



Effects of a wind farm installation on the understory bat community of a highly biodiverse tropical region in Mexico

Miguel Briones-Salas¹, Mario C. Lavariega¹ and Claudia E. Moreno²

¹Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación Para el Desarrollo Integral Regional, Unidad Oaxaca, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Santa Cruz Xoxocotlán, Oaxaca, Mexico

²Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, Instituto de Ciencias Básicas e Ingeniería, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Mineral de la Reforma, Hidalgo, Mexico

ABSTRACT

Wind energy has rapidly become an important alternative among renewable energies, and it is generally considered clean. However, little is known about its impact at the level of ecological communities, especially in biodiversity hotspots. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is a highly biodiverse region in Mesoamerica, and has the highest potential for generating wind energy in Mexico. To assess the effects of installing a wind farm on the understory bat community in a landscape of fragmented habitat, we assessed its diversity and composition over four stages of installation (site preparation, construction, and two stages of operation). We captured 919 bats belonging to 22 species. Species richness, functional diversity and phylogenetic diversity decreased during construction and the first stage of operation. However, these components of biodiversity increased during the second stage of operation, and species composition began to resemble that of the site preparation stage. No species considered as sensitive to disturbance was recorded at any stage. This is the first study to reveal the diversity of a Neotropical bat community after wind turbines begin to operate.

Subjects Biodiversity, Conservation Biology, Ecology, Zoology

Keywords Wind energy, Turbines, Resilience, Chiroptera, Phylogenetic diversity, Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Functional diversity, Species diversity, Species richness, Oaxaca

INTRODUCTION

To mitigate global climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy generated from renewable resources has gained interest as an alternative to that produced from fossil sources (*Pazheri, Othman & Malik, 2014*). Wind energy is a renewable source considered safe and clean because it does not have a severe impact on the atmosphere and health, and in recent decades its use has increased considerably around the world (*Resch et al., 2008; Moriarty & Honnery, 2012*). Currently, more than 100 countries use wind energy (*WWEA, 2015*). In Latin America the production of wind energy is relatively recent, Brazil (5,962 megawatts of installed capacity) and Mexico (2,621 megawatts of installed capacity) stand out in Latin America (*SENER, 2015; WWEA, 2015*), and are also countries with high levels of biodiversity (*Mittermeier et al., 1998*).

While wind farms do not emit greenhouse gases, they negatively impact biological populations, mainly by killing flying animals (bats and birds) that collide with blades and

Submitted 18 January 2017

Accepted 16 May 2017

Published 15 June 2017

Corresponding author

Miguel Briones-Salas,
mbriones@ipn.mx

Academic editor

James Roper

Additional Information and
Declarations can be found on
page 13

DOI 10.7717/peerj.3424

 Copyright

2017 Briones-Salas et al.

Distributed under

Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0

OPEN ACCESS

towers; presenting barriers to migratory routes; modifying habitats during the construction of roads, towers, and platforms; altering the landscape; and making noise (Arnett *et al.*, 2007; Baerwald & Barclay, 2009; Garvin *et al.*, 2011). Most of the studies addressing the impact of wind farms on bats by collision have been carried out in Europe and USA at the population level (Arnett *et al.*, 2007; Kunz *et al.*, 2007; Rydell *et al.*, 2010; Cryan *et al.*, 2014; Arnett *et al.*, 2016). Only recently have Ferri, Battisti & Soccini (2016) analyzed this impact at the community level for a Mediterranean mountain landscape in central Italy.

In the Neotropics there are few studies analyzing bat diversity on wind farms or the effects of turbines on these organisms. Recent studies in Brazil (Barros, Gastal de Magalhaes & Rui, 2015) and Puerto Rico (Rodríguez-Durán & Feliciano-Robles, 2015) describe mortality caused by collision with turbines after their construction. In Mexico studies have focused on assessing bat species richness near wind farms (Briones-Salas, Peralta-Pérez & García-Luis, 2013; Muñoz *et al.*, 2016), documenting the main scavengers that remove bat carcasses (Villegas-Patracá *et al.*, 2012), and analyzing the effect of the spatial attributes of vegetation cover near turbines on species composition and bat fatalities (Bolívar-Cimé *et al.*, 2016).

The first commercial wind farm in Mexico began operating in 1994 on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in the state of Oaxaca, southern Mexico. By June 2015, there were 30 wind farms operating in Mexico, and it is expected that the country will produce 11,585 megawatts by 2028, 4.42 times its current production (SENER, 2015). Oaxaca has the greatest wind power capacity in the country. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec can produce a lot of wind energy because of the strong winds year round that peak from November to February; the latter are known as *nortes* or *tehuanos* and reach 8–12 m/s (Elliott *et al.*, 2004). In this region there are 20 wind farms operating, which together are known as the Aeolian Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Castillo, 2011).

The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is an area of exceptionally high biodiversity, endemism, and population differentiation for several taxa (Peterson, Soberón & Sánchez-Cordero, 1999), and it lies within the Mesoamerican hotspot (Olson & Dinerstein, 2002). Of the 150 species of mammals on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca, 72 of them are bats (Briones-Salas, Cortés-Marcial & Lavariega, 2015). Neotropical bats are a diverse group that plays important roles in ecological processes (e.g., insect predators, pollinators, and seed dispersers; Ghanem & Voigt, 2012). They offer an interesting group for studying habitat disturbance (García-Morales, Badano & Moreno, 2013; Bolívar-Cimé *et al.*, 2014; Ripperger *et al.*, 2015).

To assess the effect of wind farm installation on the understory bat community of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, we carried out a long-term study analyzing the biodiversity and composition of a fragmented landscape. We sampled bats over four stages of the installation: site preparation, construction of the wind farm, and two operational stages (immediate and delayed effects). Specifically, we assessed species richness, abundance, species diversity, functional diversity, phylogenetic diversity and species composition at each of the four stages. Some studies in the Neotropics have found that species diversity is not always a useful measure to assess changes in bat communities (Medina *et al.*, 2007; Harvey & Villalobos, 2007). Thus, in addition to species diversity, we are including other dimensions of biodiversity, such as functional and phylogenetic diversity, in order to assess those changes. The assessment of functional and phylogenetic diversity has provided

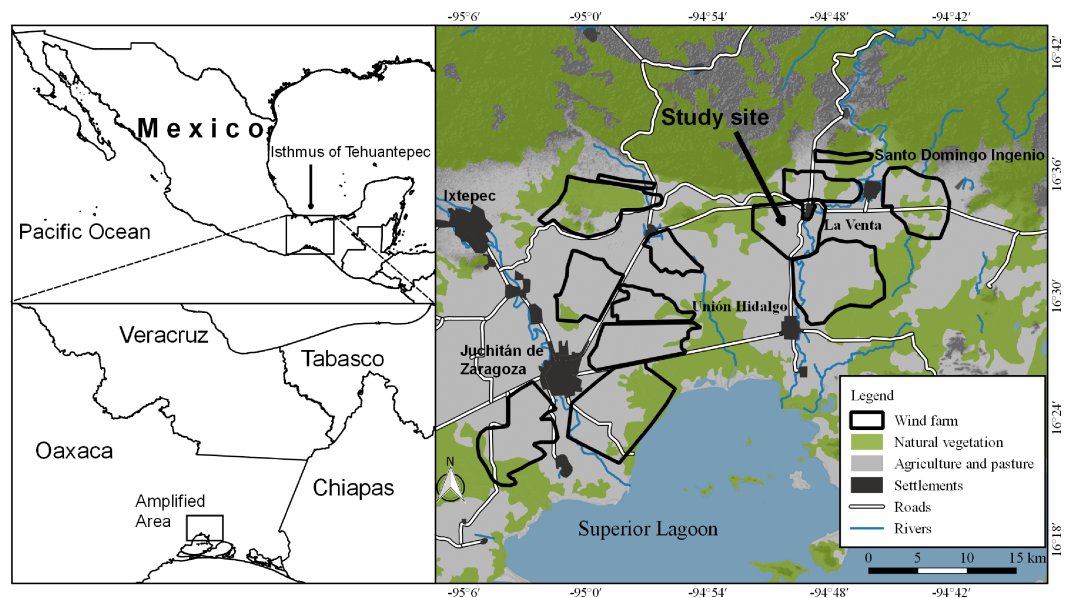


Figure 1 Study area. Location of sampling area on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, southern Mexico.

a more comprehensive assessment of environmental and spatial mechanisms that drive the assembly of bat communities in human-modified landscapes (*Cisneros, Fagan & Willing, 2014*).

