



ESPERANZA VERDE

nature conservation - Peru



Newsletter No. 6, July 2014

A new update from Esperanza Verde. A lot of time has passed and we have achieved many things in this beautiful setting in the Peruvian jungle.

The latest news!

We finally are in the final stage of the process of getting our official license as a rescue centre. Thanks to pressure from Noga Shaneé of the Neotropical Primate Conservation (NPC), the local authorities in Pucallpa have started taking steps against the illegal trade and keeping of wildlife as pets. Several confiscations were made in the area and animals were brought to the local, government-owned zoo. Because they did not have enough space, the funding or the personnel to take care of more animals, they asked us to help. Although we were still in the process of construction, we had enough shelter at the time to take in several animals. Just to be sure,



Ruiz, red and green macaw

we took some of the material allocated for the manager house to build some additional small cages.



Cushna, kinkajou and Chami, white-fronted capuchin monkey.

We worked hard to get all the paperwork done, set up a Peruvian Association, and on the 20th of June we brought the first official animals to Esperanza Verde. We received four macaws, two amazon parrots (all in bad condition), a really skinny baby capuchin monkey, and a skinny juvenile woolly monkey. Two of the ten animals were in a pretty good condition, a young kinkajou and a sub-adult night-

What has been built?



Manager house

After finishing the bodega in December 2013, we put up the first posts for the manager house ('the family house'). In between the other jobs (animal feeding, cleaning paths, small construction projects, etc.), this has been the main project for several months. Many volunteers helped setting up posts, building the brick walls for the bathroom and kitchen, and digging and building a septic tank.

which arrived in June.

We also worked on some smaller cages which could function as quarantined locations for the animals

It is great to finally have a bodega where we have room for safe-storing and preparing the food and which no monkeys can break into (boring for Mica of course).



Bodega

Thanks to Philipp Zerbe of the Swiss Association, the Susy Utzinger Stiftung in Switzerland will finance the building of a clinic. We have already chosen a location and have begun levelling the land there. Thank you so much Susy and Philipp.





New animals

Since the last newsletter we received more animals in need:

- **Two purple gallinules.** These birds were found by a boy at Kayla's school at a water site and taken with him. As he did not know what to do with them he handed them to Kayla to take home. They were young, but their adult feathers had already started growing. We were able to raise them in the aviary and as soon as they could fly, we released them.



Flycatchers: Speedy and Dobby

- **Two flycatchers,** still in their nests. They were found in the village during one of the 'faenas' (a day on which everybody helps out with a communal chore). They stayed in the aviary, where they could practice flying and catching insects on their own. Because we raised the flycatchers without taming them, we were able to release them.



Feeding Nakoya

- **A baby female woolly monkey (Nakoya),** held for a month as a pet at a family in the village just before Bello Horizonte. Together with Elena, our help and cook, we went to talk to the woman and brought Nakoya back with us. After getting adjusted to us and to the new food and milk, Nakoya got adjusted to Mica (the big Mum of all) and to Willow, our other woolly. She is a very independent monkey and could not wait to finally be out in the trees.

- **Tiliku,** a dusky headed parrot. On one of the shopping days in Curimana, the boy who gave us Igor (the tamarin) came to me. He had saved a parrot from neighbours who were chasing it and asked if I could please take it with me and take care of it. At the time, Tiliku had cut feathers and no tail. Now, he has two new tail feathers and we hope that when all his wing feathers have changed, we will be able to release him. He is not tame and has a lot of contact with the wild parrots here.

- **A boa,** of 15 kg and 3.5 meter long. It was caught by someone from the village. He thought he could sell it to us, but after explaining what we are doing and why, we convinced him to give it to us to set free again. It was a beautiful animal, and of course, after checking it out and measuring and weighing it, we had to take a family photo with it before it headed for freedom again!

- **Xena,** a young female peccary, found by Machico in the village. She had probably been caught by someone in the village and escaped. She is not really tame, but we can't release a peccary on her own because of the risk of a wild group of peccaries killing her. We recently introduced her to Quintisha, and now they share a pen.



Xena



Release of turtle

- **A two-toed sloth,** adult. It was found by the employees of the company who is installing a water system in the village, while it was trying to cross the road. They caught it and brought it to us. We checked it out and released it in Selva Dormida.

- **A waterturtle,** almost run over by the car I was in after coming home from the weekly food shopping. The driver stopped and wanted to take it, but as people by now know us...I could directly take it home to be released in Selva Dormida. You can't imagine how smelly a turtle is when it does not like to be handled and has to be in human hands in a car for 15 minutes!





