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SUMMARY OF CHAPARRI**WILDLIFE**

201 Birds
22 Mammals
17 Reptiles
4 Amphibians
5 Fish
100+ Plants

GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES

White-winged Guan
Ochre-bellied Dove
Little Woodstar
Henna-hooded Foliage-gleaner
Peruvian Plantcutter
Spectacled Bear

NEAR-THREATENED SPECIES

Chilean Flamingo
Andean Condor
Guayaquil Woodpecker
Tumbes Tyrant

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Chaparri News

The Newsletter of the Chaparri Conservation Program

INTRODUCTION

This is the second Chaparri News, covering 2005, that we have produced to keep friends and colleagues informed of the various projects and developments in and around Chaparri. Things have advanced well in Chaparri during the last year, with progress being made in many projects. Our successes have been made possible by the generous donations of many institutions and individuals who are supporting our work and by the hard work of many community members. Thanks to them all. There is still much to do and we hope that the donors, collaborators and friends of Chaparri will continue to support the efforts being made during 2006. We wish you all the best for the new year.

Heinz Plenge, Rob Williams and Renzo Guidice

OCELOT PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE RESERVE

Three Ocelots *Leopardus pardalis* have been photographed in Chaparri, confirming the species' presence in the reserve. In November of last year Javier Vallejos and Rob Williams found a single track (a faint imprint on sand) of what appeared to be an Ocelot in Chaparri valley. However, with no other records it was considered only probable. The first photo (included below) was taken in the first weeks of a new Camera trapping Project being funded by Frankfurt Zoological Society - Help for Threatened Wildlife. This is a pleasing confirmation of the persistence of this species that has been heavily persecuted in the region.

**BEAR PROJECT RECEIVES VALUABLE SUPPORT**

We are pleased to report that the Spectacled Bear Project and other conservation programs in Chaparri are now receiving valuable core funding from South Lakes Wild Animal Park (UK) and Zoo de Doué-la-Fontaine (France) as part of a five year collaboration program (2005-2009). We thank David Gill (SLWAP) and Pierre Gay (Doué) for supporting our work in this way.

ZOO
de
DOUÉ
Terre de découvertes





SPECTACLED BEAR CONSERVATION PROGRAM

This year, sadly, two old female bears died after spending four years at Chaparri. Chacha, the most wary bear in Chaparri, apparently died after a fight with other bears in the same enclosure; she escaped injured and was later found dead. This has reinforced the need for us to complete the new enclosures to enable us to separate the bears when necessary; the enclosures are ready but lack the electrical systems for the fence for which we need to obtain funding. Daría has died, too. She was a very tame female with old injuries in her nose and jaws where she had been hit during her time in the circus. We are unsure of the exact causes of her death. She was observed one afternoon at 4 pm in good health and was found partially eaten by vultures at 9 am the next morning, making an autopsy impossible.

We are pleased to report that two new bears have arrived to Chaparri. One is a very young female (approximately 1 year old), named Azulina. She was rescued from being kept as a pet by a family in Tarapoto (north Peru), in the buffer zone of the Cordillera Azul National Park. The NGO CIMA who works in the area brought her to Chaparri. She has been recently placed in the same enclosure with Cholita, who has seemingly “adopted” her, and as a result she is adapting to her new surroundings very rapidly. CIMA and the Cordillera Azul National Park - which helped us in the transfer of Azulina - organized a visit to Chaparri by the people who had the bear and some local teachers; it is hoped that this will help promote bear conservation in the Cordillera Azul area.

The other bear is an adult male, named Reque, after the river that gives its name to the area where he was found. He had been kept as a pet in a restaurant for three years and was voluntarily given to the project as he had become an adult and was proving difficult to manage. Generally the project does not receive males since they are more problematic within the captive population and are generally less suitable for reintroduction. We decided, however, to receive him because he is a local bear and to help raise the profile of the project.

Two volunteers helped us complete a study of the behaviour of the captive bears and it has become clear that they are adapting well to their environment and benefiting from the new feeding regimes implemented last year. We also received a visit from two keepers from SLWAP who made valuable suggestions on improving the enclosures.

