

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

Mobil Update

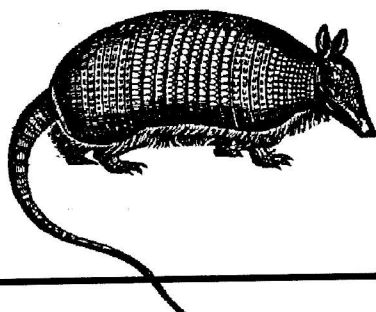
A French company, CGG, has been appointed by Mobil Oil Inc. to replace Grant Geophysical, who filed for bankruptcy earlier in the year, as sub-contractor for field operations in Madre de Dios. CGG have been working in the central Peruvian jungle from where reports suggest that their record in dealing with indigenous peoples and with respect to the environment could have been better.

CGG have recommenced operations in Lot 78 with activity expected to be most intense from June to August. It is believed that Mobil have completed about 150kms of seismic lines in Lot 78 to date. The number of lines to be shot has been increased, leading to a 38km increase in the length of lines but only about 5km of line will now pass through the native community of Kotsimba. In their contract with the Peruvian government they must complete 400kms by 25.9.1997, or forfeit the bond they have lodged to complete the work on time. FENAMAD and FADEMAD will continue to monitor the operations of Mobil/CGG in the field and report any unacceptable activities.

Mobil are currently negotiating with the native communities of Puerto Luz and San Jose, who are determined not to be forced into accepting the derisory compensation offered at the end of 1996 to two other affected communities. Encouraged by FENAMAD and other NGO'S, such as TReeS, they have made more realistic demands.

The Survival International (0171.242.1441) vigil continues every Tuesday (12-2pm) in front of the Mobil UK HQ (Clements Inn, off the Strand, London WC2). TReeS members are welcome.

SI are also organising a 'Walk for the Indians of Peru', Sunday 13th July, to help to raise funds for their work with tribal peoples. The publicity associated with the Walk focuses on the activities of Mobil in the rainforests of south-east Peru. The Walks (6-14 miles) will take place in the following areas - Mendip Hills, S.Dartmoor, Purbeck Hills, Haworth, Richmond (London), Oxford, Woburn Abbey, York and the Brecon Beacons. Further details from SI on 0171.242.1441.



Centro Nape

Two grants were secured during the Spring to complete the first year's funding and funding has already been secured covering most of the second year. We are grateful to those TReeS members who responded to the appeal in the last Newsletter.

TReeS RAMOS - an investigation into the effects of tourism on wildlife populations in the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone (TCRZ).

During 1990-96 the number of lodges in the vicinity of the TCRZ has grown from 3 to 7, and the number of annual visitors to just 2 of them has risen from 700 to 3,500. Last year the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA), which administers protected areas, approached TReeS to monitor the effects of tourism on wildlife populations in the area.

TReeS, through the initiative of ex-RN's C.Kirkby, H.Lloyd & T.Doan, was able to respond with a 2 year project which began at the start of 1997. It aims to investigate the distribution, abundance, community structure, behaviour and diversity of Primates, Avifauna, Amphibians and Reptiles in undisturbed primary forest and forest dominated by tourist trails at 6 locations.

The research is being undertaken by young international and Peruvian scientists supported by interested volunteer assistants. Six volunteers are required per quarter for a minimum 3 month stay and must contribute to project funds (about \$2,400, excluding international flights and taxes). Any TReeS members interested in participating during 1998 should write to TReeS for further details.

TReeS Naturalists Meeting

Given the large number of people participating in the Resident Naturalist (RN) programmes offered by two of the lodges in the Tambopata area and the TReeS-RAMOS study, TReeS recently held a special day course in London to prepare them for their visit. Organised by ex-RN's K.Morgan & A.Wilson, it focused on the geography and natural history of the Tambopata area. It is hoped that another such course will be held in Autumn 1997.

