

Project Update: May 2011

Every year in June the Foundation celebrates Natutama Week, focussing on a conservation theme designed to raise awareness and generate reflection in the Amazon communities around Puerto Narino. This year's theme was "The Tarapoto Lakes, home to all creatures" and Natutama educators and fishermen led activities related to manatees, herons, dolphins, turtles and other animals in the lakes. We also highlighted traditional fishing methods, encouraging people to use spears and rods instead of nets. All through the week giant anacondas made out of old sacking wove along village paths, hiding children and adults under their skirts: we wanted to celebrate the cultural and biological importance of anacondas and boas, which are so often killed on sight. The use of anacondas as a "train", with stop-offs at stations representing different lakes along the way, set people talking about boas in a more positive light and motivated them to join in.