

A ROCHA PERU NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 12) APRIL – JUNE 2016

PROJECT NEWS

“We are water, we are forest, we love our planet”: environmental fair in Talara

The Talara Project celebrated Earth Day on April 22nd by hosting an environmental fair, entitled “We are water, we are forest, we love our planet”. The fair aimed to raise community awareness around the importance of conserving and sustainably using dry forest, and responsibly using water, a scarce resource in this arid region. The event was held at partner school, I.E. Felipe Santiago Salaverry, and included fun and educational activities, such as contests, storytelling, exhibitions, and even dessert-tasting!



In the weeks running up to the big day, first to third graders from the primary school were invited to take part in a drawing and painting contest. A total of 94 students submitted wonderful pieces of art based around the fair's theme, of which 12 were selected for the final round. On the day of the fair, the finalists spent two hours working on their final submissions, before the winners were publically announced.

Fourth to sixth graders were invited to take part in a poetry contest, also based around the fair's theme. This contest aimed to foster creative writing skills, as well as environmental awareness, amongst the older primary students. 45 students registered for the contest, and the winner from each grade was announced during the fair.

Other activities included a storytelling session involving 69 first and second graders; an environmental education exhibition showcasing Talara's wealth of birds and dry forest areas; and dessert-tasting where delicious treats, made using Algarrobina (a product of the native Algarrobo tree), were shared.



Our La Libertad Project helps shape conservation policy and knowledge

Team members based in La Libertad took part in two separate events in June that aimed to shape public policy and knowledge around environmental conservation. The first event (pictured right) contributed to a new strategic plan for biodiversity conservation in Peru, organised by the Ministry of the Environment. A Rocha Peru was invited, alongside local stakeholders and government representatives from Pacasmayo province (where we are extending our La Libertad project) in order to contribute to shaping public policy around dry forest conservation.



The second event, entitled “The state’s role in wild flora and fauna conservation”, was a forum organised by the regional government of Pacasmayo province. Project staff gave a presentation on A Rocha Peru’s experience of coastal dry forest conservation, and attendees included local environmental authorities, community



leaders, and fellow conservation organisations, such as “La Conservacion de nuestros bosques secos” (Conservation of Our Dry Forests). Not only was this a great platform to share our work, but it was also a wonderful opportunity to learn from the experiences of others working in the same field.

La Esperanza Project settles into new club-house and welcomes visitors

Early June saw “The Friends of Nature” youth club move to a new and improved club-house. Project staff, volunteer Santiago Panduro, and club members worked together to transfer all the club’s supplies to the new location, where they quickly began working on improvements to the space. Soon after settling in, the club began preparations for a new vegetable garden, where they later planted radishes, beans, carrots, and lettuce.

During this time, the La Esperanza Project received a welcome visit from the from Switzerland, who joined the team in their planting, watering, and decorating activities. They spent their last day at the project helping to paint the outer and interior walls of the club-house, before sharing an enjoyable afternoon with club members and staff. Our thanks go to Santiago and the Russi family for their great support!



TEAM NEWS

Warm welcomes and fond farewells

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the A Rocha Peru team: our Communications and Development Officer, [Clara del Campo](#), and our Accountancy Assistant, [Elmer Torres](#). We would also like to share our heartfelt gratitude to Johnny Musayon, our former Administrative Assistant in Lima, and Paola Caballero, our former Environmental Education Officer in Trujillo, for their invaluable contribution to A Rocha Peru’s work.

PUBLICATIONS

Former intern shares key findings of dry forest research in San Pedro de Lloc

Johanna Depenthal, a former intern from Wheaton College's HNGR Program, has completed her research into the uses and value of the dry forest in San Pedro de Lloc, La Libertad, where we plan to extend our La Libertad Project. Her study consisted of semi-structured interviews with local stakeholders and field visits to the dry forest, which were used to discern community knowledge and use of 'Algarrobo' (Prosopis spp.), a key dry forest tree.



Her research identified the key threats to the San Pedro de Lloc dry forest, including harvesting for charcoal and firewood, as well as the main uses of 'Algarrobo' amongst the surrounding communities, such as oxygen supply and source of fuelwood and livestock fodder. Her research identified the key threats to the San Pedro de Lloc dry forest, including harvesting for charcoal and firewood, as well as the main value the surrounding Santonte community place upon 'Algarrobo', such as for oxygen production, fuelwood and livestock fodder. These findings will not only be instrumental in informing our future work in the area, but will also help build knowledge of the importance of dry forests to neighbouring communities. We encourage you to read the summary of Johanna's research report [here](#).

Visit our new Publications webpage!

We welcome you to take a look at our recently updated [Publications](#) webpage. There you will find everything from research papers to every issue of our News Bulletin. You can also check out the [Spanish version](#) (if you are comfortable with the language!), where there are a host of other resources available too.

EVENT NEWS

Global Prayer Day for Climate Action

On April 5th, we were pleased to support this event, coordinated by [Young Evangelicals for Climate Action](#), by translating their climate liturgy and prayers into Spanish, and using them at a special service with members of our youth environmental clubs in La Libertad.

Annual General Meeting

On April 30th, we held our 2016 AGM at our office in Lima, where we presented our 2015 Annual Report, our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan, and 2016 Work Plan and Budget to our Board, Members, and Reference Committee members.

Global Big Day Champions!

On May 14th, the Talara team took part in the Global Big Day, when people and groups around the world compete to register as many bird species as possible. Peru as a whole finished first for the second year running, and our Talara Project team contributed to this success by registering 47 species in mature dry forest areas around the project site.



The day's work started at 6 am and went on until 6 pm, spending the morning in 'Bosque de Pariñas' and the afternoon in 'Las Campanas'. Out of the total 47 species registered, the following 5 were endemic and important for conservation (pictured below): *Geositta peruviana* 'Coastal miner', *Myiarchus semirufus* 'Rufous flycatcher', *Phytotoma raimondi* 'Peruvian plantcutter', *Piezorina cinerea* 'Cinereous finch', and *Tumbezia salvini* 'Tumbes tyrant'.

We'd like to congratulate Peru for its continued success in the Big Day initiative, and our team in Talara for their contribution to such worthy effort!



FRIEND'S CORNER

My name is: [Tania Cruz Arismendiz](#)

I was born on: March 24th

I live in: Talara, Piura, in northern Peru.

I live with: my mum, dad, and two dogs (Argos and Pantera), and frequently see my brother, who lives in Piura.

My favourite plants and animals: My favourite plant is the Algarrobo tree, but I also like orchids and the cockspur coral tree. I love cats and dogs.

I like: writing stories, listening to music, and going to the cinema. I am currently working on a children's short story, which I hope to finish soon.

I am: the Talara Project's Environmental Education Officer

I started my role in: January 2016 but prior to this was a project volunteer from May 2014 to December 2015.

What I like most about my role: I love everything about my job; working with young people in environmental education, developing vegetable gardens, and leading community capacity-building events. As well as this, I love learning about people and their traditions, being constructively challenged, and the opportunity it has given me to develop [my thesis](#) research on dry forests.

What I like most about A Rocha Peru is: how close to a family the team feels, with everyone sharing ideas and growing together. I am continually learning about ecosystem conservation and developing and strengthening related skills. Working at A Rocha Peru is truly a wonderful experience!



A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Read A Rocha International's latest newsletter entitled "[Birds! Birds! Birds!](#)" (only in English).
- Read '[The real Jungle Book](#)', an entertaining post on A Rocha International's Planetwise blog.

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!