

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

Mobil Update

The Peruvian government has granted Mobil an extension to its contract for the completion of seismic activity in Lot 78. All field operations must be undertaken by the end of March 1998. It is believed this was granted due to delays resulting from the bankruptcy of the sub-contractor Grant Geophysical.

On 26.8.1997 Mobil signed an agreement with FENAMAD to allow FENAMAD to monitor directly Mobil's activities on traditional indigenous lands. The agreement was signed at a meeting attended by several indigenous leaders, local political representatives, a

high level government delegation from Lima, including the Vice Minister of Energy & Mines, and top Mobil Peru personnel.

The agreement provides for FENAMAD to undertake autonomous and independent monitoring of activities along seismic lines 107 and 108, in the Karene area of Lot 78, in line with the environmental impact study and management plan. FENAMAD will appoint a number of delegates, two of whom will enter the field each month. They will follow agreed security, environmental and health rules while in the field, while Mobil will ensure that they receive proper hospitality and health care as well as taking them to remote investigation areas. Delegates and Mobil staff will meet daily in the field to discuss operations.

Each month the indigenous monitoring committee will write a report of their observations and findings, and meet with the representative for community relations of Mobil to discuss them. Any matters which cannot be resolved will be put before the 'Dirección General de Hidrocarburos' and the national indigenous organisation AIDSESP. FENAMAD is holding a series of workshops to prepare its delegates for monitoring in the field. FENAMAD delegates will receive no payment from Mobil for their role in this process, in order to avoid any conflict of interests.

The Survival International (0171.242.1441) vigil to persuade Mobil not to re-enter Lot 77 continues every Tuesday (12-2pm) in front of the Mobil UK HQ (Clement's Inn, off the Strand, London WC2). TReeS members are welcome.

TReeS Projects:

Ese'aja language revival project

In August TReeS sponsored a workshop to promote the use of the Ese'aja language, especially in the written form. 17 delegates came to Puerto Maldonado from the three Esa'aja communities in Peru - Sonene, Infierno and Palma Real. The workshop was led by Coca Chavarria, an anthropologist specialising in the Ese'aja communities.

The workshop was primarily concerned with the establishment of an agreed written form for the language and discussions about the recording of spoken names for plants, animals, etc, in a written form. In the longer term, it is hoped that some community members can be encouraged to become bilingual teachers. The workshop was also seen as an initial step in the Ese'aja cultural re-evaluation project.

'Re-evaluation of the Ese'aja culture' project:

TReeS has secured funding for a cultural project proposed by Centro Nape. It will be carried out by its members who will work closely with the few remaining



Antonio Iviche, President of FENAMAD, receives the sixth 'Bartolomé de las Casas' award created to honour those who have worked to increase understanding and harmony in the protection of the rights and values of America's indigenous peoples from the Prince of Asturias, heir to the Spanish throne.

elders in each of the three communities and is seen as an important step in re-evaluating Ese'eja culture. The objectives are to:-

- collect the history and traditional stories of the Ese'eja on tape, which will allow them to be recorded for posterity and also used within the communities to retain their cultural heritage;
- to transcribe the stories in Esa'eja so that they can be retained in written form with each Ese'eja family receiving a copy;
- to translate some of the stories into Spanish/English and make them available in taped or written form to visitors to the communities to generate funds.

Indigenous Rights and Tropical Forests

Following the summary of major on-going international efforts to 'save' the world's forests in the last Newsletter (No.36), this issue looks at some of the initiatives involving indigenous rights and rainforest conservation with respect to the Peruvian Amazonia.

