

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

Bahauja-Sonene National Park declared

In July the Peruvian government declared (Supreme Decree 012-96-AG) the Bahauja-Sonene National Park. TReeS, along with several other organisation, had campaigned for its declaration over the last few years. As a result part of one of the most biologically diverse regions on Earth, containing many IUCN Red Data species, has received permanent protection in Peruvian law.

The new National Park covers 325,000 hectares running eastwards from the Tambopata river ('Bahauja' in ese'ija - the local native language) to the river Heath ('Sonene'), which forms the frontier with Bolivia. The new National Park incorporates the previously protected Rio Heath National Sanctuary - the only area of tropical grassland in Peru. Across the border, the Bolivian government declared the Madidi National Park covering about 1.70 million hectares last year. The combined areas of these two National Parks creates one of the largest protected regions of tropical rainforest on Earth. It also coincides with the comments of President Fujimori at his Kew Gardens lecture in 1992 when

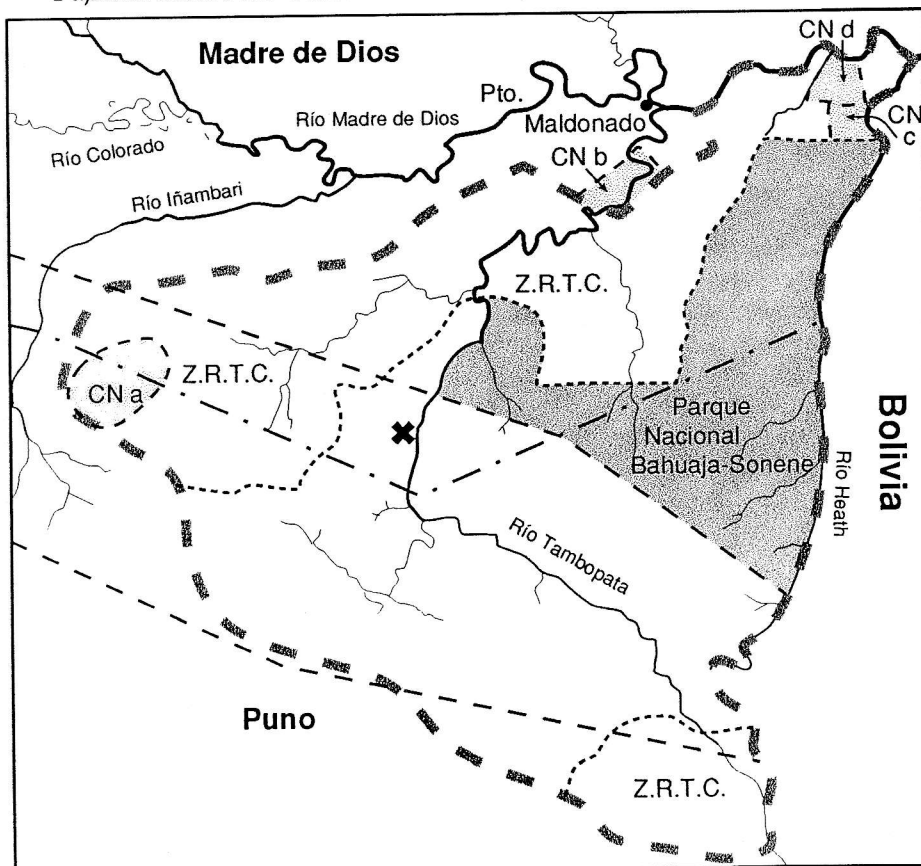
he called for international liaison through environmental co-operation and relates to the implementation of the Amazonian Co-operation Bilateral Agreement signed by Peru in 1993.

The area declared covers about a third of the area originally proposed as a National Park. The declaration excludes the area (Lot 78) allocated for oil and gas exploration to Mobil Oil Inc. but includes the proviso that this area could be added to the National Park, in due course. Those areas not lying within the new National Park will maintain their Reserved Zone status.

