



Karoon Connection

March/2013 - #2

Special Edition – Socio-Environmental Project

'Nature's Riches

The frigate birds of the Puerto Pizarro Mangroves

The Puerto Pizarro Mangroves occupy 36km of the Tumbes coastline and are recognized worldwide as an important natural area for migratory waterfowl birds and as socio-economically relevant for the local community.

MANGROVES AND TOURISM

In Puerto Pizarro, villagers make use of the mangrove natural resources through fishing, harvesting of invertebrates, raising prawns, and tourism, the latter of which involves boat trips to different sites within the mangrove. The tourists' favorite place is La Isla de los Pájaros (The Bird Island) where frigate birds or tigereta birds

can be seen. Without appropriate control and appropriate standards, this place and its birds could disappear.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

November 2012 - Karoon started a socio-environmental program in the town of Puerto Pizarro with the consent of local and regional authorities: the "Ecological Tourism and Mangroves Protection of Puerto Pizarro Project". Its aim is to attract a greater number of tourists to the mangroves via sustainable tourism, keeping it active through conducting biological studies on frigate birds from Isla de los Pájaros using new

technologies.

PROPOSALS

Within 15 months we have proposed:

- Offering of training courses to boat operators and tour guides.
- Providing educational talks on the mangrove environment in Tumbes schools.
- Implementing the Puerto Pizarro Tourist Center.
- Creating a blog About the project activities.

Birds and the Mangroves

Biological studies on frigates birds



The biological study of the frigate birds on the Isla de los Pájaros is critical in order to learn about their behavior and activities throughout the year.

All information collected will form the basis of meeting our goals. Learn more about this study and related activities:

- Tracking of birds' flight paths with small GPS placed on their backs.
 - Installation of a webcam in the colony for live transmission of frigate bird activities.
 - Placing small cameras on birds to follow-up on their behavior during flight.
 - Monitoring of marked nests to learn about the reproductive cycle.
- This information will be compiled and processed and then shared with various individuals involved in Puerto Pizarro Tourism, as well as visitors.

The birds' flight routes

GPS equipment was placed on 12 adult frigate birds of the Isla de los Pájaros. The birds moved mainly along the coast of Tumbes and the South of Ecuador, regularly visiting fishermen's ports.

From the South they went to Canchas - 76 km from Isla de los Pájaros - and North to Playas, in Ecuador - 100 km from Isla de los Pájaros.



The map shows that this frigate bird left the Isla de los Pájaros and went to Canchas, traveling a total of 350 km during its return trip. It stopped at a place near Punta Mero during the route.



The map shows that this frigate bird reached the town of Playas, in Ecuador, traveling 932 km in three days. This bird stopped in the mangroves of Ecuador before returning to Isla de los Pájaros.



Did you know that?

There are differences in plumage among the frigate population, this shows physical differences between male and female frigates and between mature and immature frigates.

• **Males:** they have black plumage and their prominent red bag below the peak is inflated during courtship. The feathers of the head and

upper neck are long and reflect the sunlight, making them seem oily green or purple.

• **Females:** they are larger and have completely black head and back, while the belly and front of the neck are white. If you take a close look, they have a blue ring around their eyes and their legs are red.

• **Youth:** their heads and neck are completely white, while their wings and back are black. It is not possible to know at that age which ones are male or female.

• **Chicks:** they are born without feathers, but in a few days are covered with white down. The first black feathers appear on their backs when they are a few days old.

Frigates: more than a tourist attraction

Every day, tens of tons of fish are discarded by the fishermen of Puerto Pizarro bay. If not quickly removed from the waters, this could cause health problems to the local population.

Fortunately, the frigates consume these discarded byproducts of the fishing industry, fulfilling an important role within the mangroves that benefits the people of the area.



Our research boat

Several tourist boats visit the Isla de los Pájaros, but our boat carries a special identification, a flag with the logo of a frigate bird.

The purpose of this marker is to help tourists identify us as researchers on frigate birds.



Tourism in the Isla de los Pájaros is an economic alternative, and this island should be recognized protected and promoted.



Manuel Peña - Financier and technical adviser to the board of the Patronato Turístico Villa Puerto Pizarro.

