

Newsletter

Neotropical Primate Conservation



www.neoprimate.org

News from the yellow tailed woolly monkey project

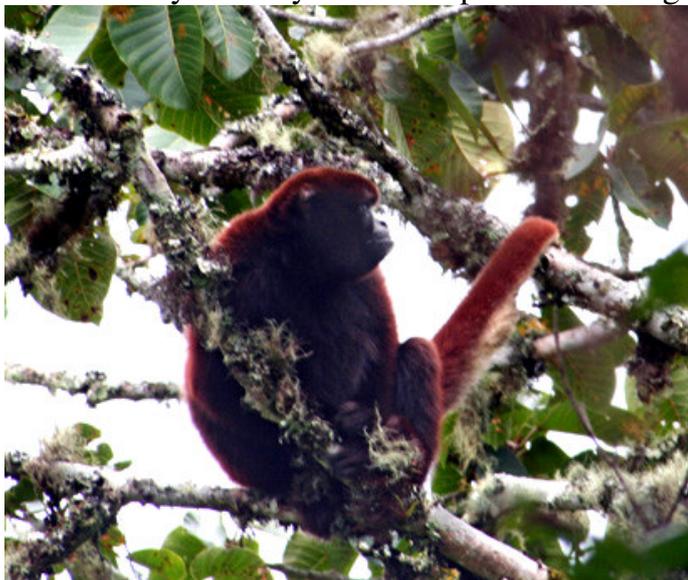
In March NPC project manager Sam Shanee was invited to participate in the first conservation and environmental education congress in San Martin Peru. This included three days of presentations and workshops involving all aspects of conservation in the region. Sam gave a presentation about NPC's work in Peru to a large audience of professionals, government officials, representatives of other NGOs and students. Also in February Sam was invited to give a talk on the importance of primates and conservation at a one-day seminar at the National University *Toribio Rodriguez de Mendoza*.

As we completed our first year of investigation work in Peru we were very pleased to finally find confirmation of live spectacled bears at the site.

Although we are yet to see one we encountered many tracks and footprints during 23 and 25 of March. This is a very important find as these animals are often the first, along with big cats, to be hunted out of areas where people settle. The continued presence of these creatures is a good indicator of the health of the forest and gives hope for the future. We are also evaluating the results of our first year of census work and will soon have the first ever density estimates for the yellow tailed woolly monkey and a complete list of large mammals present at the site in Peru.

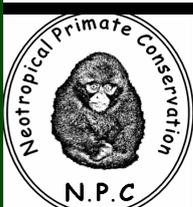


Sam Shanee in congress in San Martin. Photo:



In March our project in Peru was visited by Dr Leobert de Boer of Apenheul Primate Conservation Trust and Jan Vermeer of *La vallée des Singes*, both of which have supported us in our work for the past two years, and both were finally able to get a glimpse of the yellow tailed woolly monkey in the wild, a rare and memorable experience for anyone.

Yellow tailed woolly monkey in Peroles. Photo: Noga Shanee



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New volunteer program

NPC is pleased to announce the start of its first volunteer program. The program was initiated and will be run by Marie Hamard and Lizzie Bohun.

Anyone with an interest can now participate in NPC conservation projects. The first volunteer expedition is scheduled for this coming October with a second group in November. Volunteers will be involved in our Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey conservation project in Peru and will be able to help us in on-site reforestation, education and investigation. For more information please visit:

www.neoprimate.org/volunteers



Audio recording of the monkeys as part of behavioural studies.
Photo: Rosel Gonzales

NPC website

The NPC website, www.neoprimate.org, is now available in both Spanish and Portuguese thanks to help from Silvia Méndez and Marcio Riccelli who gave up their valuable time to help us with the translations. This is an important step in our work as it now makes our website available to many more people in South and Central America where this information is most needed. Our aim is to have the website available in all written languages from the neotropics so we can reach as many people as possible. If you would like to help and feel you could translate some of the site to French, Dutch and Quechua please contact us.

Farewell

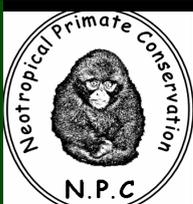
In this newsletter NPC would also like to bid farewell to Fanny Cornejo of the *Museo de Historia Natural-UNMSM*, Lima. Fanny had been helping us in our projects in Peru during 2007/08 and has now moved on to continue her own work. We would like to thank her for her contribution to the yellow tailed woolly monkey project and wish her well for the future! We look forward to our continuing relationship with the museum.

Anti-Hunting Campaign

In February NPC together with the *Federacion de Rondas Campesinas* and IKAMA Peru launched a new drive to end the commercial hunting of primates in north eastern Peru with the printing and distribution of a new poster aimed at increasing national pride and compassion for the yellow tailed woolly monkey. Funding for this poster came from the Monkey Sanctuary Trust.



Men and poster in La Esperanza. Photo: Noga Shanee



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Environmentally damaging carbon offset in Peru

The Peruvian government, with major European funding, is running a massive 'reforestation' campaign to offset CO₂ emissions from developed countries. Unfortunately, they use almost only exotic, eucalyptus and pine trees. Tree nurseries have been built all over Peru and there are a few around the area we are working in. The problems of these species have been well known for many years; they dry the land, raise soil acidity to levels which stop native plants growing around them, encourage fires, and do not benefit wildlife in any way. These species are also not beneficial for local people, as they are not favoured for building and fire wood and have no real commercial value in Peru.

The nurseries are not getting support from local communities, who prefer native trees and therefore have very low levels of success. We feel that these projects, apart from being environmentally damaging are a terrible waste of money which could be spent on forest protection schemes or native tree reforestation projects.



This problem is highlighted by the increasingly severe localised climate change being felt in La Esperanza. This year the rains came late and when they did come they resulted in many floods, landslides, road closures and even two deaths. The importance of cloud forest ecosystems to the maintenance of the global climate cannot be stressed enough and we hope that this harmful practice of exotic species reforestation will soon be a thing of the past.

Together with local groups NPC produced a poster calling for a stop to the planting of exotic species which has been distributed regionally.

But as we know that planting exotic species in developing countries to reduce developed country emissions is a very common practice we are now looking for partner organizations who might want to campaign for the end of this practice funded by the European Union and United States. Please contact us for more information:

info@neoprimate.org



Flooding and land slide an hour away from La Esperanza. Photo: Noga Shanee