Our focus was the bat community that flies in the understory and is not directly affected per se by turbine collisions, but rather by habitat changes related to the farm installation. Given that high biodiversity in ecological communities is positively related to ecosystem resilience after disturbance (*Gunderson, 2000*), and considering the high diversity of bats in the region, we do not expect the magnitude of the disturbance to have a significant impact on the bat community.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The study was done in La Venta, southeastern Oaxaca ($16^{\circ}31'–16^{\circ}34'N$, $94^{\circ}48'–94^{\circ}51'W$; 25 m a.s.l.), in the municipality of Juchitán de Zaragoza (*Fig. 1*). The climate is warm sub-humid with a mean annual temperature of $22^{\circ}C$ and the temperature of the coldest month is $18^{\circ}C$. During the driest month precipitation is 0–60 mm, and mean annual precipitation is 1,000 mm (*Trejo, 2004*). The natural vegetation is fragmented, with corn and sorghum fields and cattle pastures making up the landscape matrix, along with remnants of tropical deciduous and subdeciduous forest and secondary, halophilous and riparian vegetation along the Chicapa River (*INEGI, 2013; Muñoz et al., 2016*). There is also a network of irrigation channels.

We worked at a wind farm installed between 2007 and 2010. It has 167 wind turbines (*SENER, 2015*). Our study comprised four stages: (1) Site preparation, when the farm was delimited and the first roads constructed, characterized by low but continuous

human activity; (2) The construction stage when the turbines, underground fiber optics network and a substation were installed. More roads and drainage along them were built, and mounting platforms were also installed. Human activity was intense; (3) and (4) Two operational stages, 15 and 30 months after construction, when the turbines were functioning, fences had been built and technicians frequently checked the physical conditions of each component in the turbines, in addition to doing preventative maintenance. Human activity decreased but was still regular ([AMDEE, 2016](#)).

Estimation of habitat modification

To estimate habitat modification related to the wind farm installation, we assessed landscape composition and configuration in a 1 km buffer around the wind farm (47.30 ha). We made a non-supervised classification of 2008, 2013 and 2015 Landsat remote sensing images, corresponding at the beginning, middle and at the end of this study, with the ISODATA algorithm, using the QGIS 2.6.1 software. We used 30 coverage classes and grouped them into forest cover (including forests, secondary vegetation and riparian corridors) and non-forest cover (agriculture, urban settlements, roads, etc.). Then, we estimated landscape structure parameters (forest cover area, number of patches and edge length).

Sampling design

We carried out the study between 2007 and 2014 monitoring the bat community during the four stages described above. For each stage we sampled bats monthly (three or four nights per month) with 6–12 mist nets (12 m long) (see [Tables S1](#) and [S2](#), for details on netting effort). Bats were sampled from April 2007 to March 2008 during the site preparation stage. During the construction stage we sampled from November 2010 to August 2011. During operational stage 1 (immediate effect) we sampled 15 months after construction, from December 2012 to September 2013. During operational stage 2 (delayed effect) we sampled 30 months after construction, from March to December 2014. We sampled bats over 10 months each stage, and then pooled these data including both rainy and dry periods of the year at each stage. In this way, we account for the potential temporal variability in bat communities, and assume that seasonality did not influence our comparisons among stages.

We hung nets near water and trails among vegetation, 1.5–5 m above the ground. Thus, sampling was directed towards understory bats, especially families Phyllostomidae and Mormoopidae, that are easily caught with mist nets. Our study is not focused on bats directly impacted by turbine collisions. High flying aerial insectivores (Emballonuridae, Molossidae and Vespertilionidae families) are less likely to be caught in the understory and can be underrepresented by the sampling method ([Galindo-González, 2004](#)).

We placed nets in different locations during each sampling stage, to include heterogeneous areas within the landscape and when possible, trap locations remained the same over years. Nets were open for 7–8 h each night (see [Tables S1](#) and [S2](#), for details on bat sampling) and checked every 30 min. We did not sample at least three days before and after full moon, to avoid capture bias due to the bat lunar phobia ([Saldaña-Vázquez & Munguía-Rosas, 2013](#)). There were no extreme climatic events during the years of sampling: mean wind velocity per year ranged from 10 to 11 m/s; mean monthly temperature per year was 24–25 °C, and mean monthly relative humidity per year ranged from 78 to 80%.

We carried out bat sampling with permission of the Mexican Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FAUT-0037). We handled bats according to the guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the use of wild mammals in research ([Gannon & Sikes, 2007](#)). We identified bats to species using taxonomic keys ([Álvarez, Álvarez-Castañeda & López, 1994](#); [Medellín, Arita & Sánchez, 2008](#)), and updated species names according to [Ramírez-Pulido et al. \(2014\)](#). We deposited some voucher specimens in the Mammal Collection of CIIDIR-Oaxaca, IPN (OAX-MA 026.04.97), but the majority of the bats were released where captured.

Data analysis

First, we assessed inventory completeness to determine if sampling effort at each stage was sufficient to capture an adequate representation of the species that could be captured with our sampling method. To this end, we calculated sample coverage (C_m), which measures sample completeness taking into account the total number of individuals captured and the number of rare species. The sampling deficit ($1 - C_m$) represents the probability that the next individual captured will belong to a species that has not been recorded previously in the inventory ([Chao & Jost, 2012](#)), i.e., it estimates the proportion of the total individuals in the assemblage that belong to undetected species.

We compared total species richness among sampling stages using species accumulation curves. To standardize sampling effort we used the individual-based interpolation (rarefaction) and extrapolation multinomial model, with 95% unconditional confidence intervals ([Colwell et al., 2012](#)). This procedure uses a unified statistical framework to plot a unified species accumulation curve to the maximum number of individuals in the stage with the greatest bat abundance. We calculated the species accumulation curves, extrapolations and their SD in EstimateS 9.1 software ([Colwell, 2013](#)).

To compare bat biodiversity between construction stages we measured different components: species diversity, phylogenetic diversity and functional diversity. We calculated species diversity as the true diversity order 1 (exponential of Shannon's entropy index), which measures the effective number of species taking into account all the species according to their relative abundance in the community ([Jost, 2006](#)).

We used the PD index to measure phylogenetic diversity ([Faith, 1992](#); [Faith, 2016](#)), which measures the distance between pairs of species as the length of their branches in the phylogenetic tree of the group. A high PD value indicates a high degree of evolutionary diversification among species. For this, we used the phylogeny of mammals proposed by [Bininda-Emonds et al. \(2007\)](#). We also calculated phylogenetic variability with the PSV index of [Helmus et al. \(2007\)](#), to determine the degree of phylogenetic relatedness among the species caught. This index has a value of 1 at maximum evolutionary variability, and decreases toward zero as variability is lost and species are more related.

We measured functional diversity (FD) with the FD index ([Petchey & Gaston, 2002](#); [Petchey & Gaston, 2006](#)), which is based on the phylogenetic diversity (PD) index of [Faith \(1992\)](#), but uses a functional dendrogram instead of a phylogeny. For this, we used four functional traits ([Table 1](#)), getting values from [Bonaccorso \(1979\)](#), [Ceballos & Oliva \(2005\)](#), and [Jung & Kalko \(2011a\)](#): size (mean forearm length, mm), weight (g), diet (frugivorous,

Table 1 Number of bats captured over the four stages of wind farm installation in the Mexican tropics.