Animals received from the Environmental Ministry through the local zoo in Pucallpa:

- **Two scarlet macaws (Sinsani and Curunda)**, very skinny, and each has a broken wing.
- **A red and green macaw (Ruiz)**. His wings are all good and he has no cut feathers, so as soon as he gets a bit stronger we think he should be able to fly again. He has no feathers at all on his chest, which is probably a behavioural issue. This type of behaviour is seen often with social animals that are held alone in small cages. Out of boredom or loneliness they start self-mutilating and plucking their own feathers.



Arrival animals



Rafiki and Ruiz

- **A blue and yellow macaw (Rafiki)**. He is the tamest of the four macaws. He is missing a hand, so like Sinsani and Curunda will never be able to fly. He was also very skinny upon arrival. He is the one we think can 'speak' or rather, he learned to copy words. We still have not figured out what he is saying but he will probably learn some new words soon.

We recently put all four macaws together in the big aviary. It is a large space for them, and it will take them some time to get used to. But we are sure they will enjoy it and it is beautiful to see them there.

- **Two juvenile orange-winged parrots (Lina and Pumba)**. Both arrived really skinny and with health problems. Pumba reacted really well to the treatment, but Lina still has one eye with a problem. We hope she will get better soon. They will be joining the macaws in the aviary.
- **A baby kinkajou (Cushna)**. She was kept with baby woollies and a baby spider monkey in a small cage in the quarantine at the zoo. She will have time here to grow and we hope we will be able to release her eventually.



Cushna

- **A sub-adult nightmonkey (Asiri)**, very beautiful, in good condition. She was together with three juvenile woollies in the zoo, so she could not get that much sleep during the day. She seems not to be tame, and very wary of us. We hope to release her here in Selva Dormida.



Chami

- **A juvenile male woolly monkey (Kamari)**. Very skinny and with a lot of intestinal parasites. He was very quiet and scared in the first week and did not eat much, but he loved the forest leaves that we brought him. After some treatment he is now getting more active, has gained a lot of weight and communicates with Willow on the outside.
- **A baby capuchin monkey (Chami)**. She is now the biggest of our worries. She is way too skinny, and she does not accept any milk or any product that would help her grow. We are doing our best to find out what is wrong with her and treat her. We hope, with the help of all volunteers who take care of her 24 hours a day, she will have a chance.





What is going on with the 'old' animals?



Pepe (trap camera)

Pepe, last seen by Machico while he was getting papaya. Pepe got a papaya too... Some months ago he was also caught on a trap camera, so we believe he is still around and doing fine.

Tika, the coati, was looking a bit fat at some point, and as there is no male we didn't consider that she might have been pregnant. Well surprise, surprise, mid February she showed up with three babies. She is doing fine and has been taking care of her young, who have been growing fast. In June one baby disappeared, but the others seem healthy and are always there to get some food from the monkey table.

Mica, Jordi, Willow and Camila, the two brown capuchin monkeys, the male woolly monkey and squirrel monkey, respectively, are now joined by Nakoya. Mica is like a big mum to all, and Willow is the young bully, kicking everybody (except for Mica) from the feeding table.



Willow and Nakoya hanging on the window

Igor, the saddleback tamarin, always shows up during the day with his group, a total of five.

Quintisha, the collared peccary is doing very well. She has a lot of space since we gave her the reptile enclosure for the time being. Recently she was joined by Xena, the young female.

The introduction went very well. Douwe had to get his hands a bit dirty as he milked a bit liquid from Quintisha's gland to wash Xena with it. This way Xena would have a familiar smell to Quintisha, and it seemed to have worked.

Elmo, the two-toed sloth, has been given the choice to leave his cage. We made an opening, where he can climb in and out. He has been out several times, but always comes back. He will take his time, I suppose....



Elmo, weighing before release

Rincay, the tapir, and **Pepito**, the tortoise, are still enjoying each other's company. Rincay's diet has been improved thanks to Sanne and Kelly, two Dutch students who were here working with Rincay for about 20 weeks.

The three mouse opossums, were growing fast. One unfortunately died of an infected tail wound, but the others we have been able to release again.

The tortoise, which was in quarantine, we released in Selva Dormida.

Family life

This year started off very well. It has been active in many ways, both personally and with work. After some struggles with paperwork, we finally got our resident visas. With that, we were able to start the process of applying for a licence for Esperanza Verde.

