



ESPERANZA VERDE

nature conservation - Peru

NEWSLETTER 4, April 2013



A new update from Esperanza Verde. A lot of time has passed in which many things have been achieved in this beautiful setting in the Peruvian jungle.

What has been built?

During the months since the last newsletter we built the aviary, a new bodega, a work shed/house in the village, and started constructing a reptile enclosure and a cage for small mammals.

The construction of the **aviary** was delayed a bit due to rainy weather conditions and a shortage of volunteers. But with the extra hired help, Roldan, who has been with us since March 2012, the aviary got finished. It has a nice pool, a front cage, it's high and long enough for parrots to be able to fly, find their mate, search for a private place and forage around for food.



Aviary



Bodega

Our capuchin monkey Mica, was busy pushing us into building a new **bodega**. Every day she made holes, either in the old wire mesh or the roof. The bodega is now on a higher location near the new aviary, where it won't flood. It's a spacious and well constructed building to store bananas, papayas and other fruits, and prepare food for many animals every morning and afternoon.

It was important to finish it before the wet season, as the old bodega may have been flooded. A cement floor and brick walls are still missing, but this will come in time. For cement we need a lot of sand, which is only possible if the big river ('Aguaytia') is low enough so we can get it from the beaches. Here at Esperanza Verde we are often dependent on the weather in our decision making.

Thanks to **DGHT-Stadtgruppe Zürich** we could start building the first **reptile enclosure**. It is nearly finished. The hardest thing is to dig a big water pond. With big machines you can slam the clay very firmly so no water goes through, but here where everything is done by hand you can imagine how long it took to dig a pond of about 5 by 6 meter. But now that it's finished, we just have to figure out how we can keep the water there.



Reptile pond

We are still working on it... We also build an inside front cage to separate animals, for introduction of new ones and/or for observation. This year we received another donation of the DGHT-Stadtgruppe, so we can continue with more improvements and other facilities for receiving reptiles.



Workshed in Bello Horizonte

In October 2012 we were able to buy a piece of land in Bello Horizonte. We always wanted this; since we knew the village would eventually get electricity. This year they actually started and the power line posts are already standing, so hopefully it will start working in the coming months.

With the house full with volunteers we were busy constructing a **work shed** there on the other side of the river, and recently finished it. When there is electricity we will be able to do a lot of things to help with construction, like drilling or welding.



Also, I will not be dependent only on solar power to use the computer. There are lots of sandflies in the village so I'm already looking forward to the days of getting some extra sand-fly bites, ha-ha... Well you can't always have it all, can you??

At some point we might start receive animals who need meat, like small cat species (e.g. ocelots), or maybe a jaguar, so we will be able to store the meat in a freezer-fridge at the house there.

From the rest material that was left from the aviary, we have now started with a new **cage for small mammals**.



Selva Dormida, the forest and animals

The wildlife in Selva Dormida is still amazing. While on a walk I (Olivia) finally saw a group of capuchin monkeys. Although I couldn't get a very good view of them as they were already jumping away through the high canopy, I could hear them clearly. They were spotted before by Douwe and Machico, but I yet had to see them. I wander around in the forest more now and not long ago, I saw a king vulture, also not so clearly, but a few weeks later, Douwe and I saw 2 of them very clearly. Next time we walk there we will take a camera!

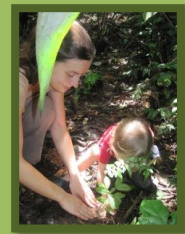


View from the kitchen

We can sometimes hear howler monkeys from off the volunteerhouse, get visits from wild tamarin monkeys, squirrel monkeys and the toucans will always call out in the morning and afternoon. There are many birds more to be heard and seen. It is amazing how much wildlife you can find here (not forgetting all the insects and frogs and snakes of course) and we hope to protect all for all future life.

Since the beginning of Esperanza Verde we kept the original plantation, which the former owner used for growing bananas, papayas and other fruits. But already after a year, we needed more to be able to provide enough fruit to the animals. We decided to revive another area which used to be a plantation. We now have about 2,5 ha of plantation, where we are growing bananas, papayas, a lot of other fruits, to supply a food source for resident and future animals. We profit from it ourselves as well. There are lemons, star fruit, Guayaba, and many other local fruits. You can imagine Kayla and Marlon having snacks in different trees here!

The reforestation project is also going well, and more tree/wood-species have been planted. We mainly plant during the rainy season so they have the best chance of surviving. We recently planted 500 young trees. The tree nursery is always filled with young seedlings and/or young trees, either wood or fruit species. Of course not all seedlings will survive after being planted, so taking care of them during that critical stage is very important. Often Machico or Douwe will go and check them, see how they are and clean the area around them if necessary. Some species grow faster than others, but some are looking great already and you can imagine them being big in 40 years!



