

Project Update: October 2022

We are very pleased to inform you that our second Rufford Small Grant project entitled "Setting the Basis to Mitigate a Wildlife Climate Crisis: Analysing the Spatio-Temporal Variation of Water Availability for Birds and Mammals in Calakmul, Mexico" is being carried out successfully just with minor modifications in the plan.

Field activities

We introduced our project to local authorities from *Nuevo Conhuas* community at the beginning of the project, however, due to a Covid-19 outbreak in the community we started field activities some months later than planned. Nonetheless, the following activities have been done.

Searching for water bodies

During the first month our effort was focused on searching water bodies. In total, we located 98 water bodies: 30 small rock pools (*sartenejas*), 66 water-filled tree holes and even two small ponds (*aguadas*).



Small rock pools (*sartenejas*) located within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (Mexico).



Small waterholes (*aguadas*) located during our field activities.



Water-filled tree holes in two common tree species: Yashnik (*Vitex gaumeri*, left) and ramon (*Brosimum alicastrum*, right).

Monitoring of water bodies

We set up camera traps in 64 different water bodies: 22 *sartenejas*, 20 water-filled tree holes and 22 *aguadas*. This sampling effort has generated almost 40,000 videos of wildlife visiting the water bodies. Up to date, we have recorded 55 bird species and 24 mammal species visiting the water bodies. Overall, the great curassow (*Crax rubra*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) were the most common species. However, we also recorded species such as white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*), tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Yucatan brown brocket (*Mazama pandora*), margay (*Leopardus wiedii*), king vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) and ocellated turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*).



Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*).



Jaguar (*Panthera onca*).



King vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*).