



Another beautiful sunset from New farm platform – It doesn't happen everyday, but almost everyday...

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For almost 3 years the Reserva Ecologica Taricaya has been fighting with paperwork and red-tape to get the full licence for our animal rescue centre. Like with everything in Peru, paperwork seems to take an age to complete, to get signed by the right people and then get sent back – usually its because there is something missing, something new, something wrong that means the paper work has to be sent back out several times just to get things done! We went through the same process for the Reserve status of Taricaya that took almost 4 years in fact!

On the 28th May 2008 the final rubber stamp hit the final piece of paper, the final signature was signed on that same piece of paper and now the Reserva Ecologica Taricaya has one of Peru's first Animal Release Centres!!!

The licence is only provisional for this year as we have to be audited to make sure we are doing everything properly so starting from the 11th June 2008 until the 10th June 2009 we have full power to release animals, we have full protection from the government and of course we have the confidence to make the animal release centre a permanent fixture at Taricaya.

A little background is needed I think...The animal release centre happened by accident to be honest, ever since Fernando and Stuart started working on Taricaya they brought animals from Puerto Maldonado to be released around the lodge. It was something nice for the volunteers to see and of course it was a worth while activity to do. Gradually the idea started to take form, more animals were brought to Taricaya – Many of you will remember the 3 White Capuchins and the Spider monkeys that were released around the lodge for a long time. But of course as things started to get bigger we started to realise that we needed to start doing things properly, some of the loose monkey's were starting to become problems for staff and volunteers (Breaking into rooms and breaking personal belongings and unfortunately a couple of them died because they ate people's medication) So enclosures were built and the animals were all moved into those, then the paper work started – when we began with all of this Peru didn't have any release centres they didn't even have any legal status for a release centres. So like many things in the past we started from scratch and working directly with INRENA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT OF FLORA AND FAUNA) we began making the laws and pushing forward with the whole project, all the while slowly but surely increasing the size of the animal release centre but all the while knowing that we shouldn't go full ahead as they might not give us the licence even though we were helping them make it!

Now that we have licence and we have assessors from an animal care centre in Puerto called "Amazon Shelter" who have trained vets and animal behaviour experts we are more confident that we can begin making permanent enclosures that will last 25 years instead of the ones we currently have which are already in need of replacement.

The Changes for the animal release centre are as follows (This will of course take a while implement) – The experts from Amazon Shelter will visit once a month to check all of our animals and train our staff on animal management, feeding and safety precautions.

- All of the enclosures will slowly be replaced for permanent structures that will last at least 25 years.
- All animals will be quarantined when they first arrived
- All plates are marked so they go back to the same enclosure

- Hygiene is being improved, enclosures disinfected on a monthly basis and there is a routine of disinfecting boots and hands before entering each enclosure to prevent spreading of infections.
- Each release must be reported to the government and presented 1 year prior to release with a full protocol of what we plan on doing and when. The release protocols include animal adaptation techniques that will adjust the animals to living in the wild and not going near human settlements.

I could easily write a full report on all the changes that we have to make, so I think I will just leave it at that for now.

Needless to say there is a lot of work to be done, a lot of money to be spent and hopefully a lot of successful releases to come in the near future.

I will no doubt make several references in the future about the animal release centre, how it is advancing in regards to construction and releases.



One of our South American Coatis



Isobella our young Brazilian Tapir



Maggie our Night Monkey



Our two Pacaranas



the three big macaws we work with

Species List

Since 2005 Taricaya has been working hard in creating an accurate and up to date species list, which now includes 359 birds, 54 mammals, 42 amphibians, 54 reptiles and 105 species of butterfly. Various methods have been used to collect this data from mist-netting to manual capture.



