

# News Bulletin (Issue 20)

January - December 2019



*"so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love," Ephesians 3:17*

## PROJECT NEWS

### Successful delivery of the Dry Forest Project's second year



A Rocha Peru has completed its second year of the Dry Forest Conservation project in Pacasmayo, La Libertad, Peru. For 2019, this project was delivered in partnership with A Rocha International, with the support of the Swiss Foundation, Interaction, Watersheds Foundation and individual donors.

We are delighted to communicate that the project has made significant progress in achieving its goal to collaborate with local communities to restore, conserve, and sustainably manage dry forest landscapes for the benefit of nature and society in northern Peru. Key highlights include:

- The formalization of 11 agreements to restore and conserve dry forests with private landholders and

## EVENTS

### Strategic Planning Day, Peru



A Rocha Peru conducted a Strategic Planning Day on the 26th and 27th of April 2019 where we reviewed our progress against the previous strategic plan and then developed another plan for the next three years. Sarah French, the Operations Director for A Rocha International, was also in attendance which coincided with her visit to the Dry Forest Project in La Libertad. Sarah met with staff and project beneficiaries and gathered knowledge of local challenges and opportunities.

### A Rocha Environmental Education Conference, Uganda

agricultural associations.

- The reforestation of 7.61 hectares of degraded dry forest areas in Pacasmayo by planting native seedlings with the participation of community members. In addition, fruit trees were planted across 0.25 hectares of farmland in Santonte with farmers.
- Conducting monitoring visits in reforested areas of Puerto Chicama and Pacasmayo.
- Working to reduce illegal logging in the identified dry forests by establishing new local conservation groups including Muchick Local Conservation Group, Santonte, and La Portadad de Sierra in Cerro Pitura. [READ MORE.](#)

## Helping the global fight against plastic pollution!



Plastics are a well-recognised and significant threat to the environment. Plastic pollution arising from coastal garbage, tourism, the global fishing sector, and illegal dumping amongst other sources, invade aquatic ecosystems, entering the food chain and causing mortality. In 2019, A Rocha Peru started its global fight against plastic pollution by raising awareness and taking action to care for our beaches in Lima, Peru by helping to facilitate two beach clean-ups with the help and support of our partners and volunteers. [READ MORE](#)

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our donors and supports for 2019. These include the Interaction Foundation, Watersheds Foundation, A Rocha International, and a number of individual donors from across the world. Without your support the delivery of these projects would not be possible!

For 2020, we are delighted to announce that we have secured funding from Interaction Foundation, Watersheds Foundation, and individual donors, allowing us to continue to deliver the Dry Forest



Ramon Casana, the Executive Director of A Rocha Peru, visited Uganda and participated in the A Rocha Environmental Education Conference from the 16th to 28th of June 2019. Ramon shared some of his reflections from the conference: [READ MORE](#)

## TESTIMONALS



“...Thanks to the NGO A Rocha Peru, who has organised us, I am a member of the artisan group of the Cañoncillo Forest. This group has allowed me to learn the uses I can give to other non-timber natural resources...I am learning to make baskets and mats made from local grasses and reeds.. I voluntarily protect a forested area that is adjacent to my farm and have planted Espino and Sapote seedlings in coordination with members of A Rocha Peru. I want my grandchildren to breathe clean



Project and move the institution forward. Many thanks to you all!

We are currently continuing to fundraise to meet Project needs for 2020.

### Joining GlobalGiving's crowdfunding community



GlobalGiving is the largest global crowdfunding community that connects non-profits, donors, and companies in nearly every country around the world. In June 2019, we participated in GlobalGiving fundraising campaign. Through this campaign, we also became a permanent partner on the GlobalGiving website which will allow us to continue raising funds for our Dry Forest Project.

We are so grateful for the generosity of all our donors that enable us to help communities to conserve and protect the coastal dry forests in northern Peru. Thank you!

We invite you to continue sharing our link for our current campaign for the Dry Forest. [SHARE HERE](#)

### Giving a Gift of planting Native Trees

air so, I will continue to conserve my forest."

*-Milagros del Pilar Campos  
Garcia,  
Beneficiary Testimonial*



"The installation of my cookstove, has generated a change in my life. Since I was young I cooked with a lot of wood that we got from the forest... with the new cookstove, I'm surprised that you don't use a lot of wood, ... the contaminated smoke now goes through the tube so, I take care of my health and use small pieces of wood from forest... I thank A Rocha Peru!

