

TReeS News

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter - No. 30

A Brief Report by Helen Newing on her recent TReeS co-ordination trip to Peru -

* TReeS Conservation Co-ordinator based in Puerto Maldonado -

Claudia Galvez-Durand, a biologist who has undertaken research at the Explorer's Inn and many other sites within Madre de Dios over the last 5 years and is known to many ex-RN's, has been appointed as the TReeS Conservation Co-ordinator. She has initially been appointed on a part-time basis and will be based in Puerto Maldonado. She will co-ordinate the RN's at the lodges along the Tambopata river, advising them on their projects and liaising with the lodge owners. Her brief includes the establishment of some long-term RN studies which, now that there is a more regular flow of tourists and, consequently, RN's, can be transferred over from one RN to another in each quarter. Both on the spot advice and on-going projects are matters which the RN programme has been lacking and are crucial for its development.

She will liaise with the new TCRZ director, FENAMAD (the local native peoples organisation), FADEMAD (the local small farmers organisation) and other local environmental groups about conservation initiatives in the area. In the longer-term she will investigate the potential for an environmental information centre in Puerto Maldonado.

The budget for her first year, including setting up costs, is \$15,000 - any suggestions for likely funding sources or donations would be most welcome.

FENAMAD Health Programme -

During my visit, the native community of Infierno held a General Assembly at which they decided to re-activate the Centro Nape, which has fallen into considerable disrepair because of infra-structural problems within FENAMAD preventing further work there. A new team was named to work at the Centre and they re-drafted a funding proposal for the Centre. They highlighted their wish for the Centre to be self-funding and proposed to generate income by harvesting palm nuts from the native community lands which overlap with the former TRZ, making and selling traditional handicrafts and, possibly, from tourist visits.

The medicinal plant garden is overgrown but still highly impressive and Victor Mishaja Shajao

will live at the Centre as the resident healer. He hopes to prepare simple herbal remedies again for distribution to other communities in the area and TReeS will consider funding some research into suitable preservatives to add to these preparations.

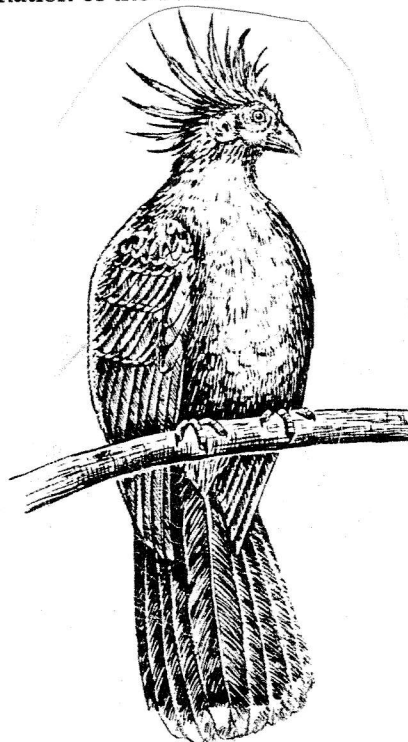
TReeS share of the funding for the revival of the Centre is \$13,000 per annum. The rest of the funding will be provided by an Italian NGO - CESVI. We will be seeking funding for them to restart in July - any suggestions for likely funding sources/donations would be most welcome.

Bahauja-Sonene National Park -

The proposal for the Bahauja-Sonene National Park has been approved by the local government but is still sitting in the offices of INRENA (the National Institute for Natural Resources). It is unlikely that there will be a decision at national government level about the creation of the Park until the outcome of Mobil's explorations in the area are known though, under Peruvian law, oil extraction is permitted from within National Parks. On this basis Mobil's activities should not prevent the declaration of the Park, though for political reasons this seems unlikely in the near future.

A new director has been appointed for the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone (TCRZ) - Jacqueline Ramirez. It seems that Oscar Rada, her predecessor, was dismissed for producing a report critical of Mobil, including photos of environmental damage in Madre de Dios caused by their sub-contractors.

Conservation International have \$1m funding over 3 years to produce a Park management plan while, since the start of the year, the European Community funds have been available for the employment of Park guards and the building of guard posts. However, the latter is on hold until more definite details are available on the designation of the Park.



