

## Project Update: March

### 2017 Activity 1.1 Field Survey



From August to November, 2016 we conducted fieldwork in the National Park Juan Castro Blanco (NPJCB) to analyze the prevalence and load of chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) in *Lithobates vibicarius*. We also took samples for skin microbiome analysis. We had the support of local researchers from APANAJUCA (local conservation ONG) and undergraduate and graduate students (UCR and UTN) during our fieldwork. Students learned about amphibian conservation and surveying techniques for chytrid fungus and microbiome.

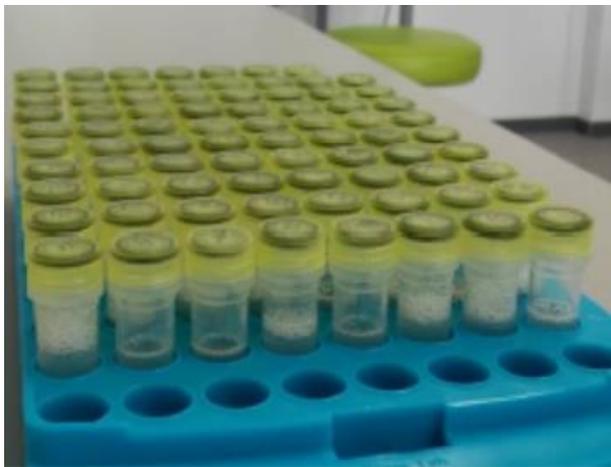


Surveying tadpoles, juveniles and adult frogs of *L. vibicarius* for chytrid fungus and skin microbiome analysis. We captured the animals from six lagoons with different level of habitat disturbance.



We visited six lagoons where *L. vibicarius* reproduces, which are located in the NPJBC and adjacent to the National Park. These sites have different levels of habitat disturbance (e.g., 1) protected area and under recovery, and 2) unprotected area with cattle).

### Activity 1.2 Laboratory work



Since January, we started to prepare the samples collected during our first fieldwork for microbiome analysis at the Institute of Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, Ulm University, Germany. The analysis for chytrid fungus will be conducted in the University of Costa Rica in June, 2017.

### Activity 1.3 Development of the long-term conservation project



We created an official logo for the Vibicaria conservation project. We activated social networks for the project on Facebook and Instagram (Vibicaria Conservation) to show the development of our conservation and research project. We will activate the website of the conservation program (<http://www.vibicaria.ucr.ac.cr/>), which will contain all the information related to the project and the participants. We plan to locate the logo of the Rufford Foundation in our website as one of our funding collaborators.

The national postal service of Costa Rica will create postage stamps of *L. vibicarius* for the 25th anniversary of the NPJCB and will be officially presented on August 28 of the present year. Finally, a short documentary is in process explaining the conservation project for *L. vibicarius*.



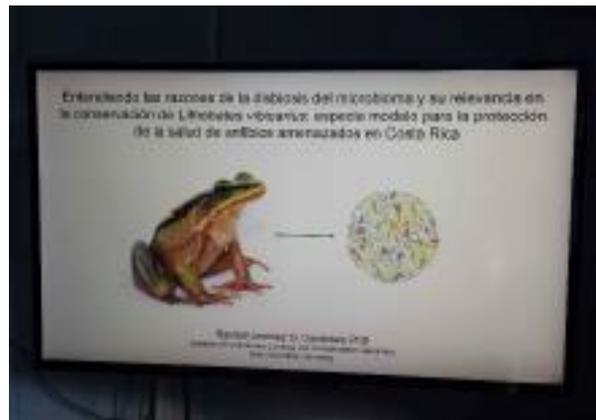
Entrance to the field-site facilities of our long-term conservation project in the NPJCB. The facilities belongs to the local NGO – “APANAJUCA”. The NGO recently renamed the site to “Centro de Investigación Vibicaria” (In English - Vibicaria Research Center), as shown in the left photo, due to their commitment in the conservation of the frog *Lithobates vibicarius* (our study species).



Presentation of the Conservation Project to the local NGO – APANAJUCA, and to the technical committee of the SINAC – ACCVC, Costa Rica. We also had important meetings about the development of the research project with the research committee of the SINAC – AHN.



Presentation of the collaborators for the Vibicaria Conservation Project to the local NGO – APANAJUCA. Here we used the logo of Rufford Foundation, and also for the other presentations we have conducted.



Presentation of the research project to undergraduate students from the University of Costa Rica and APANAJUCA workers.