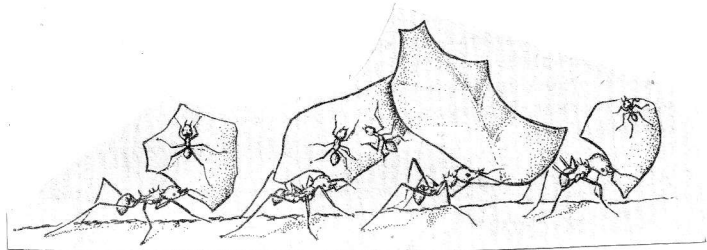


TReeS News

The Tambopata Reserve Society
Newsletter, No. 16



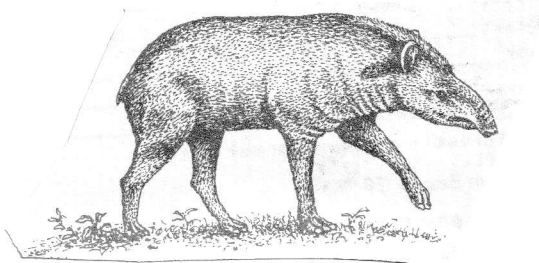
October 1990

Events have progressed rapidly in Peru over the last few months; Pedro Quillatupa (TReeS Scientific Coordinator) left to become the Acting Head of Manu National Park in July, and Didier Lacaze took up a new position with AMETRA 2001 in September.

EORI, the anthropological centre in Puerto Maldonado, has assumed responsibility for developing contacts with native communities in the region concerning the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone (TCRZ) designation.

John Forrest, the TReeS Chairman, visited Peru in August. Discussions held during his visit led to some important decisions concerning the Society's work:

1. The time has definitely arrived for more Peruvians to be involved in the work of TReeS in Peru. This has always been a long term aim of the Society.
2. TReeS will support additional scientific work in the area, principally applied biological projects undertaken by Peruvian biologists. The intention is that these can be transferred to native communities to improve their overall standard of living.
3. Every effort will be made to extend the applied biology projects and the RN programme to other locations within the Tambopata area.
4. RNs who speak Castellano - mainly Peruvian RNs - should give a talk to local community groups, probably in Puerto Maldonado, about their work whilst at Tambopata.
5. A sister organisation to TReeS will be set up in Peru to represent TReeS's interests there; this should be in operation in early 1991. Former Peruvian RNs and those involved in the applied biology projects will form the basis for the group.



TReeS is currently supporting the following -

Biologist/Resident Naturalist Co-Ordinator:

Isabel Bohorquez, a former Peruvian RN, who will look after RN matters in Lima and make visits to Tambopata every two or three months. Her brief includes liaising with Peruvian Safaris over the acceptance of RNs; the co-ordination and organisation of projects to be undertaken by RNs; assisting RNs on their arrival in Lima; obtaining specimen permits; undertaking research and liaising with other groups and the Ministry of Agriculture over research and the TCRZ designation; and extending the RN programme to other locations in the Tambopata area.

Applied Biological Project Scientific Co-Ordinator:

Paul Huertas, also a former RN, who will establish a Centre for Applied Biology at Explorers Inn. He will be assisted by a team of three other Peruvian biologists and they will manage the projects in rotation. Each project will run for two years; the first will be spent on basic scientific negotiations, and the second on organising the introduction of projects to native communities. Projects under consideration include small scale peccary farming, fish farming in the 'cochas', butterfly farming, and various fruit and nut extracts and distillations. The basic aim is to identify projects which will improve the standard of living of native people in a reasonably traditional manner, without resorting to further large scale destruction of the rain forest.

In the last TReeS Newsletter a request was made for funds to purchase a boat and motor for the use of the Scientific Co-Ordinator and Biologist, so as to provide greater access to the newly designated TCRZ. There was an excellent response, and over half the outstanding amount was generously donated by members. However, with the enforced change of plans the funds originally intended for the boat will now be directed towards Applied Biology projects. (Please contact John Forrest if you gave a donation and are unhappy with this change.)

Resident Naturalist News

Weather conditions have been less extreme in the last couple of months, with rainfall concentrated in brief spells between long dry periods. In July there were several 'frijas' with low night and daytime temperatures over a number of days. Local people said that these were the most frequent and intense 'frijas' for some years.