- * **UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations**, took 10 years to prepare a 'draft declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples' which was approved in 1994. 50 million, a sixth of all indigenous peoples, divided between 5,000 distinct peoples live in tropical rainforests. The declaration is much stronger than ILO 169, the only current international legal instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples. It sets out to promote the indigenous peoples' fundamental rights to self-determination, collective rights, control of their territories, access to their resources, recognition of their political and legal institutions, and control of their traditional knowledge. Recognising the rights of indigenous peoples is now seen as essential if biological diversity is to be sustained. The Biodiversity Convention, negotiated at Rio, can only facilitate conservation actions if indigenous peoples have a significant role to play. It has now been signed by 135 countries but puts little emphasis on indigenous experience, management and rights. At present most benefits appear to lie with nation states who insist on exclusive rights over all resources and are often more willing to grant rights to multi-nationals than their own indigenous peoples. Many other UN decisions touch on indigenous affairs such as ILO 169, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the Inter-governmental Panel on Forests (IPF) - see TReeS Newsletter No.36 for more details.
- * **'International Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Rainforest'** based in London, co-ordinates and expresses indigenous concerns about the Biodiversity Convention. It is

a democratically elected body bringing together indigenous groups from 31 countries, such as AIDSEP in Peru. Their concerns are set down in more detail in IWGIA document No.82 available from - IWGIA, Fiolstraede 10, DK-1171 KBH, Denmark.

- * **Forest Peoples' Programme**, of the World Rainforest Movement, based in the UK, is usually seen as the leading research group on issues concerning all forest peoples, native and non-native.
- * **The second 'Earth Summit'** was held in New York in June 1997 as a follow-up to the 1990 Rio Summit. It had a much lower profile than the Rio summit and world leaders, with the US noticeably uninterested, failed to agree on any new approaches to aid the global environment. The decline in aid flowing from the first to the third world, in real terms, over recent years is only likely to exacerbate the situation.
- * **CONAM**, Peruvian National Council for the Environment, has a \$2.2m budget to develop environmental priorities within the state sector. It intends to establish a National System for Environmental discussions (SNA) which would oversee environmental information, planning and control, the management of important environmental units, environmental regulations and administrative procedures. The SNA works with the UN Regional and Local Programme of Sustainable Development (PNUD) which has a \$1m budget. Madre de Dios is one of the 7 areas in which it works. There is also a Sustainable Management of the Environment and Natural Resources project with a \$13.6m budget over 5 years to increase the capabilities of public and private institutions to identify and resolve environmental problems.
- * **Ministry for Advancement of Women and Human Development** is now the Peruvian state authority with responsibility for implementing ILO 169 and indigenous affairs, following the demise of the Institute Indigenista Peruana (IIP) last year.
- * **COICA**, Coordinadora de las organizaciones indigenas de la cuenca Amazonica, the indigenous co-ordinating body for the Amazon basin represented in Peru by AIDSEP.
- * **AIDSEP**, the inter-ethnic association for the development of the Peruvian Amazon is the umbrella group for all the indigenous groups such as FENAMAD.
- * **Biennial Forum of the Coalition of Amazonian peoples and their Environment**, meets to discuss the defence of territories and resources; collective rights; resource mobilisation; and sustainable communities. It brings to-

gether North American NGO'S (6 committee members) and Amazonian indigenous groups (3 members).

Resident Naturalist News

The Explorer's Inn Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av. Max.	Av. Min.	Amount mm	Days of Rain
Apr	27.3	21.6	186	?
May	25.6	20.4	48	16
Jun	25.9	20.3	184	20
Jul	26.5	19.1	16	5
Aug	28.5	19.0	29	8

Unusually a 'friaie' (cold spell) occurred as early as May with daytime temperatures falling as low as

17°C. June was wetter than usual but July and August very dry.

Recent RN'S include

A. Hammond (studying Blue-crowned Trogons); D. Barnett; J. Rouquette; S. Kahrhopf (studying mammal colpas); J. Fahrquar; K. Oram; G. Powell & R. Barlaresa.

