

# Amazoonico Report

Mom Mariné, Scott Ford & Sandra Almeyda

## Animal Wellbeing

All protocols established by previous administration are maintained. The care of permanent residents, release of rehabilitated animals, and reception of new arrivals follow procedures well established and proven to work effectively and ensure animals are in the best possible conditions.

One improvement has been added, a monthly enrichment plan for all animals in enclosures. Normally enrichments were done whenever time, volunteers, and willingness were available. However having a defined well structured enrichment plan might be more effective in providing benefits to the Amazoonico animals. Pictures and videos of enrichments are stored in a digital [enrichment album](#). Storing pictures and videos of all enrichments is useful as a reference for future administrations.



**Chiquita figuring out a frozen papaya**



**Wachi climbing for hanging meat**



**Macaw flying to hanging clay balls**

# Volunteer Recruitment and Management

Volunteer recruitment has increased considerably, we are receiving more applications than we can accept and have reached maximum capacity until February 2019. Volunteers are extremely important for Amazonico! They provide invaluable help with the daily operation of the center, and when they leave they become conservation stewards spreading our message. Great importance was placed in promoting Amazonico's volunteer program through different outlets:

- Profile on [Workaway](#)
- Profile on [GivingWay](#)
- Profile on [Idealist](#)
- Updated [Facebook Fan Page](#)
- Posts on Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Job Board
- Updated volunteering information on [Amazonico's website](#)
- [Promotional video for veterinary students](#)
- [Promotional video for biology students](#)
- [Promotional video for adventurous](#)
- [Promotional video for researchers](#)

Besides recruiting a high number of volunteers, it is also important to have a system that allows us to manage them.

- To receive applications we are using an [online application form](#):



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the 'amaZOOnico - Formulario de aplicación para voluntario / Volunteer application form'. The form is overlaid on a background image of a toucan's head. The form contains the following text:

amaZOOnico - Formulario de aplicación para voluntario / Volunteer application form

Los voluntarios de amaZOOnico trabajan 5 días a la semana, desde las 7am hasta que todos los animales hayan sido atendidos y tienen dos días libres a la semana. El costo por voluntario es \$250 por mes, para cubrir alimentación y alojamiento. Las personas interesadas son bienvenidas a unirse por un periodo igual o mayor a 4 semanas. El trabajo es fuerte, pero muy gratificante! Si te interesa ayudarnos, por favor completa la información abajo. ¡Estaremos felices de recibir tu ayuda!

Volunteers at amaZOOnico work 5 days a week, 7am until all animals have been cared for, with 2 days off a week. The volunteer fee is \$250 per month, it includes food and lodging. Volunteers are welcome to join us for anywhere from 4 weeks onwards. It is hard but very rewarding work! If you are interested in helping us, please fill the information below. We would be happy to have the help!

\* Required

Email address \*

Nombre Completo/ Full Name \*

Fecha de Nacimiento / Date of birth \*

MM DD YYYY

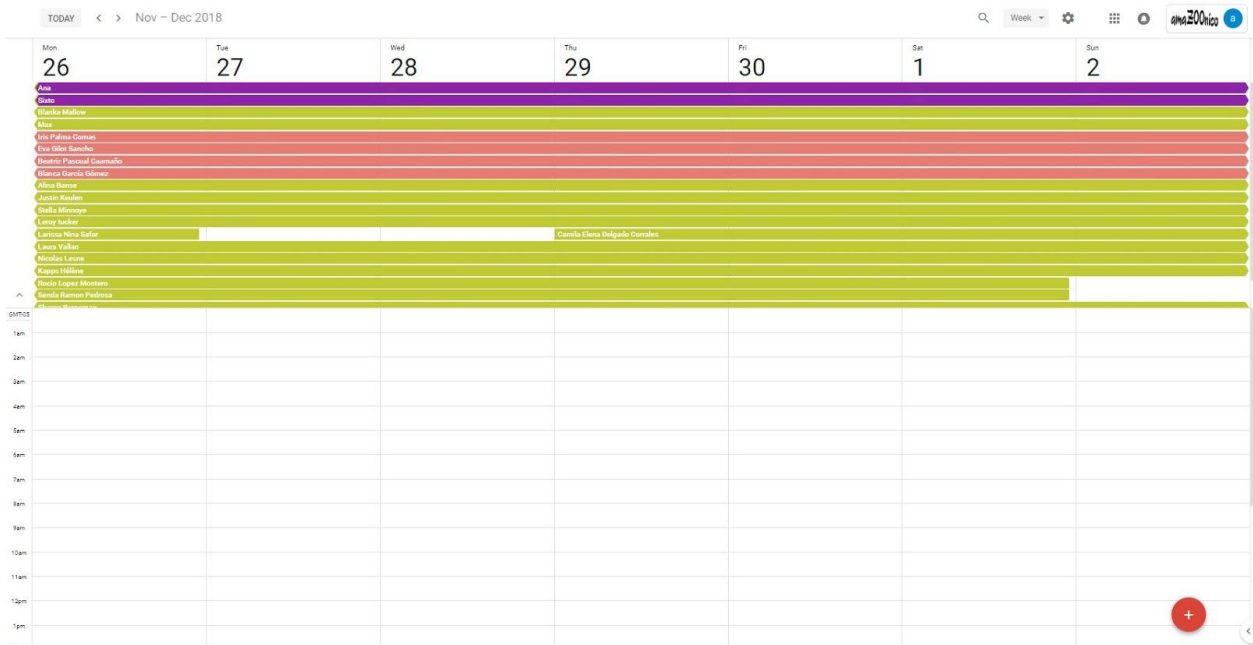
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- This form automatically generates a spreadsheet with all the collected information (data can be found [here](#)). The fact that these databases are created automatically saves a lot of time and comes in very handy when we need to access information from volunteers such as email addresses!