At present the trails are carpeted in fallen leaves and flowers, but the extent of the flowering canopy can only be appreciated fully from the river. Vast numbers of an unknown brown and yellow caterpillar has defoliated many of the Brazil nut trees, and their cocoons now occupy cracks in the bark. The emergence of the adult moth or butterfly is awaited.

Recent sightings include howler, squirrel and capuchin monkeys, tamarins, a three-toed sloth, a least five giant river otters and caiman in Laguna Cocacocha, a puma seen near the 'Big Tree', a giant anteater with baby on its back, a tapir, a two-metre long rainbow boa and a large tarantula on the Main Trail. The more unusual bird sightings include a green ibis, several horned screamers, a bat falcon, and a sungrebe. There are many hoatzins in the bushes along the edges of Lagunas Cocacocha, Katicocha and Tres Chimbadas.

Current RNs

M. Butt is investigating the freshwater ecology of L. Chica and painting a series of watercolours of dragon and damselflies.

G. Nicol is preparing a key to the palm species found on the Reserve and collecting palm specimens for Missouri Botanical Gardens' work in Peru.

B. Nicholson is investigating the distribution of tree ferns.

D. Henderson is collecting and translating traditional stories of the local Ese-eja culture.

C. Rose is studying various butterfly species and maintaining the Lodges' Medicinal Plant Garden.

S. Yorath is updating the educational and display materials at the Lodge.

W. Widowson is undertaking various ornithological studies.

During the summer further research was undertaken by Larry McQueen for the 'Birds of Peru' guide, but it is still several years

away from publication. Several other researchers have visited the Reserve over the summer and in late September the Smithsonian Institute, under T. Erwin, held a biodiversity workshop at the Reserve.

Peruvian economy - Fujimori's first two months

Fujimori failed to outline his economic policies before assuming the Presidency and consequently economic chaos reigned for the first week of the new government. When his economic package was finally announced, it proved far more drastic than anyone had anticipated and was quickly nicknamed 'El Shock'. Petrol prices rose 3000% overnight and the prices of many other basic goods also rose substantially. As a result inflation hit 100% per day in early August but the figure for the month levelled out at just under 500%. Air and bus fares were particularly affected and they are likely to rise further as the world oil price is influenced by the developments in the Middle East. Both Aeroperu and Faucett have been limiting flights down to Puerto Maldonado, jeopardising the reliability of the return flights and this has greatly affected tourist numbers during the peak summer period.

Puerto Maldonado Airport Sign

As a result of various donations, including Oxford FoE, a large brightly painted sign has been erected in front of Puerto Maldonado airport advising people arriving there to respect the rainforest and not to purchase products that may have been extracted from it illegally or unnecessarily, with particular respect to various animal souvenirs.

AMETRA 2001 update

The AMETRA 2001 project continues to play an important role for the native communities of Madre de Dios. A third building, the Pharmacy, has now been constructed at the Ethnobiological Centre, though it is likely also to be used for meetings until the main building is completed. The medicinal plant garden is beginning to take shape and some of the plants can now be used in simple distillations which will be made available to people living in the local community of Infierno. The Centre personnel have received a boost with the arrival of G. Arrevalo, the

founder of the original AMETRA project in Pucallpa, for an initial six month period as Centre Co-ordinator.

In June, a course in traditional traumatology was held at the Centre and during the last week of July a special meeting was organised for native women. Representatives came from thirteen communities in Madre de Dios, covering five ethnic groupings and for many of them it was the first time that they had had an opportunity to discuss matters relating to family health care and their role within native society. A vast number of subjects were covered; many women from communities which have lost many of their traditional practices and knowledge were eager to regain it from women from communities where such knowledge has been retained. The representatives will pass on their experience to other women in their own communities. The course was a resounding success; other courses are planned for this year include one for volunteer community health workers, and a workshop on traditional healing and shamanism.

The AMETRA 2001 project remains extremely important not only in providing a primary health care service in remote areas of Madre de Dios but in re-establishing the confidence of the native people in their culture and traditions. Following limited contact with early colonists, the area was opened up by rubber tappers and mahogany extractors at the end of the nineteenth century. More recently there have been a growing number of settlers from the Andes and the intrusion of cattle ranching and gold-panning activities in the region. The numbers of several groupings, such as the Ese Eja, Piro, Amarakaeri and Amahuaca are now just a few hundred and this is probably the last generation in which they will have the opportunity to retain their distinct languages, cultures and traditions.

