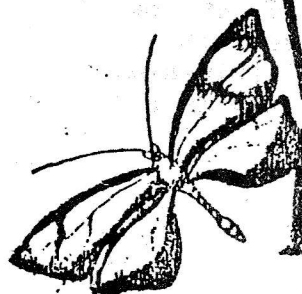


TAMBOPATA WILDLIFE RESERVE



NEWSLETTER NO. 2, APRIL 1985

Forward.

In these newsletters we aim to give information on recent developments at the Tambopata Reserve, in particular concerning ongoing projects. In the past few months there has been progress with both the AMETRA 2001 project, which concerns re-introduction of traditional medicines to the local people, and also with the Mayan Garden project, which aims to find a way of improving agricultural techniques by using the methods of the Mayan Indians. Additionally, a new project is planned for later this year when the British organisation "Operation Raleigh" come to stay for six months to help improve facilities for both tourism and research. Each of these projects is described in turn.

Most importantly, however, we are still awaiting news from the Government about the planned Reserve expansion. This is essential if the Reserve is to remain a refuge for viable populations of the ever-decreasing Amazon flora and fauna. We also hope to gain National Reserve status, which would secure the Reserve's future as well as encouraging more long-term, large-scale research.

We have high hopes of success in the application for expansion, but everything possible must be done to convince the government that it is worthwhile. You can help us greatly by writing just one letter about the expansion to the following address:-

Señor Director
Dirección de Forestal y Fauna
Ministerio de Agricultura y Alimentación
Natalio Sanchez # 220 - Piso 3
Lima
PERU.

Appropriate topics to mention are the uniqueness of the Reserve, in terms of its biological richness; the impressive cooperation between the Ministry, tourism and international scientific organisations, and the foresight of the Ministry of Agriculture in setting aside such a valuable resource.

Helen Newing
Alison Watt (Illustrations)
Resident Naturalists
Tambopata Wildlife Reserve,
April 1985.

EXPLORER'S INN

*** Lodge from Peruvian Safaris S.A.
At the Tambopata Natural Wildlife Reserve

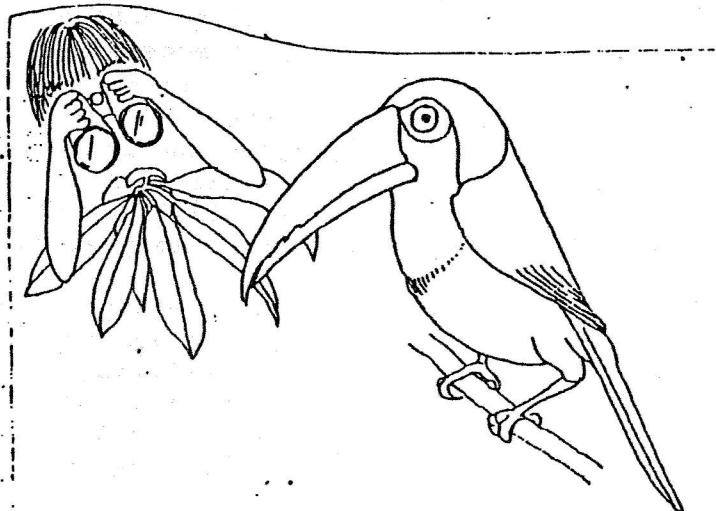
Operation Raleigh.

Operation Raleigh is a British organisation which selects teams of young people (aged 17-23) from various countries and sends them all over the world to carry out useful tasks. This has a dual purpose - it is a marvelous way in which volunteers can give practical help to underdeveloped countries where it is most needed, while at the same time it broadens the outlook of young people by giving them a chance to experience other conditions and other cultures.

In January 1985 a team of three administrators from Operation Raleigh came to Peru, largely thanks to the efforts of Kevin Morgan, a former Naturalist at Explorer's Inn. They are planning to send a total of 150 young people to Peru later this year, including a team of 15 who will come to the Tambopata Reserve itself. During their 6-month stay here, they intend to make new trail maps; build a number of strategically-placed tree-platforms, to be used for surveys over the canopy; and also they are planning a short walkway through the canopy - a level of forest which has been very little studied because of the practical problems involved. It is known to be a level very rich in new species of invertebrates, and access to it is vital for studies of vegetation or of birds, so the walkway would be an invaluable asset.

