

A ROCHA PERU NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 8) MAY 2015

PROJECT NEWS

Pilot Youth Club project in La Esperanza off to a hopeful start



January marked the beginning of our new La Esperanza Youth Club pilot Project, which we are pleased to say is off to a very hopeful start. Our youth club aims to provide young people in La Esperanza, who are vulnerable to gang crime, the opportunity and space to develop Christian values, receive capacity and leadership training and engage in creative sustainable activities, acting as a pilot for a future, longer-term "Peace Youth Centre". Sandra Gastañudi Torres, who joined A Rocha Peru as the La Esperanza Project Coordinator

in January, has been developing the project in collaboration with the Trujillo Provincial Municipality, the La Esperanza District Micro Health Network, the Chino Terrones Foundation, the Soul Fighter Crew breakdance club, the Buen Socorro mother's club, community leaders and volunteers from the Cesar Vallejo University of Trujillo.

On February 27, the club inaugurated its dance workshops with the Bailando por La Paz festival, with traditional regional dances, marinera (a typical northern dance) and breakdance classes. In March, seven medical students from the César Vallejo University provided nutritional and BMI (body mass index) evaluations to club members, setting the groundwork for community health campaigns that the project intends to carry out starting in the coming weeks. On March 14, more than 100 children attended the Evangelical Festival accompanied by their parents. In April, the Taller de Afianzamiento began, an afterschool programme that helps children with their homework and provides



environmental education activities. At the end of each workshop and/or club activity, there is a moment for reflection with a biblical reading and prayer for the personal needs of the group. We are pleased to see the rapid development of the club's activities in just a few months, and look forward to continuing progress.

Challenges and celebrations for the La Libertad project



the 'Chicama Blue Planet' environmental club.

The La Libertad Project started the new year with two new Field Officers, Jordan de la Cruz Castillo and Aracely Gonza Carnero, who formerly were dedicated project volunteers. Rusty Edmonson and Sara Armstrong joined the team in February for an annual project monitoring visit on behalf of the Watersheds Foundation. They were able to see the progress of the plant nursery at the National University of Trujillo and at the reforestation site in Razuri. They also had the opportunity to meet with the members of

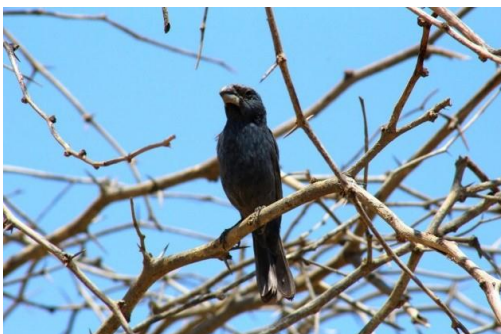
Reforestation activities continue, with visits carried out twice a month to monitor plant growth and irrigation at the reforestation site. Maintaining adequate irrigation is proving a challenge for the project and the team is currently searching for ways to overcome this.

Environmental education activities were held with a guided trip to El Tubo wetland, near the reforestation site, and workshops and talks held to celebrate Environmental Education Day on

January 26 and Earth Day on April 22. Members of Chicama Blue Planet marked Earth Hour by walking through Razuri town centre with banners to raise environmental awareness in the community and to show their commitment in the fight against climate change.



Reforestation continues in Talara as the second phase of the project begins



The Talara Project marked the start of its second year in January, with the successful reforestation of 7 hectares of dry forest within ContourGlobal's windfarm site. Between February and March, the irrigation system for the remaining 5 hectares due to be reforested was installed. A research paper recording the first ever sighting of the Blue-black Grosbeak in the region, entitled "Primer Registro de Cyanocompsa cyanoides para el bosque seco

de Talara, region Piura”, was presented to the Unión de Ornitólogos Del Perú, UNOP, (Ornithologists’ Union of Peru) and will be published upon the completion of its review.

In January, a production crew from La Chicha Films was in Talara filming the project’s second video, "A New Hope", which you can [watch here](#). A new partnership was formed with Victor Maldonado Vegazo School and as a result, a second environmental club is underway; neighbouring schools have shown interest in following suit. The project team and the Friends of the Plants Environmental Club participated in a school fair called "El día Del Logro" (Achievement Day) as well as an educational fair called "Aprender para Crecer" (Learning for Growth) held at the Talara civic centre. Finally, the team thanks Tania Elizabeth Cruz Arismendiz, a volunteer who is providing support with environmental education activities and work at the university plant nursery.



TEAM NEWS

We have been pleased to welcome the following new members of the A Rocha Peru team, whose profiles you can read via the links below:

- [Sandra Gastañudi Torres](#), La Esperanza Project Coordinator (sandra.gastanudi@arocha.org)
- [Jordan De La Cruz Castillo](#), La Libertad Project Field Officer (jordan.delacruz@arocha.org)
- [Aracely Gonza Carnero](#), La Libertad Project Field Officer (aracely.gonza@arocha.org)
- [Sofia León Zapatel](#), Communications and Development Officer, Lima (sofia.leon@arocha.org)
- [Johnny Musayón Quevedo](#), Administrative Assistant, Lima (johnny.musayon@arocha.org)

We are grateful to count on the support of our intern Tim Bos between March and June. Tim is a Dutch university student undertaking his Bachelors in Forestry and Nature Management and conducting his research thesis on the drivers of dry forest cover change in La Libertad.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to Liliana Berango, who visited the La Libertad and La Esperanza projects in May, for her great work and loving dedication, and for her continued support.

EVENT NEWS



coastline, in Ica, La Libertad and Talara.

On April 22nd, four A Rocha Peru representatives attended an event organized by CIZA-UNALM (the Centre for Arid Zone Research at the National Agrarian University in La Molina) to mark the visit of Dr. Zeremariam Fre, the Director of PENHA (Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa) and a renowned professor at University College London, UK. Dr Fre spoke about the use of *Proposis* sp. in his home country, Ethiopia, and welcomed opportunities for South-South partnership between Peru and Ethiopia on *Proposis* reforestation. Camille Allan, Director of A Rocha Peru, shared A Rocha Peru's experience of reforesting *Proposis* sp. along Peru's desert

FRIEND'S CORNER

- **My name is** Sandra Gastañudi Torres.
- **I was born in** Trujillo, La Libertad.
- **I live in** Trujillo.
- **I live with** my children, husband and mother.
- **My favourite plants are** fruit trees like avocado, lucuma and guanabana and my favourite animal is the dog.
- **I enjoy** listening to music, writing poetry and sharing God's Word.
- **I am the** La Esperanza Project Coordinator.
- **I started on** January 2nd, 2015.
- **What I like most about my position is** encouraging the families participating in the Youth Club to have goals and dreams.
- **What I like most about A Rocha Peru is** the opportunity I get to engage families in caring for the environment and helping them develop a sense of responsibility and commitment, all while practicing my Christian values.



A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Stay up to date with [latest A Rocha International news](#)
- Keep up with [Planetwise Blog](#)
- Read ARI's latest [news bulletin](#)

[Visit our new website and watch our videos!](#)

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

PRAY for the successful progress of our organisation, projects, our growing team, and ongoing fundraising and communications activities.

ENQUIRE about our volunteer and internship opportunities at our offices and projects in Lima, La Libertad and Talara.

DONATE to A Rocha Peru on a one-off or regular basis, by calling our Lima office on: +51 1 248 0271 or by emailing us at: peru@arocha.org. Remember you can donate not only financially but we accept donations of your time, talent or skill!