Formulario de aplicacion para voluntario / Volunteer application form (Responses)

Timestamp	Email Address	Nombre Completo/ Full Name	Apellido / Last Name	Fecha de Nacimiento / Date of Birth	País de origen / Country of origin	Dirección postal completa Número de teléfono / Pño Nivel de Instrucción / High School / University / Contact de emergencia / Emergency contact	Fecha de llegada a Amaz / Date of arrival to Amaz	Fecha de salida de Amaz / Date of departure from Amaz
6/6/2018 15:28:18	german@ecuadorvolunteers.org	Noah Leon Sanders		1/14/2000	Germany	Mariscal Foch E9-20 y 6 c 593995804485 Secundaria completa / Hi/ Germán Venegas—Coord	11/5/2018	1/28/2019
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4/26/2018 12:45:23	vincent.lemarquand@gmail.com	Le Marquand Vincent		11/2/1991	France	2 Résidence de la banqu +33695981498 Maestría / Masters Le Marquand Jocelyne, m	4/26/2018	5/29/2018
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4/30/2018 22:18:08	tom.schmidt@gmail.ch	Thomas	Schmidt	10/25/1980	Germany	Hentegoldingerstr 28 8633 774387822 Universidad completa / Bi 0049 171 2351184	4/28/2018	5/28/2018
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5/10/2018 18:11:14	flew.bor@gmail.com	Florent Bordes		3/29/1994	France	19 rue Molère 94360 Bry +33667382366 Maestría / Masters Marie-France Bordes, Mo	5/16/2018	6/13/2018
5/10/2018 21:37:56	td12u@my.fsu.edu	Tracy Doering		1/3/1993	United States	1208 Marine Way Apt. A704 North Palm Beach 3341 Universidad completa / Bi Eric Doering, father, +1 (5	5/22/2018	6/22/2018
3/25/2018 18:02:42	sarahveillon2@gmail.com	Sarah	Veillon	7/22/1993	United States	220 Lee Lane Vidor, Texa 4097824735 Universidad completa / Bi Kristie Veillon, mother, 40	5/1/2018	7/1/2018
4/30/2018 13:22:11	mmunivue@yahoo.com	Marcy	Munroe	11/16/1990	Cameroon	Buea, Southwest region C +23767867519 Maestría / Masters Nkeng Emmanuel Nj, Hui	5/1/2018	7/1/2018
4/30/2018 22:13:38	leslie.diaz_ure@hotmail.com	Leslie Patricia	Díaz	5/3/1996	Ecuador	963414961 Universidad completa / Bi Marcelo Diaz, 099971925	5/1/2018	7/31/2018
6/12/2018 3:30:25	zoerooke25@gmail.com	Zoe Rooke		8/29/1986	United Kingdom	70 Orchard Avenue 7961781607 Secundaria completa / Hi Gordon Rooke - 0795641	7/1/2018	8/1/2018
4/4/2018 11:00:39	xioutou01@hotmail.fr	Alexia	Panier	1/20/1997	France	719 chemin des Granges 633403299 Universidad completa / Bachelors	7/4/2018	8/4/2018
4/21/2018 16:35:58	baker.katherine15@gmail.com	Katherine Baker		10/12/1990	United States	2541 Mobley Street San C 619685854 Secundaria completa / Hi Erica Audette-Showell, M	6/18/2018	8/10/2018
3/30/2018 8:58:48	andra.janeks@gmail.com	Andra	Janeks	10/21/1991	United States	2453 Silverstrand Ave. Hc 13106951909 Universidad completa / Bi Stephanie Janeks/Mothe	7/22/2018	8/22/2018
6/12/2018 3:40:13	olivia.sirota@gmail.com	Olivia Sirota		4/13/1991	United Kingdom	21 Stanley Hill, Amersham +447463940646 Secundaria completa / Hi Teresa Sirota - mother -	7/18/2018	8/18/2018
5/26/2018 8:25:47	marcella.favazza@gmail.com	Marcella Favazza		9/29/1995	Italy	via confida 14, 09195, rom 39333606261 Secundaria completa / Hi Valeria Biscardi, mother, f	7/29/2018	8/29/2018
5/12/2018 8:09:24	blankamallow@web.de	Blanka Mallow		5/21/2006	Germany	Kilgistraße 22, 72822 N. 4915756612470 Secundaria completa / Hi Hauke Mallow, padre, s46	8/25/2018	8/27/2018

