

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

Mobil Update

Following the TReeS supported Workshops and Forum in mid-1996, to publicise to local communities the nature of Mobil's operations in Madre de Dios (MDD), considerable publicity was also generated in the UK by Survival International. Articles appeared in the 'Independent' and 'Daily Telegraph', it was featured on the Radio 4 'Today' programme and Channel 4 news. Survival International (0171.242.1441) is currently organising a vigil every Tuesday (12-2pm) in front of the Mobil UK HQ (Clements Inn, off the Strand, London WC2). It aims to publicise further the threats to the 'uncontacted' peoples of the upper Las Piedras region posed by Mobil. TReeS members are welcome.

** Stop Press **

Grant Geophysical, Mobil's seismic operations sub-contractor in Lots 77 & 78 has gone bankrupt. In Lot 77 Mobil claim to have completed 600km of seismic lines as per their contract but it is believed that they have not shot the two lines in the upper Las Piedras. This is the area where there was the greatest chance of encountering the 'uncontacted'. It is not yet known if Mobil will appoint another sub-contractor to complete this work. However, the latest feedback suggests that they may not and international publicity about their activities may well have played a significant part in this decision. It is believed that most, if not all, personnel and equipment have been withdrawn from the base camp on the Las Piedras. Mobil must decide by

March '98 if it is going to drill in Lot 77 or, under its agreement with the Peruvian government, the block must be released.

In Lot 78 only a third of the 400km of seismic lines are complete. Therefore, it seems likely that Mobil will appoint a new sub-contractor, in due course. These lines will cross the proposed Amarakaeri Communal Reserve, where there is currently great concern about the compensatory agreements that Mobil is attempting to make with the native communities. The discussions to date suggest that Mobil has not given communities sufficient time to consider their offer nor has it offered satisfactory compensation in the circumstances. Mobil must decide by September '97 if it will drill in Lot 78. TReeS is continuing to monitor the situation.

FENAMAD award

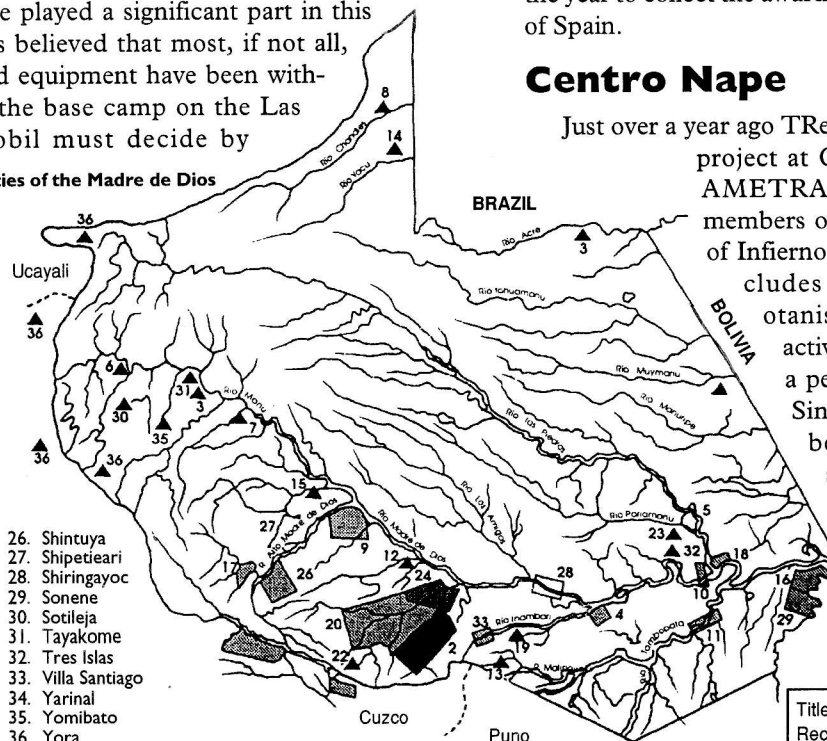
The prestigious Spanish institution 'Bartolome de las Casas' has jointly awarded their annual prize to FENAMAD for their work in trying to protect the 'uncontacted' peoples of the Las Piedras region with respect to Mobil's activities. This refers to their involvement in the Workshops, Forum, direct meetings with Mobil and the setting up of a monitoring programme, which has recently commenced. The President of FENAMAD will travel to Spain later in the year to collect the award and prize from the King of Spain.