Thanks to Philipp and the volunteers who stayed home to take care of Esperanza Verde, we had our first real family holiday since years. As we had to travel to Lima to finalize our visa, we decided to extend that journey and go to Huanchaco, a nice town at the



With a 3.5 meter-long boa





Kayla and Marlon

coast. It was Marlon's first time at the beach (well his first time was when he was 3 months old, but I suppose he was only thinking of milk and sleep at that time). We relaxed, ate out, and hung out on the beach for a week.

We are all looking forward to having a place of our own, and it seems it is finally going to be realized, although a bit later than we originally thought. We know there will always be something coming in between, but we are used to that and try to keep some flexibility (although we are not getting any younger!). When we saw those animals for the first time in Pucallpa, we knew we had to do something quickly and took the material for the house to build some extra cages.

The children are off to school again, but it seems this year is not that much better (teacher wise) than last. Marlon is enjoying kindergarten, that is, if his teacher shows up. Kayla is doing well, but it is hard for me to keep up sometimes. It seems that if I want to help her well, I myself need to go to school again. So if anybody has a suggestion or has material which might help me help her better, please let me know.

We would love to help the local school more, so if any of you has an idea or may know an organization which could help, e.g. finance some basic necessities for the school, let us know. They need basic stuff like notebooks, pencils, black-or-white boards. Bigger things include a fence around the school to keep dogs and other animals out so that the kids have safer surroundings for playing.

This year Kayla, Marlon and I will go to Holland. We will be there in the month of August. Let's hope for some nice weather, because when the temperature here is a low as 20 degrees, we are already really cold! Thank you Lodewijk, Dad and Mum for making the trip possible. Thank you Douwe and the volunteers at that time for taking care of Esperanza Verde.



Kayla at school

Volunteers and work



Volunteer group March

We have had volunteer groups of six to ten persons since December, so a lot of work was done. People from many different countries and backgrounds all worked hard together and we hope they had a great time and experience here.

Rincay's diet was improved thanks to two students from Holland, Kelly and Sanne, who did their apprenticeship here. We also received some educational material to help at the local school, brought by a Dutch student from Holland. At the moment we have a

veterinary student from Germany who is also doing her apprenticeship.

Volunteers have been helping at the construction of the 'family house', taking care of the animals, feeding, doing enrichment, constructing new cages, making repairs to the houses, building a new garbage burning oven, etc. We also started giving English classes to three boys from the secondary school in Bello Horizonte. They come here every Monday and Tuesday afternoon to learn English.



Playing cards





Check up

We now have more animals so more time is taken for taking care of them, especially when there are young animals, which need hourly attention and care. It is hard for everybody not to get too attached to them. Three weeks seems short in many ways but even in that short period of time, volunteers really get a chance to know all the animals. It is a rewarding job when you can see the progress the animals make with the help of the volunteers.

In January-February we had 4 special guests; Philipp Zerbe, Lea Carish, Nina Haas and Benjamin Muri. All are veterinarians and all were prepared to teach us something about different subjects (parasitology, hematology, anesthesia, and emergency treatment). We learned a lot from them, thank you! They also brought a lot of useful equipment, like a new microscope, a centrifuge, hot water bottles, surgery material and more. That was a lot of carrying!

With the help of the Susy Utzinger Stiftung in Switzerland we could help many dogs and some cats in the village. As a team we went to the village to offer our services, check-ups, deworming etc. As a result people from Bello Horizonte now come to us to ask for help for their dogs, instead of doing nothing. Also thanks to the Susy Utzinger Stiftung, we now have a good solar panel - electricity system, so we no longer need to wait until there is enough sun to use the microscope.

Like I said before, it has been a good year so far in so many ways. Although we might not say it enough to everybody personally, we are in many ways so grateful to all volunteers, ex-volunteers of amaZOOnico, ex-volunteers of Esperanza Verde, and all new volunteers. You made it all happen for us.



Taking some samples for microscopical research

Selva Dormida, the forest



Kaoba (mahogany)

This year we decided to get young trees again for reforestation. We got almost 600 young trees of different species. The rainy season was longer than normal this year so the trees got a good start. Machico worked together with several volunteers to plant them in Selva Dormida. Because the trees need to be dispersed over a wide area, volunteers will carry up to 15 tree saplings, along with any equipment they may need, and walk for hours into the forest to plant them. Despite the difficult work and heavy lifting, we are lucky to have volunteers who are enthusiastic about learning more about the forest and are passionate about our efforts to revive it.

