

ProjectUpdate: November 2020

In February 2020, we conducted semi-structured interviews in three towns of the buffer zone in the Cerros de Amotape National Park: 34 people in Rica Playa, 37 in Tablazo, and 42 in La Capitana. Of these 113 people, 69 were males and 44 were females. Most of the interviewees had up to high school education, their main occupation was farming and household activities. In almost every house there are pets (mainly dogs) and livestock (mainly goats). Some pets have been vaccinated and none of them had been sterilised. Regarding human-wildlife conflicts, most people had heard that cougars (*Puma concolor*) prey on goats, but just a few have really seen a predation event. Also, most of them were confident that Sechuran fox (*Lycalopex sechurae*) and common opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*) prey on poultry and eggs, and hawks prey on chicks. Finally, there were a few people that hunt wildlife and most of them had a positive perception about the Cerros de Amotape National Park. We were planning to conduct more interviews in a fourth town, but Covid-19 started, and all Peru went into state of emergency and we were on strict lockdown for over 5 months.

Also, we were forced to postpone our environmental education activities in rural schools; we tried to do online workshops, but there were no WiFi connections in the towns and the cellphone internet was really limited. Thus, we are hoping that next year we could start the planned environmental education activities with schoolchildren and adults. Additionally, we started the camera trap survey in November 2020 after the lockdown and when national parks opened again. In January 2021, we will go back to the field to check the camera traps.





Above: Interviewing rural villagers. Below: A camera trap in the field.





Goats in the buffer zone of the Cerros de Amotape National Park