

## The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

### Oil & Gas Exploration in Madre de Dios – the latest developments

\* **Las Piedras** – Mobil have completed their investigations and the results of the seismic tests are now awaited. As far as we know, no un-contacted peoples were encountered in the test area.

\* **Upper Tambopata** – an Environmental Management Plan and Work Plan has been presented to INRENA (Institute for the management of Natural Resources – a division of the Ministry of Agriculture). INRENA are expected to approve it, possibly insisting on certain alterations. Even if permission is given in the near future, investigations are only likely to commence once the rainy season ends in April.

TReeS has seen the Management Plan, a general document vaguely adapted to the Tambopata area, and responded to Mobil with a number of specific comments and questions. The lack of independent monitoring of the field activities is of major concern. However, the pressure already applied by interested organisations has led Mobil to switch their main base camp from Astillero – on the river Tambopata close to the world famous macaw salt-lick (collpa) – to Mazuko on the Cuzco/P.Maldonado road, though Astillero will remain a secondary camp.

\* **Alto Madre de Dios** – it also seems that Mobil will be exploring within the proposed Amarakaeri Communal Reserve between Tambopata and Manu. This greatly concerns FENAMAD as many native communities lie within the area.

Mobil have now been joined by Occidental, Exxon and Elf in the Madre de Dios development consortium, though they remain the controlling interest. It is felt that Mobil have the resources to undertake an environmentally acceptable operation (if such a thing is possible) but will need to be pressed and monitored continuously, to do so. Any TReeS members who wish to pursue this in a personal capacity should write to:-

John G. Winston, Environmental Manager, Mobil Exploration & Development Latin America Inc., P.O.Box 650232, Dallas, Texas 75265-0232, USA. Fax – (214) 905.7283

Peruvian oil production fell 4% in the year to April so clearly there is an incentive for more reserves to be found. Mobil is now working with Shell on plans to develop 10.8 trillion cubic feet of gas and 725 million barrels of condensates at Cam-

isea, on the river Urubamba downriver from Machu Picchu. In July there were also reports that Mobil would pull out of Peru if the government did not speed up the privatisation of Perupetro as Mobil wished to buy up some of their facilities to integrate into its growing activities within Peru.

### Bahuaja-Sonene National Park

The Inka (Madre de Dios) and Mariategui (Puno) regional governments have accepted the National Park proposal as have other organisations representing local people. The Ministry of Agriculture remains the sticking point, the Minister (Sr.Absalon Vasquez Villanueva) was overheard recently claiming that there are too many protected areas in Peru! In reality it is probable that he is under pressure from the more dominant Ministry for Energy and Mines (new Minister – Sr.Amado Yataco) not to designate the Park until the results of Mobil's explorations are known. TReeS has written to INRENA (the National Parks office within the Ministry of Agriculture) requesting clarification as to why the National Park cannot be designated when so many are in agreement with it.

INRENA, with funding from a German NGO (GTZ), has been working on a management plan for Peru's 44 protected areas (9% of Peru) over the last couple of years and will shortly present their proposals to the government. However, it is known that the proposal budget is \$26 million and that it would be funded by a combination of the government, Park entrance fees, debt-for-nature swaps and NGO's.

### Gold-mining in Madre de Dios

It is estimated that the gold-bearing zone in Madre de Dios covers 17,300 km<sup>2</sup> along 250km of river. There are three methods of extraction –

\* **Gold-washers:** working without concessions in small groups of 2-5 people along river beaches and in shallow streams. 4,500 work in this manner, producing nearly 700kgs of gold per year by hand.

\* **Motor-pumps:** 560 camps along river beds or within the forest are known, employing nearly 7,000 people. Material is extracted by hand and then washed by motor pumps. Production amounts to about 2,000 kgs per year.

\* **Dredgers and Heavy Equipment:** 90 dredgers

and 340 heavy duty tractors are currently operating. The former work along rivers, such as the Inambari and Madre de Dios, swallowing an estimated 36 km<sup>2</sup> of river bed and bank per year. The tractors work in the forest, especially in the upper Colorado area, moving an estimated 23 million cubic metres of material per year. They employ 3,000 people between them and produce 16,000 kgs per year. Heavy machinery is increasingly taking over from hand labour and has a much more devastating impact on the forest.