	Prep	Cons	Oper1	Oper2	Ind	Size (mm)	Weight (g)	Height	Diet
Family Molossidae									
<i>Molossus rufus</i>	0	3	0	0	3	50	29	high	insectivorous
<i>Molossus molossus</i>	0	0	1	3	4	40	17	high	insectivorous
Family Mormoopidae									
<i>Mormoops megalophylla</i>	6	4	2	0	12	55	13	high	insectivorous
<i>Pteronotus davyi</i>	4	3	0	0	7	45	7	high	insectivorous
<i>Pteronotus parnellii</i>	66	9	0	2	77	58	19	low	insectivorous
Family Phyllostomidae									
<i>Carollia subrufa</i>	2	0	0	0	2	39	14	medium	frugivorous
<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	5	0	0	0	5	61	31	low	hematophagous
<i>Glossophaga commissarisi</i>	35	3	0	20	58	36	11	low	nectarivorous
<i>Glossophaga leachii</i>	48	4	0	5	57	36	12	low	nectarivorous
<i>Glossophaga morenoi</i>	29	4	8	13	54	35	11	low	nectarivorous
<i>Glossophaga soricina</i>	37	4	10	4	55	36	11	low	nectarivorous
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	5	6	4	2	17	54	25	low	nectarivorous
<i>Artibeus jamaicensis</i>	87	12	34	116	249	61	48	high	frugivorous
<i>Artibeus lituratus</i>	38	7	68	50	163	66	57	high	frugivorous
<i>Dermanura phaeotis</i>	1	0	0	0	1	37	11	high	frugivorous
<i>Centurio senex</i>	0	1	0	2	3	44	17	medium	frugivorous
<i>Uroderma bilobatum</i>	3	4	4	4	15	42	18	low	frugivorous
<i>Sturnira hondurensis</i>	43	2	11	12	68	40	19	low	frugivorous
<i>Sturnira parvidens</i>	11	13	10	14	48	40	18	low	frugivorous
Family Vespertilionidae									
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	1	0	0	0	1	40	8	medium	insectivorous
<i>Lasiurus intermedius</i>	1	0	0	1	2	45	19	medium	insectivorous
<i>Rhogeessa parvula</i>	3	10	2	3	18	33	5	low	insectivorous
Total number of individuals	425	89	154	251	919				
Total number of species	19	16	11	15	22				

Notes.

Prep, preparation; Cons, construction; Oper1, first stage of operation (immediate effect); Oper2, second stage of operation (delayed effect); Ind, total number of individuals captured.

Size (mean forearm length), Weight, Height (flight height) and Diet are functional traits whose values were obtained from literature (Bonaccorso, 1979; Ceballos & Oliva, 2005; Jung & Kalko, 2011a).

hematophagous, nectarivorous or insectivorous), and flight height (high: more than 8 m above the ground, medium: 3–8 m, or low: below 3 m). We first transformed diet and flight height into dummy variables, and then we standardized all variables. We also calculated functional dispersion with the FDis index (Laliberté & Legendre, 2010). FDis measures the mean distance from each species to the centroid of all the species in a functional space, weighted by their relative abundances. FDis ranges from zero when there is only one species in the community, and increases as the distance of species from the centroid increases. We calculated all the phylogenetic and functional diversity indices in the FDiversity program (Casanoves et al., 2011).

Finally, we used Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA, PCORD, *McCune & Mefford, 2011*) to compare species composition and the possible species turnover among the four sampling stages, in a space defined by their distance relationships. As a distance measure we used the Bray–Curtis dissimilarity index to include both species and their abundances.

RESULTS

Total forest cover area decreased from 12 km² in 2008 to 10 km² in 2013, and finally 9 km² in 2015, this represent the 26, 21 and 18% of landscape, respectively. The number of forest patches remained almost the same (403 in 2008, 408 in 2013, and 415 in 2015) and the edge length decreased from 349 to 335 and 298 km.

We captured 919 bats comprising 22 species and four families: Molossidae (two species), Mormoopidae (three species), Phyllostomidae (14 species) and Vespertilionidae (three species). There were eight insectivore species, eight frugivores, five nectarivores and one hematophage. *Leptonycteris yerbabuenae* is the only species considered vulnerable (*IUCN, 2015*), and *Glossophaga morenoi* is a Mexican endemic species (*SEMARNAT, 2010; Table 1*). During all stages, the number of species captured was 99% of that predicted by the sample coverage estimate (*C_m*). Based on sampling efficiency, the data appeared to be a reliable sample of bat diversity at each stage.

We recorded more individuals and species in the preparation stage (*Table 1* and *Fig. 2*). During the construction stage the capture rate decreased notably (*Table 1*), while species richness remained constant (*Fig. 3A*). During operational stage 1, richness was significantly lower than that of the other stages (*Fig. 3A*) and in operational stage 2 both the number of individuals and species increased (*Table 1; Fig. 2*), though richness was still lower than during preparation (*Fig. 3A*).

Both functional diversity (FD) and phylogenetic diversity (PD) followed the same trend as species richness over the four stages (*Figs. 3A–3C*). However, species diversity increased during construction, and was low during the two operational stages (*Fig. 3D*). Similarly, functional dispersion (FD_{is}) was low during the operational stages (*Fig. 3E*). In contrast, phylogenetic variability was highest during operational stage 1, in spite of the low species richness (*Fig. 3F*). Rare and dominant species were less common, and species tended to be equally abundant, during preparation and construction. At the operational stage, in contrast, two species of *Artibeus* became dominant (*Fig. 4*).

Species composition during construction and operational stage 1 was very different from the initial species composition, essentially due to the absence of some species (PCoA; *Fig. 5*). During the preparation stage we recorded four species that were absent in later monitoring: *Carollia subrufa*, *Dermanura phaeotis*, *Desmodus rotundus* and *Lasiurus blossevillii*; while *Molossus rufus* was captured only during the construction stage. One noteworthy result was that species composition during operation stage 2 was more similar to the species composition of the initial preparation stage (*Fig. 5*).

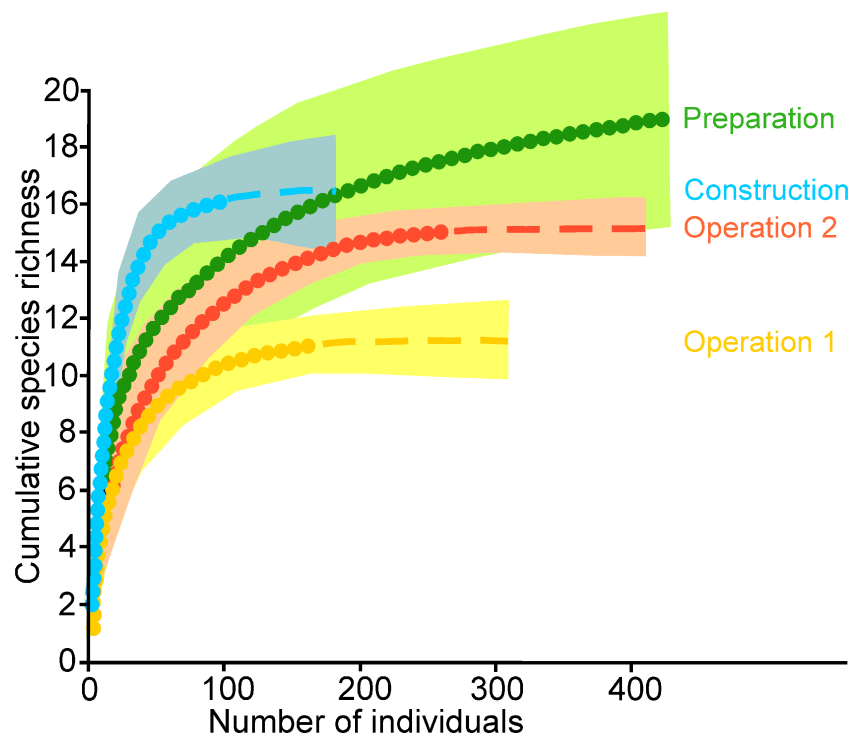


Figure 2 Bat species accumulation curves. Accumulation curves are drawn for four sampling stages during the installation of a wind farm on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, southern Mexico. Circles are the recorded richness curves, and discontinuous lines are extrapolation models for increasing numbers of individuals. Shaded areas indicate 95% confidence intervals.