- The information in the spreadsheet is automatically synced to [Amazonico's volunteer Calendar](#). This way we can visualize the number of volunteers in a given period of time, allowing us to determine if we still have space for volunteers or not.



## **Administrative Procedures**

Big thanks to the padrinos for the iPad! It has allowed us to go digital in many administrative task such as tracking gift shop transactions, fruit purchases, crafts purchases, meat purchases and food supply stock among others.



Another improvement in the administrative area is the subscription to Google Suite. This gives us access to our own domain, unlimited storage on the cloud, and a space for our website!

## **Research**

A research program has been implemented to welcome researchers at Amazoonico and Selva Viva. For 2018 we have:

- Sofia Almeida, undergraduate biology student from Ecuador - "Diversidad y patrones de actividad diaria de mamíferos terrestres medianos y grandes del Bosque protector Selva Viva, cantón Tena, Napo – Ecuador"
- Iris Palma, master's student from Spain - "El enriquecimiento como herramienta de rehabilitación para la reintroducción de primates"
- Beatriz Pascual, master's student from Spain - "Efecto del enriquecimiento ambiental mediante la comparación de dos grupos diferentes de Ateles belzebuth en un centro de rescate, uno en cautividad y otro en semi-libertad"
- Blanca Garcia Gomez, master's student from Spain - "Estudio del Cuidado Parental de Saimiri sciureus en estado de libertad"
- Eva Gilot, master's student from Spain - "Censo y Análisis Poblacional en Saimiri sciureus"



- Scott Ford, PhD fellow, - “Social and Environmental Impacts of ecotourism in the Ecuadorian Amazon”

Researchers, apply through google forms (the same system that we are using for volunteer applications) and the database can be found [here](#)

## **Biological Monitoring**

### Camera traps in Selva Viva

We have implemented long term mammal monitoring in Selva Viva by deploying a total of 11 camera traps. We expect that the information collected through the camera traps will be useful to guide future conservation strategies, rehabilitation, and releases.

We expect to learn about the diversity of wildlife occurring in the area, their activity patterns, and their habitat preferences from spatial and temporal perspectives among others. Also, we expect the camera traps to help us follow up on the status of the released animals that have marks (ear tags) and can be easily identified in pictures.



Camera trap pictures at Selva Viva. The first one shows a peccary released last december (note the ear tag)!

### GPS Collars

Thanks to a [very successful online fundraising](#) organized in cooperation with Mom Marine (new administrator) we were able to collect \$3000 to buy a GPS collar for America, the tapir. The collar is on its way to Amazonico and if everything works well, we look forward to be able to track the status of more of our released animals.

GPS collars, allow us to monitor the location and health of the released animal. This information is received periodically on our email. For example, in the event that the heart of the animal stops, we would get an immediate alert with the location of the collar. The GPS collar has an autorelease mechanism that will cause the collar to drop off after 1 year period. Once the collar drops off, it emits an alert signal to be retrieved, and potentially re-used.