Great Egret



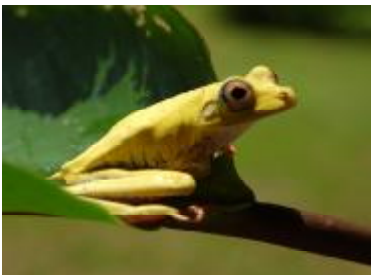
Blue-headed Parrot



Blue-crowned Motmot



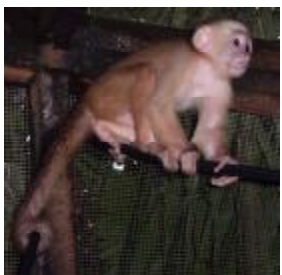
Yellow Footed Tortoise



Hyla calcarata



South American Lancehead (Fer De Lance)



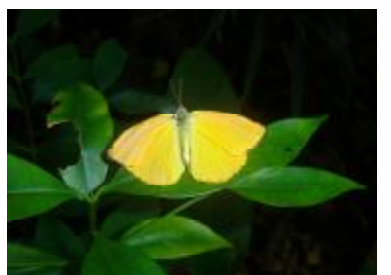
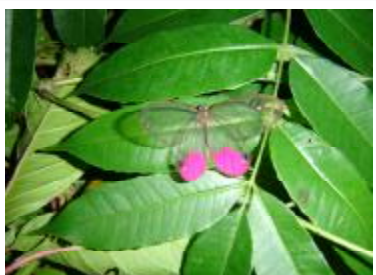
White-fronted capuchin



Puma



Red Brocket Deer



Auto Camera Feature

The Auto-Cameras use infra red sensors to detect movement (Like a burglar alarm) which then activates the camera. They have memory for 150 photos and rechargeable batteries which last for up to 1 month. Completely water proof, they can be left out in the jungle in all conditions.



Tayra



Collared Peccary



White Lipped Peccary



Spix's Guan



Slate-colored hawk



White Lipped Peccary

Local News and Update

Tech News

Last month we were given a donation of radio equipment – CB radios and walkie talkies of a professional standard. These came from an American man called Lance who has known Fernando for years – so a big a thank you to him as these will be very useful around the reserve and of course during the turtle project.

Volunteers Leaving

Jef Craps, Chloe Jackson, Benjamin Jenks, Paul Cohen Tervaert, Danielle Makuch, Carrie McCann.

Thank you for all your help at the reserve, we really couldn't do a lot of the work we do here with out your help.

New Volunteers IN JULY

Chiraag Patel, Piers Sangan, Anne-Sophie Somekh, Catherine Letréguilly, Amy Matthews, Margriet Luttkhuizen, Annemarie Schweers, Caroline Ingeborg Adamson, Caitlin Mcgee, Sean LaPose, Shane Taylor, Fleur Shakespeare, Elisabeth Dongarra, Vernon Mcgeoch, Nathan Dowds, Taaron Uppal, Harriet Ainscough, Rosie Kerber, Mila Marcus, William Jacobs, Rebecca Eaton, Nicol Hawkins, Sarah Mandell, Mona Nakamura, Stratton Rawle Beatrous, Alexandra Visser, Angela Maloney, Rebecca Wright, Christina Krauss, Marlene Ebertshaeuser.

Wow, that's a lot of volunteers in one month! See you all soon! Hope you'll have a fantastic experience with usJ.

DONKEY!

Yet again I have a happy item to report in that we have yet another baby donkey! Our male donkey (Nando – his name that is) is really keeping himself busy!

He hasn't found himself a decent name yet but I'm sure in a few more weeks we will have something fitting for him to try out...

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PUERTO

New Buildings...

Projects Abroad has sent us an extra budget this month to build another bungalow! With so many volunteers booked up and not wanting to say no to anyone it was decided that more space would be the best way of going! Pepe is of course back again with his father (Our carpenters) and will be working on the new building in double quick time to get it finished before the 20th July.

Donations

As I briefly mentioned above we have begun working on new enclosures for the animals in the release centre. The first one to be rebuilt is going to be Preciosa's (our female Jaguar)

With the help of Rachel's father in laws company, we have began work this month to get this enclosure done as soon as possible.

Of course a huge thank you for this donation and Patty (Fernando's sister who lives in the USA) Who has also donated some money towards the new enclosure.

JUNGLE FACT!

Manu wildlife reserve (Which is one of Peru's largest reserves) is 1/2 the size of Switzerland and 2/3 is unexplored.

If you have any ideas of how Projects Abroad volunteers can be put to good use within the Community then please contact either Richard Munday or Stuart Timson. We are always looking for your suggestions.

