

Project Update: December 2015

During this phase of our project we have monitored plant survival, growth rate of competing grasses and cattle grazing intensity. We installed soil temperature sensors in experimental plots and we collected soil samples to analyse soil humidity, bulk density, soil structure. These samples were analysed in the laboratory to evaluate soil fertility. Total plant survival showed successful outcomes in spite of poor rainfall during September and October 2015. Furthermore we presented project progress at a workshop of 20th Anniversary of the Biosphere Reserve La Sepultura which celebrated in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico. In this congress the viability of present and past studies in the region were analysed by staff of the Biosphere Reserve, Researchers and local farmers.

The next steps of our study are to continue monitoring of the experimental plots, and to develop a vegetation map with remote sensing techniques. Additionally we will carry out a workshop with local farmers and we will conduct interviews with different social actors in the study area.

