

Project Update: January 2017

Activities involved a lot of identification of most cryptic species and confirmation of all identifications made in the field.

Amphibians presented the most challenge when it came to identification because:

- They are very numerous compared to other classes of herps.
- The possibility of a single species to have various morphs.



Class Amphibia consists of three orders, Anura (frogs and toads), Caudata (salamanders) and Gymnophiona (caecilians) (Channing & Howell, 2006; AmphibiaWeb, 2015), each having distinctive body type, with about 7,414 known species, many of which are threatened worldwide (AmphibiaWeb, 2015). According to Blackburn & Wake (2011), order Anura has the most surviving species with about 4,000 members worldwide. The Global Amphibian Assessment (IUCN, 2010), found that 32% of the world's amphibians, representing 1,856 species were threatened, and that Neotropical montane and stream-associated species are particularly at risk (Beebee & Griffiths, 2005).

At this phase we have also been involved in selection and designing of the best statistical models to explain the different observations.