



La Feria de Moyobamba

The Tourism week of Moyobamba is every year a huge happening. People are coming from far to visit the information stands and see the parade.

This year, the Proyecto Mono Tocón was also present with an information-stand. We are lucky to have a large number of volunteers, mostly from the Faculty of Ecology in Moyobamba. As with other events, like the congress in March, many of them came in their free time to help our team with their work for the Tourism week. They built a very nice information-stand, using local sustainable products, and fabricated paintings and other objects to make the stand more visible and attractive. And they succeeded! Our stand was one of the best visited during the Feria.



Visitors in front of the stand

Our team organised a large variety of activities, mainly for children.

During the activities, the team took the opportunity to inform the children (and their parents) about the importance of nature conservation.

We also used the Feria to inform the adult visitors about the work of Proyecto Mono Tocón and the importance of its conservation. As always, subjects like deforestation and illegal hunting (including illegal traffic of animals) were discussed with people. It is a very good sign that many people were



Possibly the most favourite activity: making a monkey mask.

very interested and seem to become more and more concerned about the environmental problems in the world that they are living in.



One of our volunteers working with a couple of kids.

Editorial

In this newsletter I would like to give you some news from Peru, where I am at this moment.

The project is developing well, with our first steps towards direct conservation measures. We are gaining more trust from other organisations, which is reflected in demands for collaboration and help with their projects. It is clear that our team in Peru does a very good job, even if the (political) conditions are not always easy. Fortunately, there are many people very concerned about the future of Peru's rich nature, and with them we hope that we can save some of this richness.

Jan Vermeer, Project Manager

The Feria in Moyobamba

There were not only activities with the children, we also had some meetings where we talked with the children about nature.



Our team-members telling nature stories to children.

The work of the Proyecto Mono Tocón in the past three years has resulted that the project is now well known by the general public in and around Moyobamba.

On the last day of the Feria, which is traditionally closed with a large parade we had a very nice surprise, one that reflects how the Proyecto Mono Tocón lives with some people: the students of the Faculty of Ecology of Moyobamba had decided to use the parade to promote the Proyecto. They made very nice costumes, resembling a San Martin titi monkey, danced and imitated the vocalization of the titi monkey. What better promotion can you get!



The students during the parade.



The San Martin titi monkey in Moyobamba.

A big THANK YOU to the Proyecto Mono Tocón team, the volunteers and the students of the Faculty of Ecology in Moyobamba. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Education Center

Centre for Nature Education

Up to now, our education team visits schools and universities to give presentations about the project and nature conservation. However, we would prefer to give education in the middle of our nature. It is of course too dangerous to take a school class to the rainforest. That is why we are working on a collaboration with an association that is responsible for the (degraded) botanical garden of Moyobamba. We can help them, if needed, with the restoration of the garden, develop educational programs for schools and other visitors and increase the number of visitors by making publicity. The first talks are very promising, and we hope that we can start soon!



Conservation

How to protect the San Martin Titi Monkey?

The conservation activities of the Proyecto Mono Tocón focussed in the first two years on research and education. Both are important factors to make future conservation actions successful.

This year we have planned to work more on direct conservation. Can we help with the management of an existing conservation area? Can we create a new conservation area?

There are a few municipally conservation areas around Moyobamba. Most of them have a conservation status because they are water catchments for the city. We had planned to focus first on these areas. However, very quickly we found out that there is so much disturbance in these areas - and so little action from the local government to stop these intrusions - that it will be impossible to protect in these forests the titi monkeys (and other rare animal species, including some birds that are endemic for this region). This is very sad, not only for nature but also for the future of the habitants of Moyobamba, who's drinking water depends on the protection of these areas. But there seems to be little political will to solve this situation.

We therefore shifted our efforts to the creation of a new reserve. To our surprise we found in the Alto

Mayo valley a very nice piece of primary rainforest, that is supposed to be an « area reservada », but this status has no official value. The reserve belongs to two communities, that are eager to protect it (again, this is a water catchment area). We have offered our help with obtaining a legally protected status for this area. It could probably be extended to 1000 hectares, not enough for a viable population of titi monkeys but a major step towards its conservation in the Alto Mayo.

We will keep you informed.

Meanwhile, our team is also in contact with another municipality that has requested our assistance.



Research

Less but more specific research

The research of the last two years has given us valuable information on the status and distribution of the San Martin titi monkey (*Callicebus oenanthe*). With the information we have started this year to work towards conservation measures. Therefore this year there will be less research activities, but the existing activities will be more focussed. If we receive information that a certain area might be interesting for titi monkey conservation, then our team will go to this place to make an assessment of its value for our project. If we would initiate the creation of a reserve, then our research team will do the necessary fieldwork that is requested for applications and the development of a management plan (determination of perimeters, biodiversity, vegetation cover, etc.).

Further research on the distribution and taxonomy of the titi monkeys has been planned for later this year.



<- titi monkeys are sometimes difficult to find in the forest.