Planting a tree



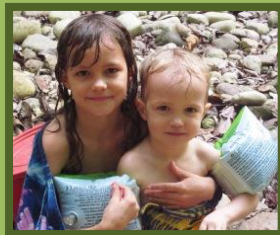


Family life



Esperanza Verde is still a beautiful place to live and grow up in. Last year has been a tough year in many ways. There's always been some constructions going on, work to be divided, animals to be cared for, baby animals with special care etc. There were times that we did not have volunteers to help out, at times had 3 baby animals in the house, which also needed some night care, and of course Marlon and Kayla wanted enough attention from their parents as well. So you can imagine we were pretty tired sometimes. Kayla, Marlon and I had a nice holiday in Surinam with my parents (where I wrote the last newsletter), and we spent Christmas and New Year in Holland with my brothers and friends. First time for Marlon to experience some snow!

As one of us should always be here it meant that Douwe was on his own twice this year. So in January, when we did not have volunteers coming for some time, we decided to take a break and took our first family-'holiday'. We send all our staff (Elena, Machico and Roldan) on a holiday as well. There were no baby-animals with special care, so animal feeding and care-taking wouldn't take long. That way we got to enjoy the quietness of the house, enjoying time with each other, doing games, going picnicking and to the waterfall, walking in the forest etc. It was really nice to have had this time. It made us long more for a



Kayla and Marlon at the waterfall

house for ourselves. School has started again, so we get up at 6 am to get the kids ready for school. At 7:20 we walk to the boat canoe to cross them to the other side. Marlon is now for the first time going as well. They said Marlon would be old enough for Kindergarten; he is now almost 3,5 years old. Marlon himself really wanted to go, and after the first days he can't wait to go more. It is good for him to be around kids of the same age, as he is always in the company of Kayla and adults here.



Snow in Holland

Volunteers

Again we had some times with only one or even with no volunteers. Although it was nice to have the house to ourselves as a family for some time, there is always enough to be done here, and without volunteers we would not be able to achieve so much. Having volunteers gives stability to Esperanza Verde.

At other times we were lucky to have the whole house full, and got many things done. It is great to see how everyone helps with everything. You don't need to have special expertise, just willingness to learn and do new things.



Helping in construction

Future plans and how you can help

At this moment we are focusing on completing some unfinished projects, the bodega, the kitchen/living room, the reptile enclosure, and a new cage for small mammals.





So again, there will be lots of construction going on for those interested in building.

We are currently trying to get a more permanent visa so we can start the process of applying for the license. With all the current construction, and future construction, we will be able to start the application.



Lunch at Esperanza Verde

What we need most is to always have volunteers at Esperanza Verde to help us with the daily care taking of animals, and to continue with all the construction. Without them it will progress very slowly.

You can help us by linking our webpage to yours, if you have one, and mention us in blogs, spreading the word around to people who might be interested, or spreading the two flyers we have in universities or other institutes, where you might find people interested in coming to help out.

It would be great if you could help out spreading these at universities, schools or among friends. They are available on the website of the German association: <http://www.esperanzaverdeperu.de/>

We need extra help. If you want to experience living in the jungle, like animals and enjoy a more primitive lifestyle, come and help out! You don't need any special skills, just your willpower and enthusiasm is enough.

If you want to set up a sponsoring event at your school, work, with friends or any other activity to raise money (e.g. for a specific project) or get more volunteers, it would be great. You can always write to us if you need more information or photos to help you with this.



Machico and Roldan

Again we are looking for someone or maybe a group of friends together, who would be willing to help finance the year salary (or part of it) of Machico for 2013. He is a great asset to Esperanza Verde and knows this area and its fauna and flora very well. He loves walking through the forest. He has been with us since the start of Esperanza Verde and we hope he will stay with us for many more years. His year salary of 2013 is €2.018.20 or US\$2.778,00.

Thank you!

Esperanza Verde would not be possible without all the help we have been receiving, physically, morally or financially.



Elena preparing fish

Thank you to our permanent staff: **Machico**, working with us since the beginning in 2010, **Elena**, our cook and help with everything, with us for almost 2 years, and since March 2012 **Roldan**, helping out Douwe and Machico in everything. Roldan also helps with taking care of the animals, in times there are less or no volunteers.





