



Borders Exploration Group Newsletter

Publisher: Clare Smillie

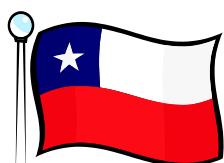
Summer 2009

Revisiting Peru



Ron Sutherland has booked a trip to Peru in the summer. He intends to visit Poma Tales. If any past Peruvians would like to make any kind of small donation to the school/medical centre there. He will be taking things like pens and pencils. If anyone wanted to make a contribution they would have to get it to Ron before the above date 26th June.

Chile selection



Jono Ellis has added a slideshow of the selection day photos to the Chile page on the BEG website - <http://www.borders-exploration-group.org.uk/expeditions/chile/>

Message from Zambia

Nan Lyle has asked that we include this message from Chris McClare in

Zambia.

Mulamba have joined a league with other local schools for sport netball and football. They are looking for help with transport and a bit of food. They play one week at home and the next week away. This amounts to £45 per fortnight. They are taking it out of school funds but are looking for longer term funding. Mr Tembo is back at work and Lorraine has left hospital after some treatment.



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Update from Cuc Phuong National Park by Vicki Moyes

“Back in ‘Nam...” we shared some wonderful memories, and following our return in August 2005, thankful of the experiences that had been opened up to us during those 33 days, we decided to donate much of the remaining funds to some of the projects we had worked with.

The Vietnam expedition was split into four phases, and early in the planning stages, leader Chris Hull made the invaluable connection with ‘Buffalo Tours’ who initially were asked to assist us with arranging the adventure phases of the expedition. However as the departure date for the expedition was drawing ever closer they were also able to assist us with arrangements for the Environmental phase.



During this phase of the expedition the team travelled south from Hanoi to Cuc Phuong National

Park. Established in 1962, this is Vietnam's oldest National Park and covers the three provinces of Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh and Thanh Hoa, covering a total land area of 22,200 hectares.

During our five day stay we participated in two different activities; planting large trees around ‘Mac lake’ - an artificially created lake around which the National Park authorities were developing accommodation to encourage tourism into the area, and assisting with building a new quarantine enclosure at the ‘Flora and Fauna International - Turtle Conservation Centre’.

Because of the involvement of ‘Buffalo’ the full budget allocated to this phase of the expedition was not required to fund our stay, but the decision was made that the National Park should still benefit from the money that the expedition team had raised.

Following the production of the expedition report in June 2006, £3800 was transferred to Cuc Phuong



National Park, with the request that 30% of it be donated to further the work of the Turtle conservation Centre and 70% of it to further the

work of the National Park authorities.

What now follows is an extract from the report produced by Cuc Phuong as to how the donated monies have been spent. A full copy of the report (with photos) is available to download from www.borders-exploration-group.org.uk ...or check out <http://www.cucphuongtourism.com> ...look at the photo on the page title ‘help us’ ☺

The Global Position System (GPS) Compass and Map training to
Actually, most of the rangers, tour guides and some of the scientists of the park lack knowledge about GPS, compasses and mapping. In some situations they have been lost in the forest for 2 days, and we had many problems when working in the forest without this equipment. The necessary

requirements for the work are supplies and training for them to use this equipment. Meanwhile, the budget of the Park cannot accommodate these supplies and training.

In July 2005 Victoria Moyes was the chief leader of a group of 33 people from Scotland who came to Cuc Phuong National Park to help with some conservation activities, mainly planting trees around Mac Lake and the completion of a quarantine area in the turtle centre. Since this time they have raised \$ 7.642.60 for the National Park (Two-thirds of it = \$ 5.349.82) and the Turtle Conservation Centre (One thirds of it \$ 2.292.78). This money had been sent to the park's account passed Asian Turtle Program's account.

I. The Park used this money to buy and supplies: 13 GPS with rechargeable battery and their chargers, 13 compasses and 13 maps of Cuc Phuong National Park with scale 1:25,000 were provide to rangers, Scientific and Tourism Departments and the Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center of the Park. With the Park Director's consent, the Wildlife Rescue & Conservation Center (WR&CC) carried out the Global Position System, Compass and Map training

course for rangers, scientists and tour guides of the park on June 4th 2008. After the training course, staff of the park started using these equipments for their tasks including:

1. Ranger force:

Plotting GPS coordinates of the area that belongs under to the ranger station responsibility. Plotting GPS coordinates for violent such as logging, hunting, deforestation, etc.

Plotting GPS coordinates for all big trees that they have diameter of more than 1 (m), and rare trees to make a map of valuable trees that might be at risk in the Cuc Phuong National Park. Plotting GPS coordinates during they are patrolling. After one month these GPS coordinates will download into a computer at the headquarters of the park to show time, date, and place of patrolling for the awareness of all managers of the Park. Also, this provides an objective statistic for assessing if rangers are doing their jobs and the worth of patrols. It is very important to monitor ranger working because the park would like to protect animals and plants in-situ.

