

Esperanza Verde Nature Conservation Project in Peru



Esperanza Verde is a conservation project in the Amazon basin of Peru, consisting of both wildlife rescue and rainforest protection. The objective is to work closely together with the local community, offering alternative sources of income, so that the forest can be managed in a sustainable way. The projects now owns 180 hectares of rainforest, named 'Selva Dormida'. With the help of the people of Bello Horizonte, the neighboring village, we hope to be able to protect a bigger area in the future.

Many wildlife species find their way into the local and international black markets to be sold either for food or as pets. Because this is illegal, many animals are regularly confiscated. These animals need a home for the rest of their lives and, if possible, need rehabilitation and reintroduction into the wild. Esperanza Verde Rescue Center is able to receive confiscated animals, injured

animals as well as animals from private persons who, for various reasons, realized these animals are unfit to be pets. In the rescue center the animals will get professional care and will be reacquainted to a life that is within their natural habitat and as natural as possible. Esperanza Verde is being financed mostly by private funding. Being a private initiative, Esperanza Verde will receive no governmental funding and will be run entirely on donations and the help of volunteers. Esperanza Verde is already supported by a Dutch foundation, a German association and a Swiss association.

A



Awareness rising

An implementation of a nature conservation project is only possible with the integration and support of the local people. Several activities demonstrate the successful integration of the project in the area:

- Esperanza Verde offers guided tours for local school classes and imparts knowledge about the value of preserving the natural heritage
- People from the nearby village are regularly employed.
- Veterinarians help treating animals in the community
- The local administration (Gobierno Regional de Ucayali - Dirección Ejecutiva Forestal y Fauna Silvestre) appreciates the activities of the project (http://www.regionucayali.gob.pe/prensa/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=485)

On the international level the supporting Dutch, German and Swiss organizations conduct awareness rising activities and fund-raising events.



Volunteers preparing food for animals

Awareness and understanding of biodiversity has increased locally and internationally through the integration of local workers and international volunteers in the nature conservation project

International awareness rising activities of supporting NGOs in the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland

B



Selva Dormida, the forest

The protected forest around the wildlife rescue center is called Selva Dormida. The area consists of primary forest where expensive tree species have been logged, secondary forest and former agricultural plantations.

The forest bears the shelter for different plant and animal species - amongst others, capuchin monkeys, tamarins, monk sakis, toucans, king vultures, sloths, anteaters (tamandua), peccaris, ozelots, jaguarundis and tapirs.

By investing in land parts of this rain forest can be protected and provide a safe environment for those animals which are able to be released back into the wild. Esperanza Verde now owns around 180 hectares and by replanting seedlings in the areas previously lost to farming we are continuously working towards our goal of preserving Selva Dormida.



Selva Dormida

Over 180 hectares protected area

C



Wildlife rescue center

The Wildlife Rescue Center of Esperanza Verde provides shelter for displaced native animals. Most of these animals are confiscated from the illegal trade, and some have been abandoned by previous owners once they were deemed unfit as pets.

At the center animals are able to live in their natural environment, some in large enclosures and others in semi-captivity, depending on their behavior and ability to live peacefully with the other animals at the center. Animals that are identified as eligible for rehabilitation and reintroduction will be transitioned to a rehabilitation and reintroduction site, with the end goal being a release into the wild.

In general most animals that are confiscated have been in contact with humans, either briefly or for longer periods of time (previous pets). Having been in trade or in a holding facility, most often in contact with other wild animals and, in some cases with domesticated ones, confiscated wild animals are likely to have been exposed to diseases and parasites. If returned to the wild, these animals may infect other wild animals, thus causing serious, and potentially irreversible, problems. They might have lost their natural instincts and depend on humans for food and shelter. This learned behavior, as well as the risk of disease transmission, which can be reduced by strict quarantine and medical examinations, unfortunately makes most of these animals unfit for reintroduction as this could lead to the endangerment of other wild populations.



Release of baby turtles

Protected animals which are safed in wildlife rescue center

Protected Animals released into Selva Dormida

D



Reforestation

Over the past years around 3000 tree seedlings were planted in Selva Dormida, mostly of the cedro and shihuaco species. The reforestation takes place normally during rainy season as it is the best time for surviving. A tree nursery has been established and is always filled with young seedlings and/or young trees, either wood or fruit species. Of course not all seedlings will survive after being planted, so taking care of them during that critical stage is very important.

The focus on reforestation has become even more vital in the last year. The population of the local village, Bello Horizonte, is growing rapidly as there has been an influx of workers from nearby mountain villages. Some make the journey to take advantage of the low land prices, whilst others are seeking jobs on the subsequently growing number of plantations. Whilst the "old" villagers focused their efforts on maintaining smaller farms with the purpose of feeding their families, these "new" villagers are more interested in profit and are hence expanding their plantations at a rapid pace.



Deforestation

Reforestation of formerly agricultural fields

Participation of local communities

E



Research opportunities at Esperanza Verde

Esperanza Verde offers a wider range of research opportunities for researchers and students. In the past years natural scientists, veterinarians and environmental engineers conducted different projects. Examples are the built up of a tree nursery, the establishment of an inventory for tree seedlings, field course for veterinarians or support in the establishment of a water supply system.



A capuchin monkey and a squirrel monkey inside the wildlife rescue center

Researchers and students from universities come to Esperanza Verde for research projects and internships



ESPERANZA VERDE
nature conservation - Peru



IMPRINT

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AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

A Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.