Other teams are being sent elsewhere in Peru on a variety of tasks. For example, one group will go to Sullana in the North-West to help construct a system of windmills for pumping up fresh water. Another group plan to use special speedboats to bring medical aid to the people along the river Palcazu.

In January the administrators visited Explorer's Inn itself. They were very enthusiastic about the Reserve and encouragingly optimistic about what they will be able to achieve.



For further information about the Reserve, please contact:-

Dr. Max Gunther,
Peruvian Safaris S.A.,
Garcilazo de la Vega # 1334,
P.O.Box 10088,
Lima,
PERU.

Mayan Garden Project.

This project aims at introducing a better form of agriculture to the native Infierno community - an agriculture which was used by the Mayan Indians 1000 years ago. To this end Mr. Antonio de Aguila Tafur, a student from the La Molina University in Lima, has been carrying out research under Dr. Terry Erwin of the Smithsonian Institute on different soil types. He has been cultivating four local crops (corn, peanuts, tomatoes and beans) in different percentage mixtures of rich swamp soil and poor alluvial soil with the aim of developing a technique for improving the quality of the poor soil.



AMETRA (Aplicacion de la Medicina Tradicional)

AMETRA 2001 is a project based in the Ucayali region of Peru, designed to teach the forest people about the potential use of their natural resources for medicinal purposes and also to teach them some basic elements of modern medicine. Last year Didier Lacaze, manager of Explorer's Inn, initiated a course given by the people involved in AMETRA for the Infierno community, which adjoins the Tambopata Reserve. The week consisted of a schedule of talks and practicals covering both traditional treatments and general medical information, for example about nutrition and dental care for children (See Table 1); it ended with an oral test. A chemist, a botanist and three doctors were also present as observers.

The meeting was a great success and the Infierno community is now putting into practice much of what was discussed. A second meeting is planned for May, and representatives are being invited to attend from native communities all over the Madre de Dios department. The Corporation of Development for the department have agreed to finance the project. The location of the meeting has yet to be finalised but Explorer's Inn has offered to provide lodging for the participants should the meeting be held at Infierno.

TABLE 1

AMETRA 2001 - PROGRAMME.
From 1st October to 6th October 1984.

MONDAY 1ST	TUESDAY 2ND	WEDNESDAY 3RD	THURSDAY 4TH	FRIDAY 5TH	SATURDAY 6TH
8:00 Inauguration 10:00 Introduction: Rebirth of traditional medicine Harmonisation with modern science, arriving at the "Medicine of the Future." (2001).	6:00 Extraction of milk of ojé by the participants 10:00 Preparation 10-15 Properties of ojé	9:00 Address: Folklore traumatology - Fractures - Blows - Lesions - Uuts	9:00 Address: Diarrhoea Colic Vomit Dehydration	MEN: 7:00 Snake bites Ray stings Tuberculosis Fever WOMEN: 9:00 Pre- and Post- partal nutrition; Dental care for children.	Dose of ojé 9:00 Evaluation of participants based on various theoretical and practical tests. Further discussion of gardens for medicinal plants; - List of possible species.
13:00 Excursion - Walk along both sides of the river searching for medicinal plant species. Discussion of gardens for medicinal plants. Suggestions for extracting milk of ojé.*	13:00 Intestinal parasites - Treatment with milk of ojé and other natural remedies.	13:00 Practicals - Remedies and techniques for trauma.	14:00 Practicals based on the themes of the morning.	14:00 Practicals based on themes of the morning.	13:00 Certification CLOSE.

* Milk of ojé is a medicine made from the resin of a tree, and used to expel gut parasites.

SPEAKERS: Guillermo Arevalo V.
Anders Hansson H.
Ceronimo Kiaz H.
Christine Greenway
COORDINATOR: Didier Lacaze D.

Peruvian Safaris, the owners of the Explorer's Inn, are co-ordinating with the Yarinacocha Hospital and with those responsible for the AMETRA project in the Ucayali area to invite the Native Community of Infierno to participate in such a project, to begin in September 1984.