The Park carries out an annual inventory for all forest resources every Nov-Dec, and the composition of several

units including the Scientific Department, Tourism Department and Wildlife Rescue & Conservation Center. Each unit has to check the forest resources of one area and report to park managers. After comparing the GPS Patrol Diary of ranger stations, the productivity and efficiency of each ranger in the park can be assessed.

2. Scientific Department

Plotting GPS coordinates for all trees of value and animal sightings to make a map of the area to carry out research on these objectives. Plotting GPS coordinates for all big and rare trees to carry out research of there ecology, collect their seeds to plant for conservation ex-situ to make sure they are not extinct in the future.

3. Tourism Department

Plotting GPS coordinates to make a routine tour for visitors and tour guides. Plotting GPS coordinate points where rare animal and birds, butterflies and reptiles are more likely to be observed to provide for visitors when they visit the park.

Make a map of all streams and seasonal fluctuations of water inside the park, which also identifies areas to watch biodiversity of amphibians of the park.

II. The Turtle Conservation Center (TCC) used this money

for:

To pay half of an electricity and water bill (half has been paid by the Park) for the year 2007 and in 2008.

To expand the fence of the center to 550 m², providing area enough to build 4 security cages (size: 14 x 6 m) and a few enclosures to keep turtles.

The GPS, Compass, Map training and Development Turtle Conservation Center have been supported by Exploration International Group from Scotland. The training courses were instructed by Bui Dang Phong, Vice Director of Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center (WR&CC) manager of the Turtle Conservation Center (TCC), Hoang Van Thai, and research assistance of TCC. Special thanks go to Ms. Victoria Moyes as the chief leader of Exploration International Group and her students from Scotland and Mr. Douglas Hendrie, Asian Turtle Program Director.

For Stuart 'Disco' Ruffell, Vietnam 2005, Deputy Chief Leader and general gadget man - you would be so proud.



Indian travels - by Pippa Simmonds

Nearly had to postpone my departure from Monday Market due to a bout of "Traveller's Sickness", but fortunately recovered in time to catch the train to Mumbai on the 21st March. After an epic 3 days of travelling, I met up with Seema in Jaipur, where we spent a few days exploring the Pink City and drinking lassi. Then it was onwards to Pushkar; an important Hindu pilgrimage site which also happens to be home to a large population of Western hippies. We met some nice people, got given a blessing at the lakeside, and made the most of the freely available Western food (spaghetti, cornflakes, cheese toasties...). After a quick stop in Ajmer to visit a Jain temple we caught the night bus to Agra (not comfy) to see the Taj Mahal. It was very impressive in real life (though smaller than I expected), and we managed to be there during a spectacular lightning storm, which only added to the experience! We got out of Agra asap (as it is pretty grim apart from the Taj) and caught a train to Delhi, where we stayed for a few days, and I discovered that my MP3 player had died. Went to the Red Fort along with all the other tourists, visited a bird hospital in another Jain temple, and wandered the streets of both Old and New Delhi

(the difference between the two is amazing). One day we had lunch in a revolving restaurant 24 storeys up, giving us fantastic views across the city to all the landmarks. On Thursday (2nd April) we left Delhi for Chandigarh; the capital of Haryana and Punjab, which was only built in the 1960s. It's really clean, modern and has calm traffic (weird I know), plus I found a place where they managed to fix my MP3 player, get in! We visited the rock garden, which is a crazy wonderland made from bits of broken bricks, rocks, pottery and bangles, then went out for dinner with Seema's sister-in-law who is getting married next week. From Chandigarh we moved on to Amritsar, where we went to see the Jallianwala Bagh (site of the Amritsar massacre), and the Sikh Golden Temple at sunrise. We also visited a couple of really nice Hindu temples, and went on a trip to the Pakistani border for the evening closing ceremony; the most outrageous display of Monty Python marching I've ever seen. We got the bus from Amritsar to a wee town called Pathankot, from where we could get the "toy train" to get us to Dharamsala. The views from the train were amazing as we came into the snow-capped Himalayas, it feels so good to be surrounded by hills

again! So now we're installed in the rainy town of McLeod Ganj. It's a beautiful place, and the people are really nice, I'm looking forward to getting to know it over the next month or so. On Friday we're heading down to Palampur (2 hours away) for the wedding preparations, very exciting!



More to follow....

Written April 2009

Thoughts of the day...

Booker T. Washington
Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.

Anonymous
Never be afraid to do something new.
Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the titanic.

Earvin Magic Johnson
You're the only one who can make the difference.
Whatever your dream is, go for it.



If you have any items for the next newsletter please forward them to me as soon as possible.
clare.smile@btinternet.com

<http://www.borders-exploration-group.org.uk/>

Keep up to date with our website.