In the coming year we aim to complete the new enclosures and are hopeful that we may be able to start to release bears back to the wild; Azulina, Cholita, and Milagros are all considered candidates for release, dependent on a health check and a better understanding of the wild population in the region. All released bears will be fitted with radio collars and monitored following release.

BEAR FILM

We are also pleased to report that French wildlife filmmakers Natalie Granger and André Charles-Dominique spent time in the reserve making a film about the bears and also managed to film the rescue operations that brought both Azulina and Reque to Chaparri.

WILD BEARS

There have been an increasing number of sightings of wild bears, including two of two different females each with one cub. In the coming year we will be installing an experimental bear supplementary feeding station in the hope that visitors may have a better chance of seeing wild bears. The Chaparri valley (c. 20 km²) is known to be being used by at least eight bears, six adults and subadults that have been photographed (see Cameratrapp Study on the next page) and at least two small cubs that have been seen by park guards.

Next year we hope to initiate a radio-telemetry study on the wild bears in the reserve to further our understanding of the territoriality, movements and habitat use of the species. This is a joint study with Dr Susy Paisley from DICE, University of Kent (UK). We are currently seeking funding for this important project.



Azulina

NEW VEHICLE FOR THE RESERVE AND TOURIST CORRIDOR

South Lakes Wild Animal Park and Zoo de Doué-la-Fontaine donated funds for the purchase of a vehicle (which is converted to operate on LPG as well as gasoline) for use in the bear and tourism corridor work. This vehicle has meant that Heinz's old vehicle, which did sterling service but was suffering from over use, has been donated to the community for use in emergencies and patrols. Thanks to David Gill, South Lakes Wild Animal Park, and Pierre Gay, Zoo de Doué-la-Fontaine for their support with this important acquisition.



Bear C, first photographed as a cub in December 2003, caught on a cameratrap at a waterhole in September 2005.

BEAR CAMERATRAP STUDY

The Frankfurt Zoological Society - Help for Threatened Wildlife (FZS) has provided funding for a camera-trap study in order to assess the density of bears within the ACP Chaparri and gather information on their seasonal movements and habitat use. 15 cameras have already been used in trials to select camera locations during the last four months and we have obtained some amazing results, photographing at least six different bears, tayras, two pumas and three ocelot. We are about to receive the last of the 20 digital camera traps and will be using these for one year to study the bears and other fauna and will then begin the main part of the study. Unfortunately we have a camera-shy bear that has attacked two traps, completely destroying one, and so are having to install bear-proof housings to protect the remaining cameras. We would also like to thank Non-Typical Inc. who gave us great deal on the new Cuddeback digital cameras.

WHITE-WINGED GUAN REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM

The White-wing Guan reintroduction program continued with funding from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) through the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and by the Backus Fundación. In the year 9 more birds were reintroduced in Chaparri. At least 6 pairs of the previously released birds bred producing at least 19 chicks of which at least 11 survived to the end of the year. In December a further chick has hatched and two more nests are currently incubating unknown numbers of eggs. Many young birds have now dispersed. The population in the reserve is thought to be 32 birds; though surveys in January and February should give us a better idea of the population in adjacent areas as well.

This year the project expanded to include an education and outreach component to try and promote guan conservation in the wider area, including several neighbouring communities. César Chavez, an experienced environmental educator, ran a workshop on the White-winged Guan for 16 teachers from the area, and then visited their schools. The workshop and future activities are aimed at promoting greater understanding of the importance and ecology of the area, especially the threatened endemic species, and enabling the teachers to inspire appreciation for the wildlife of the region amongst the next generation.



Local Teachers at the workshop

We are very grateful to AZA and ABC for the funding over the last two years that enabled us to continue this important project. AZA only funds for a maximum of two years and we are now in final discussions with BirdLife International to secure funding, from the British Bird-watching Fair funds, for the next three years to undertake reintroductions in neighbouring communities and continue the outreach and education programs that are so important to this project. The strong alliance with Asociación Cracidae is obviously crucial to the project and we are very grateful to them for their work breeding the guans and for their expert advice. We must especially thank the efforts of Fernando Angulo and Gustavo del Solar of Asociación Cracidae in breeding the birds for reintroduction.

