

NEWS BULLETIN (ISSUE 16) April – June 2017

PROJECT NEWS

Local community work together to clean up their streets

In the Esperanza Peace Centre Project, we strive to foment values and train children and youth from marginalized neighbourhoods so that they have the skills to tackle the range of socio-economic and environmental issues they face. In La Esperanza district, unsanitary living conditions, and inadequate waste management



present dangers to the local population such as infectious diseases, for instance Dengue and Zika, which proliferate in stagnant water in landfill sites.



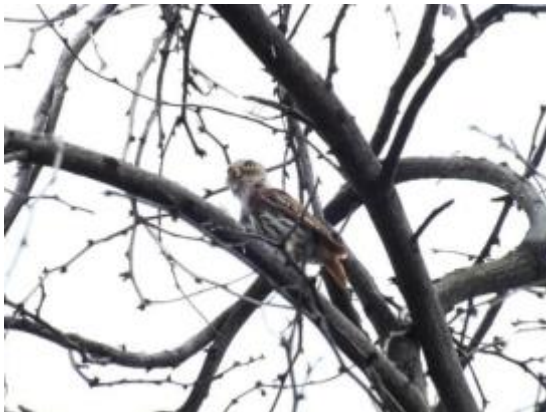
A cleaning campaign was organised by A Rocha Peru together with the participation of the local community in the areas surrounding the Esperanza Peace Centre in order to promote community-led environmental initiatives and raise awareness for the importance of proper waste management and health benefits for the local population. On 29 June, the children and the local community carried out the campaign, cleaning the streets and working together towards the restoration of the community's environmental health. The campaign also benefitted from the generous support of the Miguel Angel Vivanca ex-

governor of the La Esperanza district who provided a truck to pick up the waste collected.

During the campaign, the children and local community learnt about what sorts of materials can be recycled, and how. The local community's participation in such initiatives is essential to increase their understanding of both their rights and responsibilities to live in a clean, environment. Through our environmental education activities, we continue to provide a space to train the next generation of environmental leaders who we hope will lead community-based initiatives in the future.



Global Big Day in Talara registers 37 species of birds!



On 13th May, our team in Talara participated for the third-year running in [Global Big Day](#), a global initiative that seeks to promote research into the migration and habitats of birds. Internationally, Global Big Day had its greatest participation, with almost 20,000 people registering 6,545 bird species.

In Talara, the day was a great success, with our team registering a total of 37 species. Within these 37 species, including 4 species of endemic birds which are a high priority for conservation. These included *Geositta peruviana*, *Tumbezia salvini*, *Myiarchus semirufus* and *Piezorina cinérea*. Through recording this information, we have been able to continue raising awareness of the importance of dry forest conservation for endemic birds.

PUBLICATIONS

Launch of our new environmental education manual “Children to the Rescue of the Dry Forest”

Environmental education is essential to the sustainability of our efforts to conserve, restore and protect dry forest ecosystems. As part of our dry forest restoration project in Talara, we developed an exciting new environmental education manual, entitled “*Children to the Rescue of the Dry Forest*”. This beautifully illustrated manual has been designed to encourage local children to learn about the key species of flora and fauna found in the dry forest, and the practical ways in which they can look after their environment.



The manual contains a variety of modules and fun activities on topics such as responsible use of natural resources, waste management and recycling, the importance of conserving the dry forest, the sustainable use of the *Prosopis sp.* tree and the endangered Peruvian Plantcutter bird (*Phytotoma raymondii*). You can access the online version of the manual [here](#) (available in Spanish only).

EVENTS



In May, a member of A Rocha Peru, Juliana Morrillo, spoke at the Praxis Symposium in Cochabamba in Bolivia, a two-day event organised by Canadian Baptist Missionaries. The event brought together a multidisciplinary range of university students from Canada and

Bolivia, as well as local church leaders committed to discussing creation care. Juliana discussed key topics such the biblical basis for creation care and specific challenges climate change issues we face within the Latin America. She also explored how churches and Christian organisations can effectively respond to these challenges, using examples from A Rocha Peru and A Rocha Brazil.

On 5th June, we celebrated our 12th anniversary and World Environment Day with two events held in Lima and Talara. In Lima, our Projects Director, Ramon Casana, presented our dry forest restoration project in Talara, Piura at an event entitled “*Contemporary Challenges of the Christian Faith in the Face of Environmental Problems*” held at the Universidad SEL. We



were joined by Christian organisation, World Vision, who discussed their work in the Andes providing ecological ovens to reduce contamination and promote the health of local communities.



On the same day in Talara, we held an environmental forum, where we also presented our dry forest restoration project. The forum was attended by a wide audience, with key actors and organisations in the region, such as ContourGlobal, Ecoswell, Demen and Serfor, presenting their own conservation

initiatives and the environmental challenges we face.

At both events in Lima and Talara, a new environmental education manual was launched. Copies were donated to event participants, the Universidad SEL library, and to members of our environmental education clubs “Friends of the Plants” and “A Rocha Kids” in Talara.



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 Deisy Julon, who was part of our team in Lima, and would like to congratulate her on the wonderful new addition to her family. We wish her all the best of luck in the future, and are delighted to give a warm welcome [Yina Rivera](#) as our Accountancy Assistant to our team in Lima.



A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Read the [A Rocha International News](#), which features change makers from A Rocha organisations world-wide committed to inspiring Christian leaders and local communities to conserve and protect their environments.
- Read the Planetwise blog '[Can we have abundant life without trashing the planet?](#)' that discusses solutions to sustainability in the face of an expanding global population.

