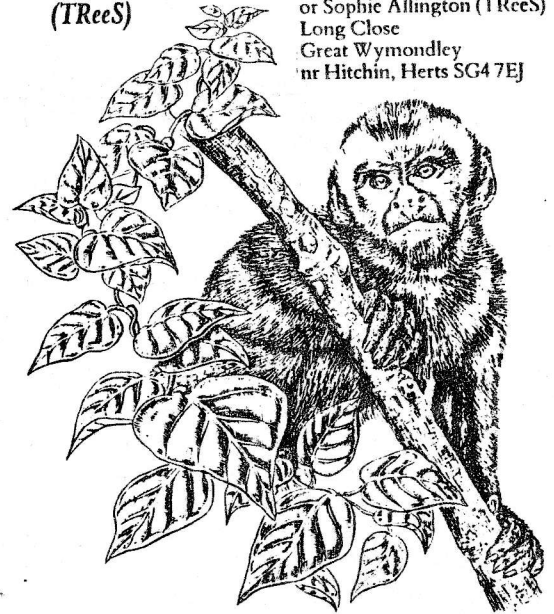


# TReeS NEWS

April 1987



## PROGRESS WITH RESERVE EXPANSION PROPOSALS

When TReeS was formed just over a year ago, we emphasised the urgency of increased protection for the Tambopata Wildlife Reserve and the enlargement of the protected area to an effective size. These changes have yet to happen, and the Reserve has suffered repeated damage. As long as the official status of the Reserve is a 'Zona Reservada', it will have little more than nominal protection. In any case, the original contract giving custodianship to Peruvian Safaris expired long ago. Why has a decision still not been reached about the future of the Reserve?

As more and more groups have become involved, the position with regard to the proposed expansion and elevation of legal status has become increasingly confused. As far as we know, a total of five different groups have approached the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture's Direccion General Forestal y Fauna (DGFF), of which three are based in Peru, one in the States and one in the UK. The proposals, based on our latest information, are as follows:-

1)Peruvian Safaris proposal:- This is the original proposal which was under consideration by the DGFF when TReeS was founded. It was drawn up by Dr Max Gunther, owner of Peruvian Safaris, and submitted in the summer of 1985. It involves the expansion of the Tambopata Reserved Zone (TRZ) to the south and east, to create a National Reserve of 72 500 hectares; also the formation of a neighbouring Communal Reserve, which would act as a 'buffer zone' and be used in a limited way by the Native Community of Infierno. The National Reserve would have a common border with another protected area - the Heath National Sanctuary - which extends to the Bolivian border and includes the transition from forest to grassland.

2)Smithsonian Institution's proposal (USA):- Dr Terry Erwin of the Smithsonian Institution has been working at the Tambopata Zone each year since 1979. In coordination with Peruvian Safaris and the Universidad Agraria in Lima, he has arranged comprehensive surveys of the TRZ's flora and fauna, as well as initiating applied research on sustainable agriculture. In 1986, Erwin and Rios submitted a proposal to the DGFF recommending expansion of the TRZ in line with the proposal by Peruvian Safaris; they also proposed creation of a Biosphere Reserve. UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme is concerned to set up representative areas of different habitats throughout the world; its emphasis is on people-environment interactions and the integration of 'pure' nature conservation with other aspects of land-use. The TRZ, with its programme of applied research and its links with local communities, is well suited to the criteria for a Biosphere reserve.



The Tambopata Reserve Society (TReeS) was formed in response to the growing number of people concerned for the Tambopata Wildlife Reserve in southeast Peru.

Its aim is to assist in the protection and preservation of the fauna and flora of the reserve and to advance public awareness and education about the area.

