

Project Update: July 2014

We continue advancing with our activities. In latter months we have been employed at several topics related to the oil pollution in the Amazon region.

1. Determination of the oil pollution in the environment. We have been collecting environmental samples to confirm the presence of oil compounds in the area. We are still involved in the statistical analyses to obtain conclusive results.
2. Placement of new video camera traps in oil spills. Fifteen camera traps have been placed in new 15 oil spills to register the behaviour of the terrestrial fauna. We are just conducting the chemical analysis to confirm that they are oil contaminated. This is a slow analysis carried out in the facilities of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain. We also placed three camera traps in apparently non polluted mineral licks to compare results (we will also study the chemically confirmation). The chambers are working on.
3. Samples of body tissue from wildlife hunted by communities have been collected for the further determination of hydrocarbons and heavy metals. This biological sampling has been achieved through the normal hunting activities of local communities. Although more than 200 samples have been collected (including areas with and without oil extraction), we managed to export from Peru to Spain the organs of 100 individuals. The shipment of biological samples from Peru to Spain has been effort and time-wasting because of the complicated bureaucracy, including CITES permissions and Animal Health authorisations both in Peru and Spain. This fact resulted in an important delay in the laboratorial analyses. The samples finally arrived to Spain on June 2014, in a process started in December 2013 (7 months!).

The samples are already prepared to be analysed to determine heavy metals and hydrocarbons. In September 2014, we will start with the hydrocarbon analyses, which it is the principal indication of oil pollution. Based on these results we will continue with the analysis of heavy metals. This slow laboratorial analysis will allow the achievement of solid results.

Finally, the magazine of the IUCN TAPIR CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER accepted a manuscript, which will be published in August 2014. We will send you the definitive link."

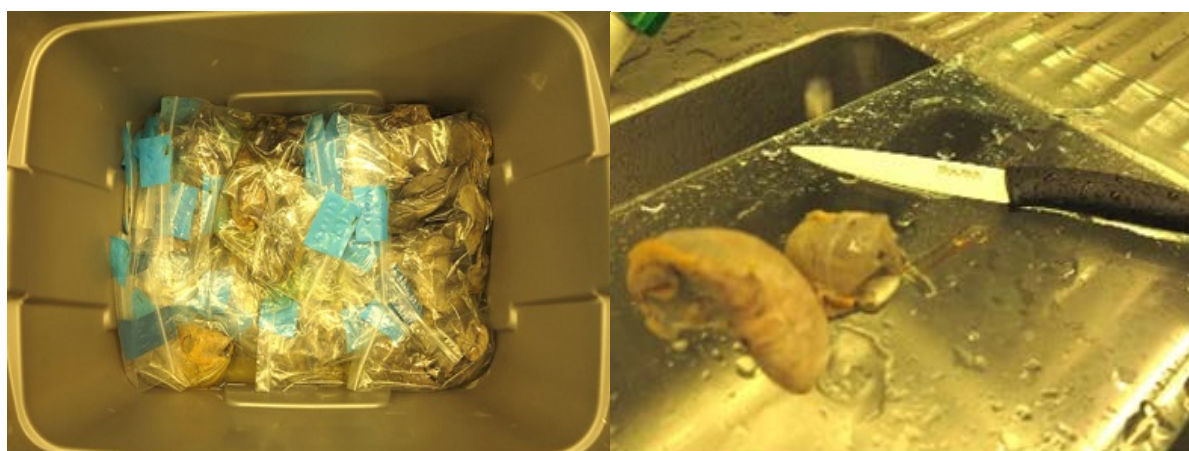


Fig. 1: Biological samples in the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Fig. 2: Sample preparation for the chemical analysis. Important: avoiding exogenous pollution by common hydrocarbons and heavy metals. Unfortunately, our lives are plenty of these compounds.