

Final Report Summary

We have conducted five field surveys along the elevational gradient of Las Yungas MAB Reserve: three harvested, and two protected areas. We have found no significant difference in the abundance of cavities along the gradient but there were significant differences between sites that were harvested and those un-harvested. Snags were found to be a main component in all of the forests stands but they had more useable cavities in higher elevation zones. The main trees that contained useable cavities changed as the vegetation community changes along the gradient.

In low elevation zones (piedmont forest) *Phyllostylon rhamnoides* and *Calycophyllum multiflorum* were the species with most cavities, in intermediate elevation (montane forest) *Chrysophyllum gonocarpum* and *Diatenopteryx sobifolia*, and in high elevation zones (cloud forest) *Junglans australis* and *Podocarpus parlatorei*. Cavities trees in cloud forests had a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 0.69 ± 0.05 cm, 0.44 ± 0.04 cm in montane forests, and 0.43 ± 0.03 cm in piedmont forests. Cavities excavated by woodpeckers were relatively scarce in all of the sites, most of the cavities resulted from a decomposition process (i.e., branches that fell, injuries). The diversity of owls decreased as we ascended in elevation and was higher in protected areas than in harvested sites. We will conduct our last part of the project next week when we inspect cavities to see if they are being used by wildlife and we will finish bird surveys. We hope to have the final report before the end of the year.