

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMANS AND WHITE-FACED CAPUCHINS (*Cebus capucinus*) IN A MID-PACIFIC COASTAL RESORT

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As human population increases, wildlife habitat is jeopardized, creating a need for spaces in which several species can cohabitate. Economics must also be taken into consideration, and “Conservation Development”, although not as ideal as complete protection, should be considered a possible solution. White-faced capuchin monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*) easily adapt to land disturbance, and a troop of approximately 30 live within Hotel and Club Punta Leona, located on the Mid-Pacific coast of Costa Rica. During an 8-week period in March and April 2013, this capuchin troop was observed at Carabelas Restaurant in order to determine the frequency and characteristics of human-capuchin interactions. Humans regularly, but selectively, fed capuchins and capuchins displayed infrequent and mild aggression towards humans. Although the troop is not fully habituated, it is very close to becoming so. Management strategies must be implemented in order to prevent feeding and other harmful interactions between the two species.