



May 12th, 2023

Puerto Inca, Huanuco, Peru

## **Conservation Reserve Program**

### **EL SIRTA COMUNAL RESERVE Or CODO DEL POZUZO REGIONAL RESERVE:**

**This is a special program for biologists and/or biology students.**

We need Individuals with specific knowledge in the field of Biology who can support the organization by investigating and documenting different species of flora and fauna. We will work in scientific research with national and international biologists and professionals. The relevant information and findings will be displayed in a form of a report. This will contribute to work to support the conservation of the biodiversity in the area.

We will work on monitoring physical and biological variables and on the preservation of threatened species and protecting their ecosystems. The project will involve geographically locating different ecosystems and working on the accessibility, research and conservation of the area. There will be a specific focus on endemic bird research programs such as: the Blue-billed Curassow (*Pauxi Unicornis Koepckeae*), Sira Tanager (*Tangara Phillipsi*), Sira Hummingbird (*Paethornis Koepckeae*) etc.

It is necessary to document all kinds of possible biodiversity through photos and videos in order to develop different types of teaching materials to share with the community and different Peruvian and international schools.

Interns have the opportunity to work in two different reserves such as El Sira Communal Reserve or Codo del Pozuzo Regional Reserve. The group will be trekking for approximately six-eight hours within the jungle to reach the working field. We will have porters to transport our gear, enabling us to focus exclusively on looking for biodiversity and increasing the chances of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Camera traps will be utilized to capture the variety of wildlife. We need volunteers with studies on: Biology, Biotechnology, Environmental, Zoology and Botany.

# El Sira Communal Reserve

## WILD LIFE

One of the places in Peru that biologists, birdwatchers and explorers cannot miss is, El Sira Communal Reserve (Spanish: Reserva Comunal El Sira). This is a protected area in Peru created on 23 June 2001 and located in three regions: the Huánuco Region (Puerto Inca Province), the Pasco Region (Oxapampa Province) and the Ucayali Region (Atalaya Province and Coronel Portillo Province).

The whole area is extremely rich in birds including many localized lowland and foothill birds such as Blue-headed Macaw, Curl-crested Aracari, Sulphury Flycatcher, Black-capped and White-bellied Parrots, Wing-banded Wren, Crested and Band-bellied Owls, Solitary Eagle, Koepcke's Hermit, Black-streaked Puffbird, Creamy-bellied Antwren, Peruvian Tyrannulet, Cerulean-capped and Jet Manakins, Fiery-throated and Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, Olivaceous Piha and Rufous-brown Solitaire.

**Of the mammals** in the El Sira Communal Reserve, **54 species** are of special importance due to a threat category, such as: giant armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*), pacarana (*Dinomys branickii*), river otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), Amazon River dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*), manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), bush dog (*Speothus venaticus*), spider monkey (*Ateles belzebuth*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and otter (*Lontra longicaudis*).

In addition, **203 species of BIRDS** have been registered, especially the Passeriformes with 63 species. The Sira is one of the greatest areas of bird endemism of the planet (Peruvian East Andean Foothills). Among the most representative endemic species of birds is the Paujil del Sira or Piurí (***Pauxi unicornis koepckeeae***), a subspecies of horned curassow that lives only in the El Sira mountain range. The **Sira curassow**, a large bird in the Cracidae family is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Also endemic are the **Sira tanager (*Tangara phillipsi*)** and the **Sira hummingbird (*Paethornis koepckeeae*)**.

Picture yourself walking among the ear-deafening noise of hundreds of parrots and macaws, an unforgettable cacophonous experience as you explore the Amazon jungle. Imagine having a close encounter with a beautiful male toucan, with his powerful and long beak, or seeing the colorful macaws as they soar above the trees. Experience the overwhelming image of a Marvelous Spatuletail (*Loddigesia mirabilis*) hauling his coin-sized tail discs or moving through the bushes at 14,000 feet. There is also a large possibility of future scientific discoveries of species and subspecies of birds in areas of the reserve that are relatively inaccessible and that, as a consequence of their remoteness, may add new records of species not previously encountered.

In addition, some **105 species of reptiles** have been reported, of the families of the Amphisbaenidae, saurians and especially snakes. Also 68 species of amphibians, mostly toads and frogs of the families Hylidae and Leptodactylidae, are known from the reserve. Finally, 111 species of bony fish have been reported, the most diverse being Characiforms.

