

Project Update: February 2017

October 23rd, 2015 the most powerful hurricane ever recorded, Hurricane Patricia, made landfall directly on our study site. Rated 5 on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale, Patricia completely transformed our field site and left many of the surrounding villagers without a home. The severity of the damage forced the Chamela Biological station to cancel its annual open doors event (held in December). Instead of participating in this event, we set up a crowdfunding account and raised \$5,000 to help those with the most severe damage and December 2015 we donated this money to replace mattresses' and metal roofs lost in the hurricane. Taking advantage of this same trip we had the opportunity to monitor the turtles we had equipped with radios during the hurricane. Surprisingly, all turtles survived this severe damage and the next stage of the project will entail returning March 2016 to monitor these turtles for 3 weeks before removing their radios.



Hurricane Patricia damage as seen from a main trail at the Estación de Biología Chamela.



Hurricane Patricia damage as seen from a local village, Francisco Villa, the day after Hurricane Patricia passed.



Hurricane Patricia damage in front of the office at the Estación de Biología Chamela.