Volunteers still join Machico on forest walks to get to know the jungle, trees and plants as well as have a chance to see some wildlife. On one of these walks macaws and a toucan were spotted. Toucans we hear every morning and afternoon, but macaws we did not hear or see for at least a year, so it was really great to hear of this when the volunteers came back from their walk.





Future plans and how you can help

The biggest news is of course that we got the financing for a clinic. It is going to be a beautiful area, with an operation room, a treatment room, a laboratory-office and an area for some cages for the animals in recovery.

Although we are not ready with the construction of the 'family house' yet, we already picked the place for the new clinic and started clearing the area.



Place for the new clinic

Here we always have to consider the weather, so we will have to get all the material before rainy season starts so we can start some work during the rainy season. Otherwise, it will have to wait until after. So, in the coming year and a half there are two main construction projects running in Esperanza Verde, 'the family house' and the clinic.



Marlon helping?

Personally, I can't wait to see them both finished. A house will allow us to have a more private family life, and the clinic will provide us with a beautiful work space during the day. Chances are, the laboratory-office will be the place where you'll find me most often in the future.

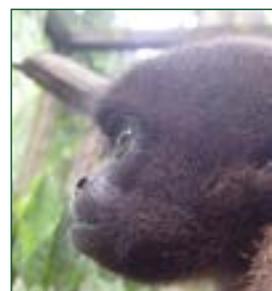
With the clinic and the house, Douwe is keeping busy with construction, overseeing the projects, and coordinating volunteers. This is not always easy when there are different jobs popping up in between, and of course, Marlon and Kayla want some parental attention as well. Luckily, Marlon likes hanging out at the construction sites and playing in the sand, and Kayla is always happy to help volunteers look for leaves for Elmo and the woolly monkeys.

If you want to learn something about constructing houses and cages, building a clinic, taking care of different species of animals, living in the jungle, seeing some wildlife, etc., come and help out or spread the word.

If you like animals, enjoy a simpler lifestyle, and you're not afraid of getting a bit dirty sometimes, come and help out! You don't need any special skills - just your willpower and enthusiasm is enough.

You can also help us in other ways:

- Donating, not only for special projects, but also for general caretaking. We always need funding for feeding and maintenance. A contribution of 50 dollars can feed one woolly monkey for an entire month!
- Linking our web page to yours and mentioning us in blogs.
- Spreading the word around to people who might be interested in volunteering, or handing out the two flyers to people interested in coming to help out. It would be great if you could help by spreading these at universities, schools, or among friends. They are available on the website of the German association: <http://www.esperanzaverdeperu.de/>
- Organizing a fundraising event at your school, work, with friends, or any other activity to raise money (e.g. for a specific project). You can always write to us if you need more information or photos to help you with this.



Nakoya

We are looking for someone or perhaps a group of friends who would be willing to **help finance the yearly salary** (or





part of it) for Machico for 2014. He is a great asset to Esperanza Verde and knows this area and its fauna and flora very well.

Thank you!

Esperanza Verde would not be possible without all the help we have been receiving, physically, morally and financially.



Machico, Men and Seraina

Thank you to our permanent staff: **Machico**, working with us since the beginning in 2010, **Elena**, our cook and help with everything, with us for almost 2 years, and since June 2014 **Geiler**, helping out Douwe and Machico in everything.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have stayed with us and helped us in everything: **Ricky Jung, Frans Conrads, Eugenia Luo, Nicole Bezich, Lea Carisch, Nina Haas, Benjamin Muri, Adrian Zerbe, Philipp Zerbe, Kelly Leuverink, Sanne Gillissen, Sarah Kokot, Klaas van de Broeke, John Hayes, John Kotwick, Philipp Jörg, Sharona Driessen, Ulysse Labate, Adriane Seigneur, Ivonne Brock, Johannes Brock, Joe Chapman, Ben Scott, Ian Dalton, Becka Stone, Jodie Buswell, Svenja Tulipani, Damien Regan, Lindsey Rutledge, Phoebe Garratt, Michell Sunkel, Sheila Ho, Kevin Timmermans, Raphaela Hiltrop, Nadja Morf, Yonina Sint Jago, Sabine Klug, Charlie Sun.**



Tika with one of her young

Thank you Noë and Catelijne for all the hours you spent voluntarily working on the website.

Thank you Philipp Zerbe for being there for us at all time, as a colleague, a veterinarian and a very good friend.