## **FLORA**

Some 190 species have been collected, including 8 endangered species, such as tall or red cedar (*Cedrela odorata*), mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), quinilla (*Manilkara bidentata*), ceiba (*Ceiba pentandra*), ishpingo (*Amburana cearensis*) and palo rosa (*Aniba rosaeodora*). In the high parts the vegetation consists of trees with thin stems and small crowns, with a high presence of epiphytes: Bromeliads, orchids, ferns, Piperaceae, lichens, Sellaginaceae and mosses; while in the lower part there are taller and more vigorous trees with diameters exceeding 1.5m, in whose branches there is a varied plant community, composed of bromeliads, ferns, orchids and anthuriums, among others. There are 44 registered orchid species.

We provide an experienced tour guide, porters, tents, food, transportation for our trips, camera traps, binoculars, walkie talkies, , solar charger, first aid kit, etc.

### **Desired Skills:**

- Photography
- Team work
- Introspection
- Camping
- Scout
- First aid
- Survival
- Communication and navigation techniques

### **More Information:**

#### **Who we are:**

We are an NGO working for the economic and social development of different communities in the Peruvian Amazon. We focus on education, health, environment, ecotourism and cultural exchange.

## **What we do? – Mission & Vision**

Approximately 90% of the population in Puerto Inca lives without access to basic needs such as, running water, sewage and paved roads. However, Puerto Inca has the potential to be a touristic province. We believe that creating an infrastructure for sustainable tourism can help to develop these communities. For this reason, we started this project in June 2018, putting a lot of our hearts and energy into it.

We believe that working together with these communities in developing different skills for its people and creating new job opportunities, not only will help to reduce poverty but to reduce activities that are damaging the environment such as, logging and gold mining with strong contaminating chemicals. We want to give opportunities to the community to change and care for their environment like having other ways to earn money instead of destroying the Amazon rainforest.

Protecting the Amazon should be a global commitment because of its incalculable biological and ecological value.

## **Where we work?**

We are working in different districts of the Province of Puerto Inca, Huanuco, Peru.

### **Puerto Inca, Huanuco, Peru:**

Puerto Inca is the largest of eleven provinces of the Huánuco Region. It is a Province as well as a district. It is located in the central Amazon of Peru at an altitude of 330 meters above sea level. It is one of the most biodiverse places in the world. This province is also home of different indigenous communities such as, the ethnicities Ashaninka, Yanesha and Shipibo-Cacataibo. An Austrian-German Community can also be found in Puerto Inca.

Puerto Inca is a very peaceful and safe place. Visitors can walk around the village at any time without any problem.

The province of Puerto Inca, Huanuco is divided into **five districts**, (villages) which are:

. **Codo del Pozuzo**

. **Honoría**

. **Puerto Inca**

. **Tournavista**

. **Yuyapichis**

According to the 2015 census, Spanish was spoken by 89.5% of the population as their first language, while 5.5% spoke Quechua, 1.9% spoke Ashaninka, 0.3% spoke Aymara, 2.6% spoke other indigenous languages and 0.1% spoke foreign languages.

## **Goals:**

The first of a series of programs that we are working on is the English teaching program. We believe that English lessons will provide a valuable opportunity to help local people gain the skills they need to communicate with tourists and also help the younger generations to have better life opportunities.

In 2023 we started officially to offer English classes in one primary school in Puerto Inca, Huanuco, Peru. One of our midterm goals for 2023/2024 is to learn from this experience and be able to offer English classes in more schools and other communities as well.

Our second midterm goal is to raise enough money to be able to buy solar panels for our 2 hectares land, which we have bought in 2022. We want to use this space for interns and staff and make this place a 100% habitable space for Semillas Life. In creating a fully habitable place to live for our volunteers and staff, opportunities become more accessible in helping the children here in Puerto Inca to learn English, as there is no longer a need to rent out a space to live. We also want to use this land for environmental awareness workshops.

One of our long term goals is to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children by creating a safe environment for healthy physical, social, and emotional development. We want to encourage a passion and respect for the natural world to help transition eager young minds into caring, socially-conscious global citizens. Through a connection with nature, we can nurture a better understanding of the environment whilst improving their interpersonal skills with one another and other adults. Our explorer kids program (scouts) has the mission to encourage them a passion and respect for the natural world to help transition eager young minds into caring, socially-conscious global citizens.

