



What's Inside...

Project Updates	2
Animal Rescue Centre.....	2
Turtle Project.....	2
And Finally.....	4

September has been a brilliant month for Taricaya. We have seen a change in the weather, the flora coming back to life and several advances in the many projects we have going here all year round. We have been working hard to move the rescue centre forwards and to improve the services and facilities of Taricaya for everyone, and we have had lots of fun in the process!

Project Updates

Animal Rescue Centre

We have achieved some great things in the rescue centre this month. This began with the re-capture of one of our Margays. Several months ago she managed to escape during a routine cage cleaning and ran off into the forest. We tried searching for her but gave up after a few weeks. In September we began finding dead animals around the rescue centre and Taricaya - small birds, rats and other rodents as well as some of the animals in the rescue centre. With the care given by our rescue centre staff we managed to save one of the curassows that was attacked but unfortunately we lost the other. At this stage we obviously needed to start trying to capture the cat as she was starting to cause too many problems around the camp. Several times we saw her walking around the area but naturally she moved away too quickly for us to capture or tranquilise her. We thus began using baited traps to try and capture her, but the first attempts didn't work because the bait was taken but the traps didn't activate quickly enough. All through this period we had patrols of staff and volunteers walking around the rescue centre every couple of hours to make sure that we didn't lose any more animals. Finally after weeks of trying we woke up one day to find the little cat asleep in one of the traps after she had eaten the bait and realised her fun was over. We transferred her back to her main enclosure after giving her a check-up and soon enough we will be able to start planning for her release under more controlled circumstances!



Little Lucky being put to sleep for transfer back to her cage!

Finally in the rescue centre we have continued our hard task of renovating the existing enclosures. So far we have finished our monkey enclosures, our tapir enclosure, our puma enclosure and recently our short-eared dog enclosure. The new enclosures are larger and made of steel tubes and bricks, which are materials that will last for many years without any maintenance at all. We have also cleared an area and begun building the foundations for new cat enclosures.

Change Of Weather

After the last couple of months of searing heat and high humidity we were all glad to finally experience the change from dry to wet season. We have experienced our final FriaJe (cold weather spell) of the year, which is indicative that the wet season has finally begun. This is a very important time of year for everyone and everything in the rainforest as the rains bring the much needed moisture to begin new growth. People, especially farmers, have been waiting for this time as it's their final chance to clear the land they need for the next growing season. Unfortunately, the main way they do this is by using the old slash and burn technique, which involves cutting most of the big vegetation down and allowing it to dry for a few weeks before setting fire to it. This is obviously a very effective technique for clearing land and allows new minerals to be put back into the soil quickly, but unfortunately it is also very bad for the environment due to the amount of smoke it releases and the amount of animals that are burnt during the process.

The forest itself also sees a huge change at this time of year. Tropical forests deal with high humidity and light levels all year round, which means that plants are constantly replacing old leaves but fruits are generally only able to grow during the wet season. The result on the fauna is that several pack species divide or split into smaller groups in search of the scarcer foods and then reunite during the wet season when there is a larger variety of fruits and vegetation available. This is also a key birthing time for many animals in the forest as it's the main time when there is more food available.

The Lush Green forest attracts many animals and birds back to the park in larger groups!



One of the many projects here in Taricaya involves the planting of fruit tree, hardwood tree, and other overused timber species seedlings in nursery gardens. We have recently been working with a forestry engineer and with her help we have relocated, consolidated and expanded the whole nursery in the vicinity of a new farm in the area down the river from Taricaya. We have also been working on a vegetable garden for Taricaya in an attempt to reduce costs and help us be more self-sufficient. We have been recycling waste for fertilizer and preparing to plant things such as tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. After a few more weeks of rain we will begin planting and hope to see quick results!

The final effect of the wet season is of course that the river level has begun to rise again. This is a very good thing for us (particularly when driving the boats) as there is a much lower chance of hitting sandbanks and getting supplies on and off the boats is much easier as we don't have such high river banks to climb!

And Finally

We have had another sighting of cats in the area of Taricaya! This time an ocelot underneath Rachels bedroom! She was testing a camera that she had in the room and during this small test she managed to find this little kitty checking out her room!



Another wild cat finding for Taricaya!

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
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Reserva Ecologica Taricaya