

Newsletter

Neotropical Primate Conservation



Yellow tailed woolly monkey conservation project

NPC and the Museo de Historia Natural del Universidad Mayor de San-Marcos are almost 6 months into the Yellow tailed woolly monkey project and things are really starting to happen!

We were invited to a meeting of the Board of Directors of Yamborasbamba community. In the meeting the board of the community expressed their will to make a communal reserve in the un-used lands of La Esperanza and asked for our help. Of course we agreed to help and the next stage is to measure and map the whole area (between 5,000 and 10,000 ha).

Two sites were selected for the census. The presence of *O. flavicauda* had been previously confirmed in both sites and transects are now cut in both, so we are ready to start investigation work. We also made a two day training course for local people interested in working as field guides for the project.

We found an Andean night monkey (*Aotus Miconax*) in the middle of the village, just above the highway. Under the tree there were 4 dogs so we decided to move her somewhere safe. We took many photos and measurements. This is possibly the first time ever that this species if photographed alive!

The community, with our help, formed an association; Asociación de Desarrollo Sostenible Del Bajo Imasa (ADESBI). This association will enable the communities to organize the production and commercialization of locally produced handicrafts and the development of eco-tourism.

During the past three months we visited all five villages to give English lessons and conservation talks both to the children and adults. Some of the talks were given by: IIAP (Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana), APECO (Asociacion Peruana para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza), SPDA (Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental), Yunkawasi, INRENA (Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales) and the Regional Government.

After visiting the project, IIAP showed pictures of logging and hunting in the area to the president of the regional government. The president was shocked and has postponed construction of the road to the furthest village. This is great news because the road would bring more immigration and make it a lot easier to take out wood and other resources. But could also be a problem as many local residents have been hoping for this road for years.



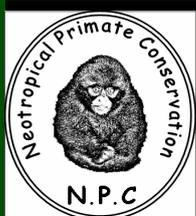
Andean night monkey. Photo: Alejandro Mego



Yellow tailed woolly monkey in Rio Blanco. Photo: Sam Shanee



White fronted capuchin monkey in peroles research site. Photo: Sam Shanee



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www.neoprimate.org

info@neoprimate.org

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National education

Thanks to a very generous grant from the Monkey Sanctuary Trust we have been able to start the education campaign in both Amazonas and San Martin with several school visits. This is being done with Yunkawasi and will culminate in a bi-regional painting competition to be held in May and June. This is running parallel to education work being done by Yunkawasi in Lima and other towns around Peru. We made a three minute film about the yellow tailed woolly

monkey and the project. The film gives basic information about the species and the need for conservation. We gave the film to several local TV stations which are showing it regularly. You can see the movie on Youtube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kaig0eNOQkA>



School children with the Nacional Education campaign folders. Photo: Fanny Fernandez

Conservation reserve in Corosha

We were recently told of a nearby community, Corosha, that has a 2,000 ha area of forest that they are protecting. We are hoping to raise money for the community to register the area with the national wildlife authority, INRENA, through a competition being run by SPDA, Peruvian Society for Environmental Law. The area borders with the Alto Mayo Protected Forest and is very near La Esperanza so this extra reserve would really help protect the yellow tailed woolly monkey.

The fight against trafficking of wild animals

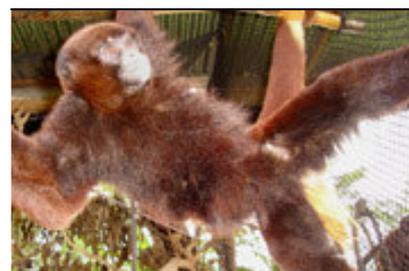
We gave a talk for the Ronda, a national network of local organizations which replaces the police in many rural areas, asking them to control hunting and illegal logging. At the same meeting they signed an agreement that from now on all hunting for pleasure and for trade would be prohibited. This decision is valid for the whole of Amazonas region and it is a big step towards stopping hunting as the Ronda is a very strong and organized network. We also gave several interviews to the local media to explain and announce that the Ronda is denouncing any kind of hunting for trade or pleasure.

During the past months we have found many wild animals for sale including one yellow tailed woolly monkey. With the aid of the Ronda we convinced the owner to give this monkey to the IKAMA Peru rescue

center in Moyobamba where he is now recovering well from a paralyzing head injury he sustained during his capture. Of the other animals that have been caught in the area we were also able to free a female cock-of-the-rock and swallow-tailed kite which had been caught to be kept as pets.



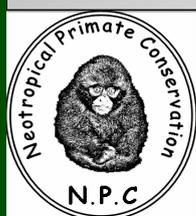
Waimak a few hours after he was captured and paralyzed (left) and recovering in IKAMA Peru rescue centre (right).



Photos: Noga Shanee

Thank you(s)

NPC would like to thank all people and organizations which have supported us and our projects: Apenhule Primate Conservation Trust, Born Free Foundation, Asociacion Peruana para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza, Idea Wild, IKAMA Peru, Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana, Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales, International Primate Protection League, La Vallée des Singes, Museo de Historia Natural del Universidad Mayor de San-Marcos, Primate Conservation inc, Primate Society of Great Britain, Restore UK, Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental, The Monkey Sanctuary Trust and Yunkawasi.



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www.neoprimate.org

info@neoprimate.org