

Project Update: September 2021

This month, we established our acoustic monitoring sites in the forest around the Bacalar lake. Much of the terrain is private property, therefore we depend on the support of the local people to grant us access to the forest. We got to know the Bacalar community as very welcoming, open and well aware of the necessity to conserve the environment. People got out of their way to show us around and were very interested in our acoustic recorders. To spread the word, inform the community and get more people involved, we published an informational video presenting the terrestrial part of our project in the context of a local network meeting (in Spanish):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UySAq60T96A>

We also started a collaboration with the National Institute of Forest, Agriculture and Livestock that conserves more than 80,000 ha of forest in the area to set up acoustic monitoring sites. We also met with research collaborators to discuss how the terrestrial acoustic monitoring can be related to the monitoring of the lake water quality.

We set up the first acoustic recorders for a pilot recording, experimenting what would be the best way to mount the devices in the forest. To protect our Audiomoth recorders from water damage, we hired a handyman to build little roofs that can be attached to the same tree as the recorders and thereby provide shelter from rain.



Photo 1: The scenic Bacalar lake attracts many tourists thanks to its multiple tones of blue and the beautiful sunrises one can observe over the water surface.



Photo 2: Testing how our Audiomoth recorders can be protected from rain using little roofs made of recycled PVC pipes. Photo 3: All work was carried out following the principles of “Best Practices in Field Primatology in the Age of COVID-19”. Among others, team members were tested for COVID-19 before starting field work.