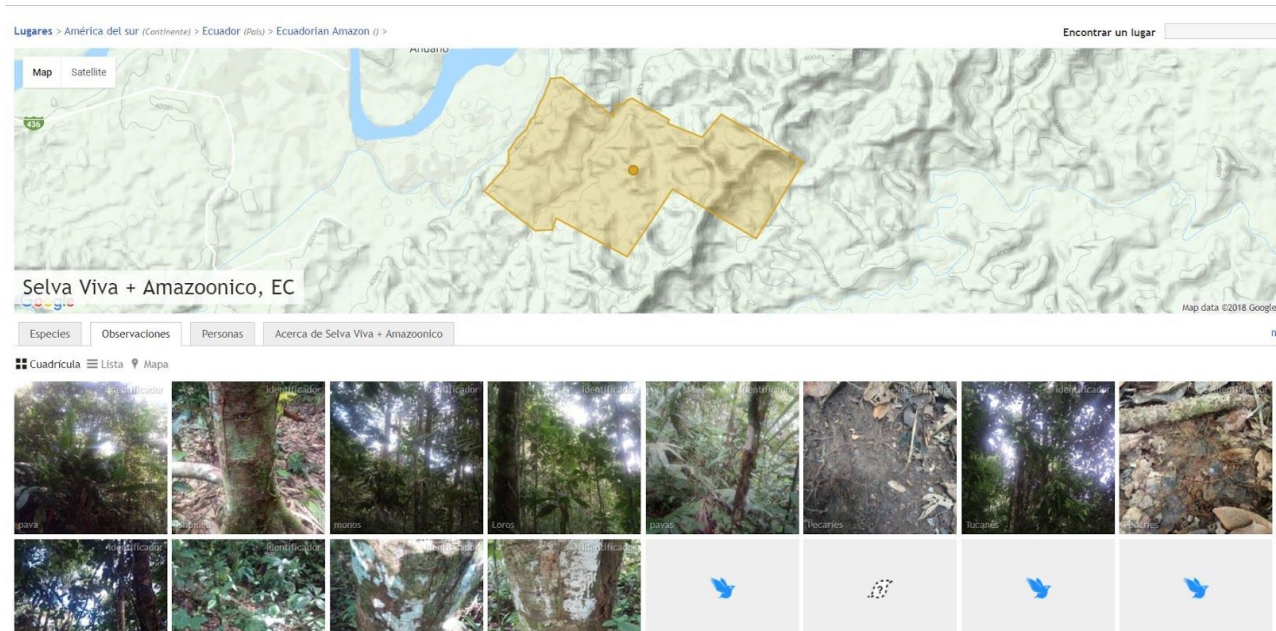
Very often when animals are released, we are not able to follow up on their wellbeing for a long period of time. We expect that by using GPS collars we can follow up on them and make sure they are doing well! Furthermore, it might serve as a deterrent for hunters.



GPS Collar and tracking equipment

## iNaturalist

Wildlife sightings by Jaime and Ruben are now being registered through iNaturalist, a crowdsourced species identification system and organism occurrence recording tool. Ruben and Jaime access iNaturalist through a mobile app and record all of their observations of flora and fauna. Observations recorded with iNaturalist provide valuable open data for research and conservation projects, and keep everyone updated on what's happening in Selva Viva. All the observations are public and can be found [here](#).



## **Partnerships with other organizations**

### **IKIAM**

Amazoonico is cooperating with Dr. Sara Alvarez from [IKIAM University](#) to obtaining funding to further develop research that will allow us to increase the success of our releases. We have submitted a proposal to Inedita, an initiative by the Ecuadorian government to support applied research projects, and expect to submit more in the course of the year. Additionally, Sara is actively engaging her master's students to conduct their thesis research in Selva Viva and Amazoonico, and we are evaluating the feasibility of hosting short field courses with biology students at Amazoonico.

### **Loop Abroad**

[Loop Abroad](#) is an organization for study abroad and veterinary service. Under the agreements of our new partnership, they will bring students to Amazoonico in exchange for a fee to use the installations and support for our various projects. For example, they donated \$1300 for America's collar, and have committed to donate another 4 collars and various other equipment for the center. The details of the partnership can be found [here](#).



## SPECLAB at University of Florida

The [Spatial Ecology and Conservation Laboratory](#) at the University of Florida has partnered with Amazonico to collaborate on camera trap research, they have lent 10 camera traps to be deployed in Selva Viva, for as long as they last (keeping in mind the rainy and humid conditions of the Amazon). The collected information, besides being useful as a tool for our decision making, will also result in the publication of scientific articles.

## Rainforest Trust

We have started the application process to establish partnership with [Rainforest Trust](#). If the partnership is approved, then we would receive financial aid to purchase and incorporate lands into Selva Viva. We have passed the first phase, and we are hoping to move forward!

