

## Project Update: April 2009

During the reproductive season of amphibians we recorded diversity data in the field.

Surveys were made at night in 22 ponds in the study region. The number of amphibians was registered through visual encounter surveys. Also an acoustic estimation was made for each site by recording the numbers of calling males. Local habitat variables and chemical composition of water was registered at each pond.

Preliminary analyses show a relation between amphibian species richness and local heterogeneity of sites. At present we are working on the analysis of landscape variables to detect the existence of a relation between land use, forest cover and amphibian diversity through the analysis of satellite images.

Twelve local small producers were involved with our work, since 19 ponds are located in private lands. Three ponds were located in 2 reserve areas belonging to the government (Reserva Natural provincial Chancaní y Reserva provincial Monte de las Barrancas).



Left: A home typical of small local producers adjacent to a dam for livestock. Right: A temporary pond surrounded by degraded Chaco forest.



Left: Survey of amphibians in their breeding sites. ©Silvana Longo. Right: *Lepidobatrachus llanensis* - a rare amphibian that inhabits the forests of the Chaco region in Córdoba.