

# 2018 OUR FIRST YEAR

## KAWSAY BIOLOGICAL STATION

### INTRODUCCIÓN

The story begins a few years back, in 2016. After working for many years in the wonderful Rescue Centre of Taricaya in Puerto Maldonado, where I grew professionally and learned a lot, I finally decided to start a place of my own.

In April 2016, we created the NGO Kawsay Center with the idea of training and enforcing the latin students' capacities in the fields of biodiversity, monitoring and conservation. In March 2017, we became the managers of a conservation concession and on the 19th of March 2018 we finally

settled on the land. The biological station was born.

From there on, everything happened very fast: the first students and volunteers arrived, we gave the first trainings, developed projects, built conventions with other organizations and grew a lot due to the help of many friends who believed in us. They are the ones that allowed us to realize this important work that we feel so passionate about. I am sure this second year too will be filled with exciting adventure that, we hope, you can share with us!

Raúl Bello - Director

### A WIN-WIN STRATEGY

We depend on people in order to support people, share resources for the benefit of those who have less and sustain the station and the project.

This approach allowed us to grow, train future professionals, conduct research, monitor and preserve a part of the Amazon rainforest. All that would not have been made possible without the support of our contributors.

In our vision, knowledge and work is shared, each participant learns, receives training and mutual support is key.



## What happened this year?

- In February, before we built the station, over 20 friends helped us clear the site that was still filled with bamboo and invasive plants.
- During that first year, 4 Peruvians and 2 Colombians benefited from the project by carrying out volunteer programs, internships and one undergraduate thesis (which will be the first thesis conducted in Kawsay).
- 10 foreign participants from the Netherlands, United States, Spain, France, England and Germany carried out volunteering programs, internships and a final degree work.
- In May, we signed a cooperation contract with the NGO AIDER and the National Reserve of Tambopata to realise monitoring in an area connected to our concession.
- In June, we welcomed Patricia Mendoza and Marieke Rosenbaum to start a research project about the health of wild primates.
- In June and November, we welcomed Lizzie Jenkins which is currently working on a documentary about spider monkeys. We are looking forward to the movie's release this year!
- In July we installed solar panels to use clean energy in the center. In addition, we received the visit of 13 master students from the university of Tudef in the Netherlands.
- In September, we carried out the first field course on the station: « Bats: research and conservation methods ». This allowed us to partly cover the costs of 12 students and all costs for 2 ranger of the Tambopata National Reserve.
- In November, we welcomed the first volunteers from the French NGO Cybelle Planète, with whom we signed a collaboration agreement.
- Also in November, we give a presentation about bats diversity in our concession in the IV Peruvian congress of mastozoology.
- Throughout the whole year, we welcomed friends from France, Spain, Belgium, the UK and the Netherlands who came to help us out with a variety of activities, such as the clearing of our garden and the installation of a water tower. We also shared great moments, ideas, and dreams around a campfire.
- In December, we extended the station by building an additional room, a storage room and a laundry.
- While we grow, others get the opportunity to grow too: we hire local workforce, we consume food and material from the local market and work with local entrepreneurs. This fosters a healthy local economy.
- We ended the year by launching a crowdfunding campaign with the aim to buy a boat that would provide us with greater freedom of movement. It is still possible to help us reach this objective!
- To start the new year, we changed our logo. And we want to thank all those who have helped us get this far.



[www.kawsaycenterperu.org](http://www.kawsaycenterperu.org)  
Facebook: [Kawsay Center](#)  
IG: [Kawsay Biological Station Peru](#)



To know more about us, don't forget to check out our website where you will find more about our projects, get inspired about topics we can work on together and connect with friends from partner organizations. To find out more about what we do, you can also follow us in social media and share with others how great Kawsay is ;-)