

Project Update: July 2023

Activities and goals already accomplished.

July 2022 to March 2023.

At the moment we report the following activities accomplished, which have been ordered by study site and type of activity.

Sampling in National Parks and dissemination of Results.

- **Sierra de las Quijadas National Park:**

We have carried out two camera trap samplings with RAPERLD grids (30km²), one in the dry season (July-August 2022) and one in the wet season (November 2022- January 2023).

We developed one virtual workshop to interchange and disseminate results of our investigations in mammal ecology in the park. This was developed in September and October 2022.

We are preparing posters about different aspects of mammal ecology that will be presented in RAE (Argentinian Ecological Society's Congress) and SAREM Congress (Argentinian Mammal Study Society). This will be during October and November 2023.

We have carried out interviews with 10 different families or individuals in the northern region of San Luis Province and plan to do some more (at least five) in the near future.

We plan to take the mammal diversity fair during August/September (date according to the national park administration possibilities).

- **Talampaya National Park:**

We sampled 3 months of the wet season (February to April 2023) using a RAPERLD grid with 30 Camera traps. We are currently sampling this park, with active camera traps during the 3 months of the dry season (from June to August 2023). These cameras will be collected in August and the data will be analysed afterwards.

We plan to take the mammal diversity fair to Talampaya National Park and organise a workshop with national park administration Staff, planned for August 2023.

Artistic Nature trails Project:

We have designed and projected one interpretation trail in each of four Private Reserves in northern San Luis, trails and themes were adjusted to local's requirements and interests):

1- San Francisco Huarpe Reserve Project: We have projected and designed one trail of native art and nature. The trail has six stops or stations, each of which a flora and fauna element is represented, with special focus on cultural values and native stories of fauna.

2-El Medio Reserve: We have designed a trail that will be the basis for a theatric bird watching – trail. It has seven stops, each of which presents a species of the local bird assemblage (spotted and located in previous visits and with aid of local family).

3-Los Talas Establishment in La Florida: we have designed and marked an interpretation trail of five stops or stations, and we are articulating with a local writer, who writes stories about fauna, to situate her stories in the different stations of the trail.

4-La Siempre Viva Private Reserve: We are currently designing a trail that focusses on musical animals of the native fauna, having thought of a trail with different animals (insects, birds, mammals, frogs) and we are in the process of selecting species and stations, for which we are working with the landowner.

Interviews with community members and locals:

We have developed interviews to neighbours in the North of San Luis (10 in total - two in San Francisco, two in Hualtaran, two in El Talita, four in Lujan), including articulated work with collaborators of the Quimilero Project, from Cordoba National University. We are planning to complete, hopefully, 15 interviews by the end of the project. Interviews are made with locals that generally inhabit areas with limited communication, in rural surroundings and low accessibility. Data will be analysed, and graphic material will be designed to share the findings.

Publications and Congress presentations:

In 2022 our group published the paper: Taphonomic signature of *Puma concolor* in bone remains in Sierra de las Quijadas National Park (Alvarez et al. 2022), which focusses on the study of *Puma concolor*, the top predator of our ecosystem. Also, we have recently published an article on the small mammals that are predated by *Bubo virginianus* in Sierra de las Quijadas (Puegher et al. 2023), which is related to the results obtained in the first Rufford project, continued now, with this second project.

In November 2022 our group presented four posters related to mammal ecology in the SAREM Congress developed in Iguazu, Misiones (see attached abstracts). At the moment we are preparing three articles about different aspects of native mammal ecology, of San Luis and La Rioja provinces, expecting to submit them between august and December 2023.

Didactic Material: We are currently working in two field guides. In different states of advance:

- 1- Guide for San Luis rodent's identification through skull characteristics (70% advanced).
- 2- Guide for the identification of mammals through their footprints and trails (40% advanced).

Posters: We designed two posters focusing on native mammals and other two focusing on fauna of relevance for human health (poisonous snakes and arachnids). These last posters were designed on demand of the local inhabitants and expressed the need to be able to identify native poisonous animals. These posters were created as a tool to communicate how to prevent accidents and how to encourage co-habitation (human-other animals) in natural ecosystems (find documents attached)

Illustrated protocols (80% advanced): We have currently illustrated three RAPELD protocols and obtained a final design for the first one of RAPELD Parcels' installation. We are currently working on the design and compilation of protocol#2, for the Georeferenced of RAPELD parcels; and Protocol#3: small mammal sampling.

Find attached some photos of the activities that have been achieved (attached files).

Table of Future programmed activities - Modified plan for 2023

August	September	October	November	December
Order and digitalization of San Francisco Data (in articulation with UNSL students and teachers)	Trail building in San Francisco and El Medio	Trail building in La Siempre viva	Trail building in La Florida	PPBio Congress
Posters and material Printing Activities with the community- leisure activities in the North of San Luis and Talampaya	Activities with the community - leisure activities - Quijadas	Presentation of books and Material about biodiversity- Illustration contest	PPBio Congress organization	Final report design and submission
Short communication- Small Mammals in PNT preparation	Short communication submission	Paper 2: Small mammals in SQNP	Paper 2 submission	

Relatos del Tuyum (2) Short story for young readers Second story-illustrations	Relatos del Tuyum (2) Short story for young readers Second story-illustrations	Design and edition of digital version Relatos del Tuyum (2) Short story for young readers Second story	Design and edition of Relatos del Tuyum (2) short story for young readers	Final edition of Relatos del Tuyum (2) short story for young readers
Elaborating, creating, illustrating and writing of Guides	Final Edition of skull Guide	Edition and revision of Footprint and trails Guide	Edition and revision of Footprint and trails Guide	
Audiovisual material preparation	Audiovisual material edition	. Audiovisual material edition and Distribution	Audiovisual material Distribution	

Justification of schedule change: Due to logistic problems and the changes in costs and delays that we could not prevent, we had to postpone some activities and so, I am forced to ask you if it is possible to give in the final report by December 2023 (instead of July/August as was expected since we will not be able to develop all activities in time, as shown in the schedule above).



The team mammal sampling.



Fieldwork.



Tolypeutes mataco-Mataco bola.



Dolichotis patagonum-Mara.



Guanaco-*Lama guanicoe*-PNT.



Mimetic-Mara-D. patagonum.



Puma.



Camera trap.

