

# News Bulletin (Issue 24)

November 2020 - February 2021



*'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'* (Romans 15:13)

## PROJECT NEWS

### An update from the La Libertad Dry Forest Project



Reforestation with the Municipalidad Provincial de Pacasmayo (Image: C. Flores, November 2020)

A Rocha Peru has completed its third year of the La Libertad Dry Forest Project in Pacasmayo. We are delighted that the project has made significant progress in achieving its objective to help communities to restore, conserve, and sustainably manage dry forest landscapes. From November 2020 to February 2021, the team has formalized new conservation agreements, monitored the production of native saplings in a local nursery, and reforested 1.6 hectares with the help of community members. The reforestation efforts included the collaboration with the local municipality of Pacasmayo to restore parts of La Yuca dry forest and the Pacasmayo Ecological Park. Also, agroforestry plants were delivered to farmers to restore their degraded land. The team continued to conduct monitoring visits of the reforested area and, in February the team monitored over 6.48 hectares. [READ MORE](#)

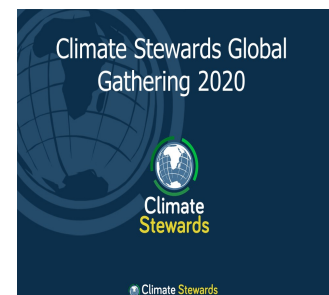
## EVENTS

### Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and the Planet



Our Science and Conservation Director attended a webinar organized by SERFOR to celebrate World Wildlife Day on March 3rd. This year the event highlighted the link between forests, wildlife, and livelihoods. Listen to the [webinar here](#).

### Climate Stewards Gathering



A Rocha Peru attended our first virtual Climate Stewards Gathering on November 30th, 2020. 34 people from 10

## Ecological Monitoring in the Cañoncillo Forest



The Pale-legged Hornero in the Cañoncillo Forest (Image: C. Flores, December 2020)

One of our research priorities of the Libertad Dry Forest Project is to determine and monitor the key species of flora and fauna in the Cañoncillo and other dry forest areas. Through researching endemic flora and fauna, we raise awareness of the conservation priorities of the region and monitor their use of the habitat. The Cañoncillo Forest is very important because it is the only area with the largest number of Algarrobo tree species in La Libertad, protecting it ensures the continuity of the ecological and evolutionary processes within the forest area, as well as avoiding the extinction of wild flora and fauna species. [READ MORE](#)

### Investigation news

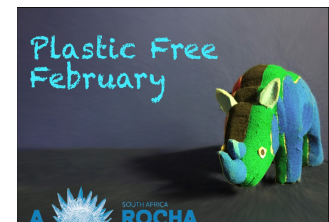
We are pleased to announce that our collaboration agreement between A Rocha Peru and the Universidad Científica del Sur has been extended for three more years in November 2020. This collaboration will continue to promote research and elaborate scientific material such as theses, and scientific publications. The agreement also provides university students volunteering, pre-professional volunteering, and/or pre-professional internship opportunities in conservation, capacity building, and environmental education in A Rocha Peru's projects.

Marcos Muñoz Márquez completed field work in December 2020 for his thesis titled "Consumption of firewood and charcoal from the dry forests El Cañoncillo and Tronco Prieto in Pacasmayo for sustainable use". More recently, in early March Bruno Paredes Sanchez defended his thesis for his Biology degree at the National University of Trujillo. The title of his thesis was "Alternatives of Agroforestry Systems in areas of influence of the ACP Natural Forest El Cañoncillo for local benefit, Pacasmayo, Pacasmayo, Peru". We congratulate both Marcos and Bruno for their reaching these milestones!

Marcos Muñoz Márquez (Image: C. Flores, December 2020)

countries across 6 time zones participated in the event including Climate Stewards project partners. A Rocha Peru shared our experiences in our ecological cookstove project in La Libertad. In the event, participants shared best practices on their carbon offset projects and learned a bit more about how Climate Stewards work. Listen to the [Climate Stewards Gathering!](#)

### Environmental Education Workshop



Our Project Officer, Ciro Flores, and our Communications and Fundraising Officer attended an Environmental Education Workshop organized by A Rocha International on March 2nd, 2021. A Rocha Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, and Uganda contributed by talking about their experiences regarding the successful Plastic-Free February event conducted on social media. A Rocha Canada shared some of their environmental education experiences that they are working on this year including virtual field trips, outdoor experimental learning activities (mushroom hunting, creating flower bouquets), and an interesting BioBlitz activity.

### A Rocha Theology & Churches

#### Programme: Webinar on Lament & Ecological Grief

A Rocha's global Theology & Churches group met online to hear two global thought-leaders challenge and inspire us. Hannah Malcolm and Panu Pikhala's talks (30 minutes total) are available to [watch here](#) with the password **creation**.





## 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, strengthen existing community relationships and to build new ones, and develop a conservation ethic among younger

generations. Here is one of the community voices from La Libertad Dry Forest Project.

**Percy Castillo Becerra** is the Deputy Manager of Health and Environmental Management from the Provincial municipality of Pacasmayo. A Rocha Peru collaborates with the Provincial Municipality of Pacasmayo working together to promote the conservation and reforestation of the dry forest areas that are deteriorated. We commemorated International Day of Clean Air with the Provincial Municipality of Pacasmayo on November 20 by planting 70 carob trees in the Yuca forest. "As in the case of the Yuca Forest, it was in the phase of depredation, neglect and there were many empty spaces. Thanks to the joint work with the NGO, A Rocha Peru, there is the opportunity to give life back to the forest through reforestation, which will allow us to improve ecosystems, and the impact generated will be good for all the people who live around it.



Percy Castillo Becerra (Image: C. Flores, March 2021)

## 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 across the world.

In addition, A Rocha Peru has also been fortunate to receive additional support from a new partner, the Christian Reformed Church, Netherlands (CGK), who will help support the La Libertad Dry Forest Project over the next three years. 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!



We also continue to engage in fundraising activities online through the GlobalGiving platform which allow us to raise 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 GlobalGiving [current campaign](#).

## PUBLICATIONS



The new report, [Making Peace with Nature](#), by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) lays out the gravity of Earth's triple environmental emergencies – climate, biodiversity loss, and pollution – through a unique synthesis of findings from major global assessments. This report provides the bedrock for hope bringing together the latest scientific evidence. It makes clear that our war on nature has left the planet broken. Protecting the planet is everyone's responsibility. [Get involved and act now!](#)



Check out the latest entries on **A Rocha International's Blog** including an interesting post, [Lockdown, Genesis & our need for nature](#)



A Rocha Peru is on **GEM TV** with our first video 'Harvesting Hope in the Desert'. View and watch our video to learn about the Algarrobo Tree, [King of the Desert](#).

## TEAM NEWS

This semester we were sad to say farewell to Jose Verano Cachay, our Field Technician. We would like to say a big thank you to Jose and wish him all the best in his future ventures. We are also pleased to welcome a new team member to A Rocha Peru, Elgar Cuadra Quispe, who is our new Field Technician from February 2021. We would also like to congratulate our volunteer Mariela Rivera Vilca, who won the seed grant for thesis students from the Universidad Científica del Sur. Her thesis is titled "Dendrochronology in carob tree stumps (*prosopis pallida*) and its relationship with climate variability in a dry forest in La Libertad, Peru". She will support A Rocha's research program and conduct her analyses at the University of Piura. 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. Please read more about our current [team members](#) on our website.



Elgar Cuadra Quispe (Image: C. Flores, March 2021)



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