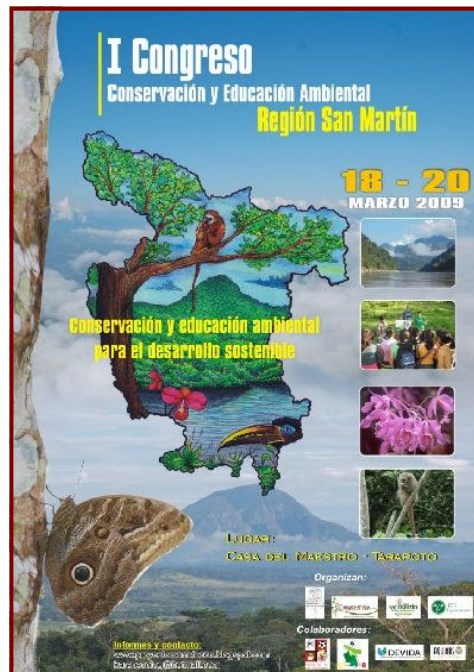




## I Congreso de Conservación y Educación Ambiental Región San Martín

The Proyecto Mono Tocón organised in March 2009 the first Congress for Conservation and Environmental Education of the San Martín region. Our team did this with the collaboration of the regional authorities and ONG Paz y Esperanza.

During our work in 2007 and 2008 we noticed how little contact and collaboration there was between the different organisations that work in San Martín for the conservation of nature. There



are no working groups that discuss together the most effective conservation strategies, that evaluate the work that is being done or that develop together an effective environmental educational program. Everybody does their thing, without looking too much what others are doing. This is really a pity, as working together will not only be more effective, but can also be very motivating.

And we can learn from each others experiences. For such a cooperation it is not necessary that we all have the same ideas about conservation, different associations can work with different methods that are complementary to each other. And there are many other advantages of cooperation. Together we can defend better our cause in front of the (local and regional) authorities and together we can promote better the advantages of nature conservation to the general public. And in the case of a cooperative environmental education program we might have better access to (foreign) funds and can produce cheaper educational materials. In short, there are many reasons for cooperation.

We know that such a situation can and will not change from one day to the other, but we decided that we wanted to make a first step towards more cooperation. For this reason we organised in March the congress on conservation and environmental education. This had never been done before in San Martín.

The congress was perfectly organised by our team (Karen, supported by Fernando and Julio), in good cooperation with the people of the regional government and ONG Pas y Esperanza. And I should also mention the indispensable help of our volunteer crew. It was great to see such a huge commitment for the good cause!

### Editorial

*This volume of the newsletter is mainly about the congress that we organised earlier this year in Tarapoto. This was a very important event and it shows the good development of the Proyecto Mono Tocón. A development, only possible with your support!*

*Thank you very much for your trust.*

**Jan Vermeer, project manager**

## Day 1: Conservation

On the first day some of the conservation projects in San Martín were presented. The presentations showed that there is a large variety in types of projects and approaches towards conservation. Some presentations focussed on the management of conservation areas (GTZ, Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental), while other highlighted the problems of the illegal traffic in wild animals in Peru (Ikama, Amazon Shelter). There were also presentations of very large initiatives, like the Abiseo-Condor-Kutuku Conservation Corridor (APECO). Very interesting was the presentation of Victor Pacheco (UNMSM) about the biodiversity of mammals in San Martín. He not only showed the importance of San Martín for the conservation of many mammal species, but also stressed the importance of more systematic research, like that of the Proyecto Mono Tocón. Ecotourism can play an important role in the sustainable development of San Martín, and this subject also received attention in some presentations (PERTUR, CEPCO), as did the sustainable extraction of forest products. Fernando presented the Proyecto Mono Tocón, and there were other presentation on the conservation of and research on the flora and fauna (birds, spectacled bears, yellow-tailed woolly monkeys) of San Martín (UNSM, As. Aves y Selva, BPAM, NPC).