Most of the miners are seasonal workers who come down from the Andes in the dry season, 10% of miners are children and 10% women. In some Andean villages 75% of the men are away for over 6 months per year leading to major problems of social destabilization. Additionally, 25% acquire serious illnesses such as leishmaniasis and tuberculosis. However, it is estimated that 20,000 people are entirely dependent on mining in Madre de Dios for their livelihood.

One of the worst affected populated areas in Madre de Dios is the Upper Colorado, lying between Tambopata and Manu. The Huaypetue and Caichihue valleys which run into the Pukiri valley, a tributary of the Colorado, are now severely contaminated. Virtually all the heavy duty tractors in Madre de Dios operate there, 24 hours a day in three shifts. If it is assumed that a minimum of 50grs of gold per day is obtained by each tractor this amounts to about 400kgs per month. The gold found is processed using mercury, at a rate of two to one, with minimal recycling. Consequently, the indications are that nearly 10 tonnes of mercury is entering the river system in the Upper Colorado per year alone.

In July the Peruvian government renewed the ban on new mining claims in Madre de Dios and parts of Puno and Cuzco until June 1996. In reality such laws have little impact on the ground in such remote areas.

## FENAMAD News

Most of the differences between the representatives of the Harakmbut communities of the upper Madre de Dios and FENAMAD, which came to the fore at the last Congress in 1993, were resolved at a special Harakmbut Congress held in Diamante in February. A Harakmbut ethnic council was set up to represent the interests of the native communities of Shintuya, Puerto Luz, Boca Isiri, Diamante, Boca del Inambari and San Jose de Karene, within the continuing departmental representation by FENAMAD. This should now enable the long postponed FENAMAD Congress to go ahead before the end of the year in the Harakmbut community of Santa Rosa de Huacaria, in the Alto Madre de Dios. The TReeS offer to contribute a proportion of the funding for the Congress till stands.

Concern has been raised by FENAMAD at the continuing activities of loggers in the forest beyond Sta. Rosa along the Pinipini and Callanga valleys inside Manu National Park.

## Resident Naturalist News

As from 1995 RN monthly reports will be summarised and placed in TReeS UK libraries.

## The Explorer's Inn

### Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall		Humidity %
	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Amount mm	Days of rain	
May	27.0	19.0	132	11	94.0
June	26.2	18.9	13	5	94.0
July	26.0	19.0	160	19	94.0
Aug	28.5	18.8	28	7	90.1

There was a brief 'friaie' in the third week of June. July was unusually wet.

### Recent Sightings -

Two possible sightings of Black Caiman on Cocacocha, along with the Giant River Otters on occasions in both July and August, and they were also seen on Katicocha in August. A Harpy Eagle was seen on Tapir trail and a Zigzag Heron was recorded for the first time in several years. Monkeys, especially White-fronted Capuchins along Main Trail, have been a common sight. Jaguar tracks have been found recently and the remains of its kills - a Coatimundi and a Tortoise - but no direct sightings made. A Collared Anteater was seen twice, on Main trail and at Katicocha, a Giant Anteater on Tapir trail and an Ocelot along the banks of the Tambopata.

### Current/Recent RN'S and visitors include

- M.Cohen & N.Thorpe - radio-tracking fish in the cochas.
- M.Adams - assessing the quality of life of families near the lodge.
- M.Garnett - reviving the medicinal plant garden.
- H.Lloyd - studying bird feeding behaviour.
- C.Forster - re-organising and updating the lodge displays.
- J.Titheridge - re-organising the RN library and Orchid house.
- T.Doan - radio-tracking the Tegu lizard.
- J.Jones - studying habitat segregation in Antbirds.

S.Cameron from the University of Arkansas passed through and made some new findings about bee behavioural patterns. Rob Ridgley, author of 'Birds of S.America', also paid a visit.

The 1995 Cambridge University Expedition has just returned from the field after venturing to the

cloudforest on the ridges above the Tavera, Upper Tambopata; taking water samples in the Malinowski to study the mercury levels; and assessing the flora and fauna of the river La Torre.