MAYAN GARDEN PROJECT

This is a project based on a form of gardening used 1000 years ago by the Mayan Indians in Central America, in which raised walled gardens and fertile soils are used to increase the productivity and quality of fruits and vegetables using only small areas of land. Dr. Terry Erwin of the Smithsonian Institution is planning to establish a prototype study at the T.W.R., using selected soils, with the aim of transferring the technology to the local people of Infierno. Besides the obvious benefits to the local people, this project will promote forest conservation since less land will be needed for agriculture, and the people will be shown that areas of forest must remain intact to produce good soils.

BUTTERFLY FARMING

This program intends to teach the Indian Community to establish butterfly farms on their plots, similar as they are actually being used in Papua New Guinea, where it is estimated that the farmer can earn in average US\$ 1,200 as an additional annual income through the export of his production.

We plan to establish a small pilot plot on the T.W.R. where the local people can learn the technology as well as interest the Ministry of Agriculture Department of Puerto Maldonado to act as the trading agency who can handle the export business details. By this the local villagers might benefit from the burgeoning international demand for tropical butterflies at the same time as conservation objectives are met, since for successful butterfly farming the farmers must retain - and even foster - a healthy wild population on or near their land.

RESERVE EXPANSION

The T.W.R. covers 5500 hectares of lowland rain forest. At present, the surrounding area is sparsely populated, but this is changing rapidly. Fifty-eight kilometers down river of the Reserve is Puerto Maldonado, capital of the Madre de Dios Department. With a population of around 15,000 and expanding, Puerto Maldonado is the centre of Peru's gold mining industry and handles 65% of the Nation's gold. The Madre de Dios Department is seen by the Peruvian Government as one of the centres for future development. Several oil companies have applied for permission to conduct preliminary surveys in the region, and the expansion of the local castaka and rubber industries are being implemented.

As the population pressures and disturbance levels around the Reserve increase, it is vital that the area be fully protected and considerably expanded. At its present size the Reserve would be too small to support viable populations of many of the larger species of mammals and birds such as the Harpy Eagle, Macaws, Jaguars and Bush Dogs, if it were isolated from the surrounding forest. In 1981 a proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for an expansion of the Reserve to the North and West. Inclusion of an area to the North of the Rio Tambopata would provide a buffer zone to protect the Reserve from the effects of settlement and other forms of human disturbance as the town grows. This modest proposal would increase the Reserve to about three times its present size and would represent a crucial step towards safeguarding the future of the area. A further expansion East towards the Rio Heath Pampas and South to include more of the Rio D'Orbigny watershed would not only provide Madre De Dios with a valuable touristic asset, but would be a major contribution to Science and to World Conservation.

RESIDENT NATURALIST PROGRAMME

The Resident Naturalist Programme provides biologists with free room and board in return for acting as Nature Guides for visitors to the Explorer's Inn, and for briefing them on rainforest ecology.

Resident Naturalists stay at the Explorer's Inn for a minimum of three months. Most are graduate biologists who undertake a personal research project in their spare time. Projects carried out have included studies on primates, ethnobotany, bird populations, bees and ants. Application forms for this programme are available on request from Peruvian Safaris in Lima.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE TAMBOPATA WILDLIFE RESERVE

The T.W.R. is not only the richest, most diverse biological community known on Earth. It also represents a unique exercise in co-operation, in which scientific research, tourism and rainforest conservation are being combined to the mutual benefit of all, and where understanding and respect are being fostered between the local people who look to the forest for their livelihood today - and the conservationists - who look to the future of the forest for tomorrow's generations.

One of the most pressing issues at present is the expansion of the Reserve: you can help us considerably by sending just one letter to the Peruvian Government Department involved in this, at the address below:

Sr. Director de Forestal y de Fauna
Ministerio de Agricultura y Alimentacion
Natalio Sanchez # 220 - 3er. Piso
LIMA 11

Any brief statement which includes the Ministry of Agriculture in the accomplishment that the T.W.R. represents would be **MOST** helpful.

We are also trying to set up a library, and donations of books and periodicals for use by visitors and scientists staying at the Explorer's Inn will be much appreciated.

Finally, one of the most effective ways in which you can help the Reserve is by passing on this information so that the Reserve's touristic and scientific potential might be realised to the full.

For any further information concerning the Explorer's Inn, please contact:

Dr. Max Gunther,
Peruvian Safaris S.A.
Garcilazo de la Vega # 1334
P.O. Box 10088
LIMA (1)