Volunteer Letter

It's been a while since I've included a volunteer letter in the newsletter. Mainly because of space to be honest with you, so much has been happening that I've not had to the space to include them! But fortunately this month we do, it's been a little quiet with only 6 volunteers at the end of the month – nice little break before the big rush through July and August to be honest!

Anyway this month we have a lovely letter from Saskia Tempelfeld from Germany, who was with us back in 2006 for 2 months. I want to include this letter as Saskia had a thousand questions about everything at Taricaya, so I'm going to include her email and then my response so that we can all benefit from the answers.

Hi Rich, hi everyone else

It's me, Saskia from Germany. I hope you do remember me even it's a long time ago, when I spend two exciting and interesting month at Taricaya. It was in August/ September 2006, when we did the turtle project, built Winnie's new enclosure and the guinea pig enclosure.

I really enjoyed being at Taricaya and when I left, I told you that I would come back some day. But I still haven't sent you an email, telling you what I am doing right now. So I'll catch you up on everything now.

After I came back from Peru, I started studying Geography in Bonn. And that's what I am still doing. My minor subjects are Biology and Ethnology (research and teaching of the Institute of Ethnology in Bonn mainly concentrate on the Andean area and Mesoamerica). I don't know if you can imagine what I do in my studies, because most people can't. The first 4 semesters are to get a general idea about how the two sectors of geography (physical geography and anthropo geography) work and how they are connected. The physical geography deals with vegetation, climate, pedology, water and geomorphology. The anthropo geography deals with town planning, economy, population and culture. So it's a diversified programme. In semester 5-9 I am planning to concentrate on physical geography, especially on ecology and environment.

A few weeks ago, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was taking place in Bonn. The claim was: One nature, one world, our future. About 5000 experts from all over the world met here and spoke about how to serve the worlds biodiversity.

However, as I mentioned above, I am still planning to come back to Taricaya at some day. I hope that's going to happen.

Now that I told you what I am doing, I've also got a few (or maybe a lot?) questions:

- What happened to the staff members? Carlos, Catinca and Oswaldo aren't in Taricaya anymore, are they? Are there new ones?
- When I was at Taricaya you said that the bird watching is necessary so that you can convince the government that the area is worth it, to be protected. The other observations are leading to the same goal, right? So, is there any success, yet? And what is the "official" status of Taricaya (Tambopata is a "national reserve", is Taricaya a "private reserve" or is there another official term)?
- What are the future goals of Taricaya? What kind of knowledge will you need in future? What kind of experts will be needed?
- What happened to Preciosa and Gato? Did you release them?

- How are the local farmers (especially Nancy and her family)?
- Was there a new turtle project last year and did you ever try to count, if the population is recreating?
- Do you do any kind of awareness training and publicity for what you are doing at Taricaya to tell local people about the project?
- What happened to the giant otters in Lake Sandoval? Did the population grow?
- Was donkey training successful?
- Did you find a solution for the water problem?
- What's up in Puerto???? Any new trendy restaurants (we went to Choza, and the pizzeria at the plaza.) Any new discotheques beside Wititie?

I think that's enough now, Hope you'll find a minute (or two) to read all of this. I hope that everyone is fine and everything works well!!

Say greetings to everyone, especially to Nando, Stu and Eugenio
Viele liebe Grüße,

Saskia

And now my response to Saskia –

Hi Saskia,

It's been ages since I spoken to you! Don't worry about leaving it so long, I know exactly what it's like, sometimes you just can't find a decent time to write a good letter/email.

Sounds like you are doing amazing things back in Germany, lots of work at least, but I assume you are enjoying yourself which is always important. Anyway, answers to your questions - as best as I can anyway!

Carlos and Catinca now own a farm in Puerto Maldonado where they also dry wood, I don't know the details of the wood bit, but they are both still happy and doing well.

Oswaldo is working in Cusco again, I think he is selling animals at the market and helping us a lot with any livestock we need buying in Cusco, we bought 2 new donkeys a few months ago and he brought them to Puerto - he is also doing very well.

The observations are now more to help us with identifying if the reserve is working, I.E if we are having a positive or negative effect on the area. The government gave us the licence for the RESERVA ECOLOGICA TARICAYA about 2 years ago. This means we are officially a private reserve.