3) ACSS (Conservation Association for the Southern Selva):- The ACSS has grown out of Friends of Manu, which was formed in 1984 by Peruvian and American scientists working at the Manu National Park. The National Park is in the West of the Department of Madre de Dios, but it was soon realised that a conservation group was needed to look at the importance and requirements of the whole area. ACSS works closely with the DGFF and the local development corporation, CORDEMAD, and receives logistical backing from Wildlife Conservation International (a branch of the New York Zoological Society). In 1986, members of the ACSS undertook two expeditions up the Tambopata river to assess the region's biological importance; they concluded that its biological diversity was unique and its potential for scientific research comparable to that of Manu, 'the most important National Park in Amazonia.' Accordingly, ACSS proposed to the DGFF that a conservation area be created stretching westwards from the TRZ, to include the whole of the Tambopata drainage.

NB Two more expeditions are planned this year. One will go down the little-known Río Heath on the Bolivian border; the other will cross from the upper Tambopata to the Heath on foot to assess biological resources down south of the TRZ in the proposed expansion area.

4) Bioresources, UK:- Bioresources have been involved in the Tambopata region since Operation Raleigh's visit in 1985, when they began to collect information on traditional uses of plants and animals by local people. Prior to the liquidation of their parent organisation, the Earthlife Foundation, in February, they were funding Michel Alexiades to continue collecting data at Tambopata, and also Didier Lacaze, who is working to establish AMETRA in the area. In addition, Bioresources had approached the DGFF and other Peruvian authorities with suggestions for creation of a National Reserve along similar lines to their project as Korup in Cameroon. It would have a central undisturbed area flanked by buffer zones, but unlike the proposals above, it would stretch from the Río Heath Sanctuary up to the TRZ and on westwards, with a buffer zone going north to the Madre de Dios river. Since Earthlife's liquidation, it is still unclear what will happen to Bioresources, but it is still very much alive and hoping to continue working in the Tambopata area.

5) Barbara Klitzke and Ulises Rozas:- The latest proposal comes from Klitzke and Rozas, two Peruvians living in Cusco. In cooperation with CORDEMAD, the Region Agraria XXIV, the Instituto de Investigación de la Amazonia Peruana (IIAP) and the National Forestry Centre (CENFOR), they propose the creation of two more research stations further up the Tambopata. One would be for 'pure' scientific work; the other for studies in sustainable resource use (agrosilviculture, etc.). A Reserve of about 100 000 hectares around the two stations is suggested, which would stretch upriver from just past the TRZ and would be entirely independent of the present Reserved Zone. Details of proposed status and legislation for the suggested Reserve are not mentioned.

Further details of these proposals are available at cost from Helen Newing at the TReeS address (NB. Details of proposals 3) and 5) in Spanish only).

A lot of harm has been done to the chances of quick protection for the Reserve by the presentation of so many proposals by different groups. At present the DGFF seems keen simply to renew the original contract with Peruvian Safaris, keeping the present small area under nominal protection. However, over the past year the Tambopata Reserved Zone has become widely known. We hope that the interest which has been generated will assure an improvement in the position in the foreseeable future; if you have not yet written to the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture expressing your concern that something be done, now is the time. The address to write to is:-

Sr. Director de Forestal y de Fauna,  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Alimentación,  
Natalio Sanchez #220-3er Piso,  
Lima 11, Peru.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS: AMETRA 2001.

In February, the Association for Traditional Medicine (AMETRA 2001) was formally constituted in Madre de Dios as a non-profit organisation. It has a 6-member Board of Directors from native families and is temporarily based at the office of the local Federation for Native Communities (FENAMAD) in Puerto Maldonado. Ametra was introduced in the area in 1984 by Didier Lacaze, then the manager of the lodge at the TRZ. It still has close links with the TRZ and there are plans to build an ethnobiological centre on the land shared between the Reserve and the Native Community of Infierno. One of the stated aims of Ametra 2001 is "to promote the preservation and conservation of natural wildlife resources in the region", and its establishment in conjunction with the local authorities is an important step towards a local decision on the TRZ's future.

