

## A ROCHA PERU NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 10) OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2015

### PROJECT NEWS

#### **The Wonders of Puerto Chicama: clubs come together for community fair**

After months of preparation, on November 7th 'Chicama Blue Planet' and 'The Friends of the Environment' clubs held 'The Wonders of Puerto Chicama' community fair in their home-town. This was the first time our La Libertad Project's environmental clubs for local children and teenagers came together for a joint event. It was wonderful proof of their enthusiasm and commitment to the project and to environmental conservation in their community.



The fair was held at the Pasaje Arequipa bandstand, next to Chicama Blue Planet's green areas mini-project, and aimed to raise environmental awareness in the community about Puerto Chicama's wealth of local flora, marine species, archaeological remains and touristic attractions. Club members also took this opportunity to showcase A Rocha Peru's work and activities in the district, sharing stories and literature with their community.



The fair was a great success thanks to the members of 'both clubs, who put great effort into making the exhibition displays and banners. We hope that this fair can become an annual flagship event.

#### **Projects bring year to a festive close**

2015 was brought to a festive close with Christmas events held at all of our project sites. In La Libertad, members from both of our youth environmental clubs made Christmas crafts and decorations from recycled materials, which they shared and displayed at Christmas get-togethers on December 15th and 21st. Club members enjoyed singing Christmas carols, watching festive videos, having fun with piñatas, and other games, and also shared 'Secret Santa' gifts and a delicious Christmas meal.



In Talara, 36 children from the local community of La Campana were invited to enjoy a traditional chocolatada (a festive hot chocolate feast) at the ballroom of the community tourism center. At the get-together held on December 19th, the children received their own Christmas gifts and also played festive games and enjoyed a Christmas show with our colleague Walter dressing up for the occasion (pictured left).

On December 20th, our Project in La Esperanza celebrated the end of the year by holding a thanksgiving service at the La Gracia Church in Trujillo, remembering the birth and mission of Jesus Christ. The service was attended by around 70 guests, including children from Nueva Jerusalem, members of our “Friends of Nature” youth club, parents, and children and members of the church. All guests enjoyed a lovely play by members of the La Gracia Church, and children received Christmas presents.



### **Creative environmental education: theatre and art in Talara**

In November 2015, our Talara Project held two environmental education events with a creative twist at Felipe Santiago Salaverry school; our local partner school where the project’s youth environmental club and plant nursery are based. On November 4th 93 school children from grades 1, 2 and 3 learnt about recycling waste through a puppet show put on by project staff. The small production used handmade puppets and took place at the school, where they had a great time learning how to take care of the environment through recycling.



On November 11th, the project held an ‘eco drawing contest’ at the school entitled ‘Dry Forest: I take care of you and protect you’. Students from grades 4, 5 and 6 took part in the contest, using art as a way of learning and sharing lessons on dry forest conservation. The winners were given a prize during a ceremony held at the school, attended by fellow students, teachers and project staff.



### **TEAM NEWS**

#### **Fond farewells and sincere thanks**

During the final months of 2015, we said a fond farewell to a number of colleagues to whom we would like to share our sincerest gratitude. These include Stalin Rosales, our former Talara Project Field Officer; Eulogio Romero, Julio Pinedo and Hugo Baldera, our former Talara Project Field Workers; Sarita Chávez, our former Administrative Secretary at the Trujillo office; Sofía León, our former Communications and Development Officer; and Johanna Depenthal, our HNGR Programme intern, who gave great support to our La Libertad Project. All have played a key role in A Rocha Peru’s projects and operations; their contribution to our work is most gratefully appreciated.

## EVENT NEWS

### Workshops held in Lima to develop A Rocha Peru's three-year strategic plan

Workshops were held at our Lima office from November 11th–14th to develop a strategic plan for 2016–2018, to follow on from our three-year strategic plan that ended in 2015. All sessions were wonderfully facilitated by A Rocha International's Director of Operations, Sarah French, who also performed financial and governance evaluations during her stay.



The workshops were attended by A Rocha Peru's board, members and staff, which included project staff who travelled from our project sites in La Libertad and Talara to participate.

The agenda kicked-off on the 11th with a day focused on evaluating A Rocha Peru's strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities. During the following two days, the team worked on analyzing A Rocha Peru's journey over the last 10 years, and identifying our vision, goals, and objectives for the next three years to come. The event also proved a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better and to strengthen our bonds as a team.



## FRIEND'S CORNER

**My name is:** Jordan de la Cruz Castillo

**I was born on:** September 8th

**I live in:** Trujillo, northern Peru

**I live with:** my family

**My favourite plants and animals are:** the Loasaceae plant and Cheetahs

**I like to:** conduct research and in my free time play on my PlayStation

**I am the:** Field Officer at La Libertad Project

**I started on:** January 2015

**What I most like about my role is:** learning something new every day about the benefits of dry forests.

**What I most like about A Rocha Peru is:** the affection, unity and fraternity shared by all members of the A Rocha family.



## A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Read ARI's [last bulletin from 2015](#)
- Read A Rocha International's Planetwise blog: The latest UN Climate Change Conference, or COP, took place between November 30th and December 12th in Paris. A Rocha International's Director of Theology, Dave Bookless, who [paid A Rocha Peru a visit](#) earlier in 2015, was amongst the A Rocha contingent who participated at the event. Read his thoughts on the conference in this thought-provoking blog: [A fair COP?](#)

## 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](mailto:peru@arocha.org). Remember you can donate not only financially but we accept donations of your time, talent or skill!