DISCUSSION

In spite of the disturbance caused by wind farm in the study area, bat species richness is relatively high in the understory (22 species). In a wind farm near our study area, [Bolívar-Cimé et al. \(2016\)](#) recorded 29 species of the entire bat community sampled with nets and acoustic monitoring, but of these only 14 species were recorded using mist nets. Moreover, our data reveal that, for bats flying in the understory, after the loss of diversity during construction and the first operational stage (immediate effect), bat diversity and composition by the second operational stage (delayed effect) became similar to the initial stage. As predicted, this suggests that understory bat communities are fairly resilient to the disturbances caused by wind farm installation.

Similar results have been observed in Spain, where the installation of wind farms does not affect bird or small mammal communities ([De Lucas, Janss & Ferrer, 2005](#)). Moreover, [Pearce-Higgins et al. \(2012\)](#) found little evidence of post-construction bird population decline in the United Kingdom, suggesting that wind farm construction can have a greater impact on birds than wind farm operation does. Also, [Douglas, Bellamy & Pearce-Higgins \(2011\)](#) showed that the operation of wind farms does not always negatively affect bird abundance. However, these conclusions are still not definitive given the lack of study designs that include information from before the wind farms were constructed.

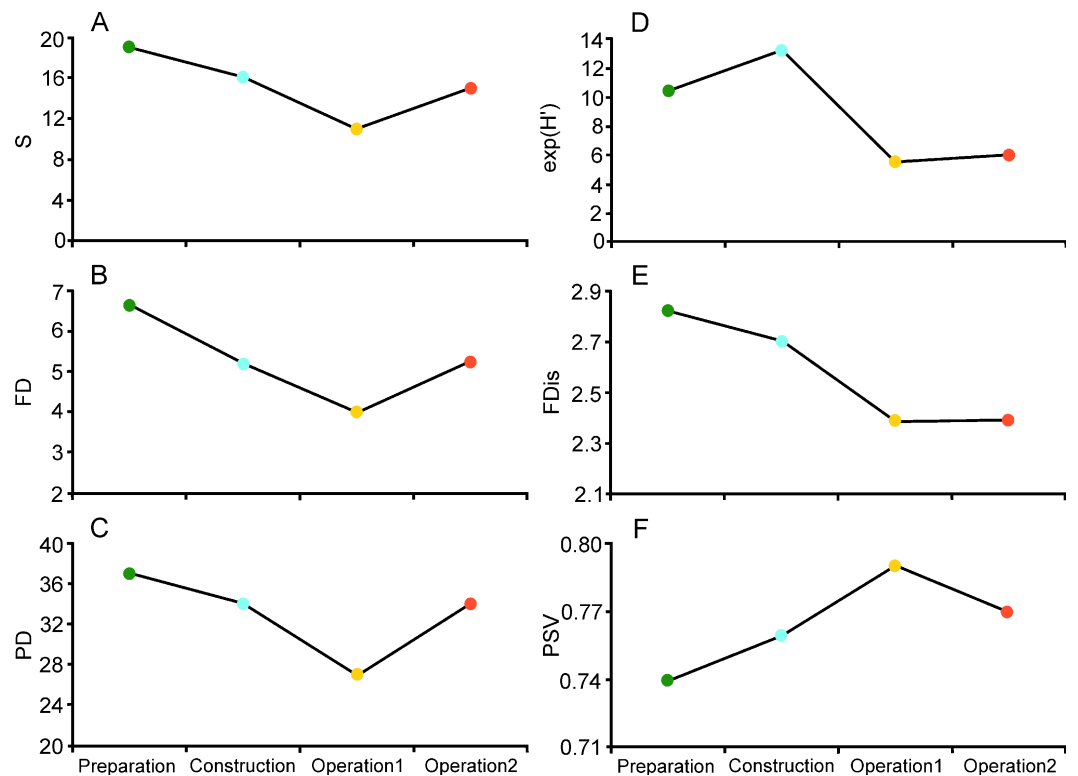


Figure 3 Bat diversity for four sampling stages during a wind farm installation on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Bat parameters calculated are species richness (S), functional diversity (FD), phylogenetic diversity (PD), species diversity (exponential of Shannon index), functional dispersion (FDis) and phylogenetic variability (PSV). See the Methods section for references.

In contrast, the breeding sites of seven out of nine species of grassland birds were displaced in native mixed-grass prairies during their reproductive season on wind farms in North Dakota and South Dakota, USA (Shaffer & Buhl, 2016), and wind farms may negatively affect bird abundance (De Lucas, Janss & Ferrer, 2004). Furthermore, areas with no wind turbines and those farther than 180 m from turbines had a higher density of passerine birds during operation than areas within 80 m of turbines in southwestern Minnesota (Leddy, Higgins & Naugle, 1999).

We detected immediate changes in the bat community. Six species recorded during the preparation stage were absent during construction (three insectivores, two frugivores, and one hematophage); and in the first operational stage nine of those species were absent (four insectivorous, two frugivorous, two nectarivorous and the hematophage species). The number of captured individuals of other species also decreased, especially during construction. It was especially notorious for *P. parnellii*, which decreased from 66 captures in the preparation stage to two in the operation stage. *P. parnellii* is a species that forages near of the vegetation (Herd, 1983; Jennings et al., 2004), thus habitat loss could be the cause for the low number of captures during and after the construction stage. Jung & Kalko (2011b) classified *P. parnellii* as an urban avoider species because of the low number of detections in a forest-urban gradient in Panama. The vespertilionid

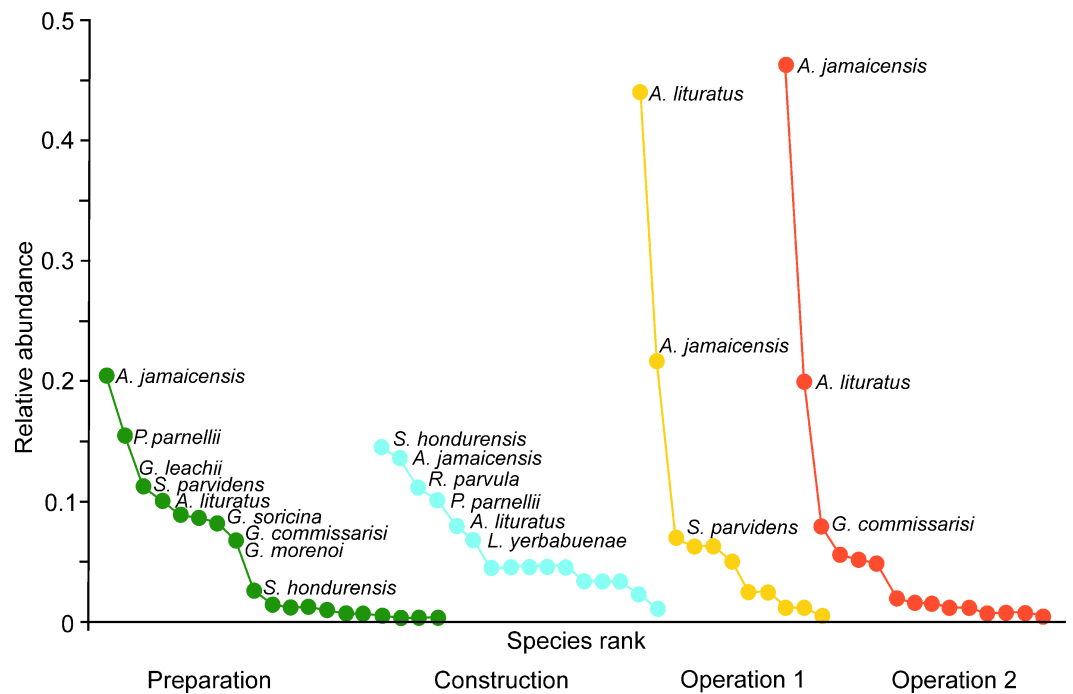


Figure 4 Rank dominance plots for bat species captured over four sampling stages during a wind farm installation on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. For each stage, species are ranked by the number of individuals captured. Only the most abundant species are labeled.