*Our team*

All presentations can be downloaded from [www.proyectomonotocon.blogspot.com](http://www.proyectomonotocon.blogspot.com)

## Day 2: Environmental Education

During the second day it could be noticed that there is much attention in Peru for education about a more sustainable life. Subjects that were presented are the use of water and electricity, but also the large problem of waste disposal. Educational programs are developed on national, regional and local levels. Schools play an important role in the education, while scholars can pass their knowledge on other members of the family and community.

An important aspect of the management of conservation areas consists of education, and the different approaches were presented by the people involved (PEAM, CIMA-CA). While some work mainly with communities, other work with schools. Very interesting is the work of NGO Canatura, who takes children on excursions for bird observation or other educational activities.

I should admit that, although the congress has been very informative and extremely useful for discussions and making contacts, we did not reach one of our mains goals. We had hoped that there



would be more practical examples of education, and more exchange of educational materials.

Exchanging ideas and materials would help us all. We all work for the same cause, and why should everybody invest so much time in materials that others already have developed? We can use our time better! But now that we have through the congress so many new contacts with colleagues, our team will be able to reach this goal after all.

## Day 3: Workshops

### The national environmental education policy

We decided that we did not only wanted to have presentations during the meeting, but also discussions. Therefore two workshops were organised. The first one was chaired by Mrs. Fanny Fernández-Melo, member of the National Environmental Education Working Group. She initiated a rather theoretical discussion on the national education policy. The congress members discussed in small groups different points of this policy, and came up with a list of suggestions on how to improve the proposed policy. Mrs. Fernández-Melo will discuss our suggestions in her working group, and we hope that at least some of them will be used.

### The regional conservation and biodiversity strategy

During the second workshop we discussed the regional conservation strategy. This workshop was chaired by dr. Segundo E. Vergara Medrano. This strategy has been initiated in 2004, but unfortunately little has been implemented. In small groups we discussed the priorities of each of the points mentioned in the strategy (e.g. education, research, sustainability). At the

end of the workshop a network was formed, that will be responsible for the implementation of the regional conservation and biodiversity. The Proyecto Mono Tocón will follow critically the developments, but will also be available for collaboration.



*Participants in discussion during one of the workshops*

## Environmental problems in San Martín? Really?

### Ain't no river wide....?

Until the day before its start, it was not sure if the congress could really take place. In the week preceding the congress we had the perfect example of the envi-



*What was left of the bridge...*

ronmental problems in San Martín. After a night of heavy rainfall, a bridge on the only road that is connecting Tarapoto with the western part of Peru was destroyed by the rising water. And most organisers of the congress were in Moyobamba, on the wrong side of the bridge! For more than a week no transport was possible between Tarapoto and Moyobamba. This means no food and carburant for a large area, no work for taxi drivers, fruit that had to be transported was rotting in the trucks, and many other problems.

Papers were full about the consequences of deforestation in the region, and this was also the main subject of the Regional President's speech when he opened the congress. Let's hope that the words will be followed by deeds. This is so much needed in this region, and especially there where the titi monkey still lives!

Luckily for us, a temporary connection was opened on the afternoon before the congress!

## How are «our» monkeys doing?

### Ambassadors of San Martín in Lima

In 2007 we were able to confiscate, with the help of the authorities, two pet titi monkeys. In 2009 a third animal was given to us, somebody had found the animal in the streets of Moyobamba, heard about the project and brought the animal to Fernando. As a reintroduction of such animals is at this moment not possible, we had to find another solution. We were very happy that Huachipa Zoo in Lima was willing to accept the animals. In January I was able to visit the animals a visit, and they are doing fine. They are living with three other titi monkeys, one of them difficult to identify. It looks mostly like a *C. oenanthe*, but is browner and has no white mask. Unfortunately there is no information on the origins of this animal. It is also interesting to note that the third animal that we received had a black tail, something that we had never seen before in this species. We are currently developing with Huachipa Zoo education panels about the titi monkeys and the Proyecto Mono Tocón. The animals will also play an important role in a chromosomal study that we have planned to do shortly in collaboration with the San Marcos University. In short, thanks to the cooperation of Huachipa Zoo «our» three monkeys are acting as perfect ambassadors for their species!



*A C. oenanthe with an unidentified titi monkey*

## Partners of the project



**Primate Conservation, Inc.**



If you want to support the project, or if you want more information, please contact

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