

Project Update: April 2011

After walking 182 km it is sad to say that there has been no sign of white-lipped peccaries in either of the study areas. It is still early days and there have been (unconfirmed) sightings of peccaries in both areas in 2011. So hopefully with increased effort we will get close to our objective of 50 peccary locations. However, it is worth noting that it is easier to see tracks of jaguar than tracks of white-lipped peccary in the study areas. This is not a good indication as if there were healthy populations of white-lipped peccaries (prey species) they should be far more abundant and easier to find.

The research effort is not wasted. Collaborations with other Brazilian universities and researchers means that faecal samples we find from felids, tapir and deer will be used for genetic analysis. The information we collect regarding the location of other species such as jaguar and puma are also being shared with conservation groups (<http://www.procarivoros.org.br/en/>).

Further details of the project activities (including research diary and project evaluation) are available at: <http://peccary-tapir.blogspot.com/>



Left: Cleared area used to monitor tracks on one of the trails in Núcleo Caraguatatuba.
Right: The study area at Núcleo Caraguatatuba (Serra do Mar state park).



Left: The study area at Intervales state park (photo courtesy of Jose Moreira). Right: One of the research trails at Intervales state park (photo courtesy of Jose Moreira).