



An adult male Tapir found using the sensor cameras.

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June has been the best month so far this year in Taricaya in my opinion, we have started preparing for the turtle project, we have picked up 2 old projects, we have had some very interesting visitors to the area and our sensor camera project has showed something amazing!

Project Updates

Hugo And Mauricio Return!

For many years we have been working with Hugo and Mauricio, who are Bat and bird experts respectively and we were lucky enough to get them both back at the same time this month! Hugo began by setting up his nets to capture, identify and mark as many species of bat as possible and Mauricio did the same with his nets in different areas so they could avoid disturbing each other. Each project was run daily for the longest time they could and each day was moved to a new location. The main aim of these projects is to capture and identify new species so that we can add them to the official lists of Taricaya. After so many years of work we were not sure if they would find many new species in such a short amount of time but even before the oficial results have come in they are both very confident that they have found some new things for us here in Taricaya. This just goes to prove that the work we have been doing for the last 12 years is protecting the área and that species are thriving here in the protection of La Reserva Ecologica Taricaya.



TV Time

During this time we were also involved in a Peruvian Tv show, Giovana and her camera crew work for a TV latina, which is a fairly popular channel based in Lima. The show 5x24 is about Giovana and her adventures around Peru doing extreme activities, she's worked with

Peruvian national volleyball team, she was a Special forces soldier for a week and she's joined us...Not quite sure it was the same as some of her previous jobs but we got her into some tricky situations anyway! She joined us on the same day that Mauricio and Hugo joined us so obviously we got her involved in both these projects, putting up the sensor cameras, looking after Cusco one of the baby spider monkeys, feeding the animals and going off on the trails and canopy platform for observations. The show is available on Utube (Search for PUNTO FINAL 5x24 Rescate de animales) it is obviously in Spanish but those of you who have been here before will be able to see us again and anyone thinking about coming to work with us will be able to get a good idea of what Taricaya is like! Another visitor for this month was Dr Peter Slowe, the President of Projects Abroad and Tim de Winter who is Director of the projects in Cusco. We were very happy to have them both with us, even if it was a short period of time. But we hope they enjoyed their time with us and we look forward to seeing them again soon!



Hugo our Bat friend also helped us out on the TV show.

Sensor Cameras

As I mentioned last month we have begun working with sensor cameras again in Taricaya and wow have we had a good first couple of months! Since we started we have seen, Tapir, Deer, Peccary, Howler monkey, Squirrels, Spix's guan, Opossum and most amazing of all an Adult Puma less than a KM from the main camp! Now we want to make sure everyone understands this...there is no danger of having big cats in the area. Just because we have only just photographed it doesn't mean it's new to the area, it's probably been here for years and we were only just lucky enough to get it on record. It's does make it seem so much more real though having finally had the luck of capturing such a majestic and secretive animal on camera! One photo was all we got but it was enough for everyone to jump up and

down for a few minutes of course now everyone is waiting to see if we can repeat of surpass this finding with something even more amazing! Black Jaguar or something similar? Who knows what will come out next but it's exciting waiting to see!



Taricaya Turtle Project

As we get closer and closer to the start of turtle egg collection in July we have had to start working hard on getting the artificial beaches. After months of just sitting there we have to sieve the sand again to get all the ants and plants out so they don't attack or cause damage to the eggs when we place them here. During the wet season we also use the sand in the beaches for construction work as well, due to the river being so high it means that we can't find any sand on the banks or anywhere close by so we have also had to replace half a beach with new sand. We will have everything in place by the time we start the project in mid-July when we will start camping out on the turtle beach and each night collecting all of the nests we can find so that we can save as many turtles as possible. One of the bigger advancements in this project is the involvement of the native community Palma Real. Located about 2 hours down river from us the community lives alone in the middle of the forest. Each year though they go down to the River Heath, near the Bolivian border where they collect anywhere from 15-35,000 eggs! Which makes our project seem tiny but we have been talking to them for a while and managed to get them to agree (On paper at least) to a joint project. We will send a small group of volunteers and staff with them this year and collect 100 nests for example. Help them with transporting the nests to their community where they an artificial beach where they will be able to care for them until they hatch and then release them back into the wild. Even on such a small scale this is very important because it will help them start to see that things need to be sustainable that they can't just take everything because one day there won't be anything more to take!



One of our older turtles from the turtle house. Very soon we will get more nests and eggs.

Finally this month I'd like to let you know about an advancement in a very old project here in Taricaya. Many years ago we planted mahogany trees in New farm which after many years of growth began to get to a size that we proved in laboratory tests were identical in density and structure as trees that are 50 years, the only difference that was found was the colour is a lot lighter. At the end of last year we cut down a few of these trees so that we could begin to see what we could do with the wood, after months of drying Fernando, Oscar and some of the volunteers began using Lathes to create some pretty amazing pieces of work, you can see that the wood is usable and very workable and with a little practice you can make Candle holders, plates, boxes, Yo-yos and many other things. Once we have a fair selection of good pieces we will take them to the market and begin seeing what prices people will give us for each item. We know how to grow the trees, we know when we can get the first harvest, we now know how to work with the wood afterwards and how much the machinery costs and once we know how much we can sell each item for we will have the complete project and be able to offer all of the information to anyone who wants to do the same thing!



One of the smaller trees that has been suffering from lack of light! But that now will thrive due to the clearing we have done in the area recently.

Hi,

If you would just like to send a note, we would love to hear from any of you who have volunteered at Taricaya, it doesn't matter how long you were here for or how long ago, we're always interested in what you're doing or where you are now.

We welcome your feedback on the newsletter as well, what would you like to see or hear about here every month.

Also, if you have any queries about the rainforest (or Peru), we have a number of qualified biologists on the team who would be very 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.net.

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

Richard Munday
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Reserva Ecologica Taricaya