

NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 15) January – March 2017

PROJECT NEWS

The children of the Esperanza Peace Centre learn about the disaster caused by the El Niño phenomenon

At the beginning of 2017, Peru suffered from torrential rains, catastrophic flooding and landslides, with the northern coast experiencing the worst flooding in thirty years due to the El Niño Costero phenomenon. The phenomenon was intensified by climate change and deforestation



due to increased human activity on the environment, through the removal of vegetation cover and increased urbanisation. The disaster was a cruel reminder of our vulnerability and dependence on natural resources, particularly within poorer communities. Overall the disaster took over 100 lives, and left more than 140,000 homeless, and affected almost one million people. Thousands were displaced, with their livelihoods destroyed, and with restricted access to clean water, food, shelter, health care services and education.



The district of La Esperanza was left without access to water and suffered from the drastic inflation of food products. The children of the Esperanza Peace Centre took part in a day trip to the neighbouring district, El Porvenir, which suffered more severely from a mudslide that devastated the

community. During the trip, they learned about the devastating effects of the disaster and the consequences of living in vulnerable areas fomenting solidarity and compassion for those who have been affected.

In Talara we continue to reforest in the face of adversity

Our project in Talara continues to make strides in the face of adversity. By February we had planted a total count of 2,696 saplings of diverse native species such as the “algarrobo” (*Prosopis sp.*), “sapote” (*Colicodendrum scabridum*), “vichayo” (*Capparis avicennifolia*), and “canutillo” (*Grabowskia boerhaaviaefolia*).



In February and March the project’s area of influence was affected by intense electrical storms caused by the El Niño Costero phenomenon which lead to the flooding of saplings of “sapotes”, and an increase in plagues and weeds in the reforested areas. Nevertheless, the team has continued to work hard towards the protection of the



biodiversity of the region through removing the weeds and sowing another 80 “sapotes”. We have also registered active nests, and the presence of reptiles, such as iguanas, and endangered bird species, such as the Cortarrama peruana (*Phytotoma raimondii*).

FUNDRAISING NEWS

We are currently fundraising for a three-year project to support local communities in restoring and sustainably managing the dry forests in La Libertad. The community of San Pedro de Lloc, where the project will take place, have been particularly devastated by the disaster with their homes and livelihoods being destroyed. We are seeking individual donations, large and small, and if you are interested in supporting this project, please visit our donations page [here](#).

TEAM NEWS

We were sad to say farewell to Johnny Musayon, who was part of our team in Lima, and Jordan De La Cruz, who was Field Officer of the La Libertad project. We wish them all the best of luck in the future, and are delighted to welcome Sandra Gastañudi back to the Esperanza Peace Centre team as Field Officer and give a warm welcome to Maria Arismendiz as our Environmental Education Officer in Talara.

A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Read the Planetwise blog on the launch of the book *Keeping Faith in Fundraising* by Peter Harris and Rod Wilson.
- Read A Rocha International's [news](#) about the innovative idea of a scheme that provides group loans and is increasing families' income in Ghana.