

Project Update: September 2021

From March to September 2021, we undertook 25 workshops and 10 walks with people of some communities of the Reserva de la Biosfera El Triunfo in Chiapas, Mexico. These activities correspond to the first phase of the project and have included around 250 people including children, young and old adults.

These activities helped in discussions about wild animals among people. We collected information about the traditional knowledge that people of different ages have about wild animals like jaguar, tapir, resplendent quetzal, horned guan among others.

Different people's experiences have influenced knowledge about wild animals. These elements are different among sexes, age, income activity, and even among communities and religions. Species such as the resplendent quetzal, horn guan, and tapir are more relevant among adults. In the past, horn guan and tapir were common, so people used to eat them; for this reason, they constructed knowledge about their biology and behaviour. In contrast, children's experiences of nature and with wild animals are low, since populations of wild animals are smaller than in the past. Information that children have about some wild animals is from stories told by old people and the environmental work conducted by national and governmental institutions. However, some myths, such as humans are components of the jaguar's diet, are common in communities.

During workshops and walks people have reflected on changes in the cloud forest due to human expansions, deforestation for growing exotic plants, and overuse of wild animals. These reflections and the synergy of traditional and scientific knowledge have helped people to have better attitudes towards wild animal conservation.

Information collected is being processed and analysed to identify some aspects that need to be considered to direct conservation strategies in the short term.

Photographs below:

- Workshop after a walk in the forest of the reserve.
- Workshop with children.
- Participants using a guide to identify a specimen of *Patusflavus* during a walk.



