

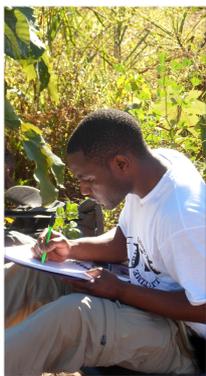
Day 7 Friday

It was a very bleary group that greeted the day at 4.30am but soon we were on our way up river to visit the clay licks. We travelled not too far to reach El Chuncho, the largest clay lick in the area. Our arrival was spectacular with Nigel losing his size 11 boot to the soft clay of the river bank and to out do him Georgie jumping off the boat. Georgie hadn't quite

realised that when she jumped off the boat onto the beach she would find herself up to her knees in mud and it certainly took a couple of the boat men some time to extract her much to our amusement. It might have only been 5.30am but the general consensus was that it was highly unlikely anyone would manage to better it for spectacle of the day! However both of them were out done by Pixie being launched off the seat of the boat when the driver made a sudden quick turn!



As we watched the spectacularly coloured parrots and macaws fly down to eat the clay we sat having tea and coffee with crackers, followed by freshly machete cut water melon which was ice and refreshing in the hot sun. With binoculars and a telescope we all managed to get a great view of the birds feeding.



We boarded our boats back to campsite for a well deserved breakfast before a guided walk through the forest with our guides. We learnt all about leaf cutter ants, walking palms, strangler figs and managed to see the telltale marks left by jaguar sharpening his claw on a tree. Just before

reaching camp we saw a troop of Squirrel Monkeys playing in the trees by the path.

After lunch we headed off down to the research centre for a talk by Alice all about the work of WWF in the centre and her special subject - Monkeys. An early start, comfy chairs and warm room ensured a few of us dozed off but





everyone was awake when the photos of monkeys were shown and Estefan did his howler monkey impression. Joe R even managed to wake up and start clapping at the right moment which made a lot of people around him laugh, as did some of the names of the species of monkeys in this area of Peru!

Waiting for it to get dark a game of football was organised with UK versus Peru, Jade, Rebecca, Marie, Joshua Gardner and Zaki positively flying across the field but on the whole it was a great team effort and the end result of 5-1 to the UK team was justly deserved.

A few more of the group tried the make shift Zip wire across ravine and headed out on another nocturnal walk- this one planned!! We saw quite a few insects and a frogs and had to run through a marauding colony of red ants that were blocking a large section of the path after Theo bravely discovered them by being bitten!

We lit a Camp fire and sat around it for a sing song with Dan playing the guitar and singing a few solos and Zaki keeping us highly amused with his rap intro to the Rhianna song Umbrella which a few of the girls then joined him in singing. The jungle was alive with the sounds of JoLt singing rather than the usual animals and insects. Spectacle of the day unsurprisingly went to Pixie although nominations were numerous. The team building hat went to Delwyn for his team spirit and hard work through the trip so far.

The evening meal was followed by a return to campfire to toast marshmallows in the embers of the fire and then we all trooped to bed but Dan and Delwyn had to have a change of tents as the leaf cutter ants mistook their tent for a tree and started cutting tiny circles out of the nylon and carrying them to the nest perhaps the JoLt group are the first to describe a new Amazon species of ant - the Tent Cutter Ant! Having learnt in the morning that these ants don't stop until the tree was bare we decided to admit defeat and move the boys to a new tent.

