

News Bulletin (Issue 19)

July - December 2018



*"Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Isaiah 41:10

PROJECT NEWS

Successful delivery of the Dry Forest Project's first year



In December 2018, we completed the first year of our Dry Forest Conservation Project in Pacasmayo, La Libertad. This project is being delivered in partnership with A Rocha Switzerland, and was funded in 2018 by the Swiss foundation 'Interaction' as well as individual donors from around the world.

We are delighted that the project has made significant progress in achieving its objectives over the second semester of 2018. Key highlights include:

- Identification of 3.25 hectares of land to be restored in 2019, in the dry forests of *la Yuca*, *el Cañoncillo* and *Tronco Prieto*.
- Signed agreements with five landholders and two agricultural associations operating in the areas to be restored, to support project conservation and restoration efforts.

EVENTS

Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, Peru

On the 4th of December, our Board Director Camilo Diaz participated in the 'Interfaith Rainforest Initiative' in Lima, Peru. This event was organised by an international, multi-faith alliance working to bring moral urgency and faith-based leadership to global efforts to end tropical deforestation. The event provided a platform for religious leaders to work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples, governments, civil society organizations and businesses on actions that protect the rainforests and their communities. For more information please click [here](#).

End of Year Event



In December we held our end of year event in our office in Lima, which was a wonderful opportunity for A Rocha Peru staff, members and friends to review the year that was and come together in prayer for 2019.

- Over 600 native seedlings produced for planting in 2019.
- [READ MORE](#)

Esperanza Peace Centre provides important social development skills to its participants



During the second semester of 2018, our Esperanza Peace Centre continued to provide important social development and environmental education activities to the 19 children and families that benefit from the centre. These included workshops on Christian values, after school support sessions, recreational activities, environmental education workshops and pastoral and psychologist-based support. Over this period, over 140 workshops were offered across these areas, a wonderful result for the project.

Some highlights for the second semester include:

- The Free Hugs Initiative: In October, Centre children took to the streets to offer free hugs to known and trusted members of the community, as a means of demonstrating God's love for us all.
- Recreational Fun: In September, the Centre organised a football match between children from two neighbourhoods where rival gangs normally operate, which was successful in both bringing children together, creating new friendships, fostering healthy competition, and spreading a message of peace.
- [READ MORE](#)

Gift with a Difference - Trees in the desert, Peru

PUBLICATIONS



A Rocha Peru has released a [new institutional brochure](#) (in Spanish only) for all interested stakeholders. Please help us by sharing the brochure amongst your contacts, and [write to us](#) to request a hard copy.

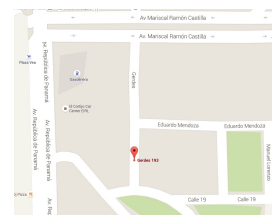
A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Read the latest [International News](#) from A Rocha International (Issue 63) which addresses topics such as water security, farming, taking care of the oceans, and challenging a climate of greed.



Read the [latest entry](#) on the Planetwise Blog, which discusses Eco-anxiety and the psychological and spiritual toll of the environmental crisis, amongst other topics

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(£10 / \$15 US)



Give someone you care about a **Gift with a Difference**, that brings hope for them and our planet! A Rocha Peru is pleased to launch a new gift for online purchase that contributes directly to our Dry Forest Project!

This gift will support our Dry Forest Project with its reforestation efforts, providing low-income farmers and community members with seven native trees to help reforest the threatened dry forest landscape. A water-absorbing gel applied at the roots allows the tree seedlings and saplings to better retain the limited water in the soil, increasing their survival rate to 95%.

For more information and to purchase a gift, please click [here](#). Please help us to spread the word by sharing this information! Thank you for your support!

FUNDRAISING NEWS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our donors and supporters for 2018. These include the Emelco Foundation (USA), Interaction (Switzerland), Blessed Sacrament Church (UK), St Mary's Upton Church (UK), Cambridge College (Peru) and a number of individual donors from across the world. Without your support the delivery of these projects would not have been possible!

For 2019, we are delighted to have secured funding from Interaction (Switzerland), Watersheds Foundation (USA), A Rocha International (UK), and individual donors, allowing us to continue to deliver our Dry Forest Project and move the institution forward.

Finally, our Director of Science and Conservation, Dr Maria de los Angeles La Torre Cuadros, has been successful in securing seed funding for researchers and professors at the University Cientifica del Sur (Lima, Peru) for a research project closely linked to our Dry Forest Project. This research will increase our knowledge of dry forests in the Pacasmayo region, and focus on better understanding the biodiversity and ecosystem services provided



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For more information

by these landscapes. This project will be led by Dr La Torre Cuadros, with researchers from the University Científica del Sur (Peru) and the Universidad Nacional Abierta y a Distancia (Colombia), in collaboration with A Rocha Peru. It will complement current research by A Rocha Peru and students from the Universidad Nacional de Trujillo on the integration of agroforestry systems and pest control.

TEAM NEWS

This semester we were sad to say farewell to Caroline Oswald, our Communications and Development Officer in Lima. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Caroline and wish her all the best in her future ventures.

We have also been pleased to welcome several new members to the A Rocha Peru team. These include Flor Hidalgo, who joined as our Dry Forest Project Coordinator in August; Caroline Chandler who joined as a volunteer in July and then as our new Fundraising and Communications Officer in October; and Fabio Bruno Paredes, who joined as a project Intern and research student in our Dry Forest Project.

To read more about our current team members, [click here](#).

We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to all our volunteers who have provided time and energy to our projects this semester. They are (in alphabetical order):

Esperanza Peace Centre Project: Sandra Gastanudi Torres.

Dry Forest Project: Andrea Regaldo Galvez, Paola Beltrán Casana, David Sánchez Amaya, Alfonso Serrano Santa María, and Annie Zavaleta Zavaleta.

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