



One Species Which Can Be Seen In Taricaya, A Paradise Tanager

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## Introduction of a new staff member

Another month and another new member of staff has joined Taricaya! In April we said hello and welcome to Salvador who is an entomologist or insect expert. Salvador will be with us for the foreseeable future helping us in an area where we have virtually no information. He will begin by going around the trails to get to know the area and whilst doing this collecting as many insects as possible, identifying them and taking samples for future use. Salvador will also be helping out with other activities around the camp helping us to keep things running as smoothly as possible.



## Project Updates

### *Animal Rescue Centre*

In the rescue centre we have some great news! I mentioned last month that we had submitted our request to the government for the release of our spider monkey group and we have finally gotten permission! We are just waiting to receive the documents back from the local office and for a few people to get back off holiday then we will put the monkeys to sleep so we can put their radio tracking collars on safely and securely and move them to the pre-release cage towards the back of the reserve. Once there we will be able to monitor them and begin to reduce the amount of food they receive from us so that they eventually decide themselves to leave and search for food themselves. In the next two weeks we will get things underway so with a little luck we will be sending you pictures and information from our radio tracking activities in Taricaya!

We are also getting things ready so we can start construction of another set of new monkey cages for our smaller monkeys. We have a group of squirrel monkeys that are currently located in the quarantine building which need more space to climb around. The area has already been cleared and now we know how to build these new style cages we should be able to get things done quickly and easily! Hopefully in the next month or two we will have this area of the Taricaya rescue centre completely finished. Then we will continue moving around to the different areas replacing and improving all of the enclosures so that we will



end up with large, strong and durable enclosures that won't require more money for a long time to come!

Finally in the rescue centre I would like to bring you up to date on Simba/Bilbo (he currently has two names). Our baby Puma is doing very well indeed, he has put on a lot of weight since he arrived so is now looking a lot healthier and his attitude is getting a lot better towards people. We are still moving ahead with plans to locate him in a decent cage and see what we can do with him for the future, but as experience from Preciosa has showed us these things take time and not always successful.



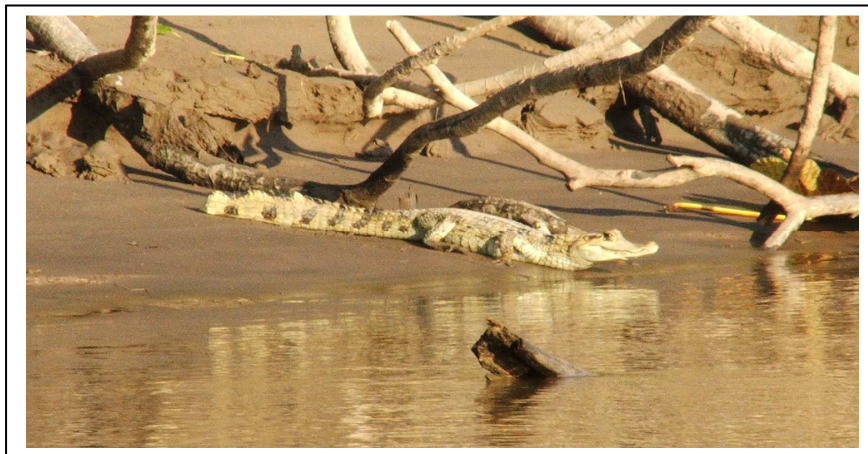
*Some Of the Radio Tracking Equipment.*



*Simba has Grown a lot!*

### ***Rainy Season***

April has also seen the end of the wet season as quickly as it came its already gone away. As you may remember from last month I was telling you about how high the river level was and how close we came to being flooded. But now it's the opposite, just towards the end of the month we had to check the depth of the river to get the boats in and out from the port in Taricaya because the sandbanks were starting to come through! It's been several weeks since we last had some rain so we have had to finish off a few jobs before it gets too dry like finishing off planting in new farm two and getting our new vegetable area cleared and ready for planting! The new vegetable area is going to be filled with cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce and a few other things so that we can reduce some of our costs in the kitchen and animal feeding areas. There's never a dull moment in Taricaya, not even with the weather!



## ***Boat Maintenance***

With so many other jobs going on at the moment it's amazing how we managed to find the time and the strong arms to get two of our boats out of the water and onto the land. We were fairly lucky to be honest because we timed it perfectly with the river being at its highest level. So we only had to push them out of the water for a few meters. But we now have our Turtle boat and Filito (The smaller of the two large boats) drying on land. The turtle boat only needed to be re-tarred and painted which only took a couple of days. But poor Filito will be out of the water for a while longer. A few of the support struts need to be replaced, it needs re-tarring completely and then it's getting a special treatment of fibre-glass. Obviously over time wooden boats start to rot, being constantly in water and with the heat and humidity. So to help stop this from happening a new process has been developed where wooden boats are protected with layers of fibre-glass to actually cocoon the wood and stop it from rotting from the beginning. This is a much slower process though and as it's more technical we need an expert to come in and do the work for us. But hopefully in the first weeks of April both boats will be pushed back into the water!