Project Update: December 2013

I regularly update my research blog as well, which is linked to our project page on the Rufford website: communitysciencebolivia.blogspot.com

Our 2013 field season is over and we're pleased with our work to date. Between August and November we organised and carried out meetings and workshops with scientists, park guards and indigenous communities to first discuss their experiences separately to give them the chance to talk about their experiences with research within their own circles and build consensus without being challenged by other groups. This included two workshops with botanists doing research in Madidi to discuss obstacles and strategies for communicating science with locals, as well as three workshops with park guards from Madidi and the neighbouring Pilón Lajas reserve. Finally, in two 'heavily researched' indigenous communities, we have begun the process of developing 'community norms' to regulate research carried out on their lands in order to ensure that in the future it is done in an ethical, culturally-appropriate and locally relevant way.



Role-playing exercise during workshop with botanists from the National Herbarium.



Madidi park guards listing research needs in the Apolo region of the park during a workshop