

## July 2026 — Project Update

### Peru: Andean Bear and high-elevation ecosystems

**Field Partner:** Conservación Amazónica – ACCA

**Background:** Cloud forests at high elevations in Peru support distinct species and play a key role in the Amazon basin's hydrology, making their restoration a priority. The Andean bear ('Ukuku' in Quechua) holds deep cultural significance for the Quechuan people, but faces threats from habitat loss, illegal hunting, and human-wildlife conflict. As the only mammal that moves freely between cloud forest and upper-elevation grasslands, the bear plays a vital role in seed dispersal, work that's increasingly important to understand as climate change shifts species ranges. With Biome's support, ACCA launched the Andean Bear Conservation Program in 2021 to raise awareness of cloud forest conservation and build lasting local initiatives.

**In the first half of 2026,** GPS collars and camera traps continue to track Andean bear and other mammal movements across the cloud forest, supporting both scientific monitoring and the training of a new generation of young environmentalists committed to the region's long-term conservation.

ACCA's environmental education program continued connecting conservation science with local communities. In June, the Nature Kids Academy launched its new season, hosting students from Sunchumbamba for an immersive learning experience at the Wayqecha Cloud Forest Research Station.

As part of Manu National Park's 53rd anniversary, the annual Ukuku Raymi (Andean Bear Festival) was held in Challabamba, drawing nearly 200 participants, about 90 of whom visited ACCA's educational stand. Using Quechua at the festival helped deepen local understanding and engagement with Andean bear and cloud forest conservation.

Finally, ACCA staff also joined the 3rd annual Science and Biodiversity Fair of Pilcopata by invitation from the Manu Biological Station. Around 200 people attended, including about 180 schoolchildren from Pilcopata and Coloradito, giving residents and families a firsthand look at the conservation research underway in the Kosñipata Valley.

Thank you again for your generous support of this project. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

with my best wishes,  
Carlos R. García  
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*Andean Bear Ambassadors.*

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