TReeS will now look to co-operate with other organisations working in the area with respect to the establishment of a management plan and research programme for the new National Park. TReeS will also be liaising with the representative groups of local people with respect to the implications for their traditional rights (ie. hunting rights) within the area and the appropriate zonification of the area remaining as a Reserved Zone. It is important that this is undertaken soon as these areas are already experiencing incursions from loggers, gold-miners and coffee growers.

As the declaration clearly makes the proviso for

the area covered by Lot 78 overlapping with the TCRZ joining the National Park, TReeS will continue to apply pressure on Mobil to try to ensure that they take tremendous care with respect to the environment in the area. In this declaration the Peruvian government has clearly placed a greater onus on Mobil too.



Key

Native Community (CN):

- a - Kotsimba
- b - Infierno
- c - Sonene
- d - Palma Real

Dept. boundary — . — . — .

Original boundary of Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone (Z.R.T.C.)

—————

Boundary of Mobil Lot 78 — — —

Colpa (Macaw salt-lick) X

* **Footnote** - TReeS received a copy of the National Park declaration from a contact in Lima. On contacting our representative in P.Maldonado we discovered that confirmation of the declaration had not been received there and we were able to advise various parties accordingly.

MOBIL Explorations in Madre de Dios

Workshops and Forum

TReeS has found itself uniquely placed to respond to the request from FENAMAD and FADEMAD (see last Newsletter) for funding to enable them to consult fully with their members about the impending oil/gas explorations of Mobil Oil Inc. across Madre de Dios.

TReeS was able to channel funding from organisations such as IUCN, IWGIA, Earth Love Fund and Body Shop International to Peru and also made a contribution from central funds to meet the shortfall. We thank all those who made a donation to the Appeal in the last Newsletter - further donations are still most welcome.

Workshops -

Elected representatives of the FENAMAD committee visited 11 native communities in the potentially affected areas with nearly 400 native people attending the meetings. A video was shown depicting the well documented impact that oil companies have had in the Oriente region of Ecuador over recent years.

FADEMAD representatives planned to visit 20 communities but had to make some presentations twice due to the large attendances so, in all, 27 meetings were held. Various other development matters such as the increasing number of gold-miners entering the area were also discussed.

The objectives of the meetings were to inform the communities of the agreement for Mobil to enter the area and of the nature of oil/gas explorations and their potential impacts.

Special editions of the respective Newsletters - Avance Indigena (FENAMAD) and El Pijuayo (FADEMAD) were published providing detailed descriptions of oil/gas explorations with diagrams and a system whereby local people could report to their Federations incidences of pollution.

Forum-

On 9-10th August the Mayor of Puerto Maldonado convened a conference, in the Municipal Theatre, under the banner 'Sustainable Development in Madre de Dios, Protected Areas, Local People and Energy Industry Developments'. It aimed to bring together various experts from both sides, local delegates from communities in the potentially affected areas and interested towns people.

FENAMAD brought 36 delegates from 19 native communities, FADEMAD 175 delegates from 71 communities (most of them closer to P.Maldonado), many towns people and students attended as well as several local mayors and a local Congressman. Lunch and dinner were provided on both days.

On the first day a series of presentations were made by representatives of La Sociedad Peruana de Derechos Ambientales (SPDA), Racimos de Ungurahui (an indigenous law group), Mobil Oil Inc., Centro Eori (a local anthropological research unit), Perupetro, FENAMAD and FADEMAD, amongst others.