On a sadder note, a member of the Conservation International fish research project was killed by a large electric eel which passed close to him while netting fish in the river Tambopata.

Two members of the Operation Raleigh team that visited the lodge in the mid-1980's – Jon Rothman and Rafael Rodriguez – looked in and paid for some equipment to access the canopy for research purposes.

## Tambopata Jungle Lodge

### Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Amount mm	Days of rain
April	27.4	22.1	163	13
May	26.0	21.0	152	9
June	28.5	22.6	250	24
July	26.1	20.0	167	13
Aug	27.9	20.6	59	4

Sightings over recent months in the vicinity of the lodge include many monkey species, Tapir in the river, a Giant Brazilian Porcupine, a 2m-long Bush-master, White-collared Peccaries, three Giant River Otters on Lake Condénado and a Jaguar seen on the trail to Lake Sachavacayoc and another 3 hours up river from the lodge which stalked and killed a Capybara. At Sachavacayoc a pair of Harpy eagles swooped down and caught a Red Howler Monkey from among a troop and flew off with it. RN's report that further river bank clearance is taking place upriver from the lodge.

- C.Kirkby – studying termite ecology and their value as a fertilizer.
- R.Webb – re-organising lodge displays.
- P.Nicklin & J.Melton – creating a medicinal plant garden at the lodge.
- Y.Quintana – studying toucans.

## Peru News

Inflation fell to its lowest annual rate (10.3%) for 20 years in August but there is some concern that the economy may overheat if the current growth rate (9.2%) continues. UK companies have been one of the principal investors of late in the Lima Stock Exchange with 19% of investments.

In the first eight months of 1995 307,000 tourists visited Peru, a 24% increase on the same period in 1994. The July figure of 50,000+ was the highest monthly total since 1970.

President Fujimori assumed his second term of

office without incident in July. One of the first acts of the new government was to pass a law relating to land ownership. There are now no limits to agricultural land holdings and any individual/company has equal rights to farm ownership. The government now has the right to tax holdings over 3,000 hectares, with the exception of native communities. Native communities are now permitted to obtain private land titles – this is contrary to the native approach of land ownership. The government has 60 days in which to determine the land to be set aside for conservation purposes. Non-cultivated state land can be sold off at public auction.

## TReeS UK Libraries – Recent Deposits

Recent new deposits in the TReeS libraries in London and Oxford include a report on a training course held by FADEMAD about the Sustainable Harvesting of Palm trees; Mobil's Environmental Management Plan for the Upper Tambopata area; the new proposal for further activities at the Nape Centre; and 'Avance Indígena' (1st Quarter 1995) the magazine of FENAMAD.

## Primary School Education Pack

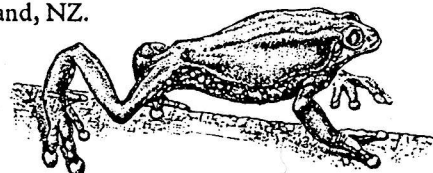
An ex-RN, Jean Egerton, who previously put together a 48-slide pack entitled 'Life in an Amazon Rainforest Community', has now published a Primary School rainforest resource pack entitled 'An Amazon Rainforest Settlement' which also focuses on the Tambopata area. It is aimed at the 8-12 year old age range and contains photo sheets and a series of exciting worksheets accompanied by extensive teacher notes. Further details from – Naturetrek Educational, 5 Llys Llannerch, St. Asaph, Clywd LL17 0AZ.

## Translating

We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who could assist with some translating every so often. You need to be a fluent Spanish speaker and able to deal with short documents within a few days. If you can help, please write to J.Forrest with your phone number.

## Tropical Frogs and Toads of the World

TReeS has received a request for pictures of distinctive species of tropical frogs and toads, identifiable at least to generic level from which an artist could work. Any expenses incurred will be covered, if required. TReeS members who can assist should contact – Brian Parkinson, 244 Hillsborough Road, Mt. Roskill, Auckland, NZ.



## New TReeS Merchandise

**'Reporte Tambopata'** – published by TReeS in conjunction with the Centro de Datos of La Molina University, Lima and Conservation International. The Report contains 76 summaries of investigations carried out around the Explorer's Inn over the last 20 years. It is illustrated with colour photos.