Oil and Gas Exploration in Madre de Dios: the latest developments -

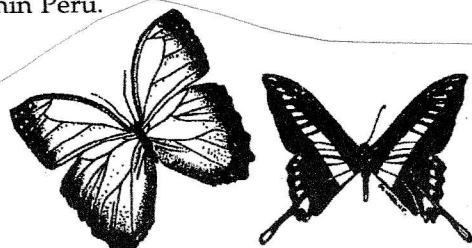
Mobil, Dallas, responded to our general enquiry for an update on their activities in Madre de Dios stating that - 'in the las Piedras region (north-west of P.Maldonado) we have completed a seismic program using a technique developed to have a minimal impact on the environment. In our operations, we travel mainly along rivers and streams, requiring little clearance of the vegetation. Consultants accompany the contract crew we have received feedback from Peruvian environmental organisations that Mobil's crew acted in a responsible manner. Interpretation of the results will take several months.

No seismic activities have been undertaken in the Tambopata region. In late 1994, a geologic field party mapped the surface outcrops. All camps were located along river banks in naturally open areas, no permanent camps were set up, all further activities will be conducted in a project specific environmental management plan approved by the Peruvian government. Our operations are consistent with the guidelines for activities in environmentally sensitive areas that are issued by renowned international technical and/or professional organisations.

We appreciate this opportunity to discuss an area of mutual concern: the preservation of the environment. We take pride in our efforts to act as responsible citizens in ensuring appropriate precautions are taken to protect delicate ecosystems.'

TReeS is in the process of replying to Mobil with various comments. We will propose that an independent biologist - at TReeS's expense - accompanies all future field crews. These crews will be entering areas where very few scientific investigations, if any, have taken place. At the same time the environmental impact of the crews can be monitored.

Elsewhere in Madre de Dios, Shell has entered into negotiations with Petrobras of Brazil to build a pipeline across the southern Peruvian Amazon to export natural gas from the Camisea gas field in the Urubamba valley, downriver from Machu Picchu, to Brazil. One of the two potential routings would run eastwards across Madre de Dios passing very close, if not through, Manu National Park and areas inhabited by uncontacted peoples. The pipe would link into another pipeline from Bolivian gas fields and would then run on to the industrial heartland of Brazil. The export of gas to Brazil is seen as crucial to the viability of the multi-billion dollar Camisea project because of the limited demand for gas within Peru.

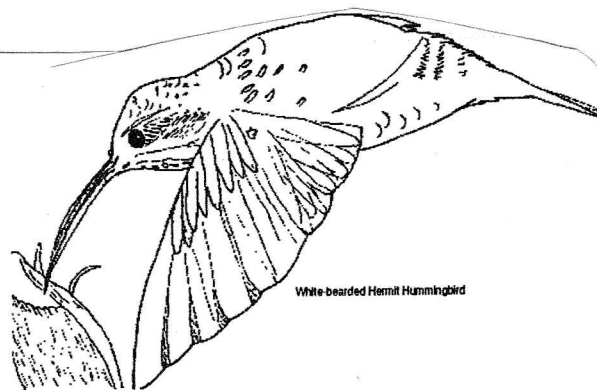


Transoceanic Highway - a recent article in the Sunday Telegraph suggested that, with Sendero activity almost totally wiped out in central Peru, the original routing from Rio Branco, via Cruzeiro do sul to Pucallpa in Peru and then over the Andes to Lima/Callao could be back on the agenda. If this materialises, the recently discussed southern route through Madre de Dios is unlikely to be upgraded to take a substantial flow of regular traffic.

San Gaban Hydro-electric Plant - work is progressing on the San Gaban Hydro-electric plant on the river Inambari, close to where the Cuzco road rises up into the Andes. Much of the electricity generated would supply P.Maldonado and it is not yet clear whether the power lines would cut across the TCRZ or follow the Cuzco/P.Maldonado road, though we believe the latter routing is now favoured.

Current Situation in Madre de Dios - the population of Madre de Dios was recorded as 67,000 in the 1993 government census - an increase of about 50% over the last 10 years. However, this remains a tiny population for an area of 78,000 km².

