

# **Bolivia Animal Sanctuary Project Achievements**

## **About:**

Working with **Inti Wara Yassi** this project protects, rehabilitates, and where possible re-releases into the **wild animals** that have been **rescued** from ill treatment and inhumane captivity.

## **Achievement Overview (Updated Aug 2011)**

- Purchased 600 hectares of an 800 hectare plot of rainforest to create a new animal sanctuary
- Sponsored 1000 acres of rainforest through partners Rainforest Concern
- Built and financed fifteen large animal enclosures and cages
- Spent over 18,000 hours working with and caring for animals
- Donation for medical supplies for the veterinary clinic
- Renovation of the volunteer accommodation
- Began construction of a new veterinary clinic at Ambue Ari
- Helping in construction of Aviary and kitchen area

## **2003**

**Purchased 150 acres of land in Bolivia to ensure survival of Ambue Ari animal sanctuary.**

## **2004**

### **Two Enclosures Built**

**Hours spent working with Animals – 2 weeks (1,000's)**

Two large animal enclosures built (Bolivia Animal Sanctuary)

First team spent two weeks working very hard in Ambue Ari building a cage for a Jaguar. It was physically very demanding work, carrying sand and rocks to the cage site all day long.

They then transferred to Parque Machia where they all had an individual animal to look after for two weeks. Their donations meant that the land at Ambue Ari had been secured the year before.

## **2005**

**Construction of Veterinary clinic – Foundations completed.**

**Hours spent working with Animals – Over 3000**

Over 3000 man hours spent working with animals (Bolivia Animal Sanctuary Project)

At AA we were involved in the construction of a veterinary clinic. It was very hard work, and although rewarding, we were led to believe that we would complete two of the rooms. This was a ridiculously unrealistic target and it rapidly became apparent that this wasn't going to be obtained, and this reduced morale. Work did still continue at a decent rate though, and we completed the foundations.

In VT everyone was fortunate enough to work with the animals that they wanted to work with, and had a fantastic time, each falling in love with their Puma, Ocelotte, Monkey, Parrot or Snake!

**Volunteers funds are currently being spent to buy the remainder of the park land in AA**

## **2006**

### **Enclosures Built - 2**

**Hours spent working with Animals – 3 weeks (around 1,500)**

### **Gap Team**

Enclosures Built - 1

Hours spent working with Animals – 2 weeks (Around 1,000)

AA - Our task here was to build Sama (a Jaguar at Villa Tunari) a new cage. It was very important work as his cage is currently being eroded away in Park Machia, and it is only a matter of time before he is forced to move due to a danger of it falling into the river. The group constructed the cage where he will sleep and be fed. The work went really well, we had materials on time, and weather was on our side and so subsequently we finished two days ahead of schedule and were able to start the excavation of the trenches ready for building the accompanying enclosure that is ear-marked for the summer group to work on. The only real problem we faced was lack of tools. We still had enough for everyone to be kept busy, but only just. However simply buying tools isn't necessarily the best solution as so many things get lost or broken due to the number of young Bolivian boys working at the park. Not sure what else we would be able to do though except buy more again. Future projects should be primarily the completion of Sama's enclosure, working on the Veterinary clinic (weather dependant) and building two more enclosures so that the Punitas can get seperated as they are at an age that they would be leaving each other if they were in the wild and are becoming slightly problematic and difficult to walk. PM - The projects here aren't as driven, and the main aim is looking after today and making the animals lives as good as possible. This is a very good comparison to what the group go through in Ambue Ari and helps them see what is needed on a day to day basis which makes them see how much more important the work that we do in AA is.

### **Summer**

Enclosures Built - 1

Hours spent working with Animals – 1 week (Around 500hrs)

The team had 3 weeks to complete a cage for a young female puma (Juma) who had to be moved ASAP as her presence was causing a great deal of problems for those who were

working with the male pumas in the area. While we had wanted to work on Sama's enclosure, with such a small team (9) comprised mostly of women, there would have been no way for us to complete it in the 3 weeks. So we decided to get the smaller cage done and we successfully finished the cage in the time we had. The team were very enthusiastic and understood the importance of getting the cage done. I did my best to alternate their time doing construction with time spent with the animals and it worked out very well. We had enough people to alternate approx 2 days of construction to one day with animals. We only took one day off however (for the worldcup final) as we all felt days with the animals were like days off. We had very little illness and everyone had a great time. It was nice for the team to get to meet Juma and actually be there when she was moved to her new home while we were at Park Machia, I think it gave them a sense of accomplishment.

## **2007**

### **Enclosures Built - 2**

**Hours spent working with Animals – 4 weeks (around 2,000)**

**Worked on building new Avery**

### **Gap**

Enclosure Built – 1

Hours spent with Animals – 2 weeks (around 1,000)

At AA we built a cage for 8 days and managed to finish it. It was extremely hard work but we succeeded. At Machia they all worked with different animals. Some vols were scared at first but they all ended up loving their work and their animals.

