

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

TReeS AGM

13th June, 2-5pm, W.Ellis School, Highgate Rd, London NW5. (Kentish Town Tube: 10mins walk or C2 bus)

K.Morgan & H.Newing will outline the current activities of TReeS and future plans, following their recent visits to the Tambopata area. A resolution will be presented to approve some changes to the rules under which TReeS operates, the draft 'Aims & Guidelines' document (see enclosed sheet) will be discussed and 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 asap.

Claudia Galvez (TReeS Representative)

In May 1995 Claudia Galvez succeeded the members of the Centro de Estudios Biologos (CEB) as the TReeS representative in Peru, based in P.Maldonado. Claudia had, previously, been a TReeS sponsored Resident Naturalist at the Explorer's Inn and, in 1994, was a TReeS sponsored member of the TReeS expedition to the Upper Tambopata region. Over the last 3 years she has been instrumental in forging closer links between TReeS and local community groupings. In particular, she has worked closely with the members of the Centro Nape project, encouraging them to continue to pursue traditional approaches to health care; assisted FENAMAD to organise their Congresses; and worked closely with FENAMAD and FADEMAD to support their responses to the oil exploration activities of Mobil Oil Inc. She has also participated in a variety of other forums with respect to the future of the Tambopata area and environmental education provision.

Links with lodges proved more difficult but she was still able to offer some advice to many researchers, naturalists and guides over recent years as well as co-ordinating the TReeS sponsored visits of Peruvian students.

Claudia is leaving TReeS to join APECO, a major Peruvian conservation organisation, especially involved in environmental education. We wish her well.

Mobil Update

Mobil Oil Inc have been granted a 6 month extension to make a decision about whether they will re-enter Lot 77 (Las Piedras) to drill test wells. Local organisations remain concerned about likelihood of encounters with 'uncontacted' native people if they do so.

This month Mobil will start drilling one test well in the Upper Tambopata region, within the proposed Bahuaja-Sonene National Park extension and four

wells in the area between the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone and Manu National Park. Each well is likely to require the clearance of 2-3 hecs of forest for a helicopter landing pad, a camp for about 20 field workers and for the storage of waste which will later be injected back into the well. It is not yet clear whether the Candamo well will be serviced from the base camp at Masuko or from a new camp at Challhuamayay on the river Ñambari.

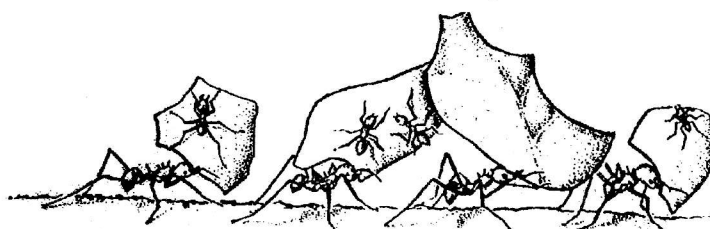
The Survival International (0171.242.1441) vigil to persuade Mobil not to re-enter Lot 77 continues on the last Tuesday (12-2pm) in the month in front of the Mobil UK HQ (elements Inn, off the Strand, London WC2). TReeS members are welcome.

A recent SI organised demo in Madrid attracted nearly 100 people, including several well-known artists, and national press coverage.

FENAMAD Congress

The latest FENAMAD Congress was held in P.Maldonado, on 31.1-1.2.98. Representatives were invited from the 32 'contacted' native communities of Madre de Dios, which are home to nearly 5,000 native people, from 19 indigenous groupings. Discussions were held relating to the Health and Education programmes, territorial matters, and issues affecting the communities such as oil exploration and gold-mining. For the first time a session was devoted to discussing the role of NGO'S in native communities.

Following the meeting, TReeS agreed to support the Vice-President of FENAMAD - Juan Pesha, from CN Infierno - so that he can undertake his duties (other NGO'S will support other committee members). In addition he will act as the link between FENAMAD and Centro Nape.