Rhogeessa parvula increased in abundance during the construction stage, followed by reduction to the same numbers of individuals as in the preparation stage. In the region *R. parvula* had been found in agriculture fields by Muñoz et al. (2016), and in a mixture of pasture, thorny and palm forest by López et al. (2009); however, this species seems to be more associated to water bodies than to specific land covers (Roots & Baker, 2007). *Carollia subrufa*, *Desmodus rotundus*, *Dermanura phaeotis* and *Lasiurus blossevillii* were not captured during the construction or operational stages, while Molossidae species only appeared in mist nets during these stages. Bat surveys in the region (López et al., 2009; Bolívar-Cimé et al., 2016; Muñoz et al., 2016), including the present study, suggest that *Carollia subrufa* and *Dermanura phaeotis* are more sensitive to forest cover here than in other regions, because they were only recorded in primary vegetation or in the least perturbed stage. Contrarily, *Artibeus* and *Sturnira* species ranked in the first places of species captured in all stages an even increased their abundance during the two operational stages. These responses coincide with the results of Freudmann et al. (2015) and Arroyo-Rodríguez et al. (2016), who found that common and dominant frugivorous species increased in landscapes with lower forest cover. Although captures of aerial insectivorous in the understory may be due to chance, Molossidae species are frequent in cities, buildings and installations because their food—flying insects—are attracted to human facilities, including wind farms (Jung & Kalko, 2011b). There was a similar species-specific effect by turbines on bird displacement on a wind farm north-central Texas (Stevens et al., 2013). For bats in a tropical area in

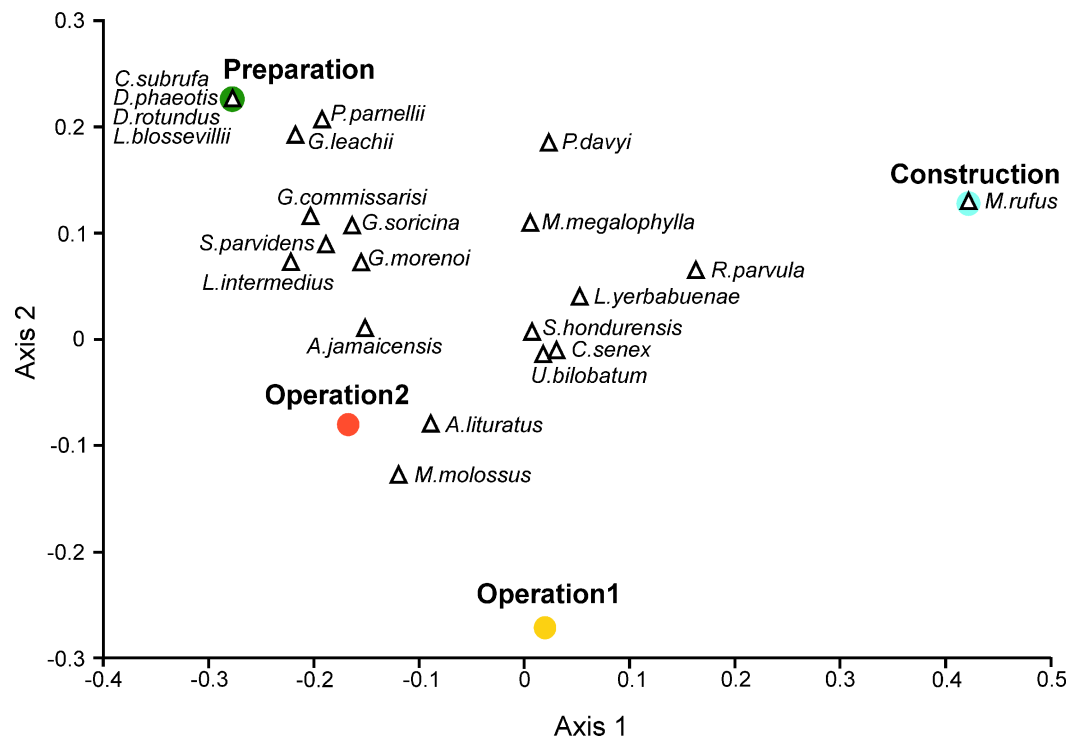


Figure 5 Dissimilarity of the wind farm installation stages according to their bat species composition. Principal Coordinates Analysis using the Bray–Curtis dissimilarity index for bat samples, during the site preparation, wind farm construction and two operation stages.

Mexico, phyllostomid populations also exhibited species-specific thresholds to habitat loss (Ávila Gómez *et al.*, 2015).

One possible explanation for the decrease in functional and phylogenetic diversity during the first operational stage is that many of the bats captured belong to four large frugivorous species, and three genera had two species each (*Artibeus*, *Sturnira*, and *Glossophaga*; Table 1). The species found at this stage are considered adaptable to habitat modification because they can tolerate living in fragmented landscapes and can also benefit from recently cleared habitats (Galindo-González, 2004).

Similarly, the nine species that were present during all four stages seem to be tolerant of habitat modification (i.e., loss of vegetation cover) and to the disturbance caused by the wind farm (i.e., presence of turbines, noise, etc.). Some studies propose that adaptable species may become critical to ensure the continuity of ecological processes and the dynamics of tropical forests. For example, frugivorous bats play an important role in forest restoration in abandoned tropical pastures (Galindo-González, 2004), an ecosystem service they may be also performing in the pastures and modified habitats of our study area.

As a delayed effect, the recovery of species richness, relative abundance and composition during the second operational stage is reflected by the capture of previously recorded species: *Lasiurus intermedius* was only caught during the site preparation stage, while *Pteronotus parnellii*, *Glossophaga commissarisi*, *G. leachii* and *Centurio senex* were not caught during the first operational stage.

These species-specific responses to landscape changes ([Galindo-González, 2004](#)) may hide community responses. For example, species richness may remain unaltered even when species composition changes, favoring generalist species in naturally ([Montiel, Estrada & León, 2006](#)) and human modified environments ([Castro-Luna, Sosa & Castillo-Campos, 2007](#); [Medina et al., 2007](#); [Jung & Kalko, 2011a](#)). In our study area deforestation occurred long before the wind farm installation, while during our sampling years habitat loss occurred mainly in a few large patches, as the number of patches did not increase while edge length decreased. The change of forest cover area between 2008 and 2015 represents a loss of 8% of the forest cover area, which affected mainly the areas of the vegetation patches, producing patches with less edge length. This long term deforestation may be related to the absence of species known to be sensitive to disturbance (*sensu* [Galindo-González, 2004](#)) during our monitoring (e.g., species of subfamily Phyllostominae).