On the second day the delegates divided up into 12 working groups to debate and discuss the previous days presentations. A plenary session gathered feedback from each group and a series of Conclusions were arrived at including that -

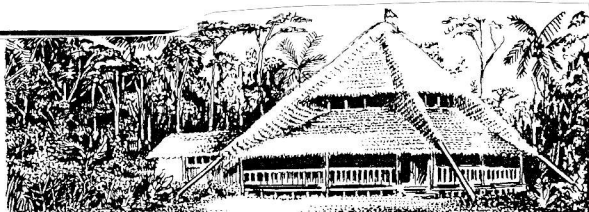
- the Tambopata Municipal Council should again request a copy of the rules regarding gold-mining, logging and oil extraction from the government so they can implement them;
- Mobil compensates native communities for any actions which contravene their rights;
- Mobil respects scrupulously native communities and avoids all contact and anything leading to contact with uncontacted native people;
- a local commission is set up to ensure that Mobil employs local people fairly with respect to both pay and conditions;
- local monitoring of Mobil's activities is not financed directly or indirectly with funds from Mobil;
- the appropriate institutions are asked, in conjunction with FENAMAD and FADEMAD, to establish a management plan for the remaining area of the TCRZ and that the Amarakaeri Comunal Reserve is declared;
- SUNAT intervenes with loggers and gold-miners to ensure that they pay their taxes to the government.

Las Piedras Expedition

TReeS is offering some support to a British-Dutch expedition that aims to travel far up the river Las Piedras which runs in a north-easterly direction from P.Maldonado across Madre de Dios. Its source lies in the area of uncontacted native peoples where Mobil is exploring (Lot 77).

One previous Expedition in the early 1990's is known to have been dropped off near the source and took 3 weeks to travel down the river but, until now, no systematic scientific expedition has travelled up the river. They will be undertaking flora and fauna surveys, assessing the evidence of colonisation and logging along the river, and monitoring any signs of Mobil's activities.

TReeS is contributing to the cost of a member of FENAMAD taking part in the trip.



Peruvian Environmental Laws

The Peruvian government has recently highlighted some of their environmental protection measures -

- The Environment Code bans the release of substances that could degrade the ecosystem or cause alteration to the environment, and the emission of substances that could cause alteration to water endangering its use;
- The Criminal Code carries a jail sentence for anyone causing pollution by discharging contaminated substances above certain limits;
- Any potentially polluting activities are monitored by the relevant authorities which issue licences accordingly, once an environmental impact study has been carefully assessed. Companies must also present a specific Environmental Compatibility plan which must be approved.
- The Environmental Code requires all mining activities to refine and purify waste before releasing it in to the environment and periodic checks are made on companies in this respect.

The Peruvian government admits that though these measures are in place they have not allocated the resources to fully implement them as yet.

Peru News

J.Gummer, Minister of the Environment, has recently visited Peru, his second visit in 12 months. There have been several other high level contacts between British environmental experts and their Peruvians counterparts. There were also a number of high level visits by Peruvian Government representatives to the UK in the Spring. UK Companies (18%) are second only to Spain (41%) in the list of all foreign investment in Peru.

The Peruvian Government is considering setting up a new National Environmental Foundation (FONAM). It would have five priorities - biological diversity; sustainable use of natural resources; pollution and environmental quality control; environmental help for privatised industries; and alternative forms of development; plus an emergency fund. However, it would be a 'private organisation operating in the public interest' with members drawn from business and some Ministries as well as the environmental sector.

In April, CONAM (National Environmental Council) held a national conference bringing together environmental, government and business groups to help to define the environmental action agenda. The intention is that CONAM will provide the economic and human resources but each Region

will define its own environmental agenda.

A \$25m debt swap deal with Finland will benefit the Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary. All species of river and ocean dolphins have been given full legal protection, 20 out of the 42 species are found in Peru.

Annual inflation at the end of June stood at 11%; raw materials accounted for 75% of export value in 1995; the population grew by 415,000 to nearly 24m in 1995.