Informational talks

In recent months we have offered two informational talks about the environmental project at the Miguel Grau School, in Puerto Pizarro. Discussion topics were aimed at project objectives,

methodology and results regarding flight routes of the frigate birds. We showed videos about our activities on the Isla de los Pájaros and answered questions about frigate birds.

Spreading the word about the project

The project was accepted with great enthusiasm by the local community. Two articles have been published in the local press about the Puerto Pizarro environmental project; articles in

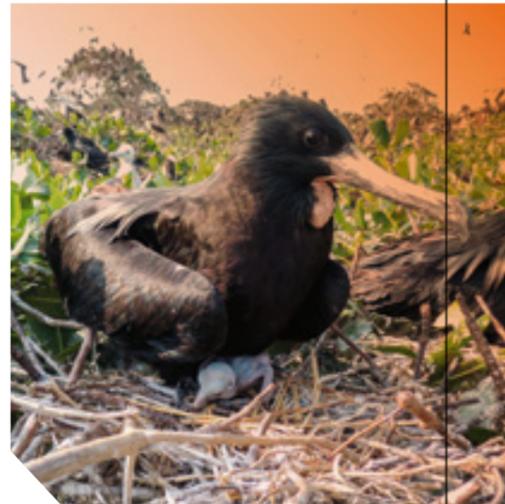
the papers *Diario Correo – Tumbes* and *Diario Tumbes 21* comment on the objectives and scope of the project, as well as Karoon's commitment to environmental projects.

Did you know that?

- The frigate bird colony of Isla de los Pájaros is the only one in Perú.
- It is the first time a biological study on frigate birds has been done in Peru.
- Frigate birds take advantage of hot air currents to fly up to 1,200 meters high.
- They glide the majority of the time as they move from one place

to another.

- Frigate birds eat in Tumbes river and can be found up to 30 km away, following course of the river, in Carrillo Bocana.
- Adults raise only one chick per year.
- Frigates have short but prehensile legs, allowing them to securely grip mangrove branches.



Tumpis University Grants Project 2013

Karoon works with youths in the Tumbes Region through a project that identifies young people with high potential and then transforms them into excellent professionals. This goal brings Karoon together with the Universidad Nacional de Tumbes by an agreement to prepare future professionals. Some of the benefits:

- Scholarships for preparatory studies at the Centro Pre-Universitario of the Universidad Nacional de Tumbes.
- Payment of Universidad de Tumbes admission fees.
- Payment of semester tuition.
- Full scholarship for 5 years of professional studies at the Universidad de Tumbes.

- Financial assistance for food and materials.

There are sixteen scholarships from eight National Educational Institutions in the Tumbes Region. To participate, candidates underwent a selective process and had to meet all the selection and requirements criteria. Karoon also sought collaboration and commitment from principals and teachers of the educational institutions.

This is an opportunity to change the lives of many young people from Tumbes, to promote personal development and to allow these youths to travel farther and farther away. Additionally, parental support was necessary to make this dream a reality, as well as confidence in Karoon to support young people on this path.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Socioeconomic data results.
- Evaluation and classification of academic performance using a grade average from the third year to the second two-month period of the fifth year.
- Assessment of a written essay on the subject "Why I wish to earn the Tumpis Grant 2013"
- Interviews with the students by the evaluation committee.



Researcher: Dr. Carlos Zavalaga
Field assistants: Máximo Huilca and Steven Navarro

SELECTED STUDENTS:

Jicson Javier Arévalo Aguirre	Colegio Miguel Grau – Puerto Pizarro
Brayner Joel Prieto Valladares	Colegio Andres Araujo – La Cruz
Sheyla Melissa Temoche Yovera	Colegio San Pedro – Cancas
Sonia Aracely Velasquez Torres	Colegio Contralmirante Villar – Zorritos
Jose Samuel Chapa Sandoval	Colegio José Carlos Mariátegui – Acapulco
Jorge Luis Silva Gacia	Colegio José Carlos Mariátegui – Acapulco
Joel Chicoma Camacho	Colegio Miguel Grau – Puerto Pizarro
Rosa Margarita Jacinto More	Colegio José Carlos Mariátegui – Acapulco
Charito Jazmin Alvinés Ramos	Colegio San Pedro – Cancas
Jahnnny Gianmarco Correa Quispe	Colegio Andrés Araujo – La Cruz
Frاندys Jean Pierre Guerrero Ramos	Colegio Miguel Grau – Caleta Grau
Maria Victoria Guerra Calle	Colegio Contralmirante Villar – Zorritos
Angie Roxana Fiesta de Lama	Colegio Sifredo Zúñiga Quintos – Zorritos
Pedro Ricardo Coveñas Rumiche	Colegio Sifredo Zúñiga Quintos – Zorritos
Blanca Isabel Zapata Estrada	Colegio Virgen del Carmen – La Cruz
Carmen Isabel Timana Preciado	Colegio Virgen del Carmen – La Cruz