In addition to the effects of forest loss, the low number of individuals captured during the construction stage may be due to the intensity and the combined effects of several factors of human disturbance, such as movement of people and machinery, noise, and the activity of turbines; all of these factors were present during both at day and night. These activities occurred only on the construction stage, so bats should have avoided the study area during this stage. Once the construction activities finished, tolerant bats such as *Artibeus* and *Sturnira* began to return. We are not neglecting the negative effects of turbines such as fatalities due to collisions, but in the understory, habitat condition and human disturbances may be more important. Greater bat species diversity has been reported for sites with more remnants of tropical deciduous and subdeciduous forest located north of a wind farm ([Lira-Torres, Galindo-Leal & Briones-Salas, 2012](#); [Briones-Salas, Peralta-Pérez & García-Luis, 2013](#); [Briones-Salas, Cortés-Marcial & Lavariega, 2015](#)). Taking into account that we collected 19 species with nets before the farm was built, and that there is a delayed effect leading the final species composition to be similar to that of the initial preparation stage, it is reasonable to suppose that the wind farm installation did not have a definite effect on the understory bat community. But turbine operation may have negative effects, and should still be assessed over a longer time interval.

Other studies with echolocation devices will certainly record a different community set (e.g., [Bolívar-Cimé et al., 2016](#)). Given that we focused only on the understory bats, the community structure and the conclusions derived from this work would be quite different if several height strata were sampled, using different sampling techniques ([Álvarez-Castañeda & Lidicker Jr, 2015](#)). Future studies should include the impacts of wind farms for vertical strata, to inform conservation efforts that encompass the entire bat community.

As expected, our results suggest that after the initial disturbance caused by the construction and beginning of the wind farm operation, the bat community is resilient and recovers high values of species diversity, functional diversity and phylogenetic diversity. Even though the final community sampled at the end of this study does not include exactly the same species composition of the initial stage, it could represent a steady state—albeit a less diverse one—with a potentially impoverished capacity to provide ecosystem services related to the installation of a single wind farm. But a different scenario may occur at other spatial scales. We suggest two possible conservation approaches: (1) developing specific

management strategies for bat communities aimed at helping them recover a desirable stable state with higher diversity, and (2) monitoring bat communities to assess how they adapt to the new altered state. In both cases, landscape management that includes the remnants of natural vegetation, restored patches, and corridors, may be quite useful. Moreover, in the Neotropics, and particularly in the Mexican tropics, further studies of the causes of bat mortality on wind farms, population studies of species that have already been designated with a vulnerability status (e.g., *Leptonycteris yerbabuena*), or endemic (e.g., *Glossophaga morenoi*) are all urgently needed. We also need to identify any species that may require critical attention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the municipal authorities of La Venta, Oaxaca, for their permission to work on their land, and the personal of the Mammalogy Laboratory, CIIDIR, for assistance in field. We also thank Bianca Delfosse for improving the English.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DECLARATIONS

Funding

This study was funded by the SIP (20080575, 20090672 and 20100263) of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional, and by Acciona Energía México, S. de R.L. de C.V. Data analysis and manuscript writing was supported by SEP-CONACYT Basic Science project No. 222632. MB-S was supported by the Comisión de Operación y Fomento a las Actividades Académicas (COFAA), Programa de Estímulos al Desempeño Académico (EDI), and Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Grant Disclosures

The following grant information was disclosed by the authors:

SIP: 20080575, 20090672, 20100263.

Comisión de Operación y Fomento a las Actividades Académicas (COFAA).

Programa de Estímulos al Desempeño Académico (EDI).

Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI).

Competing Interests

The authors declare there are no competing interests.

Author Contributions

- Miguel Briones-Salas conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, wrote the paper, reviewed drafts of the paper.
- Mario C. Lavariega conceived and designed the experiments, performed the experiments, analyzed the data, wrote the paper, prepared figures and/or tables, reviewed drafts of the paper.

- Claudia E. Moreno analyzed the data, wrote the paper, prepared figures and/or tables, reviewed drafts of the paper.

Animal Ethics

The following information was supplied relating to ethical approvals (i.e., approving body and any reference numbers):

Bat sampling was carried out with permission of the Mexican Secretaria del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FAUT-0037). Bats were handled according to the guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the use of wild mammals in research (*Gannon & Sikes, 2007*).

Data Availability

The following information was supplied regarding data availability:

The raw data has been supplied in [Table 1](#).

Supplemental Information

Supplemental information for this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3424#supplemental-information>.

REFERENCES

- Álvarez T, Álvarez-Castañeda ST, López JC. 1994. *Claves para murciélagos mexicanos*. Mexico City: Instituto Politécnico Nacional.
- Álvarez-Castañeda ST, Lidicker Jr WZ. 2015. Managing coexistence for bats and wind turbines. *Therya* 6:505–513 DOI 10.12933/therya-15-330.
- Arnett EB, Inkley DB, Johnson DH, Larkin RP, Manes S, Manville AM, Mason JR, Morrison ML, Strickland MD, Thresher R. 2007. Impacts of wind energy facilities on wildlife and wildlife habitat. In: *Wildlife Society technical review 07-2*. Bethesda: The Wildlife Society.
- Arnett EB, Baerwald EF, Mathews F, Rodrigues L, Rodríguez-Durán A, Rydell J, Villegas-Patracá R, Voigt CC. 2016. Impacts of wind energy development on bats: a global perspective. In: Voigt CC, Kingston T, eds. *Bats in the Anthropocene: conservation of bats in a changing world*. New York: Springer, 295–323.
- Arroyo-Rodríguez V, Rojas C, Saldaña-Vázquez RA, Stoner KE. 2016. Landscape composition is more important than landscape configuration for phyllostomid bat assemblages in a fragmented biodiversity hotspot. *Biological Conservation* 198:84–92 DOI 10.1016/j.biocon.2016.03.026.
- AMDEE (Asociación Mexicana de Energía Eólica). 2016. *Parques eólicos en México*. Available at <http://www.amdee.org/> (accessed on March 2016).
- Ávila-Gómez ES, Moreno CE, García-Morales R, Zuria I, Sánchez-Rojas G, Briones-Salas M. 2015. Deforestation thresholds for phyllostomid bat populations in tropical landscape in the Huasteca region, Mexico. *Tropical Conservation Science* 8:646–661 DOI 10.1177/194008291500800305.

