

Project Update July 2024

During the first 6 months of the project (July to December 2023), we bought the equipment required for the field work and processed the government permission to support our monitoring. We visited various places, looking for conditions that allowed us to accomplish our activities. We are monitoring the "Estación Biológica La Florida" and Villahermosa's urban and suburban areas. Here, we have been doing hummingbird surveys and observations of flowers, looking for hummingbird-plant interactions. In La Florida, we identified six hummingbird species and 15 plant species; in Villahermosa, we have registered five hummingbird species and nine plant species. In Villahermosa, hummingbirds visit flowers of very emblematic plant species for the cultural identity of Tabasco, such as the Maculí (*Tabebuia rosea*).

With the information collected in the field, our team reproduces plant species (from seeds and cuttings) for pollination gardens. We have established three urban gardens in Villahermosa: ECOSUR Unidad Villahermosa, Yumka' Center for Interpretation and Coexistence with Nature, and La Petrolera Park. For the garden in La Petrolera, we are combining expertise with one of the most influential researchers in Manatíes, Master Darwin Jiménez. In this park and other areas into La Laguna de las Ilusiones, we use pollinator plants as barriers to protect manatee grass foraging areas. This action is vital for manatee survival because one of the most substantial threats to the survival of manatees is the lack of food due to urban transformation.

One of the best ways to achieve profound changes in our relationship with nature is through educational activities with children and teenagers. We are collaborating with the Jean Piaget School in Villahermosa, where we are designing a pollinator garden with one teacher and two students. Our activities have also included workshops with parents and other students about pollination, plants, and the importance of this interaction in our lives. Additionally, we have participated in five outreach activities in public places such as parks and Villahermosa's planetarium, including games, drawing activities, and photographic expositions about pollinators, flower colours, and pollination gardens. We are using these activities to give people seeds and plants of native plants to start their pollination garden. Looking for more nature-friendly options, we used coconut palm shells as pots to transport and deliver the plants. We created an email for this initiative looking for direct interaction with people who want to receive new plants and information.

<https://www.facebook.com/EcosurVillahermosa/posts/pfbid02ewy2Kt21m5Fz5AxXP2UJ4TNNRMH4aAYEB99vR7qSK9eoLBT4hBX6PDPf5mAKeS2l>
<https://www.facebook.com/EcosurVillahermosa/posts/pfbid0Kx9UgPPxsWmfYLkZAvN4nW9AgQ1zWgFv5dcdNz8kss2qMHbC5Y3z96UnznTLnFBpl>