After an absence of 7 years, the most noticeable change on the Tambopata was the colonisation of much of the river banks beyond the former Tambopata Reserved Zone (TRZ)/Explorer's Inn right up to the mouth of the river Malinowski.



White-bearded Hermit Hummingbird

TReeS UK Libraries - New Deposits

The 'Reporte Tambopata', a quality publication produced by the Centro de Datos para la Conservacion of La Molina University, Lima, in conjunction with TReeS and Conservation International. It contains summaries of about 80 scientific studies undertaken at the Tambopata Reserved Zone over the last 20 years. Copies available from TReeS, though there may be a delay in delivery, at £10, including postage.

Conservation International RAP team report from the expedition to the Upper Tambopata in 1992. Copies available in Europe from - IBD Ltd, Campus 400, Maylands Av., Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7EZ. Price - \$20+.

Also, various documents (translated) pertaining to the on-going territorial expansion claim of the native community of Infierno.

Resident Naturalist News

Retyped comprehensive summaries of the monthly reports received from each lodge, as from January 1995, will be placed in the TReeS libraries shortly and on an on-going basis.

Explorer's Inn - Climate

	Temperature		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount	*
Feb	-	-	440mm	22
March	29.2 C+	-	285mm	24
April	28.4 C	20.7 C	139mm	9

* No. of Days with Rain.

+ based on nearly complete data.

- recordings incomplete.

Recent Sightings

A variety of interesting sightings included Howler monkeys, seen almost daily, including 4 on a branch over-hanging Cocacocha and 2 groups facing up to each other 50m along Main Trail; a Small-eared dog eating a Lizard; and a 12' Anaconda on Heliconia Trail. Giant Otters were seen only once in January, twice in February, 3 times in March and 7 times in April - 3 individuals were the most seen at one time. Also on Cocacocha, fish were observed eating figs falling from an over-hanging tree.

30-40 Macaws were sighted on Cocacocha and a pair of King Vultures on Tapir Trail, while a Crested Eagle pursued a group of Tamarins. In January chicks were seen in Hoatzin nests at the cochas and Yellow and Red-Rumped Caciques nesting on Katicocha. Unusual bird sightings include - Buff-fronted Foliage Gleaner, Fork-tailed Flycatchers and Crowned Slaty Flycatchers.

Current/Recent RN's include -

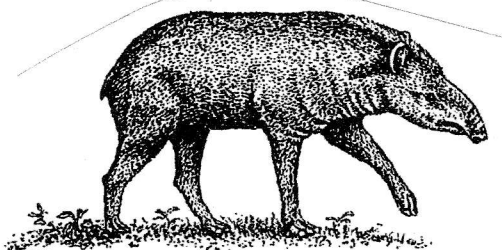
A.Edwards - studying fish populations.

S.Allen - ornithological studies (328 species seen in 3 wet season months).

M.Cohen & N.Thorpe - radio-tracking pirana in the cochas.

H.Baynes - butterfly studies and preparation for the 1995 Cambridge Expedition.

P.Debes - revising the 'River and Trail Logs'.



Tambopata Jungle Lodge -

The Kitchen and part of the Dining area have been rebuilt after a fire, and two new bungalows have been constructed.

Climate

	Temperature		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount	*
Jan	-	-	185mm	-
Feb	-	-	300mm	23
March	28.5 C+	24.1 C	254mm	27

* No. of Days with Rain.

+ based on nearly complete data.

- recordings incomplete.

Recent Sightings

These include a Spider monkey, Harpy Eagle, Jaguarundi and a Bat Falcon en route to the Collpa; an Ocelot near the Lodge; Giant Otters on one of the Condenado lakes; and 30 Squirrel monkeys on the trail to L.Sachavacayoc.

RN's report some logging and hunting activity in the area with 5 tapirs found on one occasion. Talks were held with the hunter concerned.

Current/Recent RN's include -

C.Kirkby - studying Termite populations.

R.Selman - studying scavenging fauna.

G.Myers, R.Webb & J.Melton - guiding and educational displays.



