

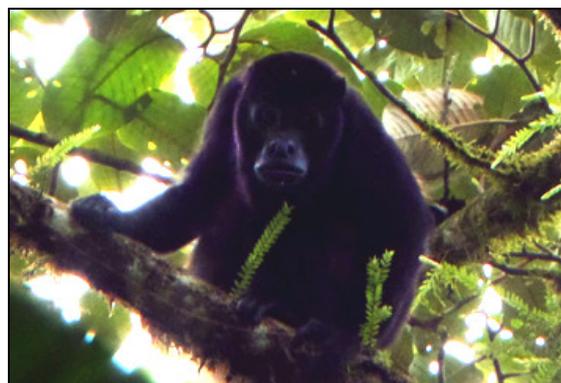
Newsletter Neotropical Primate Conservation



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NPC initiates a new project in Ecuador

Sam Shanee spent June and July in Ecuador doing background work for NPC's next project. Building on our successes in Peru, we are planning a similar community based conservation network in Ecuador's north-western coastal forests. Home the Critically Endangered brown headed spider monkey (*Ateles fusciceps*), these forests form part of the Choco Biodiversity Hotspot; one of the most endangered ecosystems on earth. Sam has visited sites throughout the area, talking with local people and other researchers to evaluate conservation needs in the area and to identify possible project partners.



Alouatta palliata in Northwestern Ecuador .
Photo: Sam Shanee

Creating Local Federations of Community Conservationists



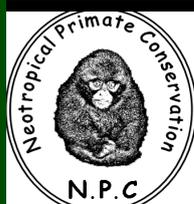
Dr. Robert Horwich

Dr. Robert Horwich of the US charity Community Conservation recently visited our project for the third time advising us about our work in Peru and promoting the potential of locally run conservation initiatives to our ally communities and organizations. Dr. Horwich and NPC have started a series of workshops in aim to create localized Federations of community groups which are committed to conservation. These federations will act as support groups for their members to help other communities to overcome any difficulties they encounter and to guide new communities that are interested in conserving their forests.

The first of these workshops took place in May, in the City of Huicungo, with the participation of 60 local conservationists from 7 different associations. Collectively, these organizations and associations are protecting over 300,000 ha of some of the world's most threatened ecosystems. The second meeting was held in the village of La Union, Omnia, and provided a special opportunity for the associations running the neighbouring concessions, Sun Angel's Gardens and Simacache, to coordinate mutual activities of vigilance and control of their reserves.



Participants of the workshops in Huicungo and La Union.



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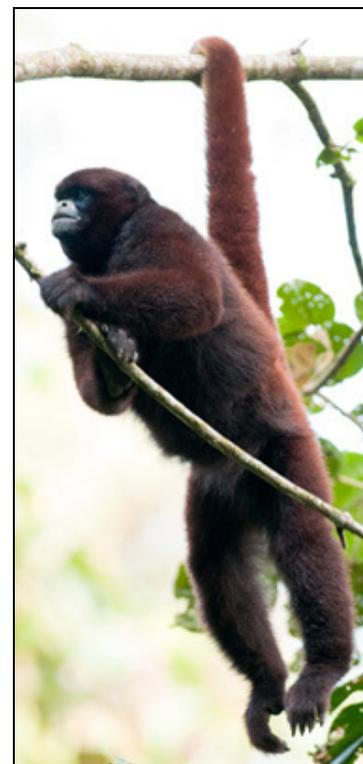
Research

We continue our research at the La Esperanza field station. This month we finally finished our second population census on the yellow tailed woolly monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*). We will now analyse the results to see what impact our conservation work has had on the population of this species over the last 5 years. Preliminary results suggested that there has been a large increase in the number of monkeys in and around La Esperanza, and we are very excited about analyzing the full data.

Also at La Esperanza, Colombian researcher Alma Hernandez is carrying out research on seed dispersal by the area's primates, and Brazilian primatologist Thiago Pereira is conducting a comparative study on the ecology of the yellow-tailed woolly monkey at our site and the Alto Huyabamba Conservation Concession in San Martin.

Our population survey and behaviour studies of the endemic and extremely rare long whiskered owlet (*Xenoglaux loweryi*) are also very promising, with preliminary densities higher than expected and behaviours found which were never registered before in this species.

You can see the published results of some of our recent studies on our website: <http://www.neoprimate.org/index.php/en/information-npc/publications-npc>

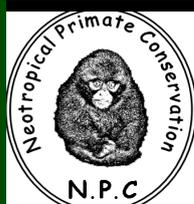


O. flavicauda in La Esperanza.
Photo: Andrew Walmsley

Stand Up and Paddle for the Amazon

On the 11th of July, an international group of conservationists and researchers, headed by Dr. Mika Peck of Sussex University, will begin a mammoth 1300 km journey down the Amazon. Dr. Sam Shanee of NPC is taking part in the trip, which is designed to raise funds, and to raise awareness about the destruction of the Amazon rainforest and the pollution of its waters. This is no ordinary river trip... the team will make the entire journey on stand up paddle boards! Leaving from Coca in Ecuador, they will descend the river into Peru and continue on to the border of Colombia and Brazil.