CHAPARRI FAUNA GUIDEBOOK SECOND EDITION

A second edition of the Chaparri Wildlife Guide (of higher production quality) has been printed and is now available. The guidebook has proved to be an extremely helpful accompaniment to the reserve and a useful guide for the promotion of bird watching in the area. The funding obtained for the book has enabled the books to be given to the community who now sell them to visitors. A portion of the funds generated will be used to print further editions and develop other products.

CHAPARRI ECOTOURISM GUIDES DEVELOPMENT

Nine guides from the community of Santa Catalina de Chongoyape continue to provide an excellent service guiding tourist groups visiting the reserve. This year more than 2,300 visitors have been received and it is hoped to increase the number of guides in 2006 through a series of training courses. During 2005 they have received delegations from communities from Cuzco, Huaraz, Piura, Moyobamba, Arequipa and even Ecuador; these communities have shown their interest in replicating the Chaparrí experience and have come here to learn first-hand about it. The guides have also attended workshops about nature reserves, to talk about their project at Chaparrí. In addition, Javier Vallejos and Tomas Salazar discovered the first known nest of the Tumbes Tyrant and Tomas Salazar found two new birds for Lambayeque, the Puna Ibis and Boat-billed Heron.

TINAJONES WETLAND CREATION PROJECT

This project has been seriously delayed due to objections from EPSEL, the regional institution responsible for drinking water, having expressed concern that the birds and reed beds will contaminate the water supply. Despite many meetings and a series of thorough technical reports that demonstrate that there is no risk, and conversely the project will improve water quality, they continue to object and we are now awaiting a final ruling from the regional government before we can proceed. The project has the support of CONAM, INRENA, the Regional Government, the community and other institutions and we hope to resolve this issue in the coming weeks and start construction very shortly.

THE CAMELID REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM

The project to reintroduce a population of Guanacos to the reserve is progressing well. Trials using a herd of Llamas (the domesticated form of the Guanaco) have gone well, with seven young being born this year. Twelve Guanacos arrived in September. Unfortunately three died due to infection and stress, however, the remaining nine have recently been released and are being monitored through the aid of radio tracking; all are now doing well, having adapted to the terrain. They are very wary of people but with luck can be seen coming to drink or distantly on the hills between Chaparrí and Pavas. One adult female has ranged widely but has now returned to the release area. Unfortunately, we only received two very young males and therefore can not expect breeding for at least two-three years until these animals reach maturity. The project came about the result of an agreement between the Regional Government of Lambayeque, CONACS, the Community of Santa Catalina de Chongoyape and the Consejo Nacional de Decentralización CND). The project agreement specified that 25 animals would be brought to Chaparrí and we are hopeful to obtain a further 13 animals, including an adult male, in the coming year.

ANDEAN CONDOR CONSERVATION

This year has seen the start of this important new project. We have built a flight and release aviary (25m x 5m x 5m), a 12 m high release tower (with the help of a group of Welsh students from Outlook Expeditions) as well as observation hides for visitors and researchers/photographers at the condor feeding station. The aviary now houses a immature male Andean Condor that was confiscated by INRENA after a Yawar fiesta (the illegal practice of tying a condor to a bulls back) and two King Vultures. The Andean Condor is recovering well and it is hoped to release all three birds in a couple of months time. A juvenile female Andean Condor has also been received from El Huayco Breeding Centre and is now in the release tower where it is fed with a puppet glove. It will also be released when it can fly. We hope to receive a second chick (the parents are currently incubating the egg) in the new year which means we need to build a second tower. Several wild Andean Condors have been sighted including a pair on several occasions and we hope that these wild birds may be breeding on Chaparrí and will start to frequent the feeding station. King Vultures continue to be seen regularly.



The team of Welsh students and the Condor release platform they built

Fundación Backus is providing important funding for this initiative but we still have need for additional funds to provide carrion at the feeding station and to undertake surveys of the wild population and promote the conservation of the species in the region. We would like to acknowledge Mr Jose Antonio Otero for his generosity in giving us the Condor chick and therefore making the project possible.

