

Project Update: August 2017

We have just retrieved 38 camera traps from 21 stations that were placed in the Darien National Park for 4 ½ months. They yielded very interesting results, with many rare and endangered species photo-captured (including jaguar, giant anteater, tapir, and white-lipped peccary). The very first analyses show that the populations of tapirs and white-lipped peccaries in the area are slightly increasing in comparison with the 3 previous years (based on the index of abundance). Tapirs especially were recorded in lowlands, closer to human settlements where they had not reappeared since the first survey in 2014. Moreover, many pictures of both species exhibit juveniles, indicating healthy and reproductive populations. Nevertheless, these preliminary results must be taken with caution as several events of white-lipped peccary poaching are still recorded in the area.

I am still trying to capture and radio-tag white-lipped peccaries with my Embera guides, to determine more accurately how the animals use the landscape. So far, we had two unsuccessful expeditions, one of them precisely due to local poachers who got ahead of us for a few hours in the search of a herd of peccaries, and the other one because of the aggressive/defensive behaviour of all the peccaries of the group that prevented us from darting an individual.



Peccaries



Tapirs