



*Spectacled Bear Conservation - Peru*  
*Conservación del Oso de Anteojos - Peru*  
www.spectacledbearconservation.com

Dear Friends,

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone that has supported The Spectacled Bear Conservation Society' (SBC) this year with our ongoing field research and with the construction of our community conservation center and staff housing.

It has been a very busy and exciting year; a major highlight for our project this year was the discovery of a new born cub found in its natal den. The mum of this beautiful cub, we named Martina, was Laura; the first bear we fitted with a GPS collar. We conducted around the clock observations at the den site which continued for a number of weeks after mum and cub left the den site. A small video clip put together by wildlife media can be seen on (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li2VJWKp5aM>)



Another major highlight/accomplishment for SCB this year was the construction of the nearly completed conservation center and staff housing. As many of you may already know, my family organized and implemented a dinner/auction fundraiser in Victoria Canada in 2009 where we had over 200 people attend. This event was quite the undertaking, albeit more successful than any of us had imagined.

In late August, a group of friends and family traveled to Peru to help build the conservation center. For two months this group of dedicated hard working volunteers worked 12 hour days in the scorching heat trying to finish the major structural components of the building before our engineer/project manager (my dad) had to return to Canada. We were also very surprised at the enthusiasm this project generated in the community. The town council for Batan Grande sent a couple of their fulltime employees to our construction site where they worked with us for six weeks; a local conservation group (grupo sican) joined us on the weekends, as did a number of council members.



Since we laid the first brick almost eight months ago, we can now happily say that we are almost ready to open the doors of the conservation center. Our education funds are limited at the moment, nevertheless, we believe that there is a lot that can still be done. Our agenda for the center is filling up quickly with teacher workshops, presentations, community conservation meetings, and meetings with other concerned groups such as the group sican, that are tackling problems like street garbage, protecting the few remaining algarrobos trees which prevent desertification and serious erosion during el Niño years, and making the town of Batan Grande a healthier and cleaner place to live.



We have also planted numerous Algarrobo trees, native cactus gardens and flower beds throughout our one hectare site. Many of the plants such as the bromeliads and cactus are from our field site; most of which we have observed wild bears feeding on. We can use these plants and gardens as interpretation areas for environmental programs to demonstrate what spectacled bears are feeding on in order to survive this harsh climate.

Behind the center we have also planted 25 native cotton plants that have already tripled in size. This cotton will be going to some of the weavers in town to make bags and hammocks (with bears woven on them of course) that can be sold at the center.

Between the staff housing and conservation center we transplanted grass from the local museum of Sican. This will provide us with space for larger gatherings and will also help to keep the dust down and prevent heavy erosion during el Niño years. We are able to keep all of the grass and gardens watered from a well we have on the property.



Above Photo: staff housing



The garden looks beautiful and the construction is nearly complete; however, we have one financial hurdle to overcome. We do not have the funds to furnish the center with chairs, chalk-boards, tables, shelves and other small items. We have the walls and piping in for a washroom but still need to purchase a sink and toilet and also build a roof. Our resources have dried up and we have all donated as much as we can this year.

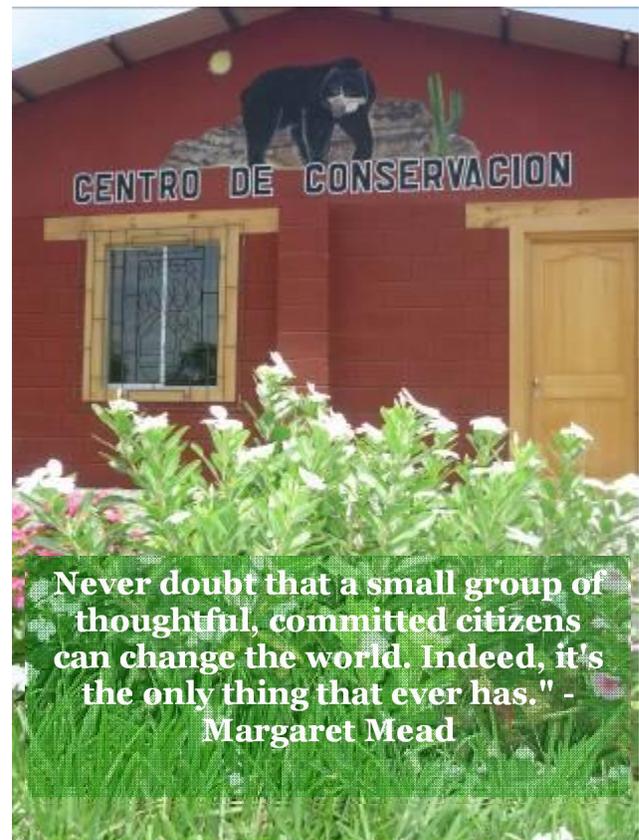
We are all eager to open the conservation center and begin working collaboratively with the community. We are therefore asking for your help, or from others you know who may be interested in supporting this type of project. To effectively begin working with the community we estimated that we need approximately US \$2000 to equip the center so we can open the doors to the public and then another \$4000-5000 in the future to purchase books, projectors, laptop, printers, and materials to construct an outdoor interpretive site for meetings and larger school groups

Most people do not realize that it is small donations that help projects like ours exist. People are often embarrassed to give small donations, but a chair for example is only \$10 and we will need many of those. So if you would be interested in making, even a small, donation or think others you know would be interested please pass this letter along and contact Robyn at

[robyn@spectacledbearconservation.com](mailto:robyn@spectacledbearconservation.com)  
or Ian at [ian@spectacledbearconservation.com](mailto:ian@spectacledbearconservation.com)

Thank you!

Robyn Appleton  
Director/Founder  
Spectacled Bear Conservation Society



Thanks to everyone for all the support over the years!