Price – £7.50 or 2 for £12

**'Beauty for Survival'** – a 30 minute video of the world's most beautiful butterflies, including a spotlight on species found at Tambopata.

Price – £10 or 2 for £18

## TReeS Merchandise

### T-SHIRTS:

**'Earth Warrior'** (electric blue design on unbleached cotton, XL only) £7.50 each.

**'Scarlet Macaws'**, painting by Martin Jordan (scarlet macaws against a blue background, bleached cotton, XL only) – £8 each.

**Greeting Cards** (including envelopes): based on an original full colour 'plate' of several Macaw species – 4 for £2.50 or 10 for £5

**Postcards:** Tree-frog, Tapir, Hummingbird/Heliconia, Hoatzin & Butterfly – 10 for £2.50, 30 for £7, 60 for £12

**TReeS Tapes** (recorded at the TRZ): **'Jungle Sounds'** (general interest) & **'Birds of south-east Peru'** (Birders guide): £5.00 each, 2 for £9.

Plus, **'Birds of south-east Peru'**, recorded by the late Ben Coffey in the mid-1980's – £7.50 each, only a few copies remain. A comparison between the 2 bird tapes is now available. Please request or send a sae.

**'Birds of Tambopata Checklist'** listing the 592 bird species identified to date in the former Tambopata Reserved Zone. The Checklist gives details of Habitat, Foraging Position, Sociality and Abundance of each species. It is cross-referenced to the 'Birds of Colombia', is illustrated with drawings by E. Barnes and includes advice on bird-watching by K. Morgan. It is suitable for visitors to any part of south-western Amazonia – £5, 2 for £9, 4 for £15. **'Biodiversity Conservation and its impact on Indigenous Peoples'** by A. Gray – £6.

**'Giant River Otters in SE Peru'** Report of the Munich Wildlife Society – £5 (state whether English or Spanish version preferred).

**'UK Forest Network – Forests Memorandum'** – £2 (TReeS is a member of the Network).

**TReeS Newsletters:** any 6 – £2, please specify the back numbers required.

**'The Budget Travellers Guide to Peru and Northern Bolivia'**, 7th edition (1991): £3.95 per copy, including a £1 donation to TReeS.

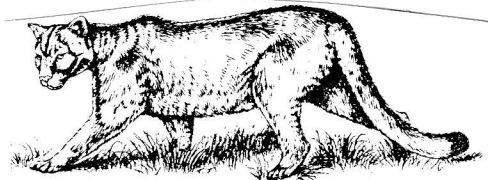
**Bird Prints** – 'Andean Cock-of-the-Rock' and 'Rufous-Headed Woodpecker' set in their natural habitat. High quality colour prints of paintings by

## REPORTE TAMBOPATA

*Resúmenes de investigaciones en los alrededores del Explorer's Inn*

*Abstracts of investigations around Explorer's Inn*

Centro de Datos para la Conservación - Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina  
Conservation International  
Tambopata Reserve Society



Eustace Barnes. £25 each (20% to TReeS).

All prices include postage and packing. Cheques payable to **'TReeS'**.

**Available from:** J. Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 4EH.

## Forthcoming Events

**TReeS Meeting** - 28th October, 2.30-5pm, Homerton College, Hills Road, Cambridge (10 minutes walk from the rail station, near Addenbrooke's hospital). J. Forrest will outline the current activities of the Society, while H. Baynes will describe the time he spent as an RN and the findings of the Cambridge Expedition along the Tambopata this summer.

**Third World Fayre** – 8-10 December, Friday (4-8pm), Saturday (11-5pm) & Sunday (11-3pm); Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC2 (nearest tube: Holborn). TReeS will probably have a stall on at least one day.

**'Earthrise II'**, a compilation CD featuring several well-known artists, has just been released. £2.85 from the sale of each CD goes to community projects funded by the Earthlove Fund.

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

Patron – Norman Myers.



Printed on Recycled Paper



This Edition of the Newsletter has been sponsored by the travel agency -  
\*\* SOUTH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE \*\*

