

4TH NEWSLETTER



Chaparrí arrives at Sevilla! First Reclaim Conservation event, at Andalusia.

Last Saturday, April 21st, Reclaim Conservation held their first, and very successful, event in support of Chaparrí Conservation Area, at Dos Hermanas, Sevilla.

Chaparrí is a campesino-run Conservation Area in Peru, which is under major threat by mining companies, dam development, and land traffickers who are not only violent towards the forest and the wildlife within it, but also its human defenders who endure relentless threats to both their safety and their lives. The threats are not baseless, resulting in the terrible murder of leading ecologist Napo Tarrillo on December 30th, 2017. Crime such as arson, gun violence, extortion, and threats has been rising still further since then.

The event was hosted by the S.A.T. (Andalusian Workers Union), who offered not only their headquarters, but actively collaborated with other volunteers, to organize the event. The venue was decorated with a beautiful photo-exhibition about Chaparrí's wildlife. A Peruvian newspaper-exhibition with the most current and relevant headlines was also on display. We also set up a solidarity market, handcrafts / magazine stand, and also a letter writing stand in order to send supportive letters to Standing Rock Indigenous leaders currently facing legal charges.

We started with a verbal presentation about the current situation at Chaparrí. Supported by a compilation of video-testimonies from community members such as Flor and Etelvina, we explored the recent struggles and violence endured by the locals. The after-talk question time turned into a highly interesting and participative meeting among the assistants, who showed a strong enthusiasm about the project and cooperated as much as they could throughout the event. Entertainment in the form of music and vegan food followed.

Throughout the afternoon talks, debates and interchanges took place around the venue and lots of alliances were built among the different participants and their respective organizations. The networking success has created an interest and eagerness to planning various future events, still to be confirmed, in hopes that new members will join our Chaparrí support campaign in the upcoming weeks.

A big, big thank you to Cenix Callejo and all the participants, volunteers and co-operators who made this possible!

Conservation Reality School

Together with the ecologist Dr. Mordecai Ogada, co-Author of the book *The Big Conservation Lie*, we started planning our first Conservation Ethics School in Kenya. The three-week field course will take place in Nanyuky, central Kenya this September. It is aimed at environmental/conservation students and practitioners who are interested in different perspectives on conservation. A diverse international group of conservation academics, practitioners, and local activists will discuss in depth the problems and dangers of current conservation trends, and the alternatives available. Our main goal of these planned yearly courses is for participants to start their careers or return to their work places with the most current information in conservation biology and leave having become part of a global network, which will help to influence and shift mainstream conservation into higher levels of efficiency and ethics.

Currently, we are working on a concept document as well as a list of teachers and a schedule for the course. Please let us know if you are interested in helping to organize the course, or have ideas for people that might be suitable as teachers.

Featured Project: Association of Agricultural Producers La Primavera (APALP)

This is a small campesino-run association, based in the village of La Primavera, Northern Peru. This dedicated group of villagers has been unofficially protecting a 7,174 hectare (ha) reserve, Sun Angel's Garden, since 1988. In 2012, they managed to register the reserve with the state authorities as a concession for conservation, which grants them the right to administrate the area for conservation purposes for 40 years. Lately, they managed to acquire an adjacent area of about 700 ha, increasing the size of the reserve. They have also been very involved with other local and regional locally-led conservation initiatives, and promoted anti-hunting bans that have made a positive and noticeable change in the area. Wildlife can now be seen in areas where they were previously absent for many years.

The dedication of this group should not be taken for granted. These people live in a rural poor area. Their villages do not receive much support from the government, and even basic public utilities and services like roads, electricity, clean water, and sewage are slow to arrive in the area. However, they believe that as farmers, they are at the mercy of the environment around them and therefore have the duty of protecting nature. With a minimal budget, and with very little help from outside, they manage to provide the forests around them with high levels of protection. [Here](#) you can hear Eugenio Fernandez; one of the leaders of APALP explain the reasons for their success and conservation achievements, as well as giving insight about common failures of big conservation organizations trying to procure the same levels of success. We at Reclaim Conservation salute the dedication, determination and wisdom of this group in conserving its local forests and wildlife.

Zoom meetings every Thursday

Our Zoom meetings proved to be an excellent way for writing our Conservation Activism Manifest together, coordinate activities, and enjoy each other's virtual company. Therefore, we have set a weekly meeting, every Thursday at 7pm England time, which is open for anyone interested.

To join the meetings you need to:

1. Open a free account and download zoom at: <https://zoom.us/>
2. Go to this link at the time of the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/4862086984>

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Our finance for the month- exercising transparency

We know it is a bit boring to read about our financial state every month, but we believe that transparency in conservation financing is extremely important and we are happy to set an example. Reclaim Conservation does not have any money or assets and all activists are on a 100% voluntarily basis, donating their own time and resources to the success of our activities. Our first public activity in support of the Chaparrí Conservation area provided 190 Euro which were already sent directly to the association.