



Happy New Year!

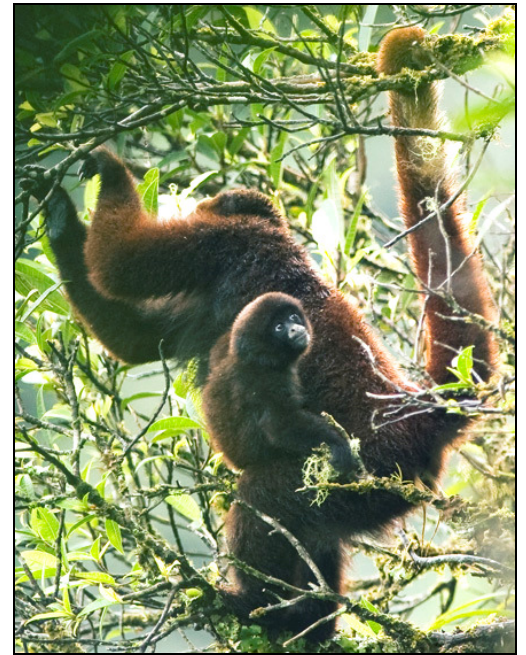
We wish all of you a very happy new year and hope for a great 2011! Please read on to see the latest news about our work, and don't forget to visit our website.

www.neoprimate.org

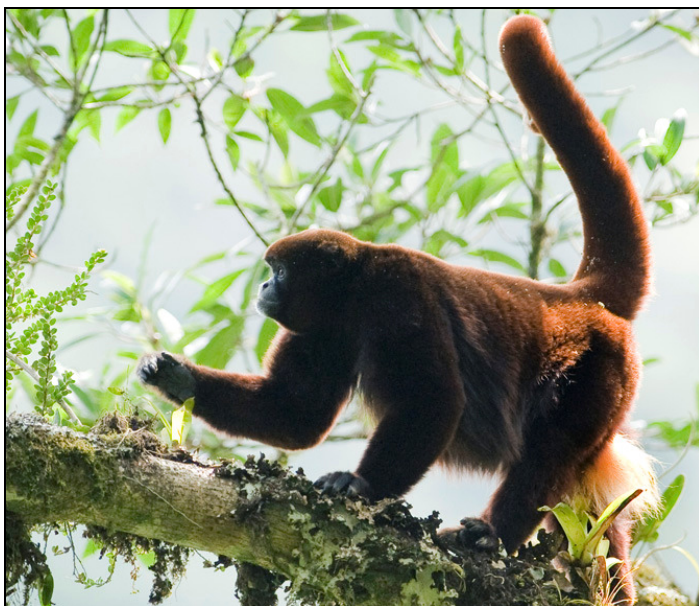
Yellow tailed research news

The NPC research group has discovered two new populations of the yellow tailed woolly monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*). The new findings represent the first record of this species in the Peruvian department of La Libertad since 1974 and the first time that it has been reported in the department of Huanuco. These areas are often overlooked by conservationists as most of the known range is found in the neighbouring departments of Amazonas and San Martin. Also, socio-political problems in the area, which is known as a centre for cocaine production and is a former stronghold of communist guerrilla groups, makes visits to these remote valleys and steep mountains almost impossible.

This is a find of significant importance for the conservation of this emblematic primate. With such a small wild population, these areas give new hope for the species' survival. NPC hopes to initiate a new conservation project directed at ensuring the survival of these populations.



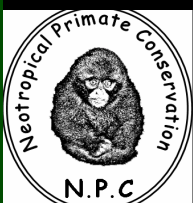
O. flavicauda. Photo: Kevin Schafer



O. flavicauda. Photo: Kevin Schafer

Back in La Esperanza, we have finished a complete year of studying the behavior of both the yellow tailed woolly monkey and the Andean night monkey, another endemic species to this small area of northern Peru. The information we collected, which includes data on the species' diet and range, will be a great help to our work in finding new areas with the best habitat for the conservation of these primates. As always this work was carried out with the help of volunteers and students from Peru and around the world who we wish to thank for the time and effort they gave to help us.