Recent Sightings include

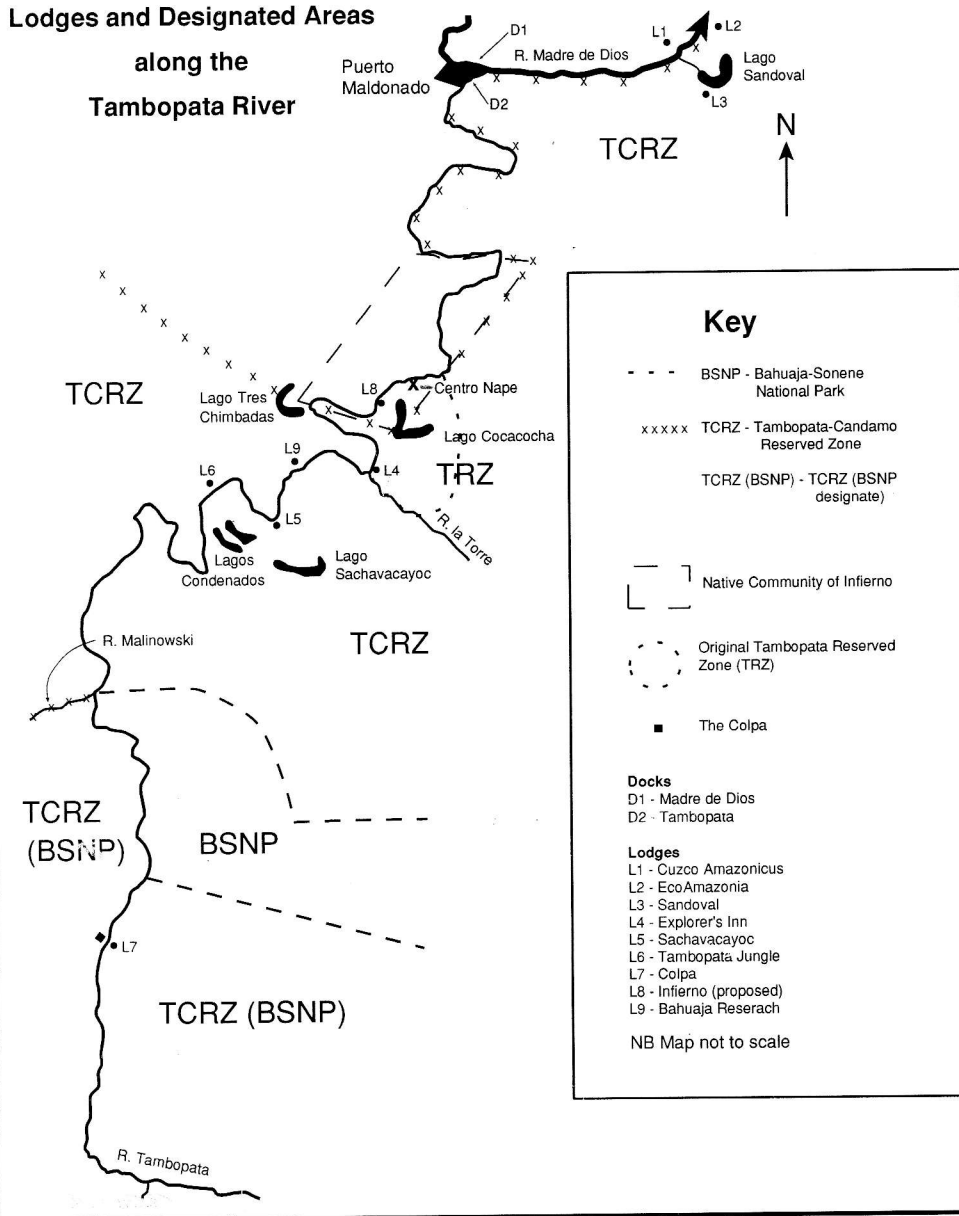
Giant Otter sightings on Cocacocha have been running at about 5-8 per month but the number of individuals seen has fallen back from about 12 in June to 5-6 more recently. There have been no signs of any young so far this year; 5 Black Caiman, including one over 4 metres long, also seen on Cocacocha; 5 White Caiman on Laguna Chica; peccaries in large numbers, especially in August; a Hoffman's 2-toed Sloth seen several times; a Jaguar 6 times, on each occasion downriver from the lodge

on the river bank; a Tapir, Jaguarundi, Bush-dog, Margay and Short-eared dog each once; several sightings of Red Brocket deer including one being eaten by an Anaconda; Tamarins, Dusky Titis, Red Howler and Squirrel monkeys on many occasions during the month.