Ametra's Board of Directors has appointed Didier Lacaze as executive director. When Earthlife collapsed in February, it looked as though Didier would have to return to Europe to seek funds; but now the World Wildlife Fund has provided money for a three-month period while new funding is sought. Ametra has also been established as a charity in France, with connections in other parts of Europe.

NEWS FROM TAMBOPATA.

(Based on a letter from Michel Alexiades)

The Tambopata area is now at the end of the rainy season. January and February were particularly wet; in February the river flooded its banks, up onto the secondary floodplain, for the second year running. The flooding was not as bad as last year, when it ruined much of the season's crops for families living along the riverbanks.

Comprehensive records have been kept by naturalists working at the Explorer's Inn now for almost three years, and some seasonal patterns are beginning to emerge. After an unusually early dry period in March, a group of giant river otters were seen on the lake Cócococha for the first time in a long while; in 1985 and 1986 also, they were seen regularly only from the beginning of the dry season.

More unusually, in February a herd of about 100 white-lipped peccaries swam across the river Tambopata from the Reserve. It's encouraging to know they're still there in such large numbers, but as soon as they left the Reserve about 20 were shot down (presumably for food and hides). A few days later, an even bigger herd was seen, but the people had no cartridges left! Disturbance inside the reserve continues, with both trees and mammals being taken; just outside the Reserve, 60 hectares of forest stretching down towards the Tres Chimbas lake have been cleared for cattle-ranching. The damage seems to be done mainly by a few unsympathetic individuals; in general, the trend is towards increased sympathy for the Reserve's aims. Michel writes "it is clear that there is a trend beginning amongst native people, to reevaluate the importance of their culture, and unite to defend this as well as their natural heritage ... people are showing a genuine concern for conservation matters".

SOCIETY NEWS

TReeS in Peru

A Peruvian TReeS has yet to be formed, but as a first step, Isabel Bohorquez in Lima has been collecting information on Tambopata to make available to interested parties.

TReeS and Wine - First Anniversary

The 'TReeS and Wine' party held in February to mark our first anniversary was a great success, both socially and financially. Altogether 36 people turned up, and the food wine, video films, slide shows and photographic displays were much appreciated. We gained 7 new members and made an overall net profit of £65.63, with which we plan to buy a badly-needed cordless projector for use at the Tambopata Reserve. Money raised at a talk for the FFPS in Cambridge will be used to duplicate the TReeS slide-collection to send out with the projector.

We have had a batch of colour postcards of the Explorer's Inn printed, mainly for sale to people at the lodge itself; but they are also available to members. Please use the form below to order postcards and 'capuchin monkey' greetings cards.

Pete Lawson.

Requests to Members

We need to hear from you if you can help us find the following facilities:-

Cheap, good typesetting and printing  
Cheap or free photocopying in central London  
An easy-to-reach meeting place in central London,  
both for committee meetings and for larger events such as  
slideshows.

Please contact Pete Lawson after Easter (27 Swain Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon CR4 7AP, tel. 01-684-7520).

Charity Status

The charity status for TReeS has still not come through. For the time being, the Flora and Fauna Preservation Society (FFPS) has agreed to accept donations as a charity on our behalf.

TReeS 100th Member - TReeS membership has reached its first 100. The 100th person to join is Adrian Barnett, a biologist who is the leader of yearly expeditions to a small, locally owned Nature Reserve in the montane forests of Ecuador called Rio Mazan. Mazan was bought by people of a nearby town to protect their watershed, and is being set up as a conservation and education centre. For details, write to Adrian Barnett, Rio Mazan Project, 128A Lavenham Road, Southfields, London SW18 5HF. (Tel. 01-870-6105).



Name .....

Address .....

Please send me ..... postcards and ..... greetings cards (postcards at 12p each plus p+p30p; greetings cards 25p each or 10 for £2).

I Enclose £..... (Cheques payable to TReeS).

RETURN SLIP TO PETE LAWSON, 27 SWAIN ROAD, THORNTON HEATH, CROYDON CR4 7AP.