AWARDS CEREMONY

Meaningful and exciting, the ceremony took place on December 14, 2012, in the auditorium of the Terrazas Hotel, in Bocapán, Zorritos. Karoon was present, represented by Tim Hosking, Marina Sayao, Jorge Joffre, Esmeralda Flores, and Alejandro German. The sixteen students received warm greetings from the members of the honorary board, backpacks with educational materials and certificates awarded in the name of Karoon.

AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS:

- **First place, general list:**
Jicson Arévalo Aguirre
- **Second place, general list:**
Brayner Prieto Valladares

The sixteen students began their classes on January 07, 2013,

and are currently working hard. Between February and March they will undertake exams that allow them to have direct access option at the Universidad Nacional de Tumbes to study the career of their choice, and Karoon is following-up and monitoring students' performance. These are the students' careers of choice: Accounting, Management Hotel and Tourism, Law, Agribusiness, Nursing, Fisheries Eng., Management, Forestry Eng., and Environment.

ADMISSIONS 2013

- **Regular registration for test:**
February 18 to March 29
- **Extra registration:**
April 01 to 03
- **Admissions examination:**
April 07



Jicson Arévalo Aguirre and Tim Hosking



Brayner Prieto Valladares and Marina Thomé Sayão

Christmas with Karoon

Christmas Solidarity contest Karoon Gas 2012

Karoon wanted an innovative way to celebrate the Christmas Holidays at the end of 2012 with the community of Tumbes. So we decided to organize a contest of short projects aimed at creating opportunities for vulnerable groups in Tumbes. Therefore, we worked with associations of elderly people and persons with disabilities.

With the idea of helping neighbors, the following associations were invited to participate in this initiative:

- **CEBE Divino Niño Jesús de Zorritos**
- **Club del Adulto Mayor de Cancas**
- **OMAPED de Cancas**
- **Asociación del Adulto Mayor de Zorritos**
- **Club del Adulto Mayor de Puerto Pizarro**
- **ASFEDIS de Zorritos**
- **CEBE Niño Jesús de Praga de La Cruz**
- **ADISFACRUZ**

THE AWARDS CEREMONY

The creativity of the participants generated eight very interesting projects. On the 14th of December, the awards ceremony "Christmas Solidarity Karoon 2012" was held. Karoon representatives Tim Hosking and Marina Sayão participated. The audience was excited to discover the results. Karoon granted certificates of participation to the organizations in recognition of the good ideas presented.



Excerpts from the selection of winning projects

WINNING PROJECTS:

- **First Place:** Club del Adulto Mayor de Puerto Pizarro, with the project “Creation of the Comedor Juan Pablo II as nutritional improvement and transmissible diseases prevention system for the elderly in Villa Puerto Pizarro”.

- **Second place:** CEBE Divino Niño Jesús de Zorritos, with the project “Help me to learn how to communicate. Through talking we understand each other”.

Karoon committed itself to offering technical consultancy to non-winning projects, in order to improve them and allow them to compete for national and international funds.

The winning projects were implemented beginning in January 2013, and with this commitment Karoon has been in contact with the winning organizations to coordinate purchase of materials and equipment needed to start of both project activities.



Presenting of certificates of participation to Club Adulto Mayor Puerto Pizarro – Marina Sayão



Presenting of certificates of participation to CEBE Divino Niño Jesus – Tim Hosking

Look for more news in the next issue of Karoon Connection

Community relations and social projects manager: Marina Sayão
Coordinator of community relations: Esmeralda Flores
Specialist in community relations: Jorge Joffré
Community assistant: Alejandro Alemán



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