- Baerwald EF, Barclay RMR. 2009.** Geographical variation in activity and fatality of migratory bats at wind energy facilities. *Journal of Mammalogy* **90**:1341–1349 DOI [10.1644/09-MAMM-S-104R.1](https://doi.org/10.1644/09-MAMM-S-104R.1).
- Barros MA, Gastal de Magalhaes R, Rui M. 2015.** Species composition and mortality of bats at the Osorio Wind Farm, southern Brazil. *Studies in Neotropical Fauna and Environment* **50**:31–39 DOI [10.1080/01650521.2014.1001595](https://doi.org/10.1080/01650521.2014.1001595).
- Bininda-Emonds O, Cardillo M, Jones KE, MacPhee RDE, Beck RMD, Grenyer R, Price SA, Vos RA, Gittleman JL, Purvis A. 2007.** The delayed rise of present-day mammals. *Nature* **446**:507–512 DOI [10.1038/nature05634](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature05634).
- Bolívar-Cimé B, Bolívar-Cimé A, Cabrera-Cruz S, Muñoz Jiménez O, Villegas-Patraca R. 2016.** Bats in a tropical wind farm: species composition and importance of the spatial attributes of vegetation cover on bat fatalities. *Journal of Mammalogy* **97**:1197–1208 DOI [10.1093/jmammal/gyw069](https://doi.org/10.1093/jmammal/gyw069).
- Bolívar-Cimé B, Laborde J, MacSwiney MC, Sosa VJ. 2014.** Effects of landscape matrix type, patch quality and seasonality on the diet of frugivorous bats in tropical semi-deciduous forest. *Wildlife Reserch* **41**:454–464 DOI [10.1071/WR13185](https://doi.org/10.1071/WR13185).
- Bonaccorso FJ. 1979.** Foraging and reproductive ecology in a Panamanian bat community. *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History Biological Sciences* **24**:359–412.
- Briones-Salas M, Cortés-Marcial M, Lavariega MC. 2015.** Diversidad y distribución geográfica de los mamíferos terrestres del estado de Oaxaca, México. *Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad* **86**:685–710 DOI [10.1016/j.rmb.2015.07.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rmb.2015.07.008).
- Briones-Salas M, Peralta-Pérez M, García-Luis M. 2013.** Acoustic characterization of new species of bats for the State of Oaxaca, Mexico. *Therya* **4**:15–32 DOI [10.12933/therya-13-106](https://doi.org/10.12933/therya-13-106).
- Casanoves F, Pla L, Rienzo JA, Díaz S. 2011.** FDiversity: a software package for the integrated analysis of functional diversity. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* **2**:233–237 DOI [10.1111/j.2041-210X.2010.00082.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2041-210X.2010.00082.x).
- Castillo E. 2011.** Problemática en torno a la construcción de parques eólicos en el Istmo de Tehuantepec. *Desarrollo Local Sostenible* **4**:1–14.
- Castro-Luna AA, Sosa VJ, Castillo-Campos G. 2007.** Bat diversity and abundance associated with the degree of secondary succession in a tropical forest mosaic in south-eastern Mexico. *Animal Conservation* **10**:219–228 DOI [10.1111/j.1469-1795.2007.00097.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-1795.2007.00097.x).
- Ceballos G, Oliva G. 2005.** *Los mamíferos silvestres de México*. Mexico City: Fondo de Cultura Económica and Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad.
- Chao A, Jost L. 2012.** Coverage-based rarefaction and extrapolation: standardizing samples by completeness rather than size. *Ecology* **93**:2533–2547 DOI [10.1890/11-1952.1](https://doi.org/10.1890/11-1952.1).
- Cisneros LM, Fagan ME, Willing MR. 2014.** Effects of human-modified landscapes on taxonomic, function and phylogenetic dimensions of bat diversity. *Diversity and Distributions* **21**:523–533 DOI [10.1111/ddi.12277](https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.12277).

- Colwell RK. 2013.** EstimateS, statistical estimation of species richness and shared species from samples. Available at <http://viceroy.eeb.uconn.edu/estimates/> (accessed on 11 March 2016).
- Colwell RK, Chao A, Gotelli NJ, Lin S-Y, Xuan MC, Chazdon RL, Longino JT. 2012.** Models and estimators linking individual-based and sample-based rarefaction, extrapolation and comparison of assemblages. *Journal of Plant Ecology* 5:3–21 DOI 10.1093/jpe/rtr044.
- Cryan PM, Gorresen PM, Hein CD, Schirmacher MR, Diehl RH, Huso MM, Hayman DTS, Fricker PD, Bonaccorso FJ, Johnson DH, Heist K, Dalton DC. 2014.** Behavior of bats at wind turbines. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 111:15126–15131 DOI 10.1073/pnas.1406672111.
- De Lucas M, Janss GFE, Ferrer M. 2004.** The effects of a wind farm on birds in a migration point: the Strait of Gibraltar. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 13:395–407 DOI 10.1023/B:BIOC.0000006507.22024.93.
- De Lucas M, Janss GFE, Ferrer M. 2005.** A bird and small mammal BACI and IG design studies in a wind farm in Malpica (Spain). *Biodiversity and Conservation* 14:3289–3303 DOI 10.1007/s10531-004-0447-z.
- Douglas DJT, Bellamy PE, Pearce-Higgins JW. 2011.** Changes in the abundance and distribution of upland breeding birds at an operational wind farm. *Bird Studies* 58:37–43 DOI 10.1080/00063657.2010.524914.
- Elliott D, Schwartz M, Scott G, Haymes S, Heimiller D, George R. 2004.** Atlas de recursos eólicos del Estado de Oaxaca Windrock, USAID, SEDIC, Gobierno del Estado de Oaxaca, NREL. Available at <http://www.osti.gov/scitech/biblio/15009682> (accessed on March 2016).
- Faith DP. 1992.** Conservation evaluation and phylogenetic diversity. *Biological Conservation* 61:1–10 DOI 10.1016/0006-3207(92)91201-3.
- Faith DP. 2016.** The PD phylogenetic diversity framework: linking evolutionary history to feature diversity for biodiversity conservation. In: Pellens R, Grandcolas P, eds. *Biodiversity conservation and phylogenetic systematics, Topics in biodiversity and conservation*. vol. 14. New York: Springer, 39–56.
- Ferri V, Battisti C, Soccini C. 2016.** Bats in a Mediterranean mountainous landscape: does wind farm repowering induce changes at assemblage and species level? *Environmental Management* 57:1240–1246 DOI 10.1007/s00267-016-0686-2.
- Freudmann A, Mollik P, Tschapka M, Schulze CH. 2015.** Impact of oil palm agriculture on Phyllostomidae bat assemblages. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 24:3583–3599 DOI 10.1007/s10531-015-1021-6.
- Galindo-González J. 2004.** Clasificación de los murciélagos de la región de los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, respecto a su respuesta a la fragmentación del hábitat. *Acta Zoológica Mexicana* 20:239–243.
- Gannon WL, Sikes RS. 2007.** Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the use of wild mammals in research. *Journal of Mammalogy* 88:809–823 DOI 10.1644/06-MAMM-F-185R1.1.

- García-Morales R, Badano EI, Moreno CE. 2013.** Response of Neotropical bat assemblages to human land use. *Conservation Biology* 27:1096–1106
DOI 10.1111/cobi.12099.
- Garvin JC, Jennelle CS, Drake D, Grodsky SM. 2011.** Response of raptors to a windfarm. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 48:199–209 DOI 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2010.01912.x.
- Ghanem SJ, Voigt CC. 2012.** Increasing awareness of ecosystem services provided by bats. *Advances in the Study of Behavior* 44:279–302
DOI 10.1016/B978-0-12-394288-3.00007-1.
- Gunderson LH. 2000.** Ecological resilience—in theory and application. *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics* 31:425–439
DOI 10.1146/annurev.ecolsys.31.1.425.
- Harvey CA, Villalobos JAG. 2007.** Agroforestry systems conserve species-rich but modified assemblages of tropical birds and bats. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 16:2257–2292 DOI 10.1007/s10531-007-9194-2.
- Helmus MR, Bland TJ, Williams CK, Ives AR. 2007.** Phylogenetic measures of biodiversity. *American Naturalist* 169:E68–E83 DOI 10.1086/511334.
- Herd RN. 1983.** *Pteronotus parnellii*. *Mammalian Species* 209:1–5.
- INEGI. 2013.** *Vectorial map of land use and vegetation, series V, scale 1:250,000*. San Luis Potosí: INEGI.
- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources). 2015.** The IUCN red list of threatened species. Available at <http://www.iucnredlist.org/> (accessed on March 2016).
- Jennings NV, Parsons S, Barlow KE, Gannon MR. 2004.** Echolocation calls and wing morphology of bats from the West Indies. *Acta Chiropterologica* 61:75–90
DOI 10.3161/001.006.0106.
- Jost L. 2006.** Entropy and diversity. *Oikos* 113:363–375
DOI 10.1111/j.2006.0030-1299.14714.x.
- Jung K, Kalko EKV. 2011a.** Adaptability and vulnerability of high flying Neotropical aerial insectivorous bats to urbanization. *Diversity and Distributions* 17:262–274
DOI 10.1111/j.1472-4642.2010.00738.x.
- Jung K, Kalko EKV. 2011b.** Where forest meets urbanization: foraging plasticity of aerial insectivorous bats in an anthropogenically altered environment. *Journal of Mammalogy* 91:144–153 DOI 10.1644/08-MAMM-A-313R.1.
- Kunz TH, Arnett EB, Erickson WP, Hoar AR, Johnson GD, Larkin RP, Strickland MD, Thresher RW, Tuttle MD. 2007.** Ecological impacts of wind energy development on bats: questions, research needs, and hypotheses. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 5:315–324 DOI 10.1890/1540-9295(2007)5[315:EIOWED]2.0.CO;2.
- Laliberté E, Legendre P. 2010.** A distance-based framework for measuring functional diversity from multiple traits. *Ecology* 91:299–305 DOI 10.1890/08-2244.1.
- Leddy KL, Higgins KF, Naugle DE. 1999.** Effects of wind turbine on upland nesting birds in conservation reserve program grasslands. *Wilson Bulletin* 111:100–104.
- Lira-Torres I, Galindo-Leal C, Briones-Salas M. 2012.** Mamíferos de la Selva Zoque, México: riqueza, uso y conservación. *Revista de Biología Tropical* 60:781–797.