Centro Nape

Just over a year ago TReeS began funding a new project at Centro Nape (formerly AMETRA 2001) initiated by members of the native community of Infierno. This group, which includes a healer and ethnobotanist, were keen to revive activities at the Centre after a period of disorganisation. Since May '96 TReeS has been able to offer more substantial funding to enable the Centre to begin to pursue a full-scale programme formulated by community members. This has included re-

Indigenous Communities of the Madre de Dios

1. Alerta
2. Barranco Chico
3. Bélgica
4. Boca Inambari
5. Boca Paríamanu
6. Cashpajali
7. Cumerjali
8. Chandless
9. Diamante
10. El Pilar
11. El Infierno
12. Isirihue
13. Kotsimba
14. Manchineri
15. 'Mascho'-Piro
16. Palma Real
17. Palotoa-Teparo
18. Puerto Arturo
19. Puerto Carlos
20. Puerto Luz
21. Queros
22. Samaninonteni
23. San Jacinto
24. San José del Karene
25. Santa Rosa Huacaria
26. Shintuya
27. Shipetieari
28. Shiringayoc
29. Sonene
30. Sotileja
31. Tayakome
32. Tres Islas
33. Villa Santiago
34. Yarinal
35. Yomibato
36. Yora



- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Titled lands | |
| Recognised lands | |
| Unrecognised lands | |

locating and renovating some of the buildings, maintaining the medicinal plant garden, preparing remedies, treating patients (some of whom have come a considerable distance), continuing with the reforestation work and preparing a 'chacra'.

A team of four have pursued this with enthusiasm and commitment. They have assumed full responsibility for the project's direction and its administration. Students from the Forestry Faculty in Puerto Maldonado have visited to assist with maintenance and to learn more about the forest. In April '96 a meeting was held in Infierno to explain the aims of the project and in November a workshop was held for 30 community members to update them about the recent work at the Centre.

During the second and third years the project requires the Centre to become partially self-funding. Neither the treatment of patients nor the sale of remedies is likely to generate much funding. Consequently, the Centre has drawn up a strategy for accepting a limited number of visitors - a TReeS member has recently spent a couple of months, on a voluntary basis, teaching them some English and helping them to label signs for the medicinal plant garden - and is considering which traditional crafts could be successfully produced for sale on a small-scale basis.

**** Appeal **** The funding for the Centre runs out this month leaving a shortfall (\$2,000) for March/April to complete the first year's funding, though some funding has already been secured for the second year. We would very much like to hear from any TReeS member who could provide us with contacts (Trusts, Foundations, companies, etc) to secure the final two months' funding for year one. Please contact J.Forrest, if you can assist.

Las Piedras Expedition

Only one scientific expedition is recorded as having visited the river Las Piedras, one of the longest in the department of Madre de Dios. With TReeS support a team of 5 Europeans and 5 Peruvians, including members of local indigenous organisations, journeyed 560km up the river in 2 canoes in a trip lasting nearly 5 weeks.

The Expedition aimed to assess the current state of the Las Piedras ecosystem and investigate human activity along the river, to subsequently be able to make recommendations about the long-term protection and sustainable development of the area. This was undertaken through Human settlement, Logging and Fauna Studies.

For the latter 6 indicator species were chosen - Black Caiman, 3 Macaw species, Giant River Otter, Black Spider monkey, Red Howler monkey and Yellow-spotted River Turtle. The Otters were sighted in the river twice and in four of the 12 ox-

bow lakes visited but only in small numbers. During the earlier 1994 Expedition recordings were much higher. Both monkey species were seen regularly but in large numbers only upstream of the logging camps in which their remains were frequently found. All 3 Macaw Species were plentiful and 12 (!) 'colpas' (bird-licks) were visited, including two large ones. Few Turtles were seen but egg collection is known to be high along the river for the Puerto Maldonado market.

Loggers were after two main species - Mahogany and Spanish cedar. About 25 legal logging operations, below 1000 hectares, were recorded on the lower Las Piedras. Portable saw mills are used to cut felled trees into planks which are then floated downriver in the rainy Season (November- May). There are two large concessions, each of about 25,000 hectares, and employing bulldozers to speed up their operations which also float logs downstream. 6 illegal logging operations were observed.

8 communities are located along the first 60km of the river but only one is an indigenous community. They have been set up by Andean colonists over the last 10 years and contain about 20-200 inhabitants practising small-scale farming, ranching and logging. A further 200km upriver lies Monte Salvado set up by a small group of native people who have recently come over from the Urubamba valley to the west through the territory of the 'uncontacted' native peoples.