To find out more about the trip and the team, and how you can sponsor the journey, visit: <http://www.entropika.org/en/supamazon.html>, or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SUPAmazon>. The team will also be updating a blog throughout the expedition, so you can follow what's happening: <http://supamazon.blogspot.com/>



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Wildlife rescues

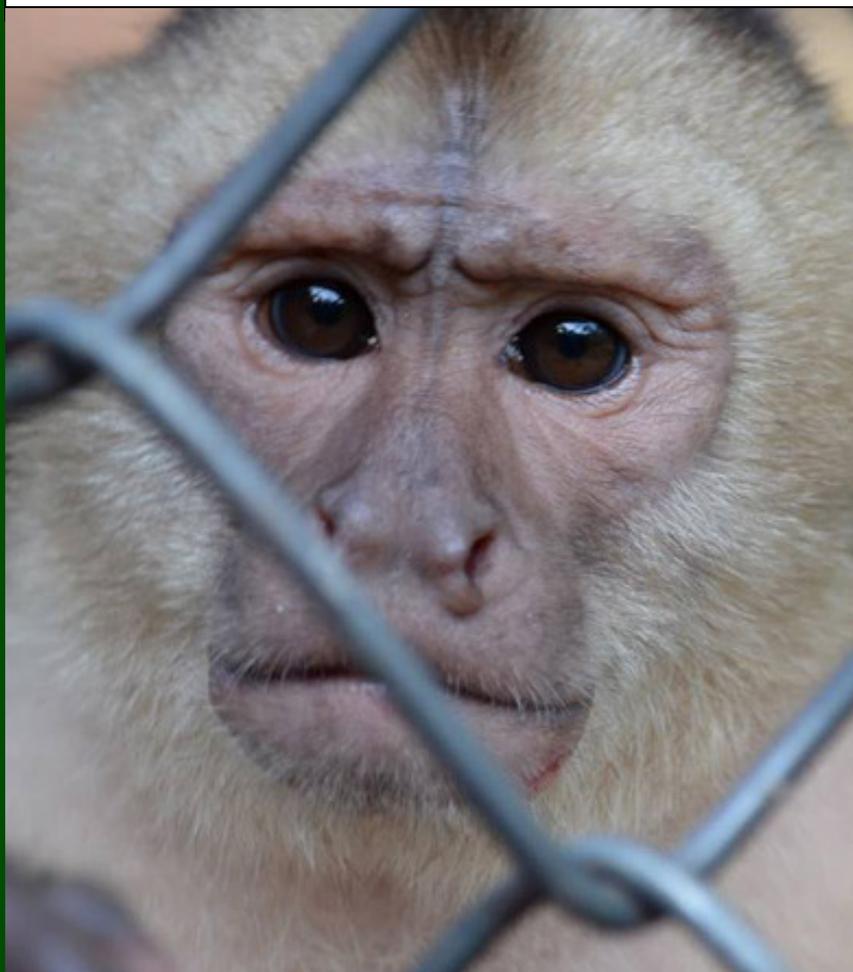
Recent months have seen a lot of activity in confronting illegal wildlife trade. With the help of the wildlife authorities of San Martin's Regional Government (GORSAM), we confiscated monkeys, snakes and other wildlife in the village of Dos de Mayo, Sauce, San Martin.

The animals were kept in appalling conditions, and were used as tourist attractions due to the recent increase of tourism around the Sauce lagoon. Unfortunately, most international and national tourists still do not understand the amount of damage they cause when they pay for activities such as photographs with wild animals. Please, when you see wildlife used as a tourist attraction, do not pay for it! Explain to the animal owner the harm they are doing and denounce them to the authorities.

NPC also helped to rehome 2 spider monkeys, a woolly monkey, a sloth and turtles (all confiscated) into suitable rescue centres.

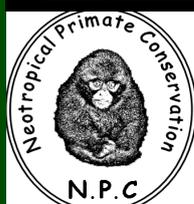


Sauce's police with a rescued howler monkey.
Photo: Noga Shaneec



Thank you very much to everyone who donated to our 'save the capuchin monkeys' campaign. Unfortunately, we are still a long way from having enough funds to build these monkeys a safe haven. We now know of three more capuchin monkeys in our area who are kept in horrible conditions. We can easily rescue them, but unfortunately we have nowhere to put them.

Capuchins monkeys are by far the most common species in the illegal pet trade in Peru. Every year we see dozens of these monkeys kept in horrific conditions. Sadly, there is no rescue centre in Peru that will take them in, hence either a blind eye is turned - people are allowed to violate the law and keep wild-caught monkeys as pets in really bad conditions - or the monkeys are confiscated by the government and destroyed. We are collecting donations which will be channelled directly into building enclosures that will provide a safe haven for capuchin monkeys.



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