**OVERVIEW OF ARCAMAZON**

- Non-governmental organisation based at the Las Piedras Amazon Center in the Madre de Dios region of Peru.
- Aims: To conduct research on local species while helping preserve the land and create a corridor for flora and fauna in a region where hunting and timber extraction is predominant.

**MY ROLES**

- To collect ecological and behavioural data on *Ateles chamek* as part of the primate team.
- To collect data on fruit trees such as fruit quantity, species, and tree DBH.
- To co-author a scientific paper on *A. chamek* titled, 'Demography, habitat use and activity budget of a wild group of black-faced black spider monkeys (*Ateles chamek*) in Las Piedras, South-Eastern Peru.'

**MY DEVELOPMENT**

- Leadership
- Different styles of writing - scientific/professional, lay
- Communication - in the field, with other researchers and tourists
- Resilience - environment, personal struggles

**AMAZING EXPERIENCES**

- Seeing a puma run past on the trail.
- Watching a documentary being filmed at a wildlife rehabilitation centre.
- Rebandaging the surgical wound on a wild green anaconda.

**MY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARCAMAZON**

- Helped develop the methodology for the fruit transect task.
- Helped guide volunteers and explain our research to tourists.
- Helped write a project proposal for a spider monkey adoption project to a partner NGO.
- Hopefully help send another future student (or volunteer through WorkingAbroad) and therefore raise funds.

**LINKING THE UNIVERSITY + THE FIELD**

- The University of Surrey is listed as my institution on the scientific paper I co-authored with my supervisor.
- Networking: I became close with professionals like my supervisor, a wildlife photographer, and published researchers.

**HELPING FUTURE STUDENTS**

- Three students have emailed asking about the placement and I have tried to be as detailed and helpful as possible when answering their questions.
- At the poster presentation for first and second years I tried to attract as many students as possible to my poster.
- Surrey PTY placement portal: increased options for students interested in wildlife, ecology or animals.

**GREATES ACHIEVEMENT**

Taking over my supervisor’s job for one month was what immersed me in my placement. This role involved leading volunteers on primate follows, often off-trail. At first I was hesitant to accept this role as it included being responsible for volunteers and in charge of delegating responsibilities to others, including people older than myself. However, I saw it as an opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and improve upon my leadership skills. I ended up enjoying this time the most out of my seven months in Peru, and one highlight was leading my visiting tutor, his family, and three volunteers to a macaw claylick.