I think they all had useful jobs that suited them and that we did a very good job at both parks which the local staff were very happy with.

My only suggestion is that future groups would spend more time working in the project and longer at AA as they all loved it there. I think the lang phase could be shortened.

### **Summer**

Enclosure Built – 1

Hours spent with Animals – 2 weeks (around 1,000)

Worked on Building New Aviary

building new enclosure for Sama (jaguar) - was ment to be work on a new avary but materials were not ready intime(nena and JC ask could funds be sent 2 weeks earlier in future as, being Bolivia, things take a long time to organise)  
project was not completed by quest (now completed) though amazing work contribution and VVV successful

## **2008**

### **Enclosure Built – 2**

**Hours spent with Animals – 4 weeks (around 2000)**

At Ambue Ari, working with **Inti Wara Yassi** two volunteer groups built two brand new enclosures, one for Katie the **Jaguar**, the other for Nico, a very aggressive **Puma** rescued from a Circus where he had been seriously maltreated. The volunteers were also involved in our long term **care** project for the animals, feeding the various animals in the sanctuary. Donations raised also went towards the purchase of a brand new **300 hectare** area which has become Inti Wara Yassi's newest reserve Jacj Cuisi.

### **Team 1**

One cage built

Hours spent with Animals – 2 weeks (around 1000)

AMBUE ARI: the work was hard but rewarding. Unfortunately we couldn't put up the mesh for the enclosure, which the volunteers were rather disappointed about. As we were such a small group we got help from 4 local Bolivians to carry stones and sand. I realized on day 4 that the team was sick of only carrying things, so I called Nena to ask for advice. Although Noemi' and Zandro are lovely, it is always best to ask Nena for practical advice.

PARQUE MACHIA: most volunteers enjoyed their jobs a lot. Only two of them weren't pleased with working at the monkey mirador and complained that both to get there and work there was too hard. They were rather ill, so their weakness might have influenced their views. Also, I think that the the absolute minimum stay should be 15 days, not less, otherwise the Quest volunteers feel that they are treated differently from other volunteers (something they often complained about).

### **Team 2**

One cage Built

Hours spent with Animals – 2 weeks (around 1000)

The goal for the time in AA was Niko's cage. The enclosure has a perimeter of 80 meters and is 4.60 meters tall, this was a large undertaking for a group of 6. we initiated a system where vlunteers from the park helped the group for half a day everyday, and we worked the other half by ourselves. This formed bonds between the group and the volunteers and allowed the group to take charge and manage the visiting volunteers since they new the construction site so well. a check list was also posted up where they could all see everything oulined that had to be done in order to finish the cage. as bits were completed they were checked off the list until nothing remained. The cage was finished in exactly two weeks, ( a record ) which gave us plenty of time for rest days and breaks to increase morale.

## **2009**

**2 enclosures built**

**Kitchen area cleared and prepared, double door**

**4 weeks animal caring (2000hrs)**

**Gap**

**2 Cages Built**

Hours spent with Animals – 2 weeks (around 00)

The team at **Ambue Ari, Bolivia** worked tirelessly building two cages in the Mosquito ridden **rainforest** which now house Simba and Lishou, two **pumas** who have been rescued by our project partners **Inti Wara Yassi**. They also spent hundreds of hours **caring** for other **rescued animals**, feeding them, walking them and **rehabilitating** them.

**Summer** (2 vols only)

Jacj Cuisi – Double door built, area cleared for Kitchen

Parque Machia – Animals cared for – 2 weeks (around 250 hours)

Our goal was to build a double door in 6 days and continue working on the clearing of an area for the kitchen and even possibly start preparing the trenches.

The door was completed in 5 days, but this left only one day to clear in preparation for the kitchen. It was nice that the girls could leave something finished behind, but as the donation went towards the kitchen, it was a shame they couldn't do more work on this. Progress was very slow!!

## 2010

**Animal enclosures built (JC): 2**

**Clinic foundations (JC)**

**6 weeks spent caring for animals 3000 hrs**

### Gap 1

The building of one Puma enclosure: 15m x 20 m with chain link fence 4m high. This task involved clearing, digging trenches, carrying materials, mixing cement for the posts and pulling the fence. We did not cement in the trenches, but got to the point we hoped to get to.

The foundations of the clinic at Jacq Cuisi: This involved a lot of clearing, digging, carrying rocks and sand, and mixing cement.

Neither construction project was completed, which made motivating the group difficult. I do think it's important for a group to see a project finished, and both projects we had were too big to complete, however we succeeded in reaching the point that we aimed to reach with both projects.