- López JA, Lorenzo C, Barragán F, Bolaños J. 2009.** Mamíferos terrestres de la zona lagunar del Istmo de Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, México. *Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad* **80**:491–505.
- McCune B, Mefford MJ. 2011.** PC-ORD Multivariate analysis of ecological data. version 6.19. Glendon Beach: MjM Software.
- Medellín RA, Arita HT, Sánchez O. 2008.** *Identificación de los murciélagos de México*. 2nd edition. Mexico City: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- Medina A, Harvey CA, Merlo DS, Vilchez S, Hernández B. 2007.** Bat diversity and movement in an agricultural landscape in Matiguás, Nicaragua. *Biotropica* **39**:120–128 DOI [10.1111/j.1744-7429.2006.00240.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-7429.2006.00240.x).
- Mittermeier R, Myers N, Thomsen JB, Da Fonseca GAB, Olivieri S. 1998.** Biodiversity hotspots and major tropical wilderness areas: approaches to setting conservation priorities. *Conservation Biology* **12**:516–520 DOI [10.1046/j.1523-1739.1998.012003516.x](https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1523-1739.1998.012003516.x).
- Montiel S, Estrada A, León P. 2006.** Bat assemblages in a naturally fragmented ecosystem in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico: species richness, diversity and spatio-temporal dynamics. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* **22**:267–276 DOI [10.1017/S026646740500307X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S026646740500307X).
- Moriarty P, Honnery D. 2012.** What is the global potential for renewable energy? *Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews* **16**:244–252 DOI [10.1016/j.rser.2011.07.151](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2011.07.151).
- Muñoz O, Villegas-Patracá R, MacSwiney MC, López-Acosta JC. 2016.** Importancia de los elementos de un paisaje antropizado para la retención de diversidad de murciélagos en el Istmo de Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, México. In: Ramírez-Bautista A, Pineda-López R, eds. *Libro de memorias en extenso del I congreso de fauna nativa en medios antropizados*. Querétaro: CONACYT-UAQ, 133–141.
- Olson DM, Dinerstein E. 2002.** The global 200: priority ecoregions for global conservation. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* **89**:199–224 DOI [10.2307/3298564](https://doi.org/10.2307/3298564).
- Pazheri FR, Othman MF, Malik NH. 2014.** A review on global renewable electricity scenario. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* **31**:835–845 DOI [10.1016/j.rser.2013.12.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2013.12.020).
- Pearce-Higgins JW, Stephen L, Douse A, Langston RHW. 2012.** Greater impacts of wind farms on bird populations during construction than subsequent operation: results of a multi-site and multi-species analysis. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **49**:386–394 DOI [10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02110.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02110.x).
- Petchey OL, Gaston KJ. 2002.** Functional diversity (FD), species richness and community composition. *Ecology Letters* **5**:402–411 DOI [10.1046/j.1461-0248.2002.00339.x](https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1461-0248.2002.00339.x).
- Petchey OL, Gaston KJ. 2006.** Functional diversity: back to basics and looking forward. *Ecology Letters* **9**:741–758 DOI [10.1111/j.1461-0248.2006.00924.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2006.00924.x).
- Peterson AT, Soberón J, Sánchez-Cordero V. 1999.** Conservatism of ecological niches in evolutionary time. *Science* **285**:1265–1267 DOI [10.1126/science.285.5431.1265](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.285.5431.1265).
- Ramírez-Pulido J, González-Ruiz N, Gardner AL, Arroyo-Cabrales J. 2014.** List of recent land mammals of Mexico. *Special Publications of the Museum Texas Tech University* **63**:1–76.

- Resch G, Held A, Faber T, Panzer C, Toro F, Haas R. 2008.** Potentials and prospects for renewable energies at global scale. *Energy Policy* **36**:4048–4056
DOI [10.1016/j.enpol.2008.06.029](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2008.06.029).
- Ripperger SP, Kalko EKV, Rodríguez-Herrera B, Mayer F, Tschapka M. 2015.** Frugivorous bats maintain functional habitat connectivity in agricultural landscapes but rely strongly on natural forest fragments. *PLOS ONE* **10**:e0120535
DOI [10.1371/journal.pone.0120535](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0120535).
- Rodríguez-Durán A, Feliciano-Robles W. 2015.** Impact of wind facilities on bats in the Neotropics. *Acta Chiropterologica* **17**:365–370
DOI [10.3161/15081109ACC2015.17.2.012](https://doi.org/10.3161/15081109ACC2015.17.2.012).
- Roots EH, Baker RJ. 2007.** *Rhogeessa parvula*. *Mammalian Species* **804**:1–4
DOI [10.1644/804.1](https://doi.org/10.1644/804.1).
- Rydell J, Bach L, Dubourg-Savage M-J, Green M, Rodrigues L, Hedenstrom A. 2010.** Bat mortality at wind turbines in northwestern Europe. *Acta Chiropterologica* **12**:261–274 DOI [10.3161/150811010X537846](https://doi.org/10.3161/150811010X537846).
- Saldaña-Vázquez RA, Munguía-Rosas MA. 2013.** Lunar phobia in bats and its ecological correlates: A meta-analysis. *Mammalian Biology* **78**:216–219
DOI [10.1016/j.mambio.2012.08.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mambio.2012.08.004).
- SENER (Secretaría de Energía). 2015.** Inventario nacional de energías renovables (INERE). Available at <http://inere.energia.gob.mx> (accessed on 11 March 2016).
- SEMARNAT (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales). 2010.** Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-ECOL-2010. Protección ambiental, especies de flora y fauna silvestres de México, categorías de riesgo y especificaciones para su inclusión, exclusión o cambio, y lista de especies en riesgo. *Diario Oficial de la Federación* **30 de diciembre de 2010** **1**:1–77.
- Shaffer JA, Buhl DA. 2016.** Effects of wind-energy facilities on breeding grassland bird distributions. *Conservation Biology* **30**:59–71 DOI [10.1111/cobi.12569](https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12569).
- Stevens TK, Hale AM, Karsten KB, Bennett BJ. 2013.** An analysis of displacement from wind turbines in a wintering grassland bird community. *Biodiversity and Conservation* **22**:1755–1767 DOI [10.1007/s10531-013-0510-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-013-0510-8).
- Trejo I. 2004.** Clima. In: García-Mendoza AJ, Ordóñez MJ, Briones-Salas M, eds. *Biodiversidad de Oaxaca*. Mexico City: Instituto de Biología UNAM-Fondo Oaxaqueño para la Conservación de la Naturaleza-World Wildlife Fund, 67–85.
- Villegas-Patracá R, Macías-Sánchez S, MacGregor-Fors I, Muñoz Robles C. 2012.** Scavenger removal: bird and bat carcass persistence in a tropical wind farm. *Acta Oecologica* **43**:121–125 DOI [10.1016/j.actao.2012.06.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actao.2012.06.004).
- WWEA. 2015.** *World wind energy report 2014*. Bonn: World Wind Energy Association.