TReeS UK Libraries

Recent Deposits include:

Further correspondence between TReeS and Mobil Oil Inc.; the official Peruvian government declaration of the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park; a paper entitled 'Search Techniques and Localised Distribution Patterns of selected Anuran Fauna at the TRZ'; a paper entitled 'Distribution of Primates in the TRZ'; Peru - a Times newspaper supplement; extracts from the FENAMAD Newsletter outlining the conclusions of the IX Congress held in December '95; further Nape Centre reports; reports of the Co-ordinating body for Conservation in Madre de Dios; an Eco-tourism proposal for Infierno (untranslated).

Coffee from Tambopata

'Cafe Direct'

The article about 'Cafe Direct' coffee from the Tambopata area, mentioned two TReeS Newsletters ago, will appear in a future issue.

RN News

The Explorer's Inn

Climate:

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall		Humidity %
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of rain	
Apr	29.9	21.6	146	16	95.9
May	25.7	17.6	66	9	96.0
Jun	24.3	18.8	85	7	
Jul	26.5	18.5	25	4	
Aug	30.6	19.7	67	7	

Rainfall levels were very low over recent months and the 'frijas' (cold spells) severe with evening temperatures at the end of June dropping as low as 10°C for 2 days requiring everyone to wrap themselves in blankets.

Recent Sightings

Giant River Otters continue to be seen on Cocococha; a Jaguarundi was sighted on Main trail at 3200m from the lodge; Jaguar tracks on Main trail at 2100-3700m; a Giant Anteater on Main trail at

200m; a Bushdog and Collared Peccary were other interesting sightings.

Current/Recent RN'S include

A.Kennedy, D.Pullen, J.Galvez, A.Booth, C.Prescott, A.Coffey, M.Jackson, R.Ziarno, S.Kelley, T.Bailey, T.Smith and J.Rana.

Tambopata Jungle Lodge (TJL)

Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of rain
Apr	28.1	22.5	93	13
May	26.4	21.8	106	15
Jun	23.9	18.0	65	9

Current/Recent RN'S include

A.Courage, J.Campbell, J & S.Rossouw, B.Thomsen and A.Tucker.

Interesting sightings include 6 species of Monkey, a Jaguarundi, Brown-throated 3-toed Sloth, Giant River Otters, a large grouping of Capybara, Coral snake (3m long), Collared Anteater, Blue-headed Macaws, Common Potoo, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Red-billed Pied Tanager, etc.

Raffle

A book of raffle tickets from the Anglo-Peruvian Society, which has supported several TReeS co-ordinated expeditions over recent years, is enclosed with this Newsletter. Winners of the first prize will stay in a jungle lodge close to the TCRZ. A major part of the first prize has been put up by the sponsors of this Newsletter - JLA. Good luck !

Word-processing

We would also be extremely pleased to hear from anyone who can assist with some rapid word-processing on a voluntary basis, every so often. If you can help, please write to J.Forrest with your phone number.

New TReeS Leaflet/ Membership Reminder

We enclose a new TReeS leaflet with this Newsletter. All general details and those of the projects TReeS supports have been updated.

We would request those members who have not renewed their annual membership since October '95 to use the leaflet to do so. Alternatively, please pass on the leaflet to a friend or colleague.

This will be the last opportunity for those members, sent a reminder with the last

Newsletter, to renew their membership.

New TReeS Merchandise

'Diversity in the Rainforest' - 50 minute VHS video, featuring 150 Butterfly species, in spectacular colour, found within the original Tambopata Reserved Zone (TRZ). Narrated and produced by TReeS member John Banks. Price: £15, 2 for £28.

'Is God an American' - an anthropological perspective of the 'missionary' work of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), published by IWGIA and Survival International in 1981. The report (192 pages, with b & w photos) looks at SIL'S activities in several Central and South American countries. Two chapters cover Peru, one looks at their activities in general and focuses on the Manu region, the other on SIL's contact with a 'new found tribe' - the Amarakaeri. Only 10 copies available (none in perfect condition) Price: £7.50 each.

'A Birder's Guide to the Explorer's Inn' - by ex-RN Simon Allen. A detailed account of bird-watching possibilities along the trails of the Explorer's Inn, plus species identification details and common sites for the nearly 600 species sighted in the local area. Price: £10 each.

