

Newsletter

Neotropical Primate Conservation



Changes at NPC

The past months have seen a few major changes at NPC. Firstly we bid a fond farewell to Sergio Zappulo who has served as trustee and secretary since 2008 and was instrumental in NPC's success in becoming a Registered Charity. Secondly we are delighted to welcome Liz Tyson and Catherine Brewis as new trustees to the charity. Liz currently works at Wild Futures (formally the Monkey Sanctuary, Cornwall). She has a number of years' experience working in primate conservation and specializes in Environmental Law. Catherine has graduated MSc in Primate Conservation and has extensive work experience with primates in Africa and Latin America. Lizzie Cooke, one of the founding trustees, has also stepped down from her official role as a trustee but will continue to work closely with NPC.

Owl saves Monkeys!

A rare owlet is indirectly helping to save the monkeys by helping tourism in La Esperanza. After finding the long whiskered owlet at our project site in La Esperanza the response from birders wanting to see this rare and endemic species has been phenomenal. Only ever reported in a handful of locations the owlet is a big draw for birders and tourists coming from across the globe. So far no-one has failed to see it in the forests, and of course the lucky ones got to see the yellow tailed woolly monkeys too! Eco-tourism is one of the best economic alternatives for people in the area as it brings money into the community for guides, accommodation, food and transportation meaning that many people benefit and the need to clear new forest for cattle or timber is reduced.

The birding tour operator "Neotropical Birding" is going to be organizing tours to the area with the option for tourists to further help the environment by introducing a carbon offset scheme that will pay for reforestation in the area. They will also be holding free training workshops for local people who want to be guides. To find out more please visit our website (www.neoprimate.org/community-tourism) or the Neotropical Birding website (www.neotropicbirding.com).

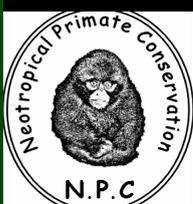


Long whiskered owlet in La Esperanza
Photo: Fabien Pekus



Volunteer Expedition 2010

It is still not too late to take part in our Volunteer Expedition 2010. We are looking for hardworking and dedicated people to volunteer at our Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey Project in Peru. The expedition will be the second one organized with this project and we hope to continue the success of last year's volunteer team. The volunteers will be involved in all aspects of the project from monitoring primate populations to reforestation and environmental education. If you or someone you know may be interested in participating please see the expedition page on our website (www.neoprimate.org/volunteering). The first expedition is set to start at the beginning of November; the second will run from Mid-December.



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www.neoprimate.org

info@neoprimate.org

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Calling all Monkeys

Last month our yellow tailed woolly monkey project was visited by Mariella Leo Luna of the Peruvian NGO APECO (Asociacion Peruana de Conservacion). Mariella was the first person to study this Critically Endangered species and remains directly involved in its conservation. During her visit we tested new “playback” methods for finding and studying the species. With Mariella’s specialized equipment we played back

yellow tailed woolly monkey calls in the forest to encourage other groups to call. This is a natural behaviour observed in the wild and a way that groups of monkeys identify and defend their territories. Although only a preliminary test we were pleased that two groups responded to the playback and this technique will now be used by APECO to survey populations in Rio Abiseo National Park, the largest and best protected area in the species range.



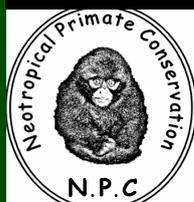
Oreonax flavicauda jumping. Photo Noga Shanea

New Reserve Progress

Work on new community run protected areas continues with the final stages of preparation for a new private conservation area in the community of Yambrasbamba. This area is home to the yellow tailed woolly monkey and the Andean Night monkey as well as other primates and wildlife. The community has given its formal agreement to the creation of the reserve and we have been working together with them to produce the technical assessment and proposal for the new area. The assessment includes details on all aspects of the reserve and local communities, from biological inventories to socio-economic profiles and management aims. This area will form a key part of the regional network of protected areas and will help protect a natural forest corridor that exists between other areas.



Preparations for the new reserve in La Esperanza



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Education Outreach

Peruvian Intern Nestor Allgas has been helping in our education outreach activities. Nestor gave presentations at the University of Amazonas and in Yambrasbamba to celebrate World Environment Day. He also participated in workshops in Lima and Tarapoto as a representative of NPC. Nestor's participation is part of NPC's commitment to in-country capacity building and has been working with us since December 2009. NPC has also funded a group of eight students from the University of Amazonas to carry out the practical aspect of their degree studies at various villages where we are working. The students, who are all studying to be primary school teachers, have been teaching environmental education classes in a number of schools. This is the second year that we have been able to fund student groups and is part of a program of coordination we have with the university.



Nestor Allgas giving a talk in the community of Yambrasbamba



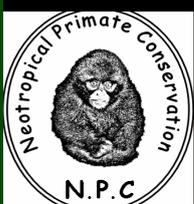
Congratulations to AMAVLE

AMAVLE (Asociación de Mujeres Ambientalistas Voluntarias de La Esperanza) have been awarded a grant by development NGO Sierra Norte in recognition of their dedication to, and development of, sustainable economic alternatives. These funds will be used to further build their capacity in designing and producing handicrafts.

AMAVLE aims to promote economic alternatives in the rural communities of Yambrasbamba. It is a legally registered entity that allows its members to properly promote the sale of their products, such as weavings, carvings and non-timber forest products. Our work with this association is part of our commitment to help capacity build in local communities and we are currently seeking international markets for their products.



AMAVLE women working and children modeling their hand made sweaters.



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