

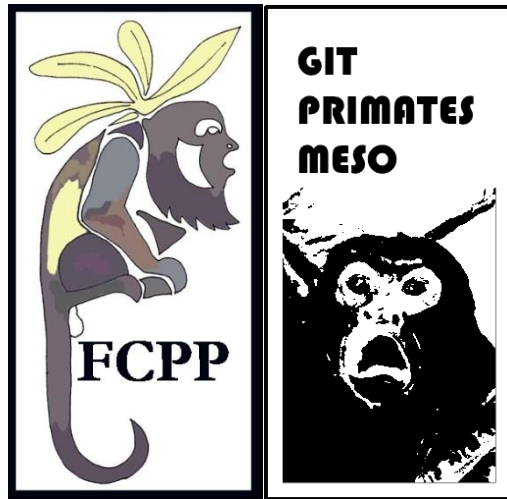
IV Mesoamerican Primate Symposium

“Primates: a key for the forest structure”

Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation (MSBC)

August 22 - 26 2016.

Organizers



Fundación Pro-Conservación de los Primates Panameños (FCPP)

Grupo de Interés Temático (GIT) Primates Mesoamericanos

Logistic support



International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Description of the event

The Fundación Pro-Conservación de los Primates Panameños (FCPP) and the GIT Primates Meso and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are happy to invite all professionals interested in the study of non-human primates from Mesoamerica to the IV Symposium of Mesoamerican Primates to be carried out in the XX Mesoamerican Congress for the Biology and Conservation in Belize, from 22 to 26 of August, 2016.

Our desire is to reunite most of the scientists of the region, especially the ones interested in primate studies and their conservation, to talk about their population changes, ecology, and conservation. In this meeting we will be following up on the goals set at the III Mesoamerican Primate Symposium in 2012 in Panama, where we established a working plan. This year we will have a special demonstration activity to explain the Orion Camera System (OCS) and how this method invented by FCPP helps us study and obtain new information about arboreal mammals, without the need of climbing trees. This method was published in Volume 18 of our prestigious journal Mesoamericana in 2014.

Objectives

The objectives for this meeting are:

- a) To share information about studies related with primates in the Mesoamerican region
- b) To share knowledge about OCS, so we can help other scientists interested in the studies of the arboreal fauna. This is important to expand our knowledge not only in primates but other cryptic, nocturnal, and strictly arboreal mammals. This tool will help people to understand the role seed dispersers play, which are a key component for the structure of the forest, as well as understand the dynamics between predators and prey in the Neotropics.

c) To assemble the GIT Primates Meso and plan new activities that will emphasize the importance of our group and our priorities to Mesoamerican scientific studies.

Methods

We will be discussing these topics through the following activities:

- 1) Opening speech (FCPP and GIT Primates Meso)
- 2) Magisterial speech
- 3) Oral presentations (10 min. of content and 5 min. for questions)
- 4) Explanation of OCS and how to install the system
- 5) We encourage participants to prepare didactic material from their own projects to share and exchange information (could be t-shirts, art crafts, bookmarks, etc.). There will be time to informally share conservation activities that could be effective in each country.
- 6) There will be an open discussion about organizing a project led by FCPP and GIT Primates Meso, using OCS across countries from Mesoamerica. The objective will be to publish the results of this pilot project. If you are interested in participating in this project, please send an email to our account attached here.
- 7) We will have a round-table discussion among interested participants where we will discuss topics related to primate conservation, the conservation status of the species in Mesoamerica, and how this has been changing the recent evaluation at the IUCN, not yet published (Enero, 2015).
- 8) Official Meeting of GIT Primates Meso

The capacity of the conference room will be for around 50 participants. We prefer applications to be prepared in English; if the speakers choose to speak in Spanish, their powerpoint presentations should be in English. We require the abstracts to be sent in English as well, explaining in order the introduction, study area, methods, results and discussion and conclusions, with pertinent statistics. Word limit for abstracts is 250. We will be receiving abstracts from now until May 30th.

To participate please send abstracts following the specifications by the from now to May 30th, to our email contact: primatesmeso2016@gmail.com. Relevant topics include: species distributions, population studies, new reports, findings, primate interactions with agricultural landscapes, primate roles in the ecosystem, and conservation. We also expect to talk about the recently deceased howler monkeys in the region, so we welcome those who can prepare a presentation about this topic. We also encourage participants to attend that could have new ideas about potentially successful techniques or methods in conservation.

Sincerely,

Pedro G. Méndez-Carvajal

Coordinator

Grupo Temático de Primates Mesoamericanos (GIT Primates Meso)