All prices include postage and packing. All other Merchandise as per the Merchandise Listing sent out with the last Newsletter. This will be sent out with alternate Newsletters in future or send a sae to obtain.

Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meeting - Saturday 19th October, 2.30-5pm, The Foyer, School of Geography, University Road, Leeds University, Leeds (20 min. on foot from the city centre). Doors *only* open 2-3pm. Reports on the recent Forum and Workshops held in Madre de Dios, including the latest details about Mobil's activities and the responses to it; Dr Oliver Philips will talk about satellite image interpretation of the Tambopata area with respect to the recent National Park declaration; and much more.

Anti-Slavery International has made their their 1996 Anti-slavery Award to the Indigenous Organisation of Atalaya (OIRA), which represents the Ashaninka peoples who live in the south central Peruvian Amazon. Details of events in London and Brussels involving OIRA members at the end of October can be obtained on 0171.924.9555 (Phone) / 0171.738.4110 (Fax).

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

Patron - Norman Myers.

Most copies printed on recycled paper.



This Edition of the Newsletter has been sponsored by

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA



Mobil Correspondence

TReeS understands that Mobil received nearly 300 letters from Survival International and TReeS members expressing concern about various aspects of their intended operations in Madre de Dios. We believe that Mobil were surprised by this response. They sent out a standard letter answering few points specifically, in reply.

Any members who would like to maintain the correspondence with Mobil should write to -

Mr J.R.Donnaway, Manager for Environment, Health & Safety, Mobil Business Resources Corporation, P.O.Box 650232, Dallas, Texas 75265-0232, USA. Fax - (214) 905.7283

Re: Mobil Oil Inc. activities in Madre de Dios, Peru.

We would like you to comment on the following:-

- * the declaration of the Bahauja-Sonene National Park includes the proviso for the Upper Tambopata area, falling within Lot 78, to be included in the National Park at a later date. Please advise in detail the additional measures Mobil intends to take to ensure that the environmental impacts from your operations will be minimal so that the area will justify the Peruvian governments opinion that it warrants National Park status, when you have completed your activities there.
- * please explain how Mobil Oil Inc. could accept and present to the Peruvian government an environmental impact assessment (EIA) from a sub- contractor (GEMA) which contains very limited ethnographical data, some of which is inaccurate; makes no reference to indigenous rights legislation which is part of Peruvian national law (ie. ILO Convention 169); and includes sections 'lifted' from a previous EIA undertaken by your sub-contractor in northern Peru and completely irrelevant to the Tambopata area.
- * why Mobil Oil Inc. is ignoring the advice of the EIA for Lot 77 which stated that 'activities in the Upper Piedras should be avoided during the dry season months (May-September), the time of year when 'isolated native groups are fishing and egg-collecting'? I understand that your ground operations commenced in the area several weeks ago despite calls from local indigenous groups for you to undertake further consultation before entering the area which is known to contain 'uncontacted' native groups - as per ILO Convention 169 to which the Peruvian government is a signatory.
- * I understand from one of your sub-contractors' employees that a helicopter was flown low over a community in this area causing the inhabitants to flee. I also understand that another employee has reported the deaths of 3 Mobil workers as a result of meeting uncontacted native people. Please also comment on these reports.
- * please reassure me about the dangers of contacting 'uncontacted' native peoples by providing me with details of the anthropological experts on the area with whom you are consulting.
- * who should I write to to obtain a copy of the reports of those undertaking the independent monitoring of your operations in Madre de Dios?

Finally, I would like to make clear that my major concern is that Mobil Oil Inc. adopts a 'best practice approach' for its operations in these areas, consults fully and reacts accordingly with all local representative groups and establishes operational methods which should act as a model for other oil companies working in such environments in the future.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Peru 1991 national income - \$38bn Mobil 1991 global income - \$63bn
