

News Bulletin (Issue 23)

August - October 2020



*"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone,
but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars"* Martin Luther

PROJECT NEWS

La Libertad Dry Forest Project Update



Reforestation (Image: C. Flores, August 2020)

The La Libertad Dry Forest Project recommenced some of its field activities at the Pacasmayo site in August. We prioritised first and foremost, the safety and well-being of all staff and the local community, implementing COVID-19 protocols and government regulations for the team to rigorously follow. The project remains committed to achieving our goals and objectives. Key highlights include:

- Replacement of 143 plants across 2.98 hectares, as a part of our recuperation activities
- Formalisation of 3 agreements with landholders to protect and restore dry forest landscapes

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EVENTS

Connecting Environmental Educators!



A Rocha international organised a follow-up Environmental Education virtual conference at the end of September where a number of delegates from each A Rocha organisation around the world shared an update of their initiatives on environmental education. A Rocha Uganda presented an update on their tree planting and training, and A Rocha Nigeria shared their work on a plastic recreation garden where they are teaching people the dangers of improper waste disposal and how to clean up and recycle plastics. A Rocha South Africa provided many pointers and safety considerations on different types of plastic clean-ups for the ocean, lagoons and rivers. In February 2021, A Rocha Netherlands are planning a plastic free February to discover whether we can reduce our dependency on plastics and to motivate others to do the

How the Pandemic has affected A Rocha Peru's Work



Reforestation during COVID (Image: C. Flores, August 2020)

In Peru, the amount of COVID cases are slowly decreasing. As a result, the government has started to reactive and open the economy. The State of Emergency is still in effect and certain restrictions have been extended, including night-time curfew and a ban on social gatherings. A Rocha Peru continues to navigate through the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The impact of the COVID pandemic and how it has affected our work in northern Peru is explained by Ciro Flores Cabrera, our Programmer Promoter and Project Officer, in this video.

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Our Improved cookstoves



Esther Salazar Ventura and family (Image: C. Flores, November 2020)

Most of Pacasmayo's residents rely on wood and charcoal for cooking, and high

same. We shall keep you posted for this event!

 **GIVE A GIFT**



Thinking for a gift for Christmas? Why not purchase a [Gift with a Difference](#) to support our Dry Forest Conservation & Restoration Program with its reforestation efforts, giving low-income farmers and community members native trees. You can also ensure that the trees stay alive by keeping them watered and well looked after by providing aftercare for trees with our new [Tree Hugger](#) gift.

PUBLICATIONS



Read all the latest news from A Rocha International with key themes including environmental education, science and conservation across a range of A Rocha organisations worldwide. The latest publication, [A Rocha's Annual Review 2019-20](#), includes an article on our very our dry forest project (p.17). We pray that you will read these stories – where Christian convictions are being translated into practical conservation – as signs of hope. For hope is now more needed than ever.

Also check out the latest

demand has spurred illegal deforestation in the nearby dry forests of Cañoncillo, La Yuca, and Tronco Prieto. In 2018, A Rocha Peru began working in the Pacasmayo area to make fuel-efficient cookstoves. These stoves cut fuel consumption in half, reducing the need to cut down trees, and offer better air quality, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Our improved cookstoves have a range of positive impacts, not only for the dry forests and to the project beneficiaries who receive the stoves, but to those who, through support from the La Libertad Dry Forest Project, construct the cookstoves.

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COMMUNITY VOICES

From the perspectives of communities, success is not only about the number of trees planted, it is also about the ability to enhance livelihoods, to strengthen existing community relationships and to build new ones and to develop a conservation ethic among younger generations. Here is one of the community voices from Pacasmayo's dry forest project.

Marcela Asnaran Rodríguez - "The members of the Muchick group are in good health because we always maintain communication. Our lives have been changed by this pandemic and now we have to comply with safety protocols to avoid catching the virus. On two occasions, I have gone to the Tronco Prieto forest and you can see that people have cut down a lot and the local authorities do not take action. We continue patrolling because when people see that we are guarding the forest, the logging is reduced."



Marcela Asnaran Rodríguez (Image: F. Hilgado, November 2020)

Our Deepest Condolences

We express our most sincere condolences on the death of Mr. Santiago Tello Casanova, leader of the community of Santonte. Since 2013, Mr. Santiago collaborated and supported selflessly and voluntarily with A Rocha Peru and has been one of the great promoters of the conservation of the dry forest in Pacasmayo. His support was in every sense important, showing leadership, love for the conservation of natural resources, accompanying us in our activities and supporting each of the steps we take. We pray to God for comfort for his family in this difficult time.

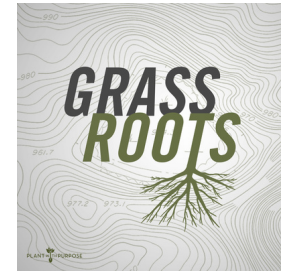


Sr. Santiago Tello Casanova (Image: F. Hilgado, August de 2019)

FUNDRAISING NEWS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors for 2020, and those who continue to support us in 2021, including Watershed Foundation, Interaction Foundation, Aatop, GZB, Climate Stewards and a number of individual donors from

entries on their [Planetwise Blog](#) including an interesting post, [Extinction: The Facts](#).



Plant With Purpose work to reverse deforestation, support sustainable farming practices and foster spiritual renewal. In a recent episode of their 'Grassroots' podcast, [Lament & Vulnerability](#), A Rocha founder Peter Harris talked about the role of lament in faith and environmental restoration, drawing deeply from his own tragic loss of Miranda (minute 37).



Mark your calendars! From Dec. 14 - 18, GlobalGiving will TRIPLE your generosity with 200% matching on all new monthly donations. You can provide stability for **Dry Forest communities in the Pacasmayo province** in the face of #COVID19.

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across the world. A HUGE thank you for your incredible support and generosity that helps us to continue with our important work to restore, conserve and sustainably manage dry forest landscapes with local communities in Peru, so thank you!

In addition, we are delighted to announce we have raised additional funding from ARI's Coronavirus Emergency Appeal which will help support the La Libertad Dry Forest Project for 2021. We are so thankful to all those who have donated so generously and for ARI to help coordinate and organise the appeal.

We also continue to engage in fundraising activities online through the GlobalGiving platform which will allow us to continue raising funds for the La Libertad Dry Forest Project. We thank you all for your generosity and invite you to continue sharing our link for our **current campaign** (<https://goto.gg/40324>).

TEAM NEWS

We would 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): Hannah Wilkinson and Marcos Muñoz. Marcos is our new volunteer intern and has commenced his thesis titled the "Consumption of firewood and charcoal from the Cañoncillo and Tronco Prieto dry forests in Pacasmayo for sustainable employment". Please read more about our current **team members** on our website.

 **CONTACT US:**

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