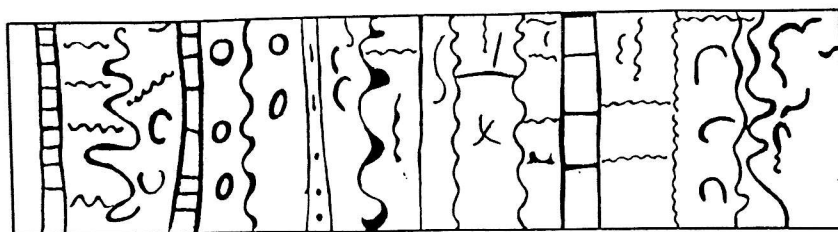
The expedition also visited the Lot 77 Mobil base camp, 490km from the river's mouth. The camp was in very good order but is known to be the 'show camp' for journalists and reports suggest that the same standards are not maintained elsewhere. Expedition members found a series of unexploded seismic charges in the ground at one point (!). The camp is supplied entirely by helicopter which, presumably, has a major impact on the surrounding wildlife and 'uncontacted' native peoples. It is clear that Mobil employees have seen these people but any close-up contact has been flatly denied by Mobil and it seems likely that they have retreated further towards the headwaters of the river or towards Manu National Park.

The Expedition members are now writing up their report, editing film taken during the trip and compiling a list of recommendations which will be presented to the relevant authorities in association with Peruvian counterparts.

Coffee direct from Tambopata - 'Cafe Direct'

66% of world coffee production comes from Latin America and consists of the milder, high-quality Arabica variety. The UK imports 4.4% of global production, 87% of which is turned into

Design for a native 'Sapteri' pottery vessel



'instant' coffee. Just two large multi-nationals - Nestle (58%) and Kraft (21%) - control the British retail market, though neither company is British, with supermarket 'own labels' accounting for another 15% of sales.

In response to this situation, Oxfam, Twin Trading, Traidcraft and Equal Exchange now purchase coffee directly at a fair price from Latin American and African co-operative farmers to produce the 'Cafe Direct' brand.

One of the co-operatives supplying coffee is CECOVASA (Co-operatives of the Valleys of Sandia) most of whose growers farm land in the upper Tambopata valley close to the small settlements of San Juan del Oro and Putina Punka. This area lies within the 'Buffer zone' to the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park, where sustainable activities are proposed.

CECOVASA has about 5,000 members split between 4 smaller co-operatives whose members farm the hillsides of the Tambopata valley between 200- 800m. Bushes are productive for only about 15 years in this area unlike the 30-40 years more common elsewhere. Most farmers cultivate small 'chacras' (farms) devoting about two hectares per year to coffee production which generate about 40 sacks of beans.

The market price for coffee fluctuates widely, almost entirely for reasons completely beyond the control of the Tambopata farmers. In 1990 the price - set by stock exchanges in major developed world cities - fell to \$20 per sack but by 1995 had recovered to \$70. Farmers' annual income has, consequently, varied over this period from about \$800 - \$2800 per year (Peru average income - \$1400) out of which various local costs must be met. It is as well to remember that at £1 per cup of coffee in a UK restaurant a sack of beans is valued at the point of consumption at \$13,000!

CECOVASA exported 22,000 Sacks in 1994 valued at \$3.5m. To reach the UK breakfast table the beans make an incredible journey. Mules carry the beans to the nearest road from where they are taken by local transport to collecting houses. Trucks then convey them over 5000m Andean passes, across the altiplano around Lake Titicaca and up the

coast to the port of Callao (Lima), a 2 day journey. 250 sacks are then crammed in to a 20' container for the 6 week trip to Felixstowe.

10% of the final retail price covers the main transportation within Peru and other exportation costs, another 55% goes to the shipping company and the importer who roasts, processes and packages it, while 25% goes to the retailer.

Most of these expenses are controlled by multi-nationals, or their sub-contractors, leaving just 5% for the farmer and 5% to cover his local transportation costs and labourers' wages. (Nestle spend about \$60m per year in the UK on advertising alone - despite near 60% market share).

Cafe Direct coffee is a blend of beans grown by many small co-operatives and, consequently, the taste is subject to slight variation between blends, unlike the controlled uniform taste of the major brands. Drunk straight, coffee from the Tambopata valley is described as 'nutty, mild Colombian, a little thin'.

The information in this article has been extracted from the September 1995 edition of New Internationalist magazine (No. 271) (55 Rectory Rd, Oxford OX4 1BW) to whom we are grateful for permission to reproduce it in this form. Cafe Direct is now available from a wide range of retail outlets.

Resident Naturalist News

The Explorer's Inn

Climate:

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of Rain
Sep	27.0	19.0	204	14
Oct	29.7	21.3	110	15
Nov	28.6	21.9	222	17
Dec	25.5	22.5	243	22

Recent RN'S include:

E.Funnell, J.Cutting, C.Sheill, M.Ryan, D.Quin, J.Rana, P.Reader, S.Webster & S.Fraser.