International initiatives to save Forests

The following is a summary of major on-going international efforts to 'save' the world's forests:-

* **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)**, also known as the

'Earth Summit', was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. Many world leaders attended and, consequently, the significance of the discussions was reduced!

A Forest Convention proposal was turned down and replaced by a chapter (Chapter 11) on deforestation in Agenda 21 - the final report of the Conference. It aims to encourage nations to develop forest strategies to contain deforestation and integrate forest peoples into conservation and development projects.

A non-legally binding statement of principles for a global agreement on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest - the 'Forest Principles' - was also issued. It provides a framework whereby nations can manage their forest resources according to national goals and environmental policies. Chapter 11 and the Forest Principles represent the first international agreements on global forest management.

A 'Convention on Biological Diversity' was also adopted at UNCED. It aims to encourage conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity and to ensure a fair share out of any 'benefits' obtained from genetic resources. It has been signed by 162 countries and ratified by 140 (Oct 1996). However, subsequent attempts to introduce a 'Forest Protocol' have been rejected.

* **Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**, arose out of UNCED. A 'forest' meeting was held in April '95 but could not agree on the priorities for action. Reporting to the CSD is the **Inter-government Working Group on Forests (IWGF)** which was set up to encourage North/ South co-operation on forest issues.

* **The Inter-governmental Panel on Forests (IPF)**, was also set up by the CSD to sit for 2 years to look in more detail at forest related problems but without placing specific emphasis on biodiversity. Its aims include improving national forest policies, increasing forest resource assessment and enhancing understanding of the environmental implications of the trading of forest products. It is due to make a final report to the CSD in 1997.

* **The Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP)** initiative was established by the UN Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO) in 1985 to encourage countries to prepare forestry management plans. \$8bn was to be raised through World Bank participation and made available to member nations. However, it has been accused of facilitating logging of primary forests in many countries.

* **International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)** arose from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1985. It led to the setting up of the **International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO)**, in 1986, which consists of 26 forest growing nations and 27 forest product consumer nations. It aims for all internationally traded tropical timber to come from sustainably managed forests by the year 2000. Though guidelines for achieving this have been set, many believe that its projects consist of

little more than subsidised logging. (See below).

* **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**, links NGO'S, community groups, foresters, etc, from 25 nations. It exists to promote responsible forest management through the issuing of certificates to wood products coming from forests that are managed in environmentally appropriate ways, that are socially beneficial and economically viable. All loggers will be required to participate by the year 2000 in line with the ITTO scheme. The FSC is the only initiative to receive widespread NGO support.

* **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** was created in 1973 and covers several tree species.

* **UN Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**, since 1994, has run meetings for Ministers of Agriculture to link forestry initiatives. The World Forestry Congress will be hosted by the FAO, in Turkey, 13-22.10.1997.

* **Amazon Co-operation Treaty (TCA)**, was set up after Rio by the 8 Amazon basin nations. The TCA projects include 'the setting up of a Tourist Management and Utilization Plan in the Manu Reserve area' and 'support for the new Bahuaja-Sonene National Park'.

A recent ITTO publication provides the following information about Peru:

- it has the seventh largest area of rainforest on Earth;
- 40.3m hectares (59% of Peru) is tropical rainforest;
- FAO estimated in 1993 that the average annual rate of deforestation 1981-90 was 271,000 hectares (0.4% of all forest). 42% occurred in the jungle of which, it is estimated, 8.2m hectares have been lost so far.
- it is estimated that in 1995 Peru produced 1.39m m3 of industrial tropical hardwood logs, an increase of 50% on 1991;
- exports of all tropical hardwood products in 1993 was \$12.6 million;
- 500 logging companies (mostly small) are working in Peruvian forests;
- ITTO has funded 17 projects so far costing nearly \$8 million;
- in 1996 the Peruvian government temporarily banned logging in certain areas while management plans were reviewed. Mahogany and Cedro can no longer be exported as rough-cut timber;
- indigenous community forests cover 6.2m hectares divided between 868 communities.



