



Jesus said, "What is God's kingdom like? What can I compare it with? It is like what happens when someone plants a mustard seed in a garden. The seed grows as big as a tree, and birds nest in its branches." Luke 13: 18 – 19

A ROCHA PERU: NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 4, JANUARY 2014)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to A Rocha Peru's new year bulletin. We hope that, like us, you had a blessed Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to all that 2014 will bring! The final quarter of 2013 was a busy time for A Rocha Peru both in our project and fundraising activities, and as we prepared to host a regional consultation led by A Rocha International. We hope that you enjoy catching up on news from A Rocha Peru and A Rocha International, and finding out the ways in which you can support us in caring for God's creation.

NEWS FROM A ROCHA PERU:

PROJECT NEWS

LA LIBERTAD DRY FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT



In October, a project nursery was constructed and developed at the National University of Trujillo's Botanical Gardens. 350 new Algarrobo (*Prosopis* sp.) seedlings were successfully grown, alongside other varieties, such as Zapote, Tara and native cotton. A further 400 Algarrobo seedlings were maintained at the *Fe y Alegría* plant nursery in Virú province, bringing the total of Algarrobo seedlings produced by the project to 750. Three university volunteers completed a training programme in nursery management and native seedling production and participated in the project nursery's development.



Environmental education activities continued in Rázuri district (where reforestation activities will begin in February 2014), with the first meetings held with local community leaders. In December, a new Environmental Club was formed in Puerto Chicama, in which approximately 50 local children and teenagers participated. The Environmental Management department at the local municipality provided space for the young people to meet, and approved the club's initiative to develop green spaces in one of the main streets of the district (Arequipa Street).

FUNDRAISING NEWS

WATERSHEDS FOUNDATION TO FUND LA LIBERTAD PROJECT IN SECOND YEAR

We are delighted to announce that the Watersheds Foundation will be continuing to fund fifty percent of the La Libertad Dry Forest Restoration Project in its second year, starting March 1st 2014. The Watersheds Foundation is the project's primary donor and previously funded our Ica Huarango Project between 2009 and 2013. We are applying for additional funding to enable us to deliver the project's objectives in full.

PROJECT DIRECTOR NOMINATED FOR 2014 WHITLEY AWARDS



Over the last 20 years, the [Whitley Fund for Nature](#) has supported 160 leading conservationists in some 70 countries through its annual Whitley Awards. Every year this prestigious UK charity awards £35,000 (nearly \$60,000) to each of its 8 prize winners to enable them to lead grassroots conservation projects. In October 2013, A Rocha Peru nominated Project Director, Ramón Casana, and our La Libertad Dry Forest Restoration Project, for the 2014 Whitley Awards. The outcome of this nomination is expected soon and could provide much-needed match funding.

UK CHURCH FUNDS ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB IN LA LIBERTAD



On December 1st, [St Mary with St Matthew's Church](#) in Cheltenham, UK, launched a Christmas Appeal to raise funds for an Environmental Club for children and teenagers in La Libertad. Reverend Dave Bookless, A Rocha International's Director of Theology, was guest speaker at the launch event, which was supported by A Rocha Peru's former Environmental Education Officer, Hannah Wilkinson. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, the appeal was a great success raising over £4,300 (approx. \$7,200).

LIMA SCHOOL SUPPORTS TREE PLANTING IN LA LIBERTAD



Thanks to the support of [Cambridge College](#) in Lima, A Rocha Peru received the proceeds of their annual Tree Marathon held on November 17th. Volunteers and staff from A Rocha Peru were delighted to participate in the 5km run, held in the area surrounding the school's grounds in La Encantada de Villa, Chorrillos. The donation of US\$720 will be used to reforest 24 native *Prosopis* sp. trees in Rázuri district, in La Libertad, and is gratefully received.

EVENTS:

A ROCHA PERU DELIVERS LECTURES AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



In November, three senior members of A Rocha Peru delivered a series of lectures at the [Evangelical University of Lima](#) on 'Environmental Awareness and Culture'. The lectures formed part of the university's new course on the 'Bible and Environment', and is the first step towards a future Bachelors degree in Environmental Science, which the university hopes to launch, and is designing in collaboration with A Rocha Peru.

A ROCHA PERU HOLDS END OF YEAR EVENTS



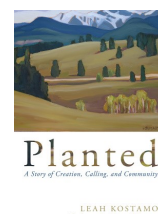
On the evening of December 17th, we held our annual, end of year event at our national office in Lima. The event was an opportunity to update friends and members about our activities in 2013, our aspirations for 2014, and to celebrate the festive season together. Staff and volunteers from our project office in Trujillo held a separate Christmas event thereafter, bringing a successful close to a busy and fulfilling year for A Rocha Peru.

NEWS FROM A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL:

Catch up on A Rocha International's [Top Stories](#) and [Planetwise Blog](#).

Watch and enjoy '[The Earth is our Hands](#)' video, marking 30 years of A Rocha worldwide.

Read about '[Planted: A Story of Creation, Calling and Community](#)', the new book by A Rocha Canada storyteller, [Leah Kostamo](#).



FRIENDS CORNER

1. My name is: Raquel Bastidas Ponte.
2. I was born in: Carabayllo district in northern Lima.
3. I live in: Carabayllo, where I was born.
4. I live with: my Mum. Her name is Filomena, which means 'daughter of light'.
5. My favourite plants and animals are: orchids because they are fragile, but not weak; the poinciana tree because of the shade and protection it gives, and the Peruvian hairless dog, because they are great pets that do not cause allergies!
6. I like to: travel, dance, sing and take pictures.
7. I'm responsible for: Administration within A Rocha Peru.
8. I started working for A Rocha Peru in: July 2013.
9. What I most like about my role is: that I am constantly learning and supporting others. This keeps me motivated.
10. What I most like about A Rocha Peru is: the teamwork and ability to quickly integrate people who come to work with us.



HOW YOU CAN HELP:

PRAY for the success of our projects, teams, events and fundraising initiatives in 2014.

REQUEST AND SHARE our three project summaries to find out more about our projects and the ways in which you, and those you know, can support us.

SEND any feedback and A Rocha related news and reflections to us ahead of our April news bulletin. Our contact details are below.

DONATE to A Rocha Peru by calling our national office on: +51 1 248 0271, or by emailing us at: peru@arocha.org.