

A ROCHA PERU NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 9) OCTOBER 2015

PROJECT NEWS

Team in Talara welcomes senior representatives from ContourGlobal

During the month of August, the Talara Project team was delighted to receive visits from senior representatives of ContourGlobal; the New York based international energy company who are financing the Talara Project and own the windfarm where we are carrying out reforestation activities.



On August 5, the team welcomed ContourGlobal's founder and Chief Executive Officer, Joseph Brandt, who visited the windfarm's reforestation site, where 12 hectares of dry forest have been successfully planted, and met with members from the 'Friends of the Plants' Environmental Club at I.E. General Felipe Santiago Salaverry school.



On August 25, the Talara team welcomed ContourGlobal's Global Lead on Sustainable Initiatives, Sarah Flanigan from the U.S., and Environmental and Social Director, Marcio

Rodrigues Lopes from Brasil, who were given a tour of the project site, and were enthusiastic to see the project's progress in both the reforestation and environmental education components.

Overcoming challenges and celebrating achievements in La Libertad

After months of suspended irrigation at our Razuri afforestation site, irrigation recommenced on July 23 and has continued on a weekly basis without interruption since then. Throughout this time, our project team worked tirelessly with Razuri District Municipality to repair the municipality's irrigation truck and began exploring back-up irrigation solutions with various local actors. With irrigation resumed, project staff were pleased to be able to plant 240 Algarrobo (*Prosopis spp.*) trees at the afforestation site in September, taking the total number of reforested trees at the site to 700.



In late April, we signed a partnership agreement with I.E. María Bejarano Martell primary school to build a plant nursery and garden on their grounds, and form an Environmental Club, our second in Razuri. The plant nursery was constructed in June, enabling pupils to develop a school garden and learn how to grow and care for plants. The new nursery also allows the project team to produce plants closer to the afforestation site. Prior to this, the plants produced in the University of Trujillo nursery required transportation to the afforestation site and this resulted in



additional project costs. In June, the 'Friends of the Environment' club was established with 27 fourth-grade pupils, aged 9 and 10 years old. In July, club members planted and thereafter maintained 200 Algarrobo seedlings at their school nursery, with the support of our project team and teenage members of our first local environmental club, Chicama Blue Planet.

La Esperanza Project inaugurates clubhouse and receives growing community support

In August, we were pleased to inaugurate the La Esperanza Youth Club Project's clubhouse. The new space has provided the project with the opportunity to expand existing environmental and social activities, as well as to develop new ones. In particular, our clubhouse allowed us to expand our environmental education program as club members participated in the development of a hydroponics mini project and planted an organic garden in the clubhouse's back yard. Through environmental education workshops, club members also began to learn how to take care of their hydroponics beds and garden plants and to understand the importance of good eating habits.



We have been glad to receive the growing support of community leaders and members in La Esperanza, who have welcomed the opportunities that the project provides to promote social and environmental values amongst local at risk youth. Felicita Coronel, the Chairperson of Buen Socorro mother's club, a local organization which has been supportive of the project, says "As mothers, we are grateful for the project that A Rocha Peru has been developing in La Esperanza. Instead of being in the street all day, children now attend classes and workshops held by the club, and enjoy opportunities that they would never have had otherwise".



We are awaiting the outcome of an application to the Emelco Foundation for funding to be able to continue the project in 2016, and welcome any support readers may be able to give.

TEAM NEWS

Visit from A Rocha International's Director of Theology

In September, we welcomed a visit from Reverend Dave Bookless, A Rocha International's Director of Theology who is also co-founder of A Rocha UK, author of *Planetwise* and *God Doesn't Do Waste* and regularly writes on the 'Planetwise' blog for A Rocha International. Dave visited South America for the first time as guest speaker at two, international Christian events: the Lausanne Creation Care and the Gospel Conference in Cusco, and the Sixth Annual Micah Triennial Global Consultation in Lima entitled 'Integral Mission and Shalom: Justice, Peace and Joy'.



Whilst in Peru, Dave welcomed the opportunity to speak at Union Church of Lima (an English-speaking, inter-denominational church) on the subject of 'Jesus: Lord of Creation', raising awareness on why Creation Care should matter to Christians. Before returning home to England, Dave was pleased to visit our projects in La Libertad, preach at La Gracia Church in Trujillo, and enjoy fellowship time with our teams in Trujillo and Lima.



Field Officer joins the team in Trujillo



On September 1st, Juan Valladares Sanchez joined our team as Field Officer for our La Esperanza Youth Club Project. Juan is based at our Trujillo office, and will be supporting our La Esperanza Project Coordinator, Sandra Gastuñudi, with the development and implementation of the project's environmental and social activities. Juan can be contacted at juan.valladares@arocha.org and his profile will be posted on our website soon.