Centro Nape Project

TReeS continues to fund Centro Nape in the native community of Infierno. Three staff have been working there over recent months - ethnobotanist, indigenous healer and co-ordinator/caretaker.

The buildings of Centro Nape are complete, except for the caretakers house. The Centre grows much of its own food, and is developing sources of income such as the sale of remedies, the development of handicrafts and small-scale tourism. The Centre staff continue to make regular patrols in the surrounding forest area for which the community has appointed them custodians.

Several workshops have been held at the Centre for indigenous healers. In October 1997, the ethnobotanist attended an ethnobotanical workshop in the Manu Biosphere Reserve, with a grant from the Koriwayti project, as part of the APECO organised environmental programme supported by WWF UK. It is hoped that during 1998 a similar workshop will be held for communities in the lower Madre de Dios, based on the Medicinal Plant Manual which has been distributed to communities.

In February the Centre team held a meeting to review their progress. New activities for the coming year include sales of medicines through FENAMAD; more emphasis on involving women in the health project; and the participation of the Centre in a government programme to train health promoters in basic western health care principals.

We would like to thank the Network Foundation, the Body Shop Foundation and the Reuters Foundation for their support for Centro Nape over the past year.

Peru News

Over the last few months El Niño-related weather events caused widespread damage in Peru as predicted and despite government efforts to take preventative measures. Total damage to infrastructure is estimated at \$2bn, with about 450kms of road destroyed (about 3% of all roads) cutting off many Andean towns and over 80 bridges washed away - the road from Cuzco down to P.Maldonado is expected to be closed until August.

The north coast, especially around Chiclayo where a large section of the Pan-American highway was lost and Tumbes, was severely affected as was the Ica valley in the south. About 200 people died, over 25,000 homes were destroyed and at least 400,000 people directly affected. Vast areas of farmland have been covered by flood deposition and many ancient sites, such as the 'adobe' pyramids around Chiclayo severely eroded. Just down river from M.Picchu a landslide swamped a hydro-electric power station.

Tourist numbers are likely to fall this year due to El Niño but the government still hopes that 1m will visit in the year 2000 and 2m by 2005.

Resident Naturalist News

Information was only received recently from the RN's at the Explorer's Inn for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Explorer's Inn, Sep.1997 to Jan. 1998 - Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Humidity (%)		Rainfall	
	Av.Max.	Av.Min.	High	Low	Amount mm	Days of Rain
Sep 97	31.2	22.2	96	83	224.6	12
Oct 97	29.4	22.5	100	77	438.1	22
Nov 97	29.4	23.0	Av 91.5		170.4	19
Dec 97	29.1	23.3	Av 92.0		378.4	25
Jan 98	28.8	23.4	Av 94.1		417.5	26
Feb 98	28.0	23.1	93.6		308.1	20

The rainy season started in September and the amount of rain during October was high - even for the first heavy deluge of the wet season. One storm resulted in the highest rainfall in one day since 1994, with 144mm on October 17th.

Recent sightings:

After the incredible number of mammal records in August (the best ever month for Explorer's Inn) sightings decreased in September. No cats were seen in this month, nothing unusual in most years but unusual for 1997. In fact 1997 turned out to be a great year for canid and felid sightings.

By the end of the year the number of separate Jaguar sightings on the TRZ came to eleven, not including one sighting in October, when two Jaguars were seen further up La Torre - calling to each other from opposite banks. In 1997 all the five cat species, Short-eared Dog and Bushdog were observed on the trails at some point. This appears to be another record.

Over the five month period recorded sightings included 5 sightings of Tamandua, 5 of Long-nosed Armadillos, 1 of Three-toed Sloth, 6 Kinkajou, 6 Coati, 2 Jaguarundi, 1 Puma, 4 Capybara, 2 Paca and 1 sighting of a Bi-coloured Porcupine. The size of the group of Giant River Otters on Cocococha was up to seven in September. In October a group of arboreal opossums that did not resemble anything in the Emmons guide were seen high in the trees on Capirona Trail on a night walk. These arboreal opossums had a back pattern similar to the terrestrial Water Opossum.

