News Bulletin (Issue 18)

(January - June 2018)



"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." Job 12:7-10

PROJECT NEWS

New dry forest conservation project in La Libertad



This year A Rocha Peru has launched a new dry forest conservation project within La Libertad department, as part of a joint partnership with A Rocha Switzerland. Building upon our previous dry forest project in Ascope province, this new project is working with communities in the Pacasmayo province to restore, conserve, and sustainably manage dry forest landscapes for the benefit of local people and wildlife.

Overall, the project is working in four key areas: 1) Conservation; 2) Applied Research; 3) Capacity Building; and 4) Knowledge Management. Project activities range from working with local community members to protect dry forest remnants, training smallholder farmers to produce agroforestry species on their agricultural plots surrounding the forests, conducting dry forest research, and providing ecological ovens to local families to encourage a reduction in fuelwood consumption.

In the long-run, this project will provide significant impact by restoring dry forest landscapes and promoting sustainable dry forest management to conserve a thriving habitat for endangered wildlife species and a vital natural resource for local communities and future generations. To learn more about this new project and to



Triennial A Rocha Forum

Thanks to the support of A Rocha International, our Board President attended the triennial A Rocha Forum held in Sintra, Portugal in June. The event was an opportunity to meet and share ideas and experiences with other A Rocha delegates from around the world, to receive training and fellowship, and explore possibilities for collaboration.



A Rocha Peru attends Praxis Conference

In May, A Rocha Peru's Board President, Irma Briceño and A Rocha member, Eduardo Calderón Urquizo were invited to present at the Praxis conference run by Canadian Baptist Missionaries (CBM) in Cochabamba, Bolivia. For the second time, the annual event provided Canadian and Bolivian students and pastors with the opportunity to learn about creation care.



Esperanza Peace Centre provides children with microenterprise experience



Through our Esperanza Peace Centre, we have been providing the next generation of environmental and community leaders with practical, hands-on experience in microenterprise development. Since the beginning of this year, young beneficiaries have engaged in establishing a guinea pig rearing microenterprise.

Through the microenterprise the children have learnt important skills in responsibility, leadership, and small business development as well as the technical skills needed for this and future micro-enterprise endeavours. In parallel, the children prepared, sowed and successfully harvested corn and grass in our Centre's bio-garden to use as feed for the guinea pigs. They also installed an automatic irrigation system to facilitate better care of the gardens. By doing so, the children have gained knowledge and skills in bio-gardening and drip irrigation methods, which can be transferred to other community projects or even future jobs.

In March, a few of the guinea pigs reared from the microenterprise, were used in a Cuyada, in partnership with the local community. This fundraising activity sold guinea pig 'ajiaco' dishes, a typical Peruvian meal and raised approximately 600 soles to benefit the microenterprise and the Centre's other activities. To learn more about the Esperanza Peace Centre Project, <u>click here</u>.

Dry Forest Project in Talara Comes to a Successful End



In January, our 'Dry Forest Restoration and Social Development Project' in Talara, Piura, which began in January 2014, came to a successfully close. The project was a unique partnership between A Rocha Peru, the energy company ContourGlobal, and eight local community councils. Since the project began, 12 hectares of dry

Annual General Meeting

In April, we held our Annual General Meeting at our office in Lima. At the meeting we presented our 2017 Annual Report, 2017 Financial Report, as well as our 2018 Work Plan and General Budget to our Board, Members, and Reference Committee members.

PUBLICATIONS

We are pleased to announce the release of a new series of Information Sheets relating to our projects. Project Information Sheets for the Dry Forest Project and Esperanza Peace Centre are now available in English and Spanish on our website and can be accessed by clicking here.

AROCHA



A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Read A Rocha International's issue 62 of International News, which highlights the theme of environmental education.



Also check out the latest entries on their <u>Planetwise Blog</u>, including an interesting post on <u>Plastic</u> <u>Theology</u>.

TRIBUTE

Please read our <u>tribute</u> to Eugene Peterson, a loyal friend of A Rocha for nearly 20 years.

OUR OFFICE:

forest have been reforested on ContourGlobal's wind farm site. These restoration efforts have led to native birds, such as the endangered Peruvian Plantcutter, nesting once again, and have prompted other native plants to naturally flourish. Additionally, the partnership has provided children and adult community members with the opportunity to learn the importance of dry forest restoration and become local environmental leaders.

To celebrate the close of the project, A Rocha Peru and ContourGlobal launched the final video in the Harvesting Hope series, entitled, "Harvesting Hope in the Desert". This short film explains why Peruvian dry forests are crucial to protecting endangered species and combating the effects of desertification and natural disasters. It also shares how the project has given fresh hope that dry forests can be restored. To watch the video and learn more about the project, <u>click here</u>.

TEAM NEWS

We have been sad to say farewell to four team members: Hugo Marcos Loyola, our Talara Project Coordinator; Walter Peña Cabrera, our Talara Project Field Worker; Laura Argomedo, our Administrative Assistant in the Trujillo office, and Sanchia Rodriguez, our Communications and Development Officer in Lima. To all of our former team members, we would like to say a big 'thank you' and wish everyone all the best in their future ventures.

We have also been pleased to welcome several new members of the A Rocha Peru team. These include Saul Araujo who joined as Field Officer for our Esperanza Peace Centre Project in April; Renata Burgos Villacorta, who joined our Trujillo team as Administrative Assistant in June, and finally Caroline Oswald who joined as the new Communications and Development Officer also in June. To read more about our new team members, <u>click here</u>.

We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to all our volunteers who have provided time and energy to our projects. They are (in alphabetical order): <u>Esperanza Peace Centre Project:</u> Alberto Condo Montano and Paola Diaz Avalos. <u>Dry Forest Project:</u> Alberto Condo Montano, Andrea Regaldo Galvez, Angely Hidalgo Arteaga, Claudia Leyton Mostiga, Edison Jara Tarazona, Karen Beltran Arteta, Paola Beltran Casana, and Ximena Alva Caballero.

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