

# Progress Report I

## Developing Communal Monitoring Strategies through community-based tourism in the Peruvian Amazon

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**Grant type** : Rufford Small Grant  
**Executive Summary:** This project will enhance the existing communal monitoring system of the Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Communal Regional Conservation Area (TTCRCA), Loreto – Peru, while developing a community-based wildlife monitoring tourism product. The 420,081 hectares of the protected area present three different ecosystems, habitat of many vulnerable and endangered. The project will incorporate camera traps to improve current monitoring strategies, a process that will be led and implemented by community rangers. Simultaneously, the project will empower a local tourism association, by developing a community-based wildlife monitoring tourism product, generating an additional source of income.

**Publishing plan** : We plan to publish the results in two online platforms:  
<http://www.speclab.org/> and <http://www.lamingaturistica.com/>

**Amount applied for** £3,608  
**Principal countries** : Peru  
**Category** : Ecotourism  
**Pages** : 12 pp.

## **Project: Developing Communal Monitoring Strategies through community-based tourism in the Peruvian Amazon**

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We developed the following activities:

### **1) To enhance monitoring strategies of wildlife in the protected area.**

#### **Training Session for Monitoring Wildlife using Camera Traps**

Communal patrollers from the three communities assisted to the training session. They all learned how to use and adjust the camera trap. Here, we decided the location of the camera trap would rotate within the scheduled routes every two weeks, and known only by the communal patrollers in charge. It was also determined the main purpose of the camera trap was to identify threats and human direct actions against conservation actions, species and ecosystems. The camera-trap is at strategic and most used trails, where people enter to lakes for illegal fishing or hunting of forbidden species or overhunting. The training session took place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, July. Due to weather conditions the camera set up was on the 10<sup>th</sup>.



Picture 1. Training sesión for the camera trap



Picture 2. Patrollers deciding the most strategic routes for the camera traps



Picture 3. Assistants identifying routes



Picture 4. Assistants using maps to established the camera location



Picture 5. Participants learning on the camera functioning



Picture 6. Participants studying the protocol



Picture 7. Participants of the Camera-Trap Training Session

## Camera Trap Set-up

With the participation of a Regional Government representative, Cristian Saravia and members of Patrolling Committee of the Protected Area and members of the association, the two camera traps were set-up.



Picture 8. Delegation going to set the camera trap



Picture 9. Camera being set up by Gustavo Paima, president of La Minga and communal patroller



Picture 10. "Vigilancia Comunal – Compromiso de Todos" – Communal Patrol – Everyone's commitment, communal patrollers t-shirt.



Picture 11. Camera trap set-up.

## Activity Program: Patrols and Reports

From July, 2018 to April, 2019, there are going to be a total of 20 patrols in the area of the communities of San Pedro and Diamante /7 de Julio, "Quebrada Blanco" – Blanco Creek, and 30 patrols in area of the community of El Chino, Tahuayo River.

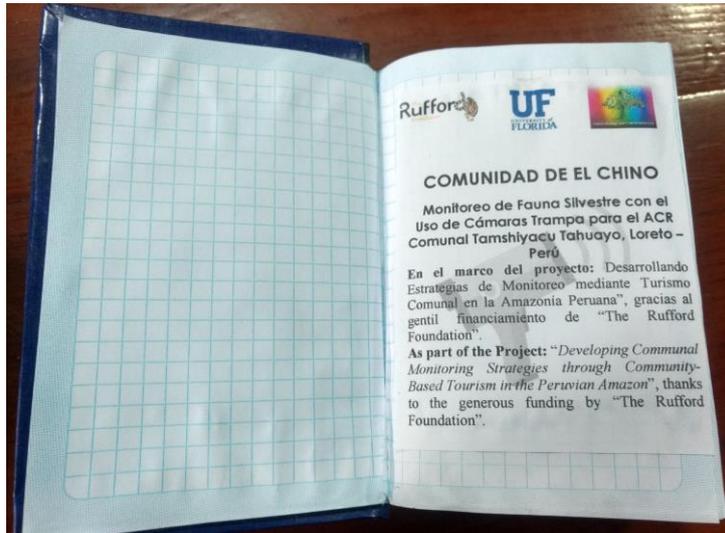
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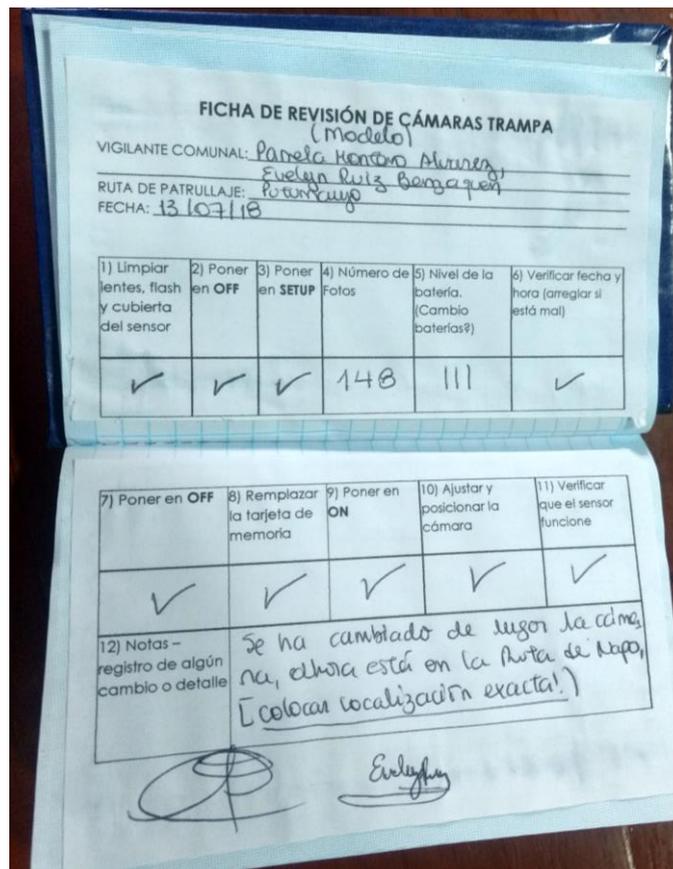
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The reports within a field notebook (Pictures 12 and 13) and memory cards will be delivered to the local partner in Iquitos every month to elaborate the reports.



