

Project Update: January 2017

I have exciting news to report from Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic. On Friday 13th January 2017, I attended a private meeting hosted by the director of Plan Yaque in company of several faculty members from Universidad Agroforestal Fernando Arturo de Meriño (UAFAM). After giving a brief summary of my research and project objectives, a lengthy discussion ensued about the possibilities of our mutual collaboration. I explained the various concepts of how my pursuit of avian ecology and seed dispersal research can be directly applied to improving management of both new and ongoing reforestation efforts in Rio Yaque del Norte watershed. These ideas were received with great excitement, and both UAFAM and Plan Yaque have now declared me an official partner to their organizations! Our next meeting is set for 10th February 2017, for which I will prepare an academic presentation covering the theoretical background of seed dispersal research, report the various findings of my studies thus far, and propose the work that will form the basis for collaboration among us.

More for more information about these new partner organizations...

Plan Yaque (<http://www.planyaque.org/>)

--A NGO committed to the conservation and management of the watershed of the largest river in the Dominican Republic, the Rio Yaque del Norte. Initiatives of this organisation include but are not limited to community outreach, water treatment, water quality assessments, recycling programmes, river clean-ups, and reforestation projects in local farming communities.

Universidad Agroforestal Fernando Arturo de Meriño, "UAFAM" (<http://uafam.edu.do/>)

--A higher education institution based in Jarabacoa whose mission is sustainable natural resources management through developing students and researchers for technical careers in the field.



Following our official meeting, we were invited to attend a workshop hosted by UAFAM professors, instructing technicians and researchers on the process for grant applications for the national funding source FONDOCyT. This provided an excellent opportunity to both converse with our newly formed partners and meet many friendly faces involved in research and natural resources management in the local area.