Recent Sightings

Many trees have been flowering including the castana, fig tree and cocona. Everyone has been keeping a close watch on 2 Harpy Eagle chicks at 2600m on Main Trail; the Hoatzins at Cocacocho have also had many young; quite large groups of Squirrel (30+), Brown Capuchin and White-fronted Capuchin monkeys have been seen on several trails; a family of 2 adult and 3 young Howler monkeys have often been seen near the lodge; a Short-eared Dog and Jaguarundi were Sighted at 4600m on Main Trail; Dusky Titi monkeys were recorded on 25 days in the Mammal log in November; Giant

Otters regularly on Cocacocha in groups of 3-8; and Black Caimans were seen more often than White on the river.

Tambopata Jungle Lodge (TJL)

Climate:

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of Rain
Jul				
Aug	25.5	17.3	30	5
Sep	28.8	20.4	59	9
Oct	28.0	20.8	221	12
Nov	29.9	23.0	135	14
Dec	29.5	23.0	217	16
Jan	-	-	-	-

Recent RN'S & Sightings include

D.Wadge, A.Pearson, C.O'Connor, A.Baxter and L.Hanna. Monkey sightings were good and Giant Otters were seen on both Sachavacayoc and Condenado lakes. Other sightings were especially good on visits to the 'Colpa'.

TReeS 1996 Accounts and Membership

The TReeS accounts for 1996, as yet unaudited, indicate that the Society had an income of about £35,500, while expenditure was about £27,800. Much of the substantial increase in income and expenditure compared to recent years related to our support for the Workshops and Forum in mid-1996 to raise local awareness about Mobil's activities for which substantial funding was received from other organisations and channelled to Peru by TReeS.

Almost 87% of expenditure went on supporting activities relating to projects in Peru, 7.5% on the production of merchandise and nearly 6% on UK administration. A large quantity of merchandise remains in stock.

TReeS USA continued to look after administrative matters in N.America and reported a balance of just over \$1000 at the year end. Total global membership has increased to about 500.

TReeS UK Libraries

Recent Deposits include:

Further correspondence between TReeS and Mobil Oil Inc.; reports on Primate & Pirana studies; Conservation International Mobil monitoring project; 'Avance Indigena' No.10 - FENAMAD newsletter (untranslated); Centro Nape reports.

New TReeS Merchandise

'Macaw' T-shirt - this very popular T-shirt is now in stock again. See the enclosed Merchandise leaflet for full details.

'Is God an American' - an anthropological perspective of the 'missionary' work of the Summer

Institute of Linguistics (SIL). The report (192 pages, with b & w photos) looks at SIL'S activities in several Central & South American countries. Two chapters cover Peru. Only 6 copies now available (none in perfect condition). Price: £7.50 each. **Traditional Medicine Manual: 'Salud para Todos'** - (See Newsletter No.32 for more details). A few copies are still available - £25.

'Toucans' & 'Village' greetings cards - based on paintings by students of the Amazon School of Painting, Pucallpa. Price: £3 for 5, with envelopes. All prices include postage and packing. All other TReeS Merchandise as per the Merchandise Listing with this Newsletter.

Other Merchandise -

* **Trees for Life** (Findhorn Foundation) 1997 Engagement Diary - includes a photo from Tambopata by TReeS member G.Ziesler. This beautiful diary is available from - Trees for Life, The Park, Findhorn Bay, Forres, Scotland IV36 OTZ.

* **'The Arakmbut of Amazonian Peru'** - a trilogy of books by Andrew Gray covering the mythology, traditions, culture and adaptation to western culture over the last 40 years of one of the larger groups of indigenous peoples found in Madre de Dios since their first missionary contact. **20% discount for TReeS members**

+ **'Mythology, Spirituality and History'** (vol 1). Price: £40 (Hardback)

+ **'The Last Shaman'** (vol 2). Price: £32 (H).

+ **'Determining Identity and Developing Rights'** (vol 3). Price: £35 (H), £16 (Paperback). Further details from - S.Miles, Berghahn Books Ltd, Bush Ho., Merewood Av., Oxford OX3 8EF

Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meeting - Saturday 15th March, 2.30-5pm, Fenner Brockway House, 37-39 Great Guildford St., London SE1 (5 minute walk from Borough tube - Northern line only / Bakerloo line closed). Reports on the latest developments in Madre de Dios, plus updates on TReeS projects and a speaker from the Las Piedras Expedition. Audited accounts for 1994 & 1995 will be available for inspection at the meeting.

Anglo-Peruvian Society Expeditions Evening - Tuesday 13th May, 6.30 - 9pm, London SW1. More details from TReeS in April.

TReeS AGM Meeting - early June, Oxford - venue to be announced. Any members who would like to stand for the TReeS committee (meetings are held 2-4 times a year usually in the London/Oxford areas) should write to J.Forrest by the end of April.

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

Patron - Norman Myers.

Most copies printed on recycled paper.



This Edition of the Newsletter has been sponsored by Fujifilm makers of Fujichrome and Fujicolor high quality photographic slide and print film