Picture 11. Field notebook to register the Camera Trap.



Picture 12. Field notebook to register the Camera Trap, here showing a model of the information registration.

## 2) To diversify community-based tourism products.

The **Participatory Workshop** to develop a community-based wildlife monitoring tourism product conducted with the participation of members of the association took place the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, July. The local partner: “Excelsa” also participated in this activity. The tourism product highlighted the role of community members in conservation efforts. The product incorporates the three communities and their different characteristics.

To promote the tourist product, the local partner will publish the content in their website: [www.excelsaperu.com](http://www.excelsaperu.com), the association website: [www.lamingaturistica.com](http://www.lamingaturistica.com) and the facebook fanpage: <https://www.facebook.com/LaMingaTuristica/>. The local partner also placed a banner at the Amazon Rescue Center – CREA, a strategic partner of the association.



Picture 13. The tourism workshop in the El Chino Community



Picture 14. Members of the association participating in the workshop



Picture 15. Members of the association participating in the workshop dynamic of role play to enrich the content and to know each other expectations over the tourist and the community



The resulting tourism product content the following activities

### **DAY 1**

Depart from Tamshiyacu to Diamante/7 de Julio (6 hours boat ride)

Here, the most relevant activities is wildlife observation in “collpas” (feeding site) and participation in “yarina” (amazon ivory) handicraft.

### **DAY 2**

Depart from Diamante/7 de Julio to San Pedro.

San Pedro is characterize for the nearby “Colinas” (hills) forest, where you can easily find primate population of *Cacajaus calvus* or *Pithecia sp.*, observe key forest species.

### **DAY 3**

Depart from San Pedro to El Chino.

El Chino is located in a flooded area, from October to March is rainy season and from April to September is the dry season. Their territory is seasonally flooded and thus, providing a unique landscape to specially observing the particular flooded-forest, lakes, birds and fish populations. In El Chino the visitors will also participate in the elaboration of “Chambira” (palm tree) handicraft.

### **DAY 4**

Depart from El Chino to Tamshiyacu.

In all three communities, the visitors will participate in patrols along with community patrollers. This activity will emphasize the importance and level of effort of the community to implement conservation actions for the protected area, their territories and its resources, which are directly link to their quality of life. Members of the tourism association: “La Minga” – who are the same time members of the community patrols – will lead and implement the tours.

This experience include:

- Full meals and equipped communal family accommodations.
- River transportation (from Tamshiyacu)
- Excursion in jungle
- Contribution to the community
- Contribution to the conservation of the protected area
- Fair rates for local partners



Picture 16. Banner placed at the Amazon Rescue Center – CREA to promote communal tourism in the Tahuayo River Basin

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#### Next steps:

- To implement patrolling and monitoring wildlife with the use of Camera Traps
- To elaborate species Data Base & Photographic Printed Records.
- To monitoring tourism product online response

#### Notes:

- The picture-viewer was not properly operating, therefore the patroller were not able to use it. We analyze if it is possible to return it and to buy a small PowerShot Digital camera.
- Although the main purpose of the camera trap was set to monitor wildlife, it was decided the camera traps were to assist community patrollers to control and monitor the sustainable use of natural resources and compliance with community agreements. Therefore, its location were to be strategic and confidential.