In October, photographer Kevin Schafer visited our La Esperanza field site to photograph the yellow tailed woolly monkey. His photos were donated to the project to be used for education purposes. Thank you.



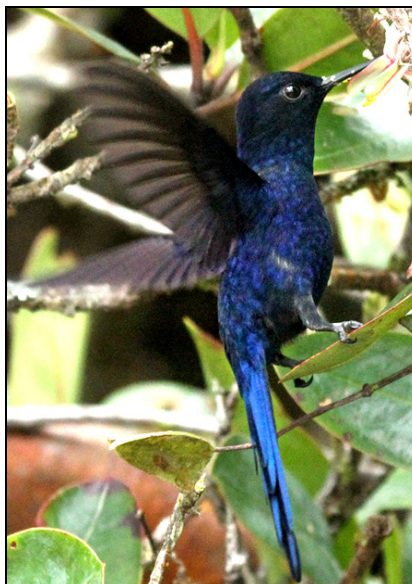
Newsletter

Neotropical Primate Conservation



Reserves, Sunangel's Gardens, Hoción, Pachiza

NPC has begun the official procedure to register a 7,500 ha conservation concession called the "Sunangel's Gardens". The Concession needs to be authorised by the Regional Government of San Martín, and will allow a local association, APALP, to manage the area for conservation purposes for an initial period of 40 years. NPC has been working together with APALP since 2008 on capacity building for conservation management, environmental education and together we completed the biological inventories for the area.



Left: Royal Sunangel, Photo: Shachar Alterman

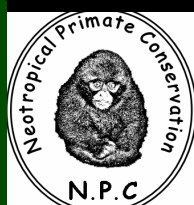
Right: Waterfall in Sunangels Gardens, Photo: Eugenio Fernandez

Hoción is the name of a mountain near the village of Libano. A local group have decided to conserve this area and we have been helping them to organise and start the process of registration of a conservation concession. In December we arranged a group of biologists to prepare inventories for Hoción, which will be used for the application to the Regional Government of Amazonas.

We have begun working with villages in the district of Paschiza, San Martín on the creation of two reserves. The villages of Ricardo Palma and Bagazan are proposing reserves of 7,000 and 5,000 ha each, these areas are home to the endangered San Martín titi monkey as well as red Howler monkeys, tamarins, night monkeys and capuchins. We are working together with AMPA, SPDA and Proyecto Mono Tocon.



Environmental education in schools as part of the creation of the Hoción reserve. Photo: NPC



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www.neoprimate.org

info@neoprimate.org

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Education

Between September and December this year we sent our 3rd group of education students to carry out environmental work in some of the remotest villages in Amazonas. This year the students went to the province



of Omia, to teach environmental education in the four schools neighbouring the Sunangel's Gardens, and Hocicón reserves. This is part of our continuing work with the university of Chachapoyas, UNAT-A, to develop local capacities by supporting final year students in gaining experience in field work related to conservation - something that they otherwise may not be able to do, as well as continuing to offer support for the communities which have committed themselves to conservation initiatives.

Students from UNAT-A teaching in the school of La Union. Photo: UNAT-A

Long-whiskered owlet in Yambrasbamba

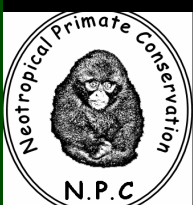
As part of our work in helping the communities to develop sustainable economic activities, we managed to see the long-whiskered owlet at a new site in the community of Yambrasbamba. The site, located just off a well-maintained dirt road is by far the most accessible site to see this legendary bird. ATACY, a local tourism association, has secured the area with a fence and a payment has been implemented for tourists wishing to visit the area. 100% of this money goes to the community and is divided between the maintenance of a proposed 5,000 ha communal conservation area and the generation of income for local residents. Local field guides have been trained by Neotropical Birding Tours, who hope to start operating in the area.



Neotropical Birding Tours' workshop for field guides. Photo: Neotropical Birding Tours

Thank you for your support!

Remember that our work depends on donations, so please visit our website and make a donation or contact us for other ways to help.



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