

SIXTH REPORT

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

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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/>

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

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.

Period: January (1st) and April (30th), 2019.

We developed the following activities according to the approved fellowship:

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

Activity Program: Community Patrols and Reports

From July, 2018 to April, 2019, there were planned 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.

Table 1. Summary of the patrols from January to April

Sector	Dates
El Chino	20 th January
	6 th February
	15 th February
	8 th March
	15 th March
	30 st March
	4 th April

Sector	Dates
Quebrada Blanco: (Diamante and San Pedro communities)	5 th January
	26 th January
	29 th January
	11 th March
	2 nd April

JANUARY

- In the first days of January the logistic support was sent to the communal patrols. These consisted in non-perishable meals for the patrols (sugar, milk powder, rice and noodles), as well as gas and oil for the boats.
- In January the activities were conducted with normality (reception and sending of the information of the camera traps).

FEBRUARY

- In February, the camera trap from El Chino was not found in the location it was placed. Gustavo Paima, a community patroller, reported the camera missing to Evely Ruiz, from Excelsa (the local partner), to the community authorities, to the Management Committee of the Protected Area, and in a in General Communal Assembly at El Chino. An internal investigation was initiated in the community.
- A few weeks later, the camera trap was returned by the person who took it. Gustavo The person responsible was identified as a worker from the private tourism operator: Amazon & Expeditions Tours (A & E Tours), who was a tour guide. This fact was reported to his superior whose name was not revealed.
- Gustavo Paima, community patroller responsible to report the activities, reported having had trouble placing the camera, due to the fact that the safety belt was destroyed the moment the camera was taken. Additionally, as the flooded season began it was difficult to find a good location to place the camera.
- In the community of Diamante/7 de Julio, in the Quebrada Blanco, the trap camera was placed correctly, but at the moment when Carlos Caitamari, communal patroller, collected the information, he noticed that the camera had not been working.

MARCH

- At "El Chino" when collecting the information from the camera, the memory fell into the water and could not be recovered. Due to this, we do not have photographic information from January, February and March.
- Gustavo Paima (El Chino), Gilberto Flores, Freddy Flores (San Pedro) as representatives of the communities of the Tahuayo river basin, and Janer Caro, Chairman of the surveillance committee, participated in the First Meeting of Regional Conservation Areas (ACR) of Loreto. Hat was made From March 5th to 7th.
- In this meeting community representatives inform to the public and present authorities, the good practices that are conducted in the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo basin.
- In this event, the community representatives from El Chino and San Pedro informed on the community-based tourism activities as well as camera trap project. The assistants were very interested in visiting the communities to know the basin and to know more about the camera trap project.
- After this meeting the regional authorities committed to provide assistance and technical assistance to community tourism activities. Promise that up to today has been met with satisfaction. the commitments were as follows, to provide training on the topics of interest (1) Management Committees, 2) Community Surveillance Committees, 3) Natural Resource Management, and 4) Biongocios.
- Greater promotion and assistance to formalize the tourism activities conducted by the communal association: La Minga Turística.
- During the first week of March, Gustavo Paima visited the city of Iquitos (he came to the First Meeting of Regional Conservation Areas (ACR) of Loreto) and he personally delivered the last support according to the monitoring committee's schedule.

APRIL

- In April the community "El Chino" was visited by officials of the Regional Government of Loreto, who arrived to coordinate with the partners of "La Minga Turística", their formal registration at the Regional Direction of Foreign Trade and Tourism Loreto (DIRCETURA) as local tour operators.

El Chino (Tahuayo)



Quebrada Blanco (Diamante/7 de Julio and San Pedro)





2) To diversify community-based tourism products.

In order to achieve this, we have developed along with Excelsa, a tourism product (first report) advertising to promote the tourism product.

- Evelyn Ruiz, reported during April, . The authorities and representatives of the regional government visited the area independently. They sought to communicate with the representative of the Minga Turistica in Iquitos (Cristian Velez) without obtaining any response.
- The links use to promote the product is:
<http://www.lamingaturistica.com/communities-conservation/>
<https://www.facebook.com/LaMingaTuristica/>
- We have re-activated the Instagram account of the Association: #LaMingaPeru.

Annex



First Meeting of the Regional Protected Areas of Loreto, 5,6 and 7th, March, 2019
Source: SPDA



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