

March 2026

2025 Update: Peru: Conservation of Andean bear habitat

Project partner: Conservación Amazónica – ACCA

We wanted to thank you again for your support for this project and let you know how things went this past year.



Highlights of the past year:

- ◆ Community-based reforestation work continued along the upper boundary of Manú National Park. The goal is to secure the long-term survival of Andean bears and to raise local awareness about the plight of cloud forest ecosystems in the face of climate change.
- ◆ The project strengthened its approach to environmental education, community leadership, and capacity building in its educational activities delivered at the Wayqecha Biological Station.
- ◆ As part of its Nature Kids Academy initiative, the project increased environmental education activities with local schools in the districts of Challabamba and Paucartambo. Overall, 16 local schools participated in structured visits at the Wayqecha Biological Station, which allowed project staff to interact with students, teachers, and family members. Visits ranged from one-day to immersive multi-day experiences with overnight stays at the station, providing enhanced experiential learning about cloud forest ecosystems and Andean bear conservation.
- ◆ The project welcomed eight participants to its Conservation Ambassadors Program, which is empowering local leaders from the community of Juan Velasco Alvarado. Participants were selected based on their sustained commitment to conservation-related activities. A three-day workshop at the Wayqecha Biological Station covered key themes of conservation, biodiversity, community organization, and community-based ecotourism.

Overall, 2025 was a year of project consolidation and growth, with increasing interest shown by schools, communities, and local actors at the provincial and regional levels. All of this reinforces the project's relevance and its contribution to long-term conservation outcomes.

Looking ahead

All the above is continuing in 2026, with the addition of the celebration of the Ukuku Raymi (Andean Bear) Festival, which will taking place this year. Field work is aimed at elucidating the seasonal movements and habitat utilization of Andean bears—in habitats from lowland rainforest to the Andean Puna grassland—and to better understand Andean bear behavior to inform conservation efforts.

Thank you for your support for this project! Please let us know if you have questions or would like to discuss this project or receive further information.

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