



# Happy New Year!

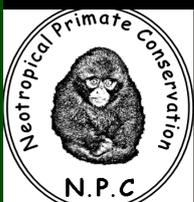
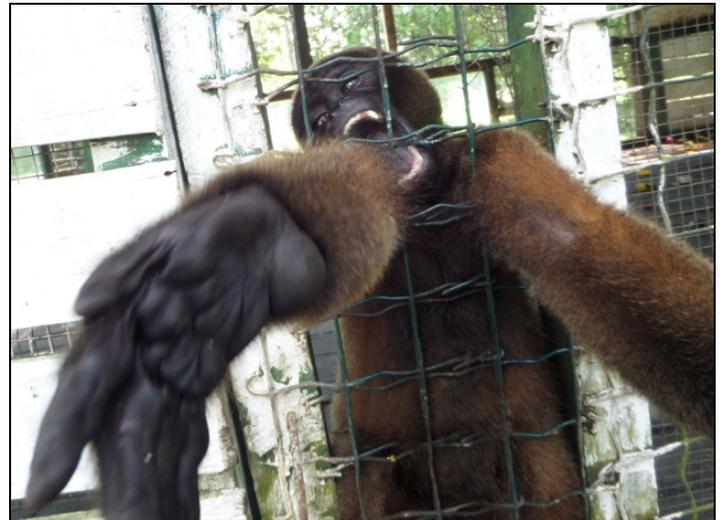
We wish all of you a very happy new year and hope for a great 2014! The 2013 end of year report for our conservation Project in Peru is now available online:

[www.neoprimate.org/Publications/NPC\\_report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.neoprimate.org/Publications/NPC_report_2013.pdf)

## New Forestry and Wildlife Law Puts Peruvian Wildlife at Risk – our new campaign

The New Forestry and Wildlife Law (Ley Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre -N° 29763) offers a large amount of freedom with regard to trade and the sportive hunting of wildlife, while practices of subsistence hunting, opportunistic hunting and an illegal trade in wildlife as bushmeat and pets already endanger Peruvian fauna. This law was approved in 2012 and currently there is a process of elaborating its implementing regulations. The legalisation of the trade in wildlife, even in a restricted way, promotes illegal hunting and opens legal loopholes where a lack of detailed knowledge could result in irreversible damage to wild animal populations in the short and medium term.

The current process of decentralization in Peru passes all responsibility for environmental management, among which are forestry and wildlife, from central to regional governments. However, this process remains incomplete. Each region individually interprets its environmental responsibility, based upon local politics, without central supervision. It is common to find rapid changes in personnel, under-trained functionaries and, in many cases, non-specialists incapable of identifying protected species, unpaid staff, a lack of protocols in dealing with hunting and trafficking as well as shortage of funds, inadequate equipment and transport, amongst other things. Because of this, the majority of regions have minimal 'on-the-ground' presence. They pay little attention to wildlife trafficking and almost no work is done to prevent unsustainable hunting. Furthermore, there exists no strategic plan for wildlife on a regional or national level.



# Newsletter

## Neotropical Primate Conservation



### New Forestry and Wildlife Law Puts Peruvian Wildlife at Risk - our new campaign (Continue)

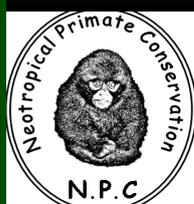
The process of the elaboration of the law itself was supposed to be participative, but during the final stages, participation was not respected, probably due to lobbying from groups interested in commercial exploitation of wildlife. Our campaign aims to make sure that this will not happen during the current process of formulating the implementations. We call for participation from animal rights and conservation activists and for profound changes in the law and its implementation to avoid the extreme liberalization of wildlife exploitation. As we see it, this law, in its current format is open to over-exploitation, illegality and corruption, particularly in the context of the malfunction of the environmental authorities.



The next 5 to 10 years are critical in deciding the future of Peru's wildlife. The way in which the Peruvian public now respond to the government's proposals to open up wildlife markets will determine whether its people become known as environmentally responsible actors, or whether they live to suffer the consequences of having stood by with disregard for their native wildlife and landscapes, while animal populations and natural habitats decline beyond repair. Now is an opportunity to better the future of Peru's diverse ecosystem, and demand an efficient and non-corrupt wildlife authority by ensuring correct and proper training and processes are in place.

### Conservation Reserves

In the last months we have continued with our work in promoting community conservation areas and reserves with three associations that we work with signing contracts with the regional government of San Martin for the management of Conservation Concessions with the habitat of the Critically Endangered Andean titi monkey (*Callicebus oenanthe*) and the endemic Andean night monkey (*Aotus miconax*). Also we celebrated the creation of the 'The Monkeys' Jungle', a Ronda conservation area (ARCA), of a 324 ha. near the village of El Tambo. This area encompasses beautiful flooded forest. It is home to 7 different primate species including the San Martin titi monkey. The villagers of El Tambo are conserving the area since the 1990s, and as a result, the primates are not shy of humans and are very easy to spot. We believe that this area's biodiversity and easy access could attract tourism and become a great example of locally run conservation areas. We have also begun helping two more local associations in San Martin with the creation of their conservation concessions covering an additional 20,000 ha of primate habitat.



Neotropical Primate Conservation

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# Newsletter Neotropical Primate Conservation



## A preliminary visit to Ucayali

The Ucayali Region is known nationally and internationally as one of the areas with the highest levels of illegal wildlife trafficking. We visited Ucayali in November for three weeks, carrying out preliminary work for an anti-traffic campaign.

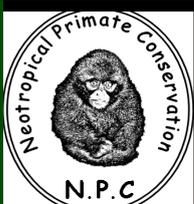
We found that animals are continually sold in markets, as bushmeat and as pets, used as tourist attractions, or smuggled to coastal regions in Peru and outside the country. The forests of Ucayali are some of the most biologically diverse forests worldwide, and the illegal wildlife trade is responsible for the loss of much of the region's natural wealth. The official wildlife authorities are mostly inactive and corruption levels are exceptionally high. We were invited to Pucallpa by indigenous and campesino leaders to find conservation solutions for the area.

We organized a large march against wildlife traffic in Ucayali which had to be postponed to another date due to heavy rains in Pucallpa. Even so, the advocacy work in the run up to the delayed event was very productive. We spread the message through the media, schools, colleges and universities, and saw significant advances. We consider this a very important and successful first visit, mostly for the commitment that local indigenous and peasant organizations made to take responsibility to put an end to the traffic of wild animals in the region of Ucayali.



## NPC Participates in UK inquiry into keeping primates as pets

NPC wants to see an end to the trade in pet monkeys, wherever it occurs. It is discouraging, to say the least, that in some European countries and some US states it is perfectly legal to keep primates as pets – not only does this cause immense suffering, but it undermines the work we're doing here every day. NPC is registered as a charity in the United Kingdom, and so when the UK parliament announced that it would be conducting an inquiry into the keeping of pet primates, we were pleased to submit written evidence. Our submission outlined how the primate pet trade damages primate welfare and hinders conservation efforts. We cited a variety of studies demonstrating how practices common in the trade, such as maternal deprivation and isolation from conspecifics, can cause an array of physiological and psychological abnormalities. We also discussed how the increasing popularity of the internet and the increasing availability of television media from all over the world means that people everywhere are becoming familiar with practices common in places like the US and the UK. The UK should set a positive example, by taking immediate steps to stop the trade and keeping of all primates. Our submission can be found in this link: <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/WrittenEvidence.svc/EvidenceHtml/5104>



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