Project Update: October 2010

During the low water season, which has been unusually dry and extended, we concentrated our education campaigns on turtles, pirarucu fish and manatees. Apart from the basic environmental education work in schools, we brought children from nearby communities to the Interpretation Centre where they learn about the animals and create artwork related to the conservation of key species. At the same time the Natutama fishermen were following manatees, making climate-related observations and mapping pirarucu nests: we found that pirarucu fish are moving further into the flooded forest areas to spawn, probably displaced by increasing boat traffic and fishermen along the lakeshores. As a result of our heron protection campaign with the Tarapoto community, young herons from three Ceiba tree colonies have already flown free and can be seen on the shores of the lake.



Left: Community visit to natutama centre. Middle: Identifying pirarucu nest. Right: Measuring water transparency.