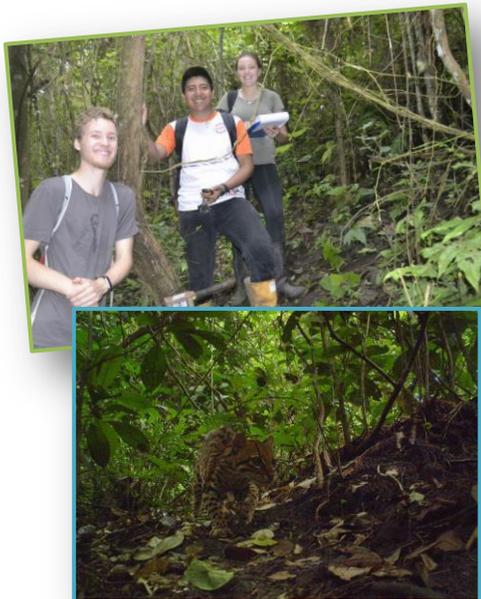
Wildlife Monitoring

Description:

Contribute to long-term data collection on native wildlife populations in threatened coastal dry forests.

Project background:

Ceiba is monitoring wildlife populations and the impacts of human activity on wildlife in the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve and in different sites within the Conservation Corridor. By using various monitoring techniques, we hope to gain knowledge on the status and health of the animal populations in the area and how are they affected by the change in habitat use and the resulting forest fragmentation. Interns participating in wildlife monitoring have several projects to choose from at the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve and in other forest areas along the coast (see Conservation Corridor Internship). Note that not all surveys are running all year long so contact us to get more information on the status of the projects during your intended session.



1. Camera trap monitoring project

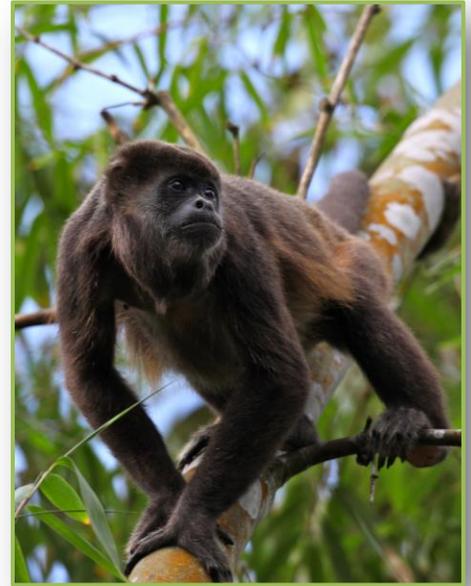
The use of camera traps to study terrestrial mammals (and birds) has increased in popularity because it is a non-invasive method that provides very useful information. These data can be used inventory species present at a site, study their habitat use and temporal activity patterns, and compare communities in different land uses. To date, we have recorded the presence of a surprising number of large vertebrates in the reserve and the Conservation Corridor, including ocelot, jaguarundi, margay, deer, raccoons, tayra, and many more. We have also conducted surveys to determine how native species interact with different land uses (forest, reforestation plots, agroforestry plots, cattle pastures) in the region. We will continue doing these surveys in areas around the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve, especially in the areas categorized as priority for the Conservation Corridor.

What will you do?

- Configure camera traps and prepare the field equipment (batteries, memory cards, data sheets, GPS)
- Install the camera traps in specific locations. Visit each location after 2-4 weeks to replace batteries and memory cards.
- Collect camera trap data, identify species captured, and enter into database
- Collect data on forest structure and characteristics to analyze preferred habitat for different species
- Analyze existing data to determine activity patterns, relative abundant indexes (RAIs)

2. Monkey demographic and behavior study

A large population of Mantled Howler Monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*), a threatened subspecies, makes its home in the Lalo Llor Dry Forest Reserve. Interns will collect data on the demographics and ecology of howler monkey groups in the reserve. Interns will spend long days in the forest following monkey troops to record data on troop size, gender, age and activity. Encounters with the rarer Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin (*Cebus aequatorialis*) will also be recorded. These data are part of the national study on primates in Ecuador and will help us to determine whether the populations are stable or changing, assess movement patterns, and identify important resources for the primates within the reserve. Data collected will be entered into the national database and used to generate an annual population estimate for howler monkeys in the Lalo Llor Dry Forest Reserve and generate knowledge on the general state of primates in Ecuador. Interns may also create educational materials about the biology of these two monkey species.



What will you do?

- Learn the sampling protocols used to collect monkey data
- Collect demographic and ecological data on howler monkeys
- Estimate current howler monkey population size in the reserve and compare to previous estimates
- Identify and map trees the howlers are utilizing for food and rest
- Update howler monkey educational display for the nature center
- Record any observations of capuchin monkeys in the reserve



What will you learn?

- Standard methods and experimental design for terrestrial wildlife surveys using camera traps
- Standard methods and experimental design for monkey surveys
- Geographic data collection and processing using GPS and GIS
- Field identification of neo-tropical animals
- Data organization, management and analysis

What do we seek?

- Knowledge or experience in wildlife ecology, or interest and willingness to learn
- Willing to hike long distances in rugged conditions and conduct field work, often in hot weather
- Knowledge of Excel
- Organized and attention to detail.

** Can be combined with (and sometimes forms part of) the Conservation Corridor internship*