The future is being more focused on the identification of the forest we have - so we can protect it better - this means continuing with the bird, mammal, butterfly, bat, reptile and botanical studies that we have. And more importantly we are now trying harder to influence the community we have in the area - more local farmers ETC and of course we have the animal rescue centre which is growing quickly.

Gato was released about 6 months after you left, it was successful as far as we could tell, but after another 6 months we started loosing sight of it. Preciosa is still with us, she won't be able to be released as she is a dangerous animal.

Like I said above the release program has changed a lot in the last 6 months and will be changing even more in the next few months, we are now officially a

release centre, and so we are receiving assistance from outside and have specific regulations to follow.

Nancy and her family are very well; her son has grown up a lot since you took that photo, its pretty cool looking back on that.

There was a turtle project last year, which was the most successful year to date - 1056 turtles re-released. We are also running another project alongside this where we are counting the number of turtles we can see along the river banks. Daniel our biologist is going out twice a week for 4 hours with volunteers and a boat checking the whole area - Usually comes back with about 200 turtles.

We now have publicity on local TV, Radio, and Newspapers. And each year we are presenting scientific papers which are getting responses from the world community, I frequently get emails from people asking for more information.

The giant otters are still there, we were at Sandoval a month ago and saw the whole group very close up; there are now about 25 individuals, 4 of which are young animals born in the last couple of years.

This months report - which is late being sent out for various reasons contains a great section on the donkeys, so have a read of that and you should understand how everything is going.

Did you find a solution for the water problem? What water problem?

There are a couple more disco's, but none really that are worth going too, I still find myself in Wititie on a Saturday night.
Can't beat the old stuff!

Hope everything is still going well, I might include this email in the newsletter, answers a lot of questions about a lot of things that other people might be thinking.

Speak to you soon, and don't take so long getting in touch next time! :P

Rich

A Teaser for July

Like I say, this month has been a little slow, so instead of writing something pointless that you won't read I thought I might include a few sneak peaks at what we will be up to next month...

As I've already said, we have a lot of people arriving in July; in fact we will have 33 volunteers in total plus a few vets from a school in Lima. It's going to be very, very busy indeed but this means that we can do a lot of work too!

Work like – Finishing the 2nd artificial turtle beach

- The turtle project – which we will be starting on the 10th July
- My birthday party on the 11th of July, Fernando's on the 9th July and Stuart's on the 28th July – little reminders for you all!
- Building the new Jaguar enclosure
- The usual projects – observations, donkey training, Auto-Cameras, Butterfly project, reptile project, trail clearing and New farm work
- We have a trip to Lake Valencia planned

- We will be replacing all the signs for the trails with plastic ones – no more rotten wood signs
- We want to go back to Palma Real to help them build an artificial turtle beach and to start a plantation of fruit trees

It doesn't sound like a lot really does it? But each of these projects will be done on almost a daily basis so it's going to be a bit hard over the next few months, so apologies in advanced if I don't get back to your emails straight away or reports are a little late!

As usual we are always looking forward to hearing from you all! Years have passed since some of you have spoken to us, some of you have only just got home and still have not gotten in touch to say you're safe, it does not matter how long it's been, we still want to hear from you sometimes! What are you doing? Where are you? Who have met recently?

Those of you meeting up with Taricaya volunteers we really do want photos for our Reunion section in the New dining room, remember though, you need to find an interesting way to include the phrase "Projects Abroad – Reserva Ecologica Taricaya" Write it in Bananas and Papaya, find a small monkey on the road side and get him to hold a sign up for you, paint it on your chests, we have a few amazing ones already which have begun appearing on Projects Abroad publicity, so you never know you might be famous...

Also we'd like to know if you guys have any questions about anything? Anything about the rainforest that you want to know about and didn't learn whilst you were here? Let us know and also we would love to hear about an experience you had at Taricaya, something you still remember or something that made your time here perfect, share with everyone, let us know! And remember that we also have a Taricaya website, which is full of information and updates from our own Stuart Timson, located at <http://www.volunteer-conservation-peru.org>

So until next month keep safe and good bye!

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