

Newsletter

Neotropical Primate Conservation



Investigation



Oreonax flavicauda male, photo: Noga Shanee

NPC recently published results of a study showing alarming levels of habitat loss for the yellow tailed woolly monkey. The study, carried out by Fiona Buckingham of the University of Brighton and NPC's Sam Shanee, show that previous estimates of habitat loss were too low and possibly as little as 6,000 km² remains for the species. The full article can be downloaded freely from:

www.primatessg.org/PDF/PC24_Buckingham.Shanee_O.flavicauda_Peru.pdf

Between May and July Guyanese MSc student Jermaine Clark of Oxford Brookes University is conducting a survey of the habitat of the Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey. This study will help with future conservation work by determining which areas of forest are the most important for the conservation of the species.

Jermaine has already surveyed two areas of different forest types at different altitudes (both areas are known to be inhabited by YTWMs). He has also followed a group of monkeys to learn about their feeding preferences. Following NPC's commitment to free access to data important for conservation, the results of this survey will be published in open access journals once ready.

Sacha Inchi investigation

NPC has been working to find sustainable alternatives to cattle ranching and illegal logging in La Esperanza and the surrounding area. In June, forestry engineer Alberto Mamani came to help NPC evaluate the commercial potential of Sacha Inchi (*Plukenetia sp.*). Sacha Inchi is a native vine that produces a seed rich in Omega acids. The market in oil from these seeds is growing both nationally and internationally. There are currently two known species of Sacha Inchi, but it is possible that the species found in La Esperanza is a new species not previously known to science. More importantly, preliminary studies suggest that the seeds of Sacha Inchi from the La Esperanza region contain around 6% more Omega acids than the other species.

Sacha Inchi is great as an economic alternative as it grows naturally in the area and is especially present in secondary re-growth, meaning there will be an economic incentive for local people not only to conserve the forest but also to allow areas of re-growth to re-generate.



Sacha Inchi growing in secondary forest in La Esperanza. Photo: Alberto Mamani



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Andean Bear Rescue



Rescued Andean bear on the way to her new home. Photo: Noga Shanee.

In June, NPC was proud to help the Peruvian wildlife authorities and the public prosecutor in the rescue of a spectacled bear. The authorities initiated this rescue, after successfully rescuing a young male bear the month before. This time it was a sub-adult female in good condition, who had been tied up in a restaurant as a tourist attraction for a year and a half. NPC helped funding the transport of the bear to its new home. Spectacled bears are rapidly disappearing from South American forests due to overhunting and habitat loss. Like many monkey species, bear populations are good indicators of the overall health of a forest. The two bears are now in quarantine at the Chaparri wildlife rescue centre in Chiclayo. Hopefully in the future they will be part of a re-introduction program in the 34,412 ha communal reserve run by the Chaparri team.

Environmental Education

Throughout June students from the *Universidad Nacional Toribio Rodriguez de Mendoza* came to give environmental education classes in five of the villages where we are working for the conservation of the Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey. The students came as part of an agreement between NPC and the university in which we give opportunities for local students to gain valuable experience for their studies and at the same time help conservation. The students developed their own syllabus for primary school children on subjects including biology, flora and fauna, ecology, water and nutrient cycles and conservation. The classes were a great success with the children and we hope to continue this work with more students coming to do their final projects with us in September.

NPC is exhibiting photos in the Provincial Education Authority of Bongara's new photographic exhibition of endangered species. The exhibition aims to help teach pupils and parents of the districts schools about the incredible biodiversity in the area and the importance of conserving it. NPC is exhibiting 6 photos featuring the Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey and other endangered species from the area.

Reforestation

NPC's reforestation work continues in the five tree nurseries operating in the community of Yambrasbamba, with several thousand more trees ready to be transplanted out. This is set to increase with the construction of two new nurseries that has begun in the villages of Buenas Aires and Beirut. We are also teaming up with the *Asociacion de Ecosistemas Andinas (ECOAN)*, a conservation NGO working in the area, to plant nitrogen fixing species in local pasture in the hope that with the improved soil there will be less need to clear new pastures in the future. Many of the cattle ranchers in the area are signing up to join this project of pasture improvement.



Children with recently planted cedar tree. Photo: Noga Shanee



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Formal agreement with the community of Yambrabamba

As recognition for our work in the area the President of the 83,000 hectares Yambrabamba community has asked us to sign a formal agreement to help coordinate the communities' and our efforts towards conservation



Sara and Frank, evaluating tourism opportunities in Yambrabamba

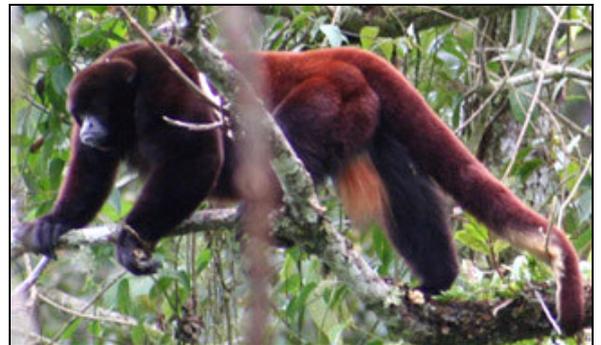
and sustainable development in the area. Previously NPC was working in only 5 villages of this community; but with this new agreement our work will now benefit approximately 6000 community members! To begin with, we have evaluated existing tourist attractions and facilities in the region. This will allow us to make recommendations for improving services and a formulate plan to publicise the area for community run eco-tourism. Tourism is one of the best ways of generating income from forests and wildlife; it allows local people to directly benefit from the forest without the need to remove resources or cut down timber. This is also important as it teaches local people the value that forests have in non-monetary terms.

Regional conservation efforts

NPC is pleased to welcome Dr. Robert Horwich who together with the organization Community Conservation (www.communityconservation.org) has now joined us in our efforts to save the yellow tailed woolly monkey from extinction.

Dr. Horwich is currently with our team in Peru to help capacity building and coordination in local communities and use his wealth of experience in community conservation projects to further our work.

Together we are making a two days workshop for local governments, NGOs, community organizations, churches and general public to coordinate regional conservation efforts. This was made possible thanks to a grant from the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation.



Oreonax flavicauda male. Photo: Noga Shanee

Violence in Bagua

NPC would like to send condolences to the families of the people killed in the violent clash between police and indigenous protesters on the 5th of June in northern Amazonas department. The clash happened when the police tried to forcefully remove a roadblock that had been peacefully in place for two months. The roadblock was in protest against legislative decrees 1090 and 1064, which would have opened up Peru's Amazon territory to increased mining, oil, gas and hydropower development. The decrees undermined the rights of the indigenous peoples of Peru who are protected by national and international laws. An unknown number of indigenous people are still missing.

If you want more information about the struggle of the indigenous communities or feel you could help in any way please contact us.



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