Thank you to all the volunteers who have stayed with us and helped us in everything: **Luis, Nico, Martin, Anki, Marie, Elena, Theres, Renata, Magda, Luke, Justin, Lara, Sam, Rob, Lucy, Keri-Lyn, Lane, Trevor, Erik, Jennifer, Arne, Pontus, Evelina, Ali, Annelies, Anja, Bryony, Frank, Melle, Isaline and Claire.**

Thank you Noë and Catelijne for all the hours you spent voluntarily working on the website.

Thank you Jen and Jessica for helping out with this newsletter, checking grammar and translating.



Thank you DGHT-Stadtgruppe Zürich (and **Philipp Zerbe**) for another donation for reptiles.

Also we want to thank for their financial support:

Patricia Pennin, Angela Bikker, Sabrina Heilemann, Svenja Tulipani, Trisha Barranoik, Miciah and Tony Marzano, Philipp Hunziker and Bettina Hängli, Jule Ritz, Manuel Krauss, Martina Zwimpfer-Peter, Felipe Sanclemente, Nelli Röhner, Ilse Röhner, Sarah Konopelska, Louk and Marian Conrads, Lodewijk Conrads and Annemarie Visscher, Frans Conrads, Catelijne Cortlever, Anne-Marie Wieringa, Henny Bakker, Prisca Feusi, and all members of 'Förderverein Esperanza Verde' in Germany.

Our Sponsors (through the German Association): **Gisela Röder-Arndt, Dr. Elisabeth Anna Maria and Raphaela Hiltrop.**

And our **periodical donators: Jule Ritz, Eva van Andel, Nico von den Benken, Nadja Morff, Annelies Gerber and Trijn Mulder.**

For donations in the form of materials **we want to thank:**

Philipp Zerbe and Carol Schuppisser (veterinarian materials and books)

Jessica García García (notebooks, pencils and other utilities for the local school)

In Holland we are supported by the **Dutch foundation 'Esperanza Verde'**. **Thank you all** for the time and work you are putting in for Esperanza Verde. With the donations you have collected we were able to start with the new bodega and get it ready for use before the rain season. We hope to finish it after the rain season when we will be able to get sand to make the cement floor and walls. Thank you **Sven, Anne-marie and Welmoed.**



Spix' Guans

In Switzerland a **Swiss association** "Förderverein Esperanza verde Schweiz" has been set up to support us. **Thank you Philipp Zerbe**, for all your help, support and work to get it done. www.esperanzaverde.ch

In Australia we are supported by Donna Simmons and Mark Rutter, who set up the Facebook group '**Green Hope-Esperanza Verde**'. We hope we will get many more supporters and volunteers through their help. **Thank you Donna and Mark.**





In Germany we are supported by the **German association 'Förderverein Esperanza Verde'**. **Thank you Jule and Nico** for your enthusiasm in helping and supporting us. Many new members have joined in the last year and we hope many new will follow. You can become a member and get regular updates. You can also help them with sponsoring activities, or just get in touch with old volunteers. Membership fees and income of any PR-activities are entirely given to Esperanza Verde. Check the website: <http://www.esperanzaverdeperu.de>.

With the donations we have been able to build the house-work shed in Bello Horizonte and finance the new boat, as unfortunately the old one got stolen. **Thank you all!**



A beautiful place in the middle of the jungle; the '2nd waterfall'

We want to apologize beforehand in case we have forgotten to mention any supporters, financially or morally. We got a lot of things done with all your help and we will continue to work hard to realize all the things we have been dreaming of...

*Abrazos,
Douwe, Olivia, Kayla and Marlon*

Want to write us a letter, send a postcard, or send us some local sweets from your country, we are always happy to receive anything:

Esperanza Verde
c/o Olivia Conrads/Douwe Bakker
Apartado 85 (P.O. Box)
Pucallpa, Peru

Please don't send packages over 2kg, as it is a hassle to get them through customs here.

Donations can go to:

Directly:

O. Conrads
Ref.: Esperanza Verde
Bank: ABN AMRO
Acc.nr.: 581383192
IBAN: NL68ABNA0581383192
BIC/SWIFT: ABNANL2A
Bank address:
Schonenburgseind
Postbus 25
3990 DA HOUTEN
The Netherlands

In Holland: (Foundation with ANBI)

Stichting Esperanza Verde
Bank: Triodos
Acc.nr.: 19.83.12.393
IBAN : NL74TRIO0198312393
BIC/SWIFT: TRIONL2U

In Germany or for international transfers:

Förderverein Esperanza Verde e.V.
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Acc.nr.: 3900031435
Bankcode: 800 537 62
IBAN: DE15 8005 3762 3900 0314 35
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