*-Maria Isabel Paz,  
Beneficiary Testimonial*

"Being part of the A Rocha Peru family and joining forces in the Dry Forest project has been a of the best experiences in recent years....I remember the meetings, the trainings and the long walks with the objective of an efficient development project. How can I forget the day the Santonte community committed to the day-to-day care of the algarrobo trees? This union was reflected in the many patrols...to reduce the presence of illegal loggers who presented in the natural forest El Cañoncillo. I take with me a pleasant experience with each of those involved in the project, and wishes of someday be part of some new project."

*- Jose Verano Cachay,  
Volunteer Testimonial*

**PUBLICATIONS**



A Rocha Peru, continues to provide a platform on our website to purchase Gifts with a Difference that support our Dry Forest project with its reforestation efforts, giving low-income farmers and community members native trees. A water-absorbing gel is 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%.

Show someone you care by giving a Gift with a Difference that brings hope for people, wildlife and nature! For \$US 15, you can plant 7 native trees, please [click here](#). Please help us to spread the word by sharing this information. Thank you for your support!

## TEAM NEWS

This year we were sad to say farewell to a couple of our team members: Leodan Morales Rentería, our accountant, and Caroline Chandler, our Operations Director in Lima, who has moved back to Australia. Irma Briceño Sanchez and Sara Armstrong will be also leaving the Board of Directors. We would like to say a big 'thank you' for all their help and wish them 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 Ciro Flores Cabrera who joined the team as our new Field Technician in March 2019. In addition, Filipa Brasch, who first joined as a volunteer in May 2019, will now act as our new Fundraising and Communications Officer. Also, both Caroline Chandler and Camille Allan will remain involved with A Rocha Peru as Board Directors.

To read more about our current team members, [CLICK HERE](#).



A Rocha International has released an [International Review 2018/2019](#). This review will give you a taste of some of A Rocha's work around the world from 2018/2019. Thanks to your support, communities on six continents are making a real difference to the places and wildlife they love.

## A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

On Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, Peter and Miranda Harris, Co-founders of A Rocha, and Chris Naylor, A Rocha International CEO, together with his wife Susanna, were involved in a horrific car accident near Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Miranda, Chris and Susanna did not survive. The loss of Chris, Susanna and Miranda comes as a profound shock to everyone in the A Rocha Family and others all around the world. Above all, Peter and the Harris and Naylor families and friends are held in our prayers. Our sincerest sympathy.

Read all the latest news from A Rocha International by clicking [here](#). Key themes include environmental education, science and conservation across the range of A Rocha organisations worldwide.

Also check out the [latest](#) entries on their Planetwise Blog.





## VOLUNTEER NEWS



We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to all our volunteers who have provided the time and energy to make a positive contribution to our Dry Forest Project this past year, including Grecia Valdivia Vergaray, Jose Verano Cachay and Anna Goodman.

Grecia Valdivia Vergaray and José Verano Cachay were both from the Universidad Científica del Sur and volunteered for A Rocha Peru's Dry Forest Project from January until March 2019.

Grecia has helped us with reforestation in degraded areas, training in environmental education, the elaboration of maps using ARC GIS, the organization of events, the installation of a nursery and monitoring.

We appreciate their time and commitment to our project.

### **An International Volunteer experience with A Rocha Peru**

Anna Goodman, a French and Spanish student from the University of Sheffield, UK, volunteered for the A Rocha Peru's Dry Forest Project in Pacasmayo from March until June 2019.

Anna wrote an article on the University website where she describes the success of the Dry Forest project, praising its multifaceted conservation approach.

"This interweaving between education, conservation and community development sets the charity apart. So often it can appear simpler to focus on short-term, individualised goals on either human or environmental development. However, by using Community reforestry as a tool to improve local livelihoods and sharing their educational prowess to shape the future of conservation, *A Rocha* ensures that they remain at the forefront of providing long-term, holistic; faith-based solutions to the environmental challenges faced by our globe."

To read the entire article written by Anna Goodman and her time with A Rocha Peru's Dry Forest Reforestation Project in



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Pacasmayo, you can access it [here](#).

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