TReeS 1994 Accounts & Membership

The TReeS accounts for 1994, as yet unaudited, indicate that the Society had an income of about £6,600, slightly above the 1993 figure, while expenditure was about £5,600. Almost exactly 75% of expenses went on supporting activities relating to projects in Peru, 6% on the production of merchandise and nearly 20% on UK administration. The latter includes a significant increase in the cost of the copying and distribution of documents. A large quantity of merchandise remains in stock. TReeS USA continued, principally, to look after administrative matters in N.America and reported a balance of nearly \$1800 at the year end. Total membership remains around the 450 mark.

Some members have noted that TReeS banks with 'Lloyds', a bank with a poor record with respect to Third World loans. TReeS will change bankers, probably in 1996, in conjunction with the reprinting of the Membership leaflet. In the meantime only a small balance is kept in the account, with the majority of funds held in the Nationwide Building Society.

Peru News

The Presidential and Congressional elections passed off quietly in April. Slightly against expectations President Fujimori was re-elected on the first round of voting with 64.4% of the valid vote. Perez de Cuellar, the former UN Secretary General, could only manage 21.8% and the candidate of APRA - the party of Alan Garcia, the previous incumbent to Fujimori - just 4.1%. There was widespread support for Fujimori across the country even in the main centres of the opposition parties.

More surprisingly Fujimori's party - 'Cambio 90' secured an outright majority in Congress with 67 (52%) out of 120 seats. The main opposition comes from P.de Cuellar's party with only 17 (14%) seats. the long established parties again fared badly - APRA obtained 8 (6.5%) seats, Accion Popular 4 (3.3%) seats and PPC 3 (3%) seats, and will now have to re-register as political parties.

Furthermore, a large percentage of the population did not vote and more invalid votes were cast than valid ones. Only 18% of the electorate actually voted for Cambio 90 and 38% for Fujimori. There is now some concern that Fujimori, who has close links with the military, now has a stranglehold on democracy within Peru.

New TReeS Merchandise Tambopata Bird Checklist

A Checklist with a colour cover listing the 592 bird species identified to date in the former TRZ. The Checklist gives details of Habitat, Foraging Position, Sociality and Abundance of each species. It is also cross-referenced to the 'Birds of Colombia', provides details about the Tambopata area, is illustrated with some superb drawings by Eustace Barnes with some superb drawings by Eustace Barnes and includes advice on bird-watching by Kevin Morgan. It is suitable for visitors to any part of south-western Amazonia.

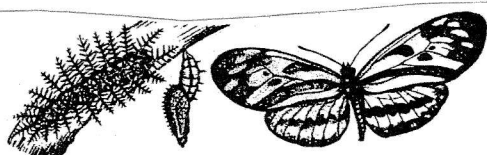
Price: £5 each, 2 for £9 or 4 for £15.

'Macaws' Greeting card:

Based on the original full colour 'plate' painting by E.Barnes of several macaw species. Limited quantities remain.

Price: 4 for £2.50 or 10 for £5 (with envelopes).

All other Merchandise as per the February 1995 Newsletter. Cheques payable to 'TReeS'. Prices include P & P. **Available from** - TReeS, c/o J.Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 4EH.



Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meeting in conjunction with the Peru Support Group - 8th July, 2-5pm, Fenner Brockway Ho., Great Guildford St., London SE1. (Nearest Tube stations - Borough or London Bridge). Helen Newing will report back on her recent co-ordination trip to Peru and Gareth Burr will speak about the 2 years he spent living in the Ese'ejá native community of Sonene.

'Biodiversity in S.America: Plants & People' - 10-5pm, 10th June, University of Southampton. Details as per the last Newsletter.

Camden Green Fayre - 11-5pm, 18th June, Camden Gardens, London NW1; 5 mins walk from Camden Town Tube station. TReeS will have a stall.

La Gran Fiesta - 12.30-6pm, 1 & 2nd July, Gabriel's Wharf, London SE1. Nearest Tube - Waterloo. See enclosed leaflet. TReeS will have a stall.

The work of TReeS has been endorsed/ supported by Helpage, OXFAM, Anglo-Peruvian Society, the Body Shop International PLC, several FoE groups and various small trusts and charities. Patron - Norman Myers.

Most copies printed on recycled paper.

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