## Amazonico Staff and Roles

### New Staff/Roles

**Mom Marine Boada** - Administrator - Arrived to Amazonico as a volunteer in March 2018, and from the very beginning went above and beyond in supporting Amazonico in every possible way, even on her days off. We worked closely with her since March, and trained her in all administrative task during 2 months. Mom is passionate about wildlife conservation and has a gift for educating and managing people, we feel very lucky to have worked with her, and have 100% trust that she will do an amazing work administrating Amazonico. Mom is in charge of overseeing all of the operations at Amazonico, and taking care of the accounting, logistics, managing the staff and volunteers.

**Cenix Callejo** - Biologist - Cenix is a biologist and activist for conservation. She has experience working in conservation projects in Peru and in wildlife rehabilitation in Wild Futures rescue center in the UK. She has brought various improvements to the center, and is a hard worker. She has taken charge of all animal related business and works closely with volunteers on enrichments, rehabilitation, ethological observations, etc.

**Lincoln Carranza** - Veterinary - Lincoln started working for Amazonico on January 2018. Prior to Amazonico, he worked at Arcas a wildlife rescue center in Guatemala. He is a great veterinary and works great under the appropriate guidance.

**Sandra Almeyda** - Research and Conservation Coordinator (volunteer) - Currently based in Copenhagen, I am more than happy to help keeping up with social media, volunteer recruitment, fundraising for special projects, analyzing data from camera traps, iNaturalist and anything I can do from long distance

**Scott Ford** - Associate Researcher (volunteer) - Also based in Copenhagen, Scott will help with the publication of scientific articles, and funding proposals.



## Classic Staff

**Remigio Canelos** - General Manager - Always available to contribute to Amazoonico with his great knowledge and experience. Remigio is a great boss and friend, and it is great to be able to count on him for advice and logistical help.

**Edison Canelos** - Chief of construction - Super Edison, as always fixing everything, coming up with awesome ideas to improve cages, operation of the center, always on top of things, and always ready to come the rescue whenever an emergency occurs.

**Ana Alvarado** - Animal alimentation supervisor - Anita is the bodega expert, and her love for the animals shows in everything she does. She makes sure the animals get the best food in a timely and proper manner.

**Veronica Tapuy** - Chef - Delicious food for everyone! Vero's food keep everyone happy and full energy to keep working hard. Everyone is addicted to her empanadas.

**Sixto Yumbo** - Volunteer supervisor - After being a volunteer for a long time, now he is serving as volunteer supervisor. Sixto is a perfectionist, everything he does he goes above and beyond, volunteers look up to him and respect him for his great work.

## Future Projects

### Jungle training enclosure

We will build a 1 hectare open enclosure right in the middle of Selva Viva. This enclosure will serve as the last step in the rehabilitation process of animals recovering from their time in captivity. Spending time in the jungle training enclosure will allow the animals to live more naturally, and will allow us to monitor their progress in a semi-controlled environment. This will significantly increase the chances of success once they are out in the wild enjoying freedom, dispersing, planting, fertilizing, pollinating, pruning, reproducing and doing all those things they are meant to do in the jungle. The cost of building the jungle training enclosure is ~20 000 USD. We will be applying for funding from diverse organizations, and we are also reaching out to all Amazoonico's friends to help us reach the goal! A beautiful couple from Switzerland, asked their wedding guests to make donations for the project and collected a total of \$3000! Fingers crossed, we can start the construction in June 2019!



## Aves 4 Enclosure

There bird population at Amazoonico has increased significantly, and they are showing signs of stress such as aggressive behaviour and plucking feathers. It is urgent and necessary to build another enclosure for birds. Mom, is working intensively in this project, all the planning (detailed budget, cage design, location of enclosure, etc.) is complete, and now we need to find the funds! The total for building Aves 4 is 12.451,7 USD. It would be great to have the support of the padrinos for this project!

## PayPal Account

Even though it charges fees, it seems to be our best option for receiving donations. Initially, we looked into creating an account in the Ecuadorian Paypal, but this option does not allow to withdraw the funds from the bank because that service is not available in Ecuador (the funds would only be available in the paypal account for online purchases). However, Paypal in Switzerland does allow transfers to a local bank and offers reduced fees for non-profits. Having a paypal account would make it easier for donors to donate, and there seems to be a great interest to make paypal donations among visitors, as they always ask if we have a paypal account. It would be great if Amazoonico can have a Paypal account through the Padrinos!