2 weeks spent at Parque Machia working with animals

### Gap 2

JC: The project aims at JC were two-fold. To finish off the construction of Luna's cage as reached by the last Quest group and to start that of Simba's from scratch with the target goal of cementing in the perimeter posts

Luna's enclosure: Completion of Luna's cage required cementing the perimeter bar 10m, which had been completed. All materials required to do so needed to be carried from camp

10/15 walk away. This principally required lugging heavy bags of rocks and sand along the jungle trail in hot conditions followed by cement mixing in tarps. Not a particularly motivating task but the group dug deep and kept to it for 3 solid days of carrying and a further 2 of mixing and filling the perimeter.

Simba's enclosure:

The 15 x 20m perimeter of Simba's new enclosure had been marked and roughly cleared by Vanessa. Our goal was to cement in all enclosure posts as well as those for the management cage. This required us to accurately mark out the perimeter, thoroughly clear the area, run lines, dig post holes, carry up sufficient rocks, sand and cement and the poles themselves to be subsequently cemented in position. All along a fairly tricky 20min jungle trail. Unfortunately due to a couple of injuries we fell just short of our goal having cemented all the posts for the enclosure but failing to do the couple for the management cage.

The team really pushed themselves to the limit and came together well to motivate one another through the demanding task especially when the group was down by a one or two members. They left proud of what they had achieved in a relatively short period of time. We fell short by perhaps a half day to finish off the last posts and would have been an achievable goal without injuries.

Ambue Ari:

The group could not wait to work with the animals at Ambue having worked so hard on construction at JC. Everyone was very happy with the animals that they were assigned with and fed back that it was an unforgettable and worthwhile experience. The only criticism they had was that they would have liked the Ambue phase to have been longer than the two weeks...

## **Summer**

Parque JC:

The group target was to finish up the enclosure of Simba previously started by the last Quest group. The starting status of the cage was that the 15m x 20m enclosure had been marked and the posts and anchors cemented in place. As such the group aim was to fence the entire enclosure and cement in the perimeter. All of the supplies for which needed to be carried out to the site...a challenging 20 minute jungle walk through a stream and up a steep final uphill stretch. This was a challenging yet achievable goal at the offset however in the face of harshly cold/wet weather conditions, no other volunteers in camp to assist, and a group with just 2 guys proved very testing and in the end required three weeks to complete thus chewing into the groups animal time at Ambue a little. Morale of certain members of the team was very hard to maintain ...no matter how much chocolate was bought....and a number of the group felt that they had not been adequately briefed on what building a jungle enclosure would entail.... However after three very challenging weeks the enclosure was completed and the group should have felt rightly proud. It would have been nice to have seen Simba go into his new cage however neither time nor (I believe) would Andres have allowed it given Simba's volatile nature.

Before heading to JC I had requested that there be a construction person to assist with the build so that I could focus directly on the group. It was agreed that Keith (a long term

volunteer) would come across from Machia but at the last minute this was cancelled leaving me again to manage both the group and construction...

Ambue Ari:

Two weeks caring for the animals under care at Ambue Ari. Daily group responsibility for the park house animals (parrots, pigs, pios, Herbie the Tapir...) In addition each volunteer was assigned to an individual cat or responsibilities in quarantine. All those that wanted to work with a cat were able to do so.

## **2011**

**3 enclosures**

**6 weeks animal work – 3000hrs**

### **Gap 1**

Enclosure: 1

2 weeks animal work (2 animals each)

Our construction project was to start building a new enclosure for Sacha, to complete as much as possible in the time we had there. Unfortunately the weather was not on our side, we were stuck in Rurre for a day before we could cross the river to get to JC, which meant that we arrived a day late. We also had a number of days of rain which delayed the cementing work. Despite this the group worked hard and managed to carry a lot of materials out to the site and managed to complete the cementing of all the posts.

AA: As volunteer numbers were so low, each student got 2 animals to work with during their time at AA - all got either 2 cats or a cat and monkeys to work with. There was a fair bit of moaning about flooded trails and the mosquitos at the start but they all thoroughly enjoyed the work with the animals they were assigned to and felt good matches were made (volunteers to assigned animals). All students got to work with 2 different species of animal/cats, which they very much appreciated and praised the pre-organisation for that. They actually found the work more rewarding than the work they did at JC.

### **Gap 2 Summer:**

1 enclosure

2 weeks animal work

The team spent six weeks working hard in two of the Inti Wara Yassi animal sanctuaries. In the first (and newest) park, Jaqj Cuisi, they constructed a large enclosure for two recently rescued baby pumas. Then the team headed across to Parque Ambue Ari to spend two weeks caring for a variety of rescued animals including pumas, jaguars, lots of monkeys and birds.

Construction work in the jungle is difficult and the team worked extremely hard to get this done.