I spent 5 months in the field from January to June 2023. The field site is the Taboga Forest Reserve, in
the Guanacaste province of Costa Rica. My main research questions were relating to behavioural
flexibility and how white-faced capuchin monkeys change their behaviour and vocalisations
according to changes in their surrounding environment. I was particularly interested in whether
social influences, such as the presence of the alpha male, would affect social behaviour. I also wanted
to investigate how behaviour changes depending on the environmental context and where the
monkeys were in forest. The area is fragmented and surrounded by farmland and sugar cane
plantations. The capuchins spend time in the interior and on the edge of the forest, where they are
more likely to be exposed to humans and farm machinery. To do this I recorded focal data in different
parts of their range, as well as recording acoustic data using a microphone and recorder. I collected
300 twitter vocalizations, 80 mild vocal threats, 87 screams, and 68 social peeps from 18 adult
individuals. I am currently analysing differences when the alpha male is present, when higher ranking
individuals are present, and when more group members are present. I will also assess differences at
the anthropogenic edge, crop edge and forest interior. This research will provide a deeper
understanding of capuchin communication, which may be more complex and flexible than previously
thought. Furthermore, we will gain insights into the evolutionary drivers of complex communication,
and the social factors that can shape vocal communication, and the way in which vocal signals are
used. Funding from EHAP helped me to cover costs of living at the field site for this period of time, as
well as local transportation. This funding therefore made my field season possible.