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.





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-rising events.



Volunteers preparing food for animals



Selva Dormida, the forest

The protected forest around the wildlife rescue center is called Selva Dormida. The area consists of primary forest where expensive tress 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 (tamadua), peccaris, ozeltos, jaguarundis and

mals which are able to be released back into the will Esperanza Verde now owns around 180 hectares and b replanting seedlings in the areas previously lost to far ming we are continuously working towards our goal of preserving Selva Dormi-







The Wildlife Rescue Center of Esperanza Verde provides shelter for dislocated 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.

Protected animals which are safed in

Protected Animals released into Selva

Protected animals which wildlife resuce center



Wildlife rescue center

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

Release of baby turtles

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.



Reforestation of formerly agricultural

Participation of local communities

Awareness and understanding of

in the nature conservation project

International awareness rising activities

of supporting NGOs in the Netherlands,

Germany and Switzerland

biodiversity has increased locally and

internationally through the integration of

local workers and international volunteer



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 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 subsequent 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





Research opportunities at Esperanza Verde

Esperanza Verde offers a wider range of research opportunities for researchers and students. In the past years naturals 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

Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The above mentioned organizations do not

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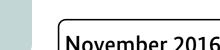
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Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a

policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an

effective participation of indigenous and local communi-



ESPERANZA VERDE

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS



arget 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the vas of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve

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 subsilies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or eformed 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 ave implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.



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

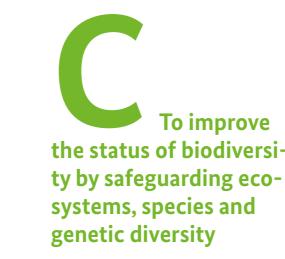
Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts 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

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.



Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and nland 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

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.



Researchers and students from universities

come to Esperanza Verde for research

projects and internships



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.