Bird sightings included a Black and white hawk eagle; Carne hawk; Harpy eagle - nest at 2600m on Tapir trail; Agami heron and Emerald toucanet. In May large groups (50-100 individuals) of Macaws, mainly Blue & Yellow, were seen eating brazil-nuts on trees close to Cocacocha.



Lodges and Designated Areas along the Tambopata River



Tambopata Jungle Lodge (TJL) Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	Amount mm	Days of Rain
May	27.4	20.9	46	14
Jun	27.2	20.6	400	20
Jul	27.6	20.0	25	7
Aug	27.5	18.2	29	7

Peru News

Concern is growing about the likely impact of the 'El Niño' effect at the end of the year. This phenomenon occurs along the coast of Peru every 8-10 years when warmer ocean currents from the north prevail over the usually dominant currents from the south. It brings rain to the coastal desert strip causing widespread disruption and damage. This winter has been extremely warm along the coast, while heavy snow falls have been recorded in the Andes, suggesting worse to come.

President Fujimori's place of birth has been questioned after a rumour appeared suggesting that he was born in Japan and, consequently, disqualified from becoming President of Peru. To date the rumours have not been substantiated. In the meantime, his popularity fell after he dismissed the 3 members of a Constitutional tribunal, that he had appointed, after they ruled against him standing again in the year 2000 Presidential race.

Economic growth fell from 8% in 1995 to 2.8% in 1996, while population growth has fallen from 3.3% in the 1970's to 1.8% in 1995. A recent socio-economic survey reported that 24% of Peruvian homes have phones, 49% fridges, 3% computers and 42% colour TVs.

TReeS UK Libraries

Forthcoming deposits will include: TReeS RAMOS (Project Tambopata) - first 6 monthly report; 'Eshawa', Vision, Voice & Mythic narrative - an ethnographic presentation of Ese'eja mythopoeia based on research in the community of Sonene; FENAMAD Newsletter March/April 1997; the alternative 'Shell annual report' focusing on its environmental & human rights records in Peru; RN monthly lodge reports.

TReeS Naturalists Meeting

The first special day course for future Resident Naturalists (RNs) and Project Tambopata participants was held in London, in May, to offer advice about the geography and natural history of the Tambopata area, prior to their visit. The organisers K.Morgan & A.Wilson hope to run another such course in late 1997 or early 1998. They will contact those concerned directly, in due course.

TReeS Slide Library

The Library is cared for by Nick Squirrell - The Drey, 6A Halves Cottages, Corfe Castle, Dorset BH20 5EY. Please send a SAE (30p) for a catalogue. Slides may be borrowed in return for a small donation. Donations to the slide library from anyone who has visited the Madre de Dios area are most welcome - especially slides of identifiable fauna and flora.

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.

New TReeS Merchandise

**** Give TReeS Merchandise for Xmas and support rainforest conservation ****

Centro Nape postcard: see enclosed leaflet for prices.

Rainforest prints: a set of 6 very attractive limited edition prints of water colour paintings by Adam Booth. The prints feature Caña Caña, Piro Sanango, Achiote, Heliconia, Banana tree and the Pineapple. Price: £5 each or £24 for the set.

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

Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meetings

27th October - **TReeS talk;** White Lion Hotel, by the clocktower, Machynlleth town centre, central Wales. 8-10pm. An illustrated talk about the Tambopata area and the projects TReeS supports there. Dilwyn Jenkins, author of the 'Rough Guide to Peru', will speak about gold-mining in the Huaypetue valley adjoining the Tambopata area.

1st November - **TReeS AGM;** Green College, Woodstock Road, Oxford; 2.30-5pm. J.Forrest & H.Newing will outline the current activities of TReeS and future plans. **The 'TReeS committee' election will be held - anyone interested in playing a more active role in the running of TReeS is requested to contact J.Forrest by 20th October.**

10th December - **'Up the Andes'** with Michael Palin in which he will describe his adventures while filming the TV series 'Full Circle'. All proceeds from the evening go to charity. Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW1; 7pm. Tickets (£10) only available in advance from: Anglo-Peruvian Society, P.O.Box 13688, London SW19.

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