

## Project Update: February 2011

### 1. Environmental education.

In cooperation with *Pro Delphinus*, between December 2010 and January 2011 environmental education workshops were held at the elementary School "Miguel Grau" in the port of Pucusana. Drawing material, stickers, key rings and puppets were used and the natural history of the marine otter was presented.

### 2. Sample collection.

Between January 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 and January 28<sup>th</sup> 2011, our team traveled 2255 km, between the port of Salaverry (8°13' S – 78°59'W) and Punta Peña Roja (14°26' S – 76°00' W). In total, 23 locations were visited (16 in the Paracas National Reserve) and 52 scat samples were collected in seven of those locations. They will be sent to the Zoological Institute of the CAU Kiel, Germany, for DNA extraction, sequencing and further analyses.

**3. Conservation biology course.** By teaching a course at the UPCH, population genetics' techniques (collection, DNA extraction) applied at the Zoological Institute, were presented to Peruvian students.



Left: Field team climbing cliffs at Morro Quemado, Paracas. Right: Marine otter tracks in the sand at some cave near El Queso, Paracas.



Sticker used for the environmental education work, with the RSG logo.