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### Presentation of “Most Trafficked Wildlife Identification Guide” to the environmental authorities of North-eastern Peru

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September we had the first event presenting our newly published book, an easy to use animal identification guide for the wildlife authorities of Amazonas and San Martin. The guide includes photographs, species descriptions, CITES and IUCN categories, and common forms of traffic for all the wildlife species which have been recorded by NPC's 3 year investigation into the illegal wildlife trade in North-eastern Peru.

The guide was made by NPC and funded by International Primate Protection League (IPPL-UK), and the event was organized by NPC and the Administracion Technica de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (ATFFS) - Amazonas.

In Peru, the authorities responsible for fighting the illegal wildlife trade suffer from a severe lack of human and economic resources, proper equipment and training. This guide aims to give them the ability to identify species and an explanation of why their roll as wildlife authorities is so important.



Representatives of ATFFS and the National Police with the guide.

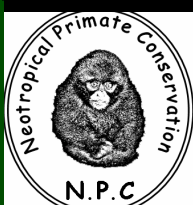
### Visit from a film production company



“Living on the Edge Productions” filming in the forest.

The Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey Project enjoyed a ten day visit from “Living on the Edge Productions”, who filmed the different aspects of the project. The people in the area were very happy to cooperate; they all asked to be interviewed and told about their experience with the conservation of the special forests they live in. Fortunately, the yellow tailed woolly monkeys in the forest were also found to be very joyful and enthusiastic film stars.

The movie will be shown in Europe and DVD copies will be given to the authorities in the communities so that they will be able to demonstrate the good work they are doing towards the conservation of the monkeys and their habitat.



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# Newsletter

## Neotropical Primate Conservation



### Wildlife rescues and releases

On 29<sup>th</sup> September a community member of Yambrasbamba called to inform us that an adult sloth had been caught by his neighbour. In accordance with our instructions, he went with a group from the local authorities to assess the situation and found that the sloth was wounded in a few places. The hunter who caught the sloth planned to sell it as a tourist attraction and initially refused to give it up without a payment. However, an excellent explanation by the local authorities persuaded him to peacefully give the animal to the agents of the wildlife authorities, (ATFFS) who arrived at the scene quickly after we contacted them. Therefore, the sloth got to IKAMA Peru Rescue centre less than a day after it was taken from the wild.

Vets at IKAMA Peru assessed the adult, female, two-toed sloth (*Choloepus didactylus*) and decided that the wounds were all superficial and could be treated with a long-term antibiotic. The problem was that although she was drinking a lot, the sloth refused to eat in captivity and therefore we had to take her quickly back to the forest. We decided together with the community that it would be the best for her to go back to where she was caught, therefore the authorities called an urgent meeting where the members signed an agreement that they were not going to hunt this individual or any other threatened wild animal and would protect the forest where the sloth was to be released. They all agreed to it and we released the sloth back to her habitat.

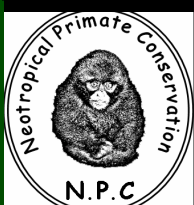
We are especially happy with the involvement of the communal authorities and the quick response of ATFFS, as well as the good care she was given by IKAMA, which all made it possible to return the animal back to nature less than 72 hours after its capture.



Sloth before and during the release.  
Photos: Noga Shanee

Another animal which needed our help recently was a tree porcupine (*Coendou bicolour*), which was found on a eucalyptus tree in the middle of La Esperanza village. We believe that it had been scared by dogs during the night and had lost its way, getting stuck in the tree without a way to get back to the forest. Tree porcupines are nocturnal animals with an extraordinary look; their spines are half bright yellow and half black, their face is similar to the face of a pig and their tail is prehensile.

After a long discussion with the neighbours we came to the conclusion that, although the people would not deliberately harm the animal, it was too risky to leave it there to find its own way back to the forest during the night, because to get back to the forest it would have to climb down to the ground where it could get run over by a car or attacked by dogs.



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No-one was brave enough to climb the tree and get the porcupine down, as the locals wrongly believe that these animals can shoot their spines when threatened. In the end, Alejo Mego, a friend of NPC and who is always a great help, managed to bring the porcupine down, he caught it carefully at the end of its tail and placed it in a sack. By sunset the tree porcupine was already free in a nearby forest.



Tree porcupine before and during release. Photos: Sam Shanee

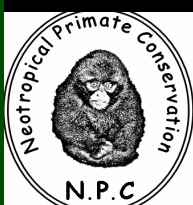
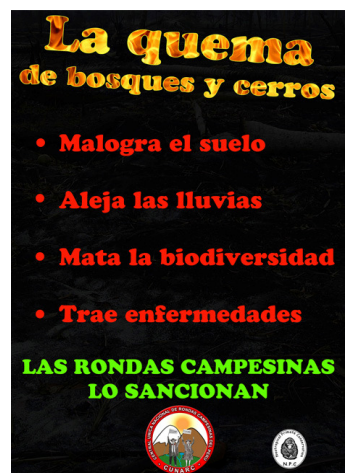
### New poster campaign against forest fires

The Ronda Campesina (a network of civil organizations which practice vigilance and civil justice in the rural Peruvian countryside) is one of the best allies we have for conservation in Peru. Together with them we printed a poster explaining the dangers of forest fires.

There are many uncontrolled fires throughout the home range of the yellow tailed woolly monkey and they may be one of the biggest dangers for the species. The poster is supposed to encourage local Ronda authorities to tackle this problem. The people burn for two main reasons: one is an old belief that the smoke from the fires brings rain; the second reason, and much more common, are small burnings made for the practice of slash and burn agriculture which get out of control and devastate huge areas of forest or secondary growth.

Resolving the problem is becoming more and more urgent as the increasing levels of deforestation have already resulted in extreme levels of climate change. This year, the regions of Amazonas and San Martin, the home of the yellow tailed woolly monkey, suffered from a severe lack of rains. This has led to dehydration of crops, pastures and rivers. For example, the hydroelectric plant in La Esperanza, which until this year functioned almost perfectly both in the dry and wet seasons, has been functioning only one or two hours a day for the past two months because the level of water in the river that feeds it is so low.

Hopefully this poster campaign, together with the growing awareness of the people which live through these noticeable changes in the climate, will help bring an end to the habit of burning the forests and fields.



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