



A freshly hatched baby turtle

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Palma Real

One of the many projects that we have been focussing on this year has been our relationship with the Ese'Eja Community of Palma Real, which is located about 1:30 hours further down the Madre de Dios river from Taricaya.

Over the last year, we have so far helped them build a donkey field, given them a donkey, began the process of building a dam for them (This is going to be funded by the local government, so we have little more to do on this) helped them with a day of rubbish cleaning and we have now completed an expansion of our Taricaya turtle release project and begun a Brazil nut plantation with them.

The Taricaya project, as most of you probably know involves taking the nests from local beaches and caring them until they hatch. We have only been working with one beach, having success upon success each year (This year beating all records again!) But we have always been lacking on the social side of this project, the locals who actually come to take the nests! Palma Real is one of the biggest communities that actively take the nests from several beaches, it is one of their strongest incomes of the year. So we knew we had to take action, by setting up an artificial beach and a program where they would take the nests as normal but instead of selling them all in Puerto, taking a small percentage and caring for them like we do in the artificial beach's.

The main attraction of the project is that the community were going to be paid for every live turtle they gave us back, which gave them a major incentive to do as well as possible!

Although this year we have only worked on a relatively small scale, mainly just to show them this is another thing that will work for them, it has been a huge success (Even if we do need to work on a few details) with the earning just under 1000 soles. One of the things that we needed to make sure is what the money was spent on. There have been occasions in the past where communities in the area have spent donated money on things for individuals rather than the whole community, so to avoid this from happening we decided that we would find something that they wanted and present it to them on Palma Real's anniversary (29th November)



(One of the relocated nests in Palma Real)

The second project we have began this month is helping the community set up a Brazil nut plantation. After Turtles, Brazil nuts are very big income for the community, with everyone in the community going out to the family trees and collection for sale in Puerto. The problem that the community has here is that each generation that is born is given a selection of trees by the family. As you can obviously tell it wouldn't take long before each member of the family only has 1 tree because they have been divided out so much!

So with the help of our wonderful Taricaya volunteers, we have been working to make 10 60 metre transects in the back part of the village. The volunteers worked on the transects over a 3 day period, and we managed to get 3 of the done (the area was a little harder to clear than we first thought) so we left the rest in the capable hands of the teachers at the local school. Hopefully by the time this newsletter is sent out, the rest of the work will be done. Then the only thing we need to do, is take the saplings (All 600 of them) down to the community to plant (we expect that out of the 600 we will only have about 400 that will grow to maturity) Obviously the aim is that the community, in 20/30 years will have a whole new area of income to exploit, in combination with the turtle project, it should be very interesting!



(Having a rest in the creek at Palma Real)

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.



Rufescent Tiger-Heron



Black-Collared Hawk



Amazonian Royal-Flycatcher



Dwarf Caiman



Surinam Toad



Common Mussurana



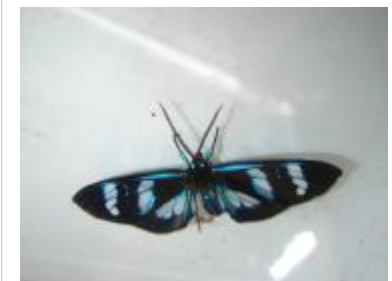
Brown Capuchin Monkey



White Lipped Peccary



Tayra



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.



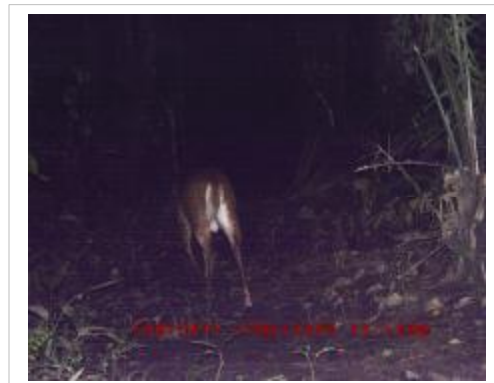
Great Tinamou



False Scorpion



Brown Agouti



Red Brocket Deer (Male)



White Lipped Peccary



Agouti Paca

Snakes and Jaguars?

As many of you know Taricaya is always in a state of change, building new buildings, taking away old ones, expanding others, always with an effort of increase the comfort of volunteers, staff and Animals at the lodge. One of the things we have been working on recently is a reptile house, house should be used in the loosest sense of the word, its more of a room! But so far we have 2 species of Turtle and 4 species of snake. All are being kept for scientific reasons, investigating feeding habits, growth, skin shedding and in one case, mating habits! All of the enclosures have been beautifully built, by Jamie Spencer who has been helping us out a lot lately, so volunteers, tourists and of course the staff can easily see inside to monitor them.

Another structure that has had some major attention recently is Preciosa's (Our Jaguars) enclosure, we have always had it planned that after 4 years her enclosure would be rebuilt, but with the help of donations from various places we have been able to increase the size of the enclosure too.

The new enclosure is now taller and a lot wider, giving her more space and more light, so that she is more comfortable and hopefully a lot happier.

The work on this enclosure was done mainly by Pepe, who most of you who have been here in the last year will know very well. We hope that this enclosure will be with us for the next 5 years before we have to think about replacing it again.

Happenings in Puerto Maldonado And Snippets Of Taricaya News!

UNAMAD PRESENTATION

Every now and then Taricaya gets asked to do a Presentation on Peruvian TV, Radio, Newspaper or in one of the local. Recently we were asked to do a Presentation for UNAMAD University on Alternative Tourism Attractions, with the aim of giving the students different ideas and options to the current tourist attractions in Puerto. The presentation was given by Fernando and was a great success.

STAFF CHANGE

As some of you already know I have decided that it is time to move on from Taricaya. Of course this hasn't been an easy decision to make, I will miss Taricaya greatly, the work, the volunteers Past and future and of course the Staff. I would just like to Thank you all for everything, it honestly has been amazing!

Maria Fernando (Nando's daughter will be taking over the desk officer work and Raul will be joining us from Amazon Shelter to concentrate on the Animal rescue centre.

JUNGLE FACT!

Experts estimates that we are losing 137 plant, animal and insect species every single day due to rainforest deforestation. That equates to 50,000 species a year. As the rainforest species disappear, so do many possible cures for life-threatening diseases. Currently, 121 prescription drugs sold worldwide come from plant-derived sources. While 25% of Western pharmaceuticals are derived from rainforest ingredients, less than 1% of these tropical trees and plants have been tested by scientists.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PUERTO

SANDOVAL AGAIN!

The volunteers took another trip to lake Sandoval and once again it was pretty successful. With volunteers seeing 3 species of monkey, Caiman and the giant otters. I would just like say a huge thank you to the tourist lodge Corto Maltes, who helped us organize the entrance to the reserve and by lending us one of their guides.

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.

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 your safe, It does not matter how long its 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 began 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? Or maybe something you've forgotten? Let us know for our Question area of the newsletter 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!