AMETRA 2001 continues to offer a primary health care service in the Manu Biosphere Reserve region but Dr. A. Rivera has recently taken up a research post in Holland and has been replaced by Dr. J. Echevarria. A healer has been appointed to take over the responsibility for the traditional medicine programme within Manu, which will allow the doctor to concentrate on those cases that cannot be assisted by traditional medicine. Later in the autumn, the agreement between

the various authorities for AMETRA 2001 to offer a primary health care service within Manu National Park will be reviewed. The local Ministry of Health Department (UDES) has agreed to support AMETRA 2001, especially to cover an immunisation programme in the Manu region.

TReeS UK contact details

Pat Curry, 17 Princes Avenue, London N10 - UK RN Advisor

Oliver Tickell, 379 Meadow Lane, Oxford - TReeS reference library

Nick Squirrel, 37 Braydon Road, London N16 6BQ - TReeS slide library

John Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 - TReeS main contact address

TReeS reference material is also held in the main library at the Natural History Museum, London. With effect from 2 February 1991, viewing is by appointment only (Tel: 071 938 9191). Please do not remove this material from the museum.

Forthcoming events

TReeS Meeting - 24 November at 3pm in Room 2D, University of London Union (ULU), Malet St., London WC1 (next to Dillons Bookshop, near Goodge Street tube station). John Forrest will report on his recent trip to Peru to review the activities and projects TReeS has been supporting and to assess the areas needing support in 1990-92. We would particularly encourage former RN's to attend.

BBC Series 'The Trials Of Life', currently showing on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm, contains much footage from Manu National Park.

Third World First Hand Exhibition and Festival - 16-19 November. Information, displays, Christmas craft market, music and dance groups, etc., Tickets (£1) from: Global Partnership '90, P.O. Box 1001, London SE24.

Royal Geographical Society Expedition Planning Weekend Seminar - 17-18 November. Further details available from the RGS.



AMETRA T-shirts, TReeS postcards and Rainforest sounds tapes

T-shirts: Small or Medium - £5.50 each or 3 for £15

Large or Extra Large - £6.50 each or 3 for £18

Postcards: In addition to the Treefrog and Tapir, we can now also offer wonderful Hoatzin and Hummingbird/Heliconia postcards: 10 for £2, 60 for £10, 100 for £16.

Rainforest Requiem Tape

A symphony of sounds from the rainforest: £6.50 each, 2 for £12, 5 for £25

Prices include postage, and any combination of cards can be ordered from: J. Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 4EH. Ideal Christmas gifts!

We encourage all TReeS members to investigate new potential outlets for both T-shirts and postcards. Slightly lower prices than those stated above can be offered for orders of 5+ T-shirts. Please advise details of any interested shops or organisations to J. Forrest (address above).

TReeS leaflets

Over the last year TReeS has sent or given out over 1000 TReeS leaflets to members, often in conjunction with newsletters. The vast majority of these are yet to produce new members and therefore we would request all members who still have some TReeS leaflets in their possession to pass them on to friends and encourage them to join TReeS.

Visitors to Peru

There is always a shortage of visitors to Peru in the autumn. We would therefore be grateful to hear from anyone who is flying to Lima and could carry a few items needed out there by AMETRA and the RNs (Please contact John Forrest).

The work of TReeS/AMETRA 2001 is endorsed/supported by Helpage, ICBP UK/USA, the Anglo-Peruvian Society, Oxfam, the Body Shop International PLC, several FoE groups and schools, and various small trusts and charities.

Forest mutiny

*Now that foul frame, with heavy tread,
darkens as if in agony from the arms
of the bole.*

*A huge grip and no heart
comes forward
muscles hung like weights.*

*The tree-brawn stays mute,
watching the agony grow.
Brute tangles fall on the earth,
the susceptible soul mutilates itself.*

*And the river runs pea-green
with chlorophyll,
like blood from a massacre;*

*Trees bleed themselves of strength
to hold up one bird.*

*They will sooner be empty
than men bow their heads.*

S. Milson