Another long term goal is to create an infrastructure for tourism. We believe that developing tourism in the province of Puerto Inca can help create new job opportunities. This will boost the economic development of local communities.

One of our dreams is be able to build our own school and Institute where we can teach different courses such as: Tourism, English, German, French, Computers, Photography, Customer Service, Tour Guide, Bartender, Gastronomy, as a technical career, but also workshops for gaining confidence like Arts, Music and Sports.

All these goals are little steps to achieve the big goal. We want to give opportunities to the community to change and to care for their environment like having other ways to earn money instead of destroying the Amazon. This will not only make the community grow together and develop, but also protect the Rainforest.

## **Why choose us?**

By participating in any internship at Semillas Life, interns get a unique chance to experience the stunning natural diversity and experience the beautiful local culture beyond a busy tourist industry. At the same time, interns will help us to achieve our goal in giving back to our local community. We co-operate with a range of local people. Therefore, all booking fees go either straight to people in our community such as, farmers, taxi and tuk tuk drivers, hostels, restaurants, groceries, boat and tour guides, artisans, etc. You will also help to cover the expenses of our project.

## Cultural exchange and learning opportunities

There are many ways our volunteers can benefit from this cultural exchange:-

1. Interns will be welcomed into the community where they can witness and take part in the region's customs and traditions, where people live happily despite their limitations and lack of modern-world facilities. You can develop new friendships and learn how to talk and interact with people from another culture, whilst learning how to adapt to a new environment and different way of living. Our vision is to build relationships, promoting a mutual understanding of respect and values.
2. We are happy to organize trips to local attractions and, of course, into the rainforest, where we can introduce our interns to the incredible flora and fauna of our beautiful Peruvian Amazon and also share some fascinating jungle legend stories!
3. And if interns like to cook, they will have the opportunity to learn how to cook some of the amazing Peruvian dishes with the help of our project chef!! Buen provecho!

## Important Information for Interns

- **Our personnel will meet interns at the airport in the city of Pucallpa** and bring them to Puerto Inca. It takes 3 hours from Pucallpa to Puerto Inca by auto/taxi.
- **To get to Pucallpa from the city of Lima**, volunteers can either take a bus or flight to the city of Pucallpa. Buses take around 22 hours and flights only 1 hour.
- **Airline companies** flying from Lima to Pucallpa are: Latam airline, Sky airline, (low cost) and Star Peru, (low cost). Usually flights cost US\$60.00 dollars or 50.00€ euros or £44.00 GBP approximately or sometimes less. It depends on how much weight you carry in your suitcases and anticipation time of your flight reservation.
- **Bus Companies** going from Lima to Pucallpa are: Cruz Del Sur, ExcluCiva, Transmar (low cost) or, Estrella Polar (low cost). They usually cost between US\$25.00 - US\$45.00 dollars or 22.00€ - 37.00€ euros or £19.00- £33.00 GBP approximately.
- **To avoid scams**, we recommend our interns anytime they are going to purchase something or taking a taxi, tuk tuk, bus, etc, to ask for prices/fees first.
- **We recommend** our interns to change any foreign currency to local currency. This can be done at the exchange houses in Lima or Pucallpa. It is better to pay for any purchase or service with local currency (soles). Interns can also withdraw soles from the ATM machines at the airport in Lima or Pucallpa. Banco De La Nacion and BCP Bank do not charge for this transaction. **Attention, there is NOT ATM machines in Puerto Inca! The closest one is in Pucallpa which is 3 hours away by auto.** Interns might get cash in Puerto Inca with their credit/debit card by paying 5% out of the amount of cash they need
- **We do not recommend** to exchange money at the airport. They pay way less for any foreign currency.

. **Accommodation** is included for all our programs. Interns stay in one rustic huts/cabin at the working field. Each hut has an eco-toilette and shower. The toilet and shower are located in our backyard garden. We provide a kitchen with gas where volunteers can prepare their own food. Depending on availability, interns sometimes get a private bedroom or shared bedroom..

