

Project Update: June 2021

The project “Dispersal of large-seeded plants by tent roosting bats (*Phyllostomidae*) and understory forest conditions in two alluvial forests of El Salvador” started in December 2020 with the training of park rangers and local community leaders in the following topics: (1) The importance of bats: myths and facts; and (2) Methods for the study of bats and their roosts. Nine people participated of the training in Santa Rita Natural Protected Area (NPA) (Photo 1) and eight people in Normandía (NPA) (Photo 2).



For the project so far, we had identified 15 bat tents that are being used as feeding sites (10 in Santa Rita and five in Normandía) (Photo 3). From those feeding sites we have selected six in Santa Rita and four in Normandía, to put the seed traps (photo 4) and start collecting large seeds that bats are dispersing in the forest. We are also taking notes on the type of architecture that each tent has and whether if it is occupied or not by tent-roosting bats (Photo 5).



The research will contribute to the information of tent-roosting bats behaviour in El Salvador. The information obtained by the research will be of great importance as large-seeded plants present in bat diets tend to form species that grow to become canopy trees in the secondary forest or constitute high understorey vegetation.

