

Project Update: April 2012

We started fieldwork in January 2012. During the first two field trips, we conducted interviews with native people (huarpes) and selected the rural livestock stations and families to work with along the year. They were seven families in all. During the following field trips, we selected and established all sampling sites. We identified three habitat types, and established eight grids in each of them (N=24). These grids represent a goat-grazing gradient, which is evaluated by counting fresh goat faeces per sampling station inside each grid. In each grid, we set up 16 live-capture Sherman traps for trapping small mammals. They remained active for five consecutive nights. We also made landscape structure measurements in each grid and microhabitat measurements on six sampling sites from each grid. We also recorded tracks of other mammals. We have completed the summer samplings and will be starting the autumn samplings in May 2012. Over these months, four volunteers from different Argentinean universities have been working on the project.



Left: a place with intense goat grazing near a livestock station. Right: Emiliano, a volunteer, going out of the monte after checking Sherman traps.