

Shooting the documentary “Tras los últimos primates mexicanos” (Seeking the last Mexican primates)

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Abstract

The documentary “Tras los últimos primates mexicanos” (Seeking the last Mexican primates) is about the Mexican primates, and includes information on their lives, their ecological roles and the main threats they face, as well as the possible solutions to their current situation. This 50-minute long documentary is a coproduction between the Mexican Primatological Association (AMP <http://www.primates-amp.org.mx/>) and BIOMEDEA, a Spanish nonprofit association for the conservation of nature (<http://www.biomedea.es/>). It was filmed by four highly qualified filmmakers from BIOMEDEA. On March, 2010, the Primate Society of Great Britain awarded us a £500 grant, which was complemented by a £250 grant from the Born Free Foundation. This money was used to cover part of the transport expenses for the BIOMEDEA team. The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Instituto Politécnico Nacional, and the Universidad Veracruzana, covered most of the transport, accommodation and meal expenses in Mexico.



The three Mexican primates (*Alouatta palliata*, *A. pigra*, and *Ateles groffroyi*) were filmed in places where long-term research on primates has been carried out (Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz; Punta Laguna, Yucatán; Calakmul, Campeche; Palenque, Chiapas; and Lacandona, Chiapas). The filming was carried out with high definition cameras (SONY HDV-Z7 and SONY HC3) between February and April 2011 and also included

interviews with some of the most important primatologists in Mexico (Dr. Ernesto Rodríguez-Luna, Dr. Juan Carlos Serio-Silva, Dr. Gabriel Ramos-Fernandez, and Dr. Pedro A. D. Días). From May 2011 to date BIOMEDEA is editing the material with professional programs (Final Cut Pro and Combustion), and we expect that that the film will be finished by July 2012, in order to present it during the next IPS Congress

(XXIV Congress of the International Primatological Society, August 12-17 2012, Cancun, Mexico).

After this formal presentation, we will distribute the documentary in different Mexican TV channels (e.g. TV-UNAM, ONCE-TV and 22 channels). AMP will also use the documentary in workshops in rural communities. Copies will be distributed to educational centres

and government offices. A low resolution version will be available in the AMP and BIOMEDEA websites. We hope this documentary will allow the dissemination of scientific



knowledge in a broad and simple way to the various sectors of the society, as audiovisual means are one of the most powerful tools for environmental education, allowing the message to reach a large audience.