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It's been an interesting couple of months here at Taricaya. Now that the rainy season has started the river is steadily rising which has made it a great month for the ever enjoyable "Caiman Hunt". This is an activity much loved by volunteers and involves capturing and identifying species of Caiman at night, with the aid of a spot light and many eyes scouring the water for movement! The most common species found in the Madre de Dios River surrounding Taricaya is the Black and Spectacled Caiman (pictured) which can grow up to 5 meters long.



During the past month there have been a number of exciting events and projects that we have all been fortunate enough to be involved with.....

PROJECT UPDATES

HAPPY 9th BIRTHDAY TARICAYA!

The 5th of November marked Taricaya's 9th Birthday. Volunteers and staff celebrated by holding the ever popular "Taricaya games". Despite the particularly hot weather everyone gave 110% to the egg & spoon race, sack race & tug of war to name a few. Each group fought valiantly for First place, but everyone was rewarded by a hearty feast at the BBQ which went down very well with volunteers and staff alike.



THE TURTLE PROJECT

During October and early November our annual Turtle project continued. Volunteers have been involved with the daily checking of the Yellow spotted Amazon River turtle eggs, also known locally as Taricaya Turtles. The eggs have been kept since July at the artificial beaches constructed earlier in the year at New Farm with hopes to help turtle numbers increase & reduce the occurrence of egg poaching, an activity sadly common in parts of Peru.

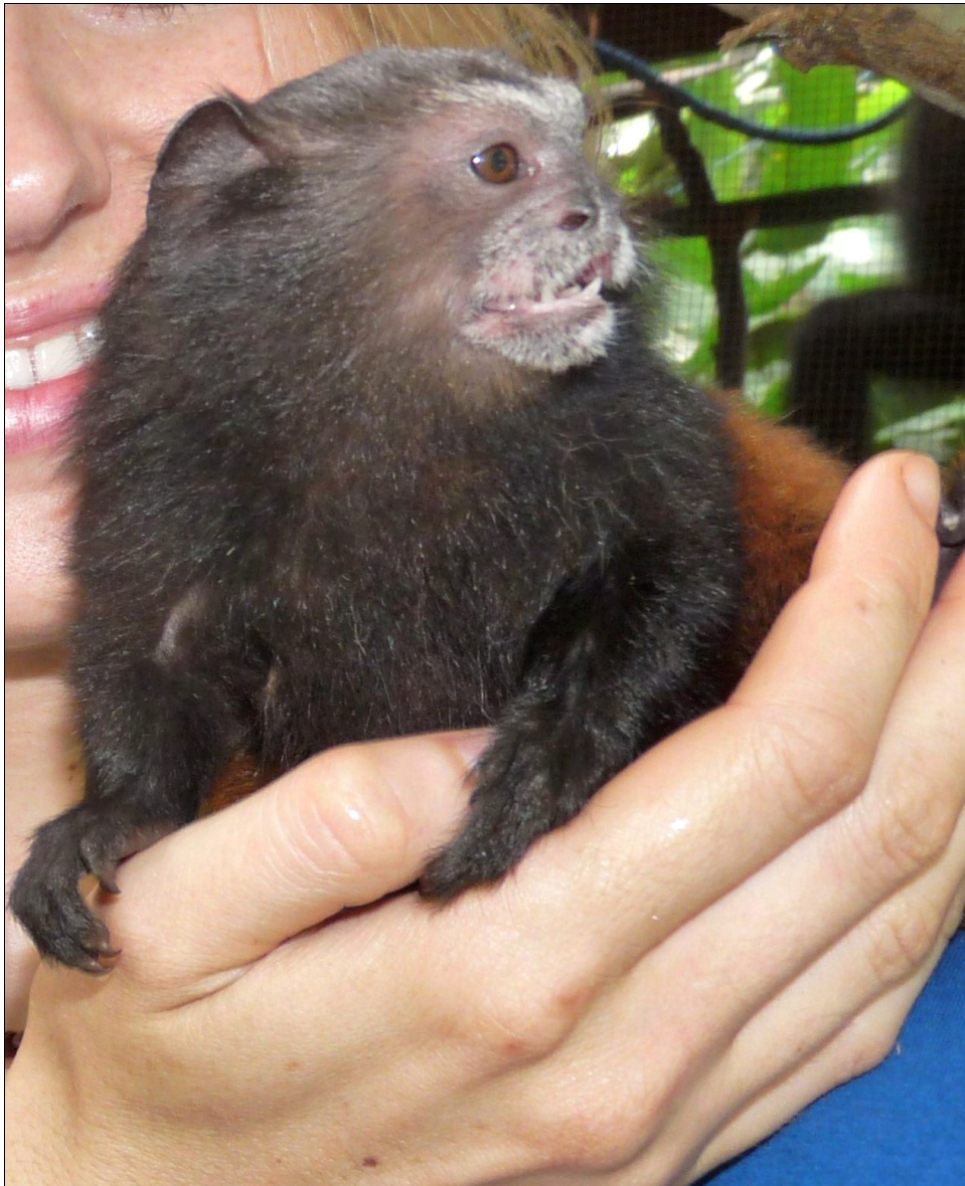
Unfortunately due to adverse weather conditions and a particularly hot summer many eggs failed to hatch, however we are pleased to announce that an impressive 670 turtles did hatch. Each baby turtle was measured and weighed, with identification markings taken in order to identify our turtles in their natural environment – the Madre Dios River.

