

## NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 14) Bringing 2016 to a close

### PROJECT NEWS

#### 'Seeds of Hope' video for Esperanza Peace Centre Project



We are delighted to share our video "[Seeds of Hope](#)" where you can see the impact that our 'Esperanza Peace Centre Project' in Trujillo city, La Libertad, in northern Peru, has had on its beneficiaries over the past two years. Here, community members are severely affected by high levels of crime, domestic violence, child

abuse, and poor environmental health, with children much more likely to become victims of violence and parental neglect.

In response to this situation, our Peace Centre is empowering at-risk children with social and environmental values. As Sandra, our Field Officer explains "*The violence and aggressiveness we see in them is learnt. No one is born violent or aggressive.*" Our team members also share with us their hopes and aspirations for the children to improve their conditions. As Santiago, a project volunteer, explains: "*We know they can go on to be great professionals, they can be great doctors, engineers.*"



To find out more about the project and how you can support it visit our project webpage [here](#).

## Natural regeneration strengthens dry forest conservation efforts in Talara

Thanks to our successful partnership with ContourGlobal, and eight local neighbourhood councils in Talara, we are thrilled that our dry forest restoration activities have resulted in natural regeneration at our project site.



Regular monitoring visits have shown an increase in native flora and fauna, most significantly noted by the presence of active nests belonging to the critically endangered Peruvian Plantcutter bird (*Phytotoma raymondii*).

Furthermore, we have registered natural regrowth of several plant species including those we have reforested such as algarrobo (*Prosopis* sp.) and vichayo (*Capparis ovalifolia*), as well as others such as spiderlings (*Grabowskia boerhaaviaefolia*) and the wild sunflower (*Encelia canescens*.), with some saplings flowering and bearing fruit! This natural regeneration is an important indicator that the ecosystem within the reforested area is recovering its functions, and reveals the fantastic progress the project is making.

## New reforestation technology successfully trialled in La Libertad.

To our delight, two monitoring visits of native trees reforested using COCOONs at our La Libertad project site, have revealed that this technology is perfect for dry forest reforestation. [COCOON](#) is an innovative planting technology that enables trees to grow in arid conditions. Trees grown using this technology have an 80-95% survival rate. Furthermore, the COCOON is 100% biodegradable and low maintenance as no further irrigation is needed once the tree has been planted.

We are excited to apply this technology to support our future dry forest restoration activities in La Libertad, for which we are currently looking for funding.



## FUNDRAISING NEWS

Thanks to a new partnership with A Rocha Switzerland, we have successfully applied to Swiss donor, Interaction, for funding towards a three-year project to support local communities in restoring dry forests in La Libertad. We are seeking match-funding from foundations, as well as individual donations, large and small. If you are interested in supporting this project, please visit our donations page [here](#).

## TEAM NEWS

We were sad to say farewell to Talara Project team members, Tania Cruz and Elizabeth Gomez, and also to Lima team members, Cesia Espinoza and Clara del Campo, at the end of last year. We wish them all the best of luck in the future, and are glad to welcome [Sanchia Zucker-Rodriguez](#), our new Communications and Development Officer, to the team.

## EVENT NEWS

On December 17th, we held our annual End of Year Event at our Lima office, where we shared news on the progress of our organisation and projects in 2016 with members, staff and friends. We later enjoyed each other's company over a meal, and were able to express our gratitude to all present for their support in making 2016 a successful year.

## A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Read A Rocha's International News on "[Marine Research and Conservation](#)", published in December 2016.
- Read the Planetwise blog '[Conservation Medicine](#)' which explains how conservation can reduce the impact of climate change upon poor communities.