Resident Naturalist News

The Explorer's Inn

Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of Rain
Jan	27.5	22.8	216	17
Feb	27.2	22.1	466	21
Mar	27.0	22.3	346	26

Recent RN'S include - P.Reader, S.Webster, S.Fraser, T.Thurley, S.Musgrave, A.Curo & R.Bolarezo. I.Powell (an ex-RN) visited with a Field Studies Council tour group.

Recent Sightings

Heavy rains in February and March led to a 6m rise in the river Tambopata, closing Heliconia trail and washing away bridges on Quebrada & Katicocha trails; all trails were heavily waterlogged. However, snake sightings rose considerably including a 3m Anaconda pursuing a rat and a 2.5m Bushmaster at 3500m on MT. Caimans were seen virtually every night on the river trips with Spectacled Caiman up to 2m in length and Black Caiman up to 1m long. An adult Caiman with young was also observed on laguna Chica and a 3.5m Black Caiman on Cocacocha. Other sightings included a Puma on Main trail; a 2-toed sloth with baby; a Bushdog; an Owl monkey; up to 8 Giant Otters 4-5 times a month on Cocacocha; Ocelot and Jaguar tracks; a Brazilian Tapir swimming in Cocacocha; 7 Capybara, including 2 young, crossing the Tambopata; and many monkey species, including young.

Tambopata Jungle Lodge (TJL)

Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of Rain
Jan	28.4	23.7	280	19
Feb	28.5	23.6	469	25
Mar	28.3	23.3	427	21
Apr	28.7	22.7	189	17

Recent RN'S & Sightings include - D.Wadge, A.Pearson, C.O'Connor, A.Baxter and D.Salkeld. The heavy rains severely flooded trails, leaving some waist deep in water. Sightings have been good including Giant Otters regularly on lakes Sachavacayoc and Condenado, and a 3m Anaconda on the latter.

Peru News

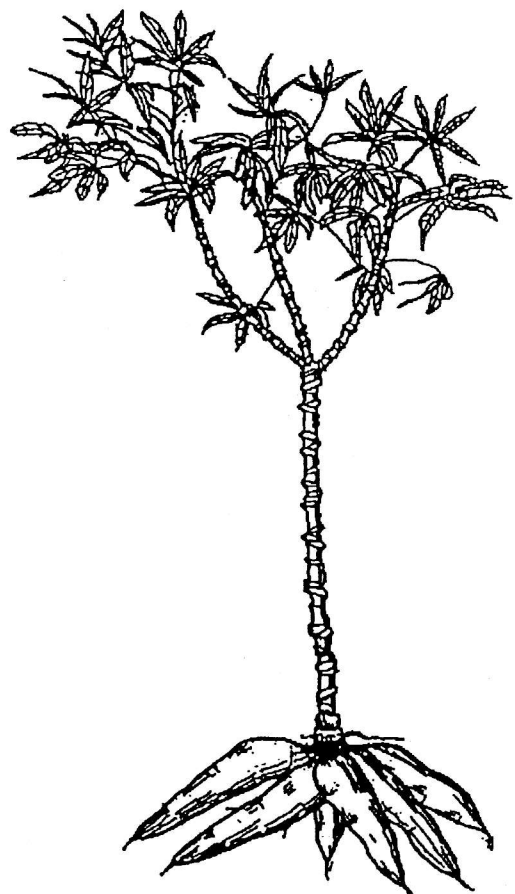
The 'hostage' crisis which dominated the Xmas headlines was dramatically resolved in mid-April after 126 days. At that time 72 people, including President Fujimori's younger brother, the Foreign Minister, Chancellor and two ambassadors, remained in the Japanese Embassy building. However, Fujimori decided to take the risk, as opinion polls showed his rating at an all time low, and sent troops into the building. All members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary

Movement (MRTA), 1 hostage and 3 soldiers were killed in what, militarily, was seen as a highly successful action.