Keeping up with tradition the Anniversary of Taricaya saw the release of all 670 turtles from the beach they were originally collected. Volunteers excited about the turtle release went armed with buckets of hatchlings eager & ready to go home. All were successfully released into the river, with a little guidance from volunteers of course! This was a truly touching and memorable day for us all.



JACK HANNAH & FILM CREW VISIT TARICAYA!

We were paid a visit by Jack Hannah who is famous in America for his work with animals. The reason for his visit being that he is documenting his journey through South America and the Amazon featuring Taricaya in one of his shows. We were all very excited about being filmed and the prospect of spreading the news & conservation work here at Taricaya. The film crew carried out a full tour of the rescue centre and were involved with animal feeding. Jack Hannah and the film crew thoroughly enjoyed the animal interaction; particularly meeting “Cheeky Bastard” the Saddleback Tamarin monkey (pictured) who equally enjoyed his moment of fame.



RESCUE CENTRE UPDATE

We have been fortunate enough to have a large volume of volunteers this month which has meant we could make much needed improvements to some of the animal enclosures, in particular for the Tapirs. Fresh bamboo was cut & replaced for the surrounding perimeter of the entire enclosure.

We have recently acquired more new additions to our rescue centre – 3 baby spider monkeys which were formerly kept as pets & donated to Taricaya. In Peru it is common for wild animals such as spider monkeys to be kept as pets. However, often when the novelty wears off or the wild animals show signs of aggression they are no longer wanted. The good news is all 3 monkeys are coming along well & settling into life at Taricaya.



Hi,

I'm Bridget the new Volunteer Co-coordinator at Taricaya. I have recently taken over from Dan Howell who we will all deeply miss. My first month at Taricaya has been a truly amazing experience & I'm eager to bring you monthly Taricaya updates from now on.

We would love to hear from any of you who have visited Taricaya, it doesn't matter how long you were here for or how long ago, we'd like to hear about what you're doing or where you are now.

Also if you would like to know anything about Taricaya, or have any queries about the rainforest (or Peru), we have a number of qualified biologists on the team who would be happy to answer any of your questions.

For quick updates or information about Taricaya, check out our website at www.volunteer-conservation-peru.org, or you can reach us through the Projects Abroad website at www.projects-abroad.org.

Have a good month, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Bridget Barraclough

Volunteer Co-ordinator
Reserva Ecologica Taricaya