

INKATERRA ASOCIACION LATEST EVENTS

I SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ORCHIDS CONSERVATION AT THE MACHU PICCHU HISTORIC SANCTUARY

The I Scientific Conference for the Orchids Conservation at the Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary took place at Machu Picchu from February, 25 - 28th. This event was organized by Inkaterra Asociación (ITA), the National Protected Areas Service (SERNANP) and the Peruvian Orchid Club.

This event was inaugurated by Machu Picchu's town major, Mr. Oscar Valencia and by Mr. José Koechlin, President of the Organization Committee and Director of the National Tourism Chamber (CANATUR), who highlighted the importance of orchids to promote of not only the archaeological value but of the natural value of the Machu Picchu Historic Sanctuary, that holds unique and characteristic biodiversity of the cloud forests, and the importance of its replication in similar zones in the country and in other protected areas.

In this important event have participated national and international experts like Benjamín Collantes, Robert L. Dressler, Günter Gerlach, Eric Hágsater, Adam Karremans, Robert W. Pemberton, Franco Pupulin and Carmen Soto, whom offered brilliant conferences about diverse themes related to orchids conservation. A forum was held with the participation of high executives of the Environment Ministry and SERNANP, like Dr. Miriam Cerdán and Ada Castillo. Besides the conferences, the participants made guided visits to the famous Orchid Garden of Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, that has 372 native orchid species in its natural hábitat, and it's considered the highest number in a single place.

The children of Machu Picchu town also enjoyed having painting classes given by the renowned American aquarellist Angela Mirro.



ITA AND UNALM DEVELOP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PERMANENT PLOTS FOR RESEARCH AT THE MADRE DE DIOS REGION

Students from the Forestry Sciences Faculty of the Universidad Agraria La Molina (UNALM) are now part of the Volunteer Program of Inkaterra Association (ITA) to develop the research work necessary for the implementation of permanent plots for the biodiversity and climate change monitoring in the Amazonian forests present at ITA's intervention areas. This is a team work between UNALM and ITA to promote the formation of young researchers and contribute to the generation of knowledge about the forests of the Low Madre de Dios River, considered one of the most biodiverse of the planet. This work is conducted and assessed by renowned neotropical dendrologist Dr. Carlos Reynel Rodríguez, director of the Herbarium of the UNALM Forestry Sciences Faculty and a member of the Peruvian Science Academy. This year we'll have three groups working. The first group (Brigade I) finished the implementation of the first permanent plot, Concepción – I, located at Hacienda Concepción, with an area of 1 hectare (100 x 100 m) and having registered more than 500 trees in this single plot.



ITA PROMOTES *Dendropsophus koechlini* PROJECT

Students from the National University of Madre de Dios, conducted by young herpetologist Edwin Aguilar, develop the *Dendropsophus koechlini* Project, which goal is to study the ecology of this specie and determine its ecotouristic use. For this purpose the group does the monitoring of amphibians during the night and at dawn in the *Aguajales* and the trail system. Actually the assessment and monitoring work takes place at ITRA but it is expected to expand this study in is second phase to ITA's Conservation Concession and Hacienda Concepción. This work is of great importance as it is continuing William Duellman's work in the area and will produce new data about herpethofauna at the Bajo Madre de Dios river region.

