

2020 Mammals Team - December 16, 2019

We are excited to continue the excellent work of the Forman Rainforest Project in the Costa Rican rainforest.

In 2020, we plan to gather more data on what is in the Sarapiquí region of the rainforest. In prior years our project has recorded signs of Leopard, *Tayassu tajacu*, Puma, Ocelots, Margay, Jaguars, and the *Tapirus bairdii* in the form of trail cameras and plaster prints. Another organization has done some studies that can be found [here](#).

We will also track large cats and their movements. We hope to have this data to share with Panthera, a nonprofit conservational organization dedicated to protecting large cats, to prevent poaching of the beautiful cats within the Costa Rican Rainforest. Our data on cats will hopefully give us a better understanding of which areas large cats move through and how we can prevent poaching. This is important because majestic hunters like Jaguars are crucial to the ecosystem and to keep the rainforest alive. But it is also crucial that we protect these animals from extinction as there are so few of them left.

We have also sighted non-large cat mammals such as *Basyprocata punctata*, *Nasua nasua*, *Philander opossum*, and *Eira barbara*. We hope to continue collecting data on our field study of the area where we use traps to catch small rodents for archiving. Our rodents project could reveal more data on the effect of shrinking natural habitats as logging increases within the area.

Rodents account for the majority of secondary consumer's food supply. There has been other research done by other individuals on bats in Costa Rica that can be found [here](#). In our study, our bat findings have largely focused on *Melanomys caliginous*. We hope to find more data on the *Melanomys caliginous* bats. Our bat's data might reveal a population census.

These are the hopes and goals of the 2020 Mammals Team.