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Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey Project

A group of four Italian zoology experts from the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale (City Museum of Natural History), Carmagnola (Turin, Italy) led by the ornithologist Dr. Giovanni Boano, Director of the Museum, and a herpetologist from the University of Cusco came to the area during August to help us make inventories of amphibians, reptiles and birds. They went to two sites near La Esperanza, and Corosha. Also a group of Peruvian scientists from the Museum of Natural History of UNMSM came to survey these three areas. The group consisted of a botanist, mammalogist and fish expert. All are now working on making their reports.



Dr. Boano and Dr. Sindaco with a green jay

This is a great step towards creating the reserves in La Esperanza and Corosha as we will use these reports to show the authorities the importance of the areas biologically, and these inventories can help with promoting tourism, especially the inventories of birds.

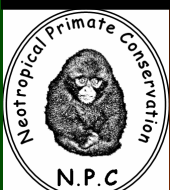


We have continued the census work in Peroles and now have enough sightings of the yellow tailed woolly monkey to make a preliminary evaluation.

Surprisingly, this was the only species that was encountered in sufficient numbers to allow a proper estimation of density. However we now have confirmed the presence of a number of large mammal species, several of which are endemic and others that are endangered.

We have also purchased sound recording equipment to begin vocal studies of *Oreonax* and *Aotus*. We hope to begin behavioural studies of *Oreonax* in the New Year.

Yellow tailed woolly monkeys in Peroles



Newsletter

Neotropical Primate Conservation



Fight against hunting and wildlife trafficking

As a result of our work in the area, the people of La Esperanza understand better the problem of taking wildlife from the forest. During July we were given a pudu deer, the smallest deer in the world, which we released back to the forest.

The pudu was found by a taxi driver who saw it crossing the highway and thought that it was a young red deer and so the driver caught the deer in order to eat it. Our neighbour recognized it as a pudu and persuaded the taxi driver that it is inedible and an endangered species - so he gave it to us. The pudu was a healthy adult female but was extremely stressed so we immediately took her back to the area where she was caught and released her. This is a very special species that is rarely seen. We felt very honoured to be able to help it in this way and pleased that the villagers are now beginning to realise that there is a need to protect wildlife.



The pudu released to the forest



On the same day another villager came to us with a Southern naked tailed armadillo that he was given by a truck driver coming from the lowland forest of San Martin. This is another rare species and we were able to release it the next day in the protected lands of Tarangue, a primate rescue centre run by IKAMA Peru near Moyobamba.

We are keeping records of animals that we find in captivity or for sale in San Martin and Amazonas. This is to gain a better understanding of the situation and will be useful to the authorities. We report all the live animals we find to INRENA (Peruvian wildlife authorities), and will follow up to see what they do about these animals.

Stuffed yellow tailed woolly monkey in a tourist centre in Pomacochas

National Education Campaign

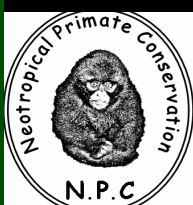
Yunkawasi, a Peruvian NGO, organised a painting competition for school children. The competition was supported by NPC with funding from the Monkey Sanctuary Trust- UK.

The theme for the paintings was Peruvian primates and each school that participated was visited by representatives from Yunkawasi and/or NPC to give classes on primates and the importance of conservation. Activities included talks, movies and games. The competition was run in nine different towns and villages throughout the departments of Amazonas and San Martin, and almost 600 school children took part.

The paintings were reviewed by a group of artists and scientists including world renowned scientific illustrator Stephen Nash. The three winners will be announced in an event which will take place in December. The winning paintings will be published in a calendar to be ready for 2009. See <http://runachay-peru.blogspot.com> for more information.



School children in the painting competition



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Newsletter

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Good news from Peru! National congress rejects "La Ley de la Selva" (The Law of the forest)

The law of the forest was initiated by the Peruvian Prime Minister, Alan Garcia, in order to enable the government to sell 9.5 million acres of land in Peru's Amazon to private foreign investors.

Current laws do not allow the sale of government owned or communal lands to private owners. This protects community structure and, to a certain level, helps protect the forest from over exploitation by private companies. This law would have taken the right of possession from many indigenous communities and would have made it much easier for large mining, petrochemical and logging companies to take hold of communal lands.



Open pit zinc mine in La Esperanza, Yambrasbamba

Protests by native communities from Loreto, Ucayali, San Martin and Amazonas helped sway the vote in the Peruvian congress. Of course this law could always be amended and brought to a new vote, which is likely as it would be very profitable in the short term, but for the moment, it is a great victory for democracy and for the forests of Peru.

A new collaboration with UNAT-A



UNAT-A logo

NPC has signed a contract with the Universidad Nacional Toribio Rodríguez de Mendoza, Amazonas (UNAT-A) to start working together. The university will send students from the faculties of education, tourism and forestry engineering. Students will come for 2-4 month periods to do their practical work and will help with the development, reforestation and education sides of the project.

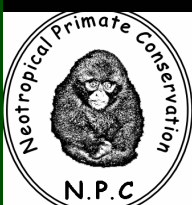
Funding

We have secured further funding for the reforestation project from Restore-UK (www.restoreuk.org). We have also received renewed funding from la Conservatoire pour la Protection des Primates de La Vallée des Singes (www.la-vallee-des-singes.fr) and Apenheul Primate Conservation Trust (www.apenheul.nl). As well as a small grant from the Monkey Sanctuary Trust-UK (www.monkeysanctuary.org) for printing anti hunting posters, which will focus on primates.

We are awaiting news from various other foundations - hopefully we will have enough money to maintain and expand all the projects that we have begun over the last year. Remember, if you would like to help, you can make a donation through our website:

www.neoprimate.org

Thank you for your support!



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