Team welcomes Wheaton College intern

We have been glad to count on the invaluable support of Johanna Depenthal, a HNGR (Human Needs and Global Resources) Program student from Wheaton College in Chicago, USA, who has been assisting our La Libertad Project since June, and will continue to do so until November. Johanna has been providing support with geo-referencing our Razuri afforestation site, plant maintenance at the National University of Trujillo's plant nursery and with the project's environmental education activities. Currently, Johanna is carrying out research on the local knowledge and uses of mature dry forests in San Pedro de Lloc in Pacasmayo province in La Libertad and a baseline forest inventory to help inform our future project plans.



EVENTS

A Rocha Forum held in Portugal

Every 2–3 years, A Rocha holds a forum that enables A Rocha leaders from around the world to share experiences and learning, and be inspired by ideas and initiatives from within the A Rocha family and wider conservation movement. The 2015 Forum was held in Portugal in June, and was attended by our Board President, Dr. Maria de los Angeles de la Torre-Cuadros, Executive Director, Camille Allan, and Projects Director, Ramon Casana Araujo. During an inspiring week, over 100 leaders from around the world participated in diverse activities such as workshops, discussions, worship, team-building exercises, a photo competition and video presentations under the theme “Sharing our Stories”.



Annual General Meeting in Lima



On July 1, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at our national office in Lima. The AGM provided an opportunity to present our 2014 Annual Report, and our 2015 Work Plan and Budget to members and the team, as well as celebrate A Rocha Peru’s 10-year anniversary, which officially took place on June 7.

Former A Rocha Peru intern honoured at the White House

Congratulations to our former intern, Rachel Lamb, who was one of twelve people of faith honoured as a Climate ‘Champion of Change’ at the White House in July. Rachel first became involved with A Rocha through her university’s student chapter at Wheaton College, in Chicago (A Rocha Wheaton) and carried out a five-month internship with A Rocha Peru in 2011 through the college’s Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) Programme.



During her internship in Lima, Rachel developed an integrative conservation strategy for our work in the lomas ecosystem, which wrestled both the human and environmental needs within this urbanizing context. Since then, Rachel has led ‘Young Evangelicals for Climate Action’ (YECA) in developing a successful Climate Leadership Fellows Programme at college campuses throughout the USA and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rachel has also worked with tribes in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest in collating best practices for climate change adaptation in the region and serves as an Assistant Professor at Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies in Michigan.



A Rocha Peru represented at key international conferences

Thanks to the support of individual donors in Peru and the USA, we were able to be represented at the Sixth Micah Triennial Global Consultation, held in Lima between September 14–18, by Executive Director, Camille Allan, and Communications and Development Officer, Sofia Leon. The event brought together 360 delegates from 63 countries around the world to focus on the theme of ‘Integral Mission and Shalom: Justice, Peace and Joy’. Delegates shared inspirational stories about how their organisations are promoting peace through integral mission around the world, and considered what it means to be ‘people of peace’. A Rocha International’s Director of Theology, Reverend Dave Bookless, gave a keynote speech on ‘Planetary Boundaries’, whilst Executive Director, Camille Allan, shared a presentation and video on A Rocha Peru’s Talara Project. The event also provided the opportunity to share literature on A Rocha Peru, display a poster on our La Esperanza Project, and network with organizations from around the world.



Thanks to support from A Rocha International, A Rocha Peru’s Projects Director, Ramon Casana Araujo, was able to attend the Lausanne Creation Care and Gospel Conference in Cuzco, Peru between September 8–12. This international event aimed to encourage the development of the creation care movement in South America, and covered three major topics: God’s Word (theology), God’s World (science) and God’s Work (our response), and provided an opportunity for A Rocha Peru’s experiences in conservation and biodiversity protection to be presented.



FRIEND'S CORNER

My name is: Sofia Leon

I was born in: Lima, Peru but moved to the USA when I was 11 years old

I have lived in: Lima since January 2014

I live with: my husband, Sidyk, our daughter Amelie (6 years), our son Dylan (1.5 years) and our two dogs Tulip and Akira.

My favourite plants and animals are: tulips and orchids, and dogs. I used to have a dog-sitting business in the USA, but love all animals in general.

I like to: spend time with my family, read fictional novels and watch movies.

I am the: Communications and Development Officer for A Rocha Peru

I started on: April 1, 2015

What I most like about my role is: helping raise awareness about the work we do as an organisation, as well as seeking ways to deepen our impact on society by building relationships with local communities.

What I most like about A Rocha Peru is: the way everyone truly cares about one another, as family. I love our mission to care for creation and all that that implies.



A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Read our 2014/2015 [International Review](#)
- Read A Rocha International's latest [Top Stories](#)
- Follow our [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!