

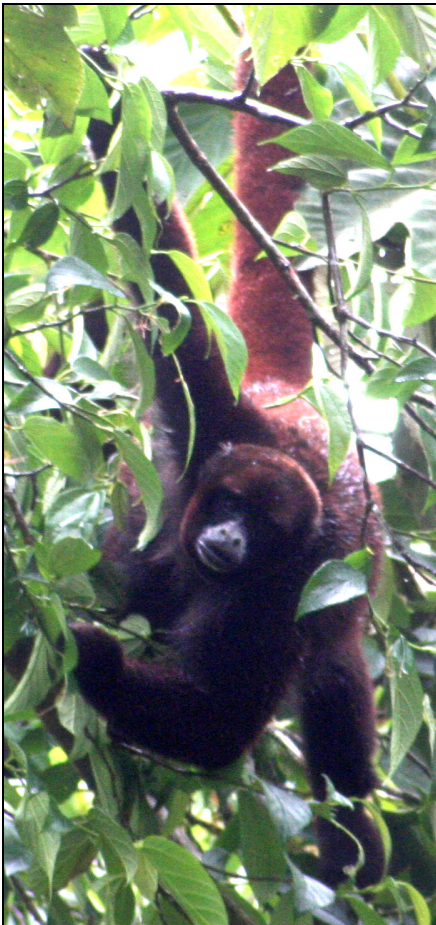
Newsletter Neotropical Primate Conservation



NPC has been granted Charity Status!

On the 14th of August this year the UK's Charities Commission approved NPC's application to be a charity. Formally a non-profit NGO, NPC's new status as a charity follows a rigorous process by the UK government to confirm our purely charitable objectives. This now allows us to receive grants from many new areas including "gift aid", a governmental scheme of tax deducted donations.

Volunteer Expedition



Yellow tailed woolly monkey. Photo:
Noga Shaneec

This October saw the first Volunteer Expedition to NPC's La Esperanza project in Peru. A group of three volunteers spent four weeks in La Esperanza participating in a variety of activities for the project. The expedition included two trips to the forest site of Peroles, where they recorded behavioral data on yellow-tailed woolly monkeys (*Oreonax flavicauda*) to begin a year long study on this species. Behavioral data on this species has never before been systematically collected and it is hoped that this information will give a greater understanding of this species and its use of the forest environment. Although the trails were more than any of the volunteers had bargained for, the end result of seeing and studying these monkeys made the experience worthwhile for everyone involved.

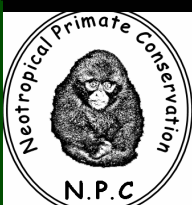
Much work was also done in the local tree nursery at La Esperanza. From collecting seeds and seedlings of native species to planting and attending to small trees, the volunteers learned about tree species that benefit both the animals and people of this region.



Behavioural observation on a group of *Oreonax flavicauda*. Photo: Noga Shaneec

Finally, our volunteers spoke to school children about conservation and encouraged blossoming tourism in remote villages.

If you would like to know more about future volunteer expeditions please contact us through the web-site, www.neoprimate.org.



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Community Conservation workshop



Dr. Robert Horwich.
Photo: Noga Shanee

On the 15th and 16th of July 2009, NPC together with American NGO Community Conservation organized a workshop on Community Conservation dedicated to the conservation of endemic species in Amazonas and San Martin. The event was sponsored by a grant from the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation and was hosted by the Municipality of Chachapoyas.

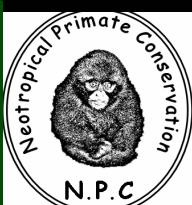
The main presentations were provided by Dr. Robert Horwich of Community Conservation, who shared his wealth of experience in working with local communities all over the world. The participants were incredibly varied including NGO's, Universities, churches, government agencies, local organizations, educational representatives, media, tourist agents and most importantly

representatives from many communities in Amazonas and San Martin. Many gave talks and shared their experiences and all participated in group activities that led to important contacts between organizations and individuals.

Another result of this event was a draft of a map of the region of Amazonas and San Martin that includes all conservation initiatives which were identified by the workshop's participants. This map will be used as part of a bi-regional plan for a network of community conservation initiatives.



Group activities during the workshop. Photos, Noga and Sam Shanee



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New conservation initiatives

During, and after, the workshop we received enquiries from various communities and organizations that are interested in conserving their forests. We are now following those contacts to create new conservation reserves. This work is being done in full collaboration with SPDA (Peruvian Society for Environmental Rights) who assist the communities with legal issues involved in registering reserves. Creating the reserves is a long process; it includes biological investigation of the area, socioeconomic studies, capacity building of the local



Meeting in pajuil village school. Photo: Marcos Dias

population on how to run a reserve, elaboration of management plans which include vigilance of the reserve and economic alternatives for the local communities so that they can have the means to do all the necessary work. The areas that were chosen by the different communities vary in size and forest type, which means that they will protect many different species of flora and fauna.

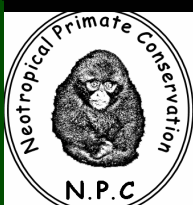
The biggest area proposed for a reserve is of 30,000 hectares. It is in the province of Mendoza at between 1000-1900 m.a.s.l. Although the yellow tailed woolly monkey has not been confirmed in the area, a preliminary visit by NPC verified populations of Howler monkeys (*Alouatta seniculus*) and of white-bellied spider monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth*). Presence of the white fronted capuchin monkeys, saki monkeys and common woolly monkeys was also suggested by local communities. This visit also included presentations by NPC staff to the local communities on the sustainable use of natural resources and the need for conservation of such special areas.

Happy Birthday to Miraflores School

In October, the village school of Miraflores celebrated its Anniversary. The festivities lasted three days. On the first day NPC was invited to judge an inter-school drawing competition. Children from each of four different schools entered the competition. All the children put a lot of effort into their art, and choosing only three winners was a difficult task. With themes ranging from conservation to village traditions it was great to see the creativity of these kids.



Volunteers with the painting competition participants.
Photo: Noga Shaneec



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