PAMPAS CAT STUDY

We continue to seek funding for a genetic and taxonomic evaluation of the local population of Pampas Cats in the reserve. It seems increasingly likely that the form deserves taxonomic recognition based on structural, pelage and biometric differences. The pilot telemetry study has proved very interesting and we hope to undertake a more comprehensive study in 2006 if funding becomes available.

THE DRY FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE (CIBS - CHAPARRI)

The "Centro de Investigaciones del Bosque Seco - Chaparri" (CIBS - Chaparri) will be installed at the Pavas centre instead of Chaparri because the increase in tourism activities could disturb the researchers or vice versa. There are no tourists going to this centre and it's a very short walk (30 minutes) from Chaparri. We are still looking for funding to build and implement the station. This year we received visits from Claudia Koch (Germany) - who finished her thesis research about reptiles in the reserve, and Reynaldo Linares (Peru/UK) who undertook botanical research. Negotiations are underway with a Peruvian University to establish a research programme for their students.

ARTISAN WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY

The regional government has funded the construction of a workshop for artisan stone workers in the community. This building has been built inside the current community site to house equipment donated to the group by Zoo de Doué-la-Fontaine. Both Zoo de Doué-la-Fontaine and South Lakes Animal Park and have helped the project through their purchase of stone sculptures produced by the group.

CHAPARRI ECOLOGE

This year we started to receive visitors in the new cabins, we aim to offer accommodation to an increasing number of visitors, thereby generating more work for the community and increasing income to the reserve and to help fund conservation projects. The cabins also allow us to receive important visitors to the project. The lodge is equipped with solar panels for electricity, solar water heating and has a reedbed sewage treatment system that purifies the effluent which then fills a drinking trough for livestock and wildlife in an arid part of the reserve.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

James Conder, a British volunteer, has left Chaparri to return to the UK after a year. James's stay was very valuable, he participated in all activities related to the reserve and much of last year's success in the guan project can be attributed to his guarding and monitoring of the guan nests, involving long periods of camping in the reserve. Thanks James, the guans are missing you!

During the year we also received other volunteers: Henriette and Markus undertook a behavioural study of the bears in the enclosures, which is very useful in planning reintroductions. Ben Darlington helped with the setting up of the cameratraps, including climbing Chaparri to install three cameras on the top ridge, and design of several important materials for different project. Tina Goodwin and Jo Dennis, from SLWAP visited the reserve and helped care for the bears and learn about the project, they provided useful advice on improving animal husbandry and we hope that they and other staff from supporting institutions will continue to visit.

We are also pleased to announce the arrival in the community of Jean Cassandra, a peace corps volunteer who will be working in the area for two years providing environmental education support to local teachers, the community and reserve.

We would like to acknowledge the kind donations and financial support of the following people and organizations during 2005.

American Bird Conservancy (American Zoo and Aquarium Association
Fundación Backus (Basaid Novartis Basel (BioTrade de UNCTAD
BirdLife International (Cerza-Lisieux Zoo (David Gill (Elena Sobakina
Frankfurt Zoological Society - Help for Threatened Wildlife
Gerhardt Hanke (Gobierno Regional de Lambayeque (James Williams (Pierre Gay
PROMPEX BioComercio Program (STEIFF Club (Stuttgart Zoological Gardens
South Lakes Wild Animal Park (Tina Goodwin
United Nations Development Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service (Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act) (
Zoo de Due de la Fontaine (Zoologischer Garten Köln



We would like to thank the following people and organisations who have supported our work in other ways this year:

- * Ahora Lambayeque
- * Antonio Brack
- * Artists for Nature Foundation
- * Asociación Cracidae
- * British Birdwatching Fair
- * CARE Peru
- * Consejo Nacional de Camelidos Sur Americanos (CONACS)
- * Consejo Regional de Turismo de Lambayeque
- * David Gill
- * Dr George Wallace
- * Dr Lydia Kolter
- * INRENA
- * Nabuur
- * National Audubon Society
- * Pierre Gay
- * Regional Government of Lambayeque