Thank you , Sheila and Yessica for helping out with this newsletter, checking grammar, layout and translating.

Thank you for your donations: **Fam. Fankhauser, Theres Zigerlig, Jodie Buswell, Svenja Tulipani, Juliane Ritz, Annie en Jan van Roon, Prisca Feusi, Men Gross, Seraina Bonorand, Kevin Timmermans, Phoebe Garrat, Manuel Krauss, Frans Conrads, Peter de Graaf, Nelli Röhner, Robert Asner, Gila Röder-Arndt, Judith Kreissig, Bigna Schulthess, Philipp Zerbe, Lea Carish, Nina Haas, Benjamin Muri, students of the Vetsuisse-Faculty of Zurich.**

Thank you to our Sponsors (through the German Association): **Gisela Röder-Arndt**

Thank you to our periodical donators: **Jule Ritz, Eva van Andel, Nico von den Benken, Nadja Morff, Annelies Gerber and Trijn Mulder.**



Building a new cage

Thank you Roger and Becka Stone and Svenja Tulipani and Jodie Buswell for donating two laptops.

A special thank you goes out to the Susy Utzinger Stiftung (www.susyutzinger.ch), which will finance the whole project of building the clinic. We hope we will have it fully working in April 2015. Also we want to **thank the Susy Utzinger Stiftung** for financing the deworming action in Bello Horizonte we did this year, for the new solar system and veterinary materials.

Thank you to the DGHT Zürich for another donation for reptile conservation.

Thank you to Professor Thomas Lutz for the generous donation of veterinary materials.





Thank you to the following veterinarians for the “field diagnostics course” in Switzerland: Prof. Jean-Michel Hatt, Dr. Barbara Riond and the whole laboratory team, Dr. Sandra Wenger, Dr. Felix Grimm and the parasitology team.

Thank you to Dr. Beat Bigler and the Laboratory Laupeneck for the Laboratory equipment.

Thank you to Dr. Robert Zingg and the Zoo Zurich for the books.

Thank you to the following veterinarians who are there for us to support us with their knowledge and advices: Dr. Morena Wernick, Prof. Marcus Clauss, Prof. Jean-Michel Hatt, Dr. Hanspeter Steinmetz, Prof. Karl Nuss.

Thank you to Fam. Fankhauser, Felicia Overhage and the 18 students of the school in Diemerswil in Switzerland for their donation which they got together by organizing a sponsor run. Thank you all for all your efforts and energy.

In Germany we are supported by the **German association ‘Förderverein Esperanza Verde e.V.’**. **Thank you Jule Ritz and Nico van den Benken** for your enthusiasm in helping and supporting us. Many new members have joined in the last year and we hope many new will follow. You can become a member and get regular updates. You can also help them with sponsoring activities, or just get in touch with old volunteers. Membership fees and income of any PR-activities are entirely given to Esperanza Verde. **Thank you to all members.** Check the website: www.esperanzaverdeperu.de.

In Switzerland we are supported by the **Swiss association “Förderverein Esperanza Verde Schweiz”**. **Thank you Philipp Zerbe and Carole Schuppisser, and Naja Morf** for all your help, support and work to get it done. We hope we will get many new members this year to support us. Check the website: www.esperanzaverdeperu.ch. **Thank you to all members.**

In Holland we are supported by the **Dutch foundation ‘Esperanza Verde’**. Thank you all for the time and work you are putting in for Esperanza Verde. With your donations we can finance most of the manager house and hope it will be finished in February 2015. **Thank you Sven Groenen, Anne-marie Wieringa and Welmoed van Geel-Koopman.**

In **Australia** we are supported by Donna Simmons and Mark Rutter, who set up the Facebook group **‘Green Hope-Esperanza Verde’**. We hope we will get many more supporters and volunteers through their help. **Thank you Donna Simmons and Mark Rutter.**

We want to apologize in advance in case we forgot to mention any supporters, financially or morally. We got a lot of things done with all your help and we will continue to work hard to realize all the things we have been dreaming of..

We hope you enjoyed reading all the news from Esperanza Verde and of course we hope to see many of you here (again) in this small paradise in the Peruvian jungle.

Abrazos,
Douwe, Olivia, Kayla and Marlon





If you want to write us a letter, send a postcard, or send us some local sweets from your country, we are always happy to receive anything. Please don't send packages over 2kg, as it is a hassle to get them through customs here.

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Donations can go to:

Directly:

O. Conrads
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