A military end to the crisis was, increasingly, seen as inevitable as Fujimori refused to meet the demand for the release of 400 MRTA prisoners and the MRTA stuck to their demands. Despite the freeing of the hostages questions were soon being asked about the killing of all the MRTA members several of whom were teenagers who had spent all their lives in remote Andean villages. The resolution of the crisis has done little to reduce the growing concern about the strength of shadowy military figures influencing Fujimori's decision-making.

UK Companies (18%) are second only to Spain (41%) in the list of all foreign investment in Peru, though a large part of this is likely to be accounted for by Shell. In 1996 Peru recorded an economic growth rate of 2.8%, well down on the 7% of 1995, with a \$2bn trade deficit.

In late February President Fujimori visited the UK and addressed a meeting of invited guests at the London School of Economics. After a short speech he took questions from the floor. Unfortunately, the TReeS question concerning the 'responsibilities of foreign multi-nationals towards Peru's tremendous cultural and environmental biodiversity' was not selected. In another question he stated that his vision of Peru involves 'growth to benefit the nation and not individuals' which may prove significant for native people in oil/gas producing areas.



Yuca (*Manihot esculenta*)

TReeS UK Libraries

Recent Deposits include:

Las Piedras Expedition report; an RN report entitled 'Abundance & Distribution of Hoatzin around Lake Cocacocha'; a report entitled 'The hunt for the Chicken Spider'; further correspondances with Mobil Oil Inc.; RN monthly lodge reports.

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.

Newsletter Sponsorship

Recent issues of the TReeS newsletter have been sponsored by a variety of companies. The last newsletter was sponsored by Fujifilm -

'Fujifilm's slide film 'Fujichrome Sensia' is Britain's best selling process paid slide film and enjoys a well deserved reputation amongst nature and wildlife photographers for its true to life rendition of even the most difficult colours, hues and tones, from highlights through deep shadows. It's available in 100, 200 and 400 ISO versions, in 24 and 36 exposure lengths and, in non-process paid form, too.'

We would like to hear from members of any other companies whom it might be suitable for us to approach for Newsletter sponsorship.

BBC Wildlife Cards

BBC Wildlife has recently produced a series of greetings cards featuring past winners of its annual 'Wildlife photographer of the year' competition. Amongst those available from most good newsagents is 'Koala at sunset' by TReeS member D.Chaplain which was highly commended in the 1995 competition. Another TReeS member - A.Bartschi - is a former winner of the competition with his photo of Macaws at a Colpa (salt-lick) taken in the Manu area.

Anglo-Peruvian Society Raffle

The Anglo-Peruvian Society would like to thank all TReeS members who bought raffle tickets last autumn. A TReeS member was amongst the prize winners.

New TReeS Merchandise

'Macaw' T-shirt - this very popular T-shirt is now in stock again: £7.50 (S) and £8 (XL), bleached or unbleached.

'Toucans' & 'Village' greetings cards - based on paintings (see illustration) by students of the Amazon School of Painting, Pucallpa. Price: 5 for £3, with envelopes.

Traditional Medicine Manual: 'Salud para Todos' - (See Newsletter No.32 for more details). A few copies are still available - £25.

All prices include postage and packing. All other TReeS Merchandise as per the Merchandise Listing sent with the last Newsletter.

Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meeting - the next meetings will be in the Autumn due to a lack of an appropriate venue. Details in the next Newsletter.

Peru Support Group Annual Conference entitled 'Governance & Peru' (with 2 speakers from Peru) - 21st June, at the CAFOD offices in London. For more details phone - 0171.620.1103. TReeS will have a stall.

Camden Green Fayre - 22nd June, 11am-5pm, Camden Gdns, 5 minutes walk from Camden Town tube station. TReeS will have a stall.

Mobil vigil (every Tuesday) and Walkathons (13.7.1997) - organised by Survival International: see above.



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.

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