. **Food** is very cheap. For example, a lunch menu in a local restaurant costs, S/9.00 soles or US\$2.50 dollars or 2.20€ euros or £1.85 GBP approximately. This menu consists of, an entry (soup or salad). The main dish can be with chicken, fish, or beef. A soft fruit juice is part of the menu. If interns cook their own food it is way cheaper. Interns can also go fruit picking. We have plenty of fruits around the village for free. **FOOD IS NOT INCLUDED**

. **Internet:** We share our hot spot/WIFI at any of our huts in the village of Puerto Inca. Also for an extra cost of US\$15.00 dollars or 12.50€ euros or £11.00 GBP approximately, interns can get a local sim card with unlimited internet up to 30 days. This is recommended for interns who do online work. Our WIFI can be slow sometimes when many interns get connected at the same time. **There is not internet connection at the working field.**

. **Water:** The village of Puerto Inca has no running water. People use water wells to get water. Previous interns and we have drunk this water without problems. However, we recommend interns to bring a portable **water filter** to make sure they are drinking good water at any time such as in our trips to the jungle.

. **Hospital and Health Centers:** Puerto Inca has two health centers that can be used for interns in case they have any minor injuries or illness. We are also first aid certificated and have first aid kit. Hospitals and Clinics can be found in the city of Pucallpa, (3 hours away by car from Puerto Inca). We have 5 small **pharmacies** in Puerto Inca and the main health center has an **ambulance** for emergency cases.

. **Vaccines:** Although we haven't seen or heard any case of **yellow fever or malaria** since we started this project 5 years ago, we recommend interns to have this vaccination if they can get them.

. **Transportation fee** to one of the Natural Reserves **is included.**

. A lot of rain (**rainy season**) falls in the months: December15th, January, February, March 15th.

. On average, January is the **wettest month.**

. On average, July is the **driest month.**

.We are **available 24/7** in case volunteers have **any emergency.**

.We speak **Spanish, English and German.**

.**We accept**, groups of people, couples, single interns and pets.

. We can **accept up to 15 interns** at the same time.

.**We recommend interns to bring**, good quality tent, fresh clothes such as T-shirts, shorts, bathing suits, rain coat, etc. Also, trekking boots, hat, sunglasses, flip flops, flash light, pocket knife, compass/GPS, sleeping bag, sun blocker, mosquito repellent and water filter, pills for cold, pain, fever, stomach ache,

diarrhea, etc. **Bring cash** because the closest **ATM** machine is in the city of Pucallpa. The local bank only exchange dollars to soles. They do not accept euros or any other currencies. **(Dollars bills have to be in good conditions/neat to be accepted by the local bank)**. We recommend interns to keep their dollar bills inside a book.

**.We accept smokers.** However, smoking in front of our students is forbidden.

**.The Photos** we take during our trips with our interns are used for our projects social media.

**.Drinking alcohol** in public areas (street) is forbidden.

.Because we are an educational project, **we do not accept interns with drug abuse problems.**

**.Interns with inappropriate behaviors that violate our rules will be immediately expelled from Semillas Life and exhorted to leave Puerto Inca during the next 48 hours after their expulsion.**

**Departure:** We provide transportation to the airport in Pucallpa.

## **MANDATORY FEE FOR ALL INTERNS**

**US\$2299.00 dollars (cash) – If paid by credit/debit card, 5% extra will be charged**

### **Inclusions:**

- Taxi pick up from/to the airport in Pucallpa to Puerto Inca and vice versa (3 hours long ride by auto)
- Accommodation for the whole internship period.
- We provide a kitchen where interns can prepare their own food.
- 5 days of different tours and adventures in the Amazon Rainforest (Week of Adventure Package).
- We provide transportation for the Week of Adventure Package trips.
- We offer an amazing perspective on life in the Amazon and its beautiful nature.
- Certificate of participation.



- More trips around the village (transportation is not included).
- Tents for camping/excursions
- Artisanal chocolate making workshop
- Cooking Amazonian & Peruvian food workshop
- We can help interns with visa documents for those who want to stay longer in Peru (Extension of visa). For most nationalities it is possible to enter to Peru for 90 days without visa. After this period you can extend for another 90 days which will cost US\$4.00 dollars or 3.50 € euros or GBP £3.00 GBP approximately. Then you need to fill out an application through the Peruvian Immigration website.

## **Exclusions:**

- Sleeping bag
- Airfares or bus fares
- Food expenses
- Personal needs

**Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you need further information.**

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