Harpy Eagles were seen on two occasions in September and a Crested Eagle in January. Pale-winged Trumpeters were regularly seen - a different situation from the 80's and early 90's at Explorer's Inn. But Razor-billed Curassows are still seen infrequently. Outside the TRZ but within the TCRZ a Maguari Stork was seen on the Tambopata just above the Malinowski on October 3rd (KM); one

was seen on the Rio Heath in 1996.

Recent RN'S include:

R. Barlaresa, D. Barnett, J. Farquhar, A. Hammond (writing a guide book), S. Kahrhopf (studying mammal colpas), D. Kuderna, E. Lockton, K.O ram (producing artwork), K. Morgan (studying impact of tourism), G. Powell, J. Roquette, S. Staddon, E. Tatum and M. Wortel (looking at weather records). Two Peruvian RN's, sponsored by TReeS, have recently arrived from Cuzco University. The numbers of RN's decreased from 12 at one point to 5 during January.

The Explorer's Inn Revisited

- by Kevin Morgan

In July 1997 I finally had a chance to return to the rainforest at Explorer's Inn after an absence of 11.5 years. My project, sponsored by the Centre of Tourism and Visitor Management at Nottingham Trent University, was to look at the impact of tourists on the local trail network at the lodge (a report will be available later in 1998).

Although I was disappointed by the increased number of new clearings along the river upstream from Explorer's Inn, I left in October 1997 with an optimistic outlook. Explorer's Inn appears to be acting as refuge. There may be more tourists using the trails, but most species are becoming easier to observe.

1. Many species are easier to observe, such as the troop of Red Howlers that roosts for the night overlooking the clearing. In the mid-1980's they roosted close to the lodge but it was unusual for them to rest in full view of the lodge.

2. Sightings of other species have definitely increased and the number of Collared Peccaries encountered during my three months at the lodge was far higher compared to the mid-1980's.

3. Certain carnivores have increased. In 1997 there were at least 11 sightings of Jaguar and the number of cat tracks I encountered was also up on the mid-1980's.

4. Sightings of one species has decreased - the Tapir. In the mid-80's it was difficult to observe (perhaps one every month or so) but tracks were everywhere. This has changed dramatically. Very few tapirs are seen now and even tracks are scarce. This can be traced back to latter part of 1988 as the number of clearings upstream from Explorer's Inn increased and tapir, which can move over large areas, became more prone to local hunting.

5. Certain species prone to hunting have a smaller home range, including armadillo species and Paca. These species are infrequently observed by most RN's. But the chance of seeing them was greatly enhanced by going out at night and the encounter rate has increased since the mid-80's. The

fact that Capybara are still seen along the river is a bonus and any impact of local hunting has to be balanced with the long term 'recovery' from the banning of commercial hunting for skins etc. in the mid-70's.

6. Certain bird species are easier to observe. Pale-winged Trumpeters were extremely difficult to see in the mid-80's but the chances of encountering them on the trails in 1997 is far greater.

7. Many trails are narrower than in 1985 although more tourists use the trails. This is due to the cutting regime. From the latter part of 1984 RN's have managed the trails and, over a decade later, it is showing results.

What is urgent for the future is to maintain accurate records of all daily observations. With complex changes between predator and prey it will also need to include commoner species like the Brown Agouti.

To help advise future RNs a Guide for Naturalists is being prepared for publication by TReeS. Further studies of ecotourism are going to be to be important in the Tambopata region. The TReeS RAMOS project will continue until the end of the year and there was a workshop on the future strategy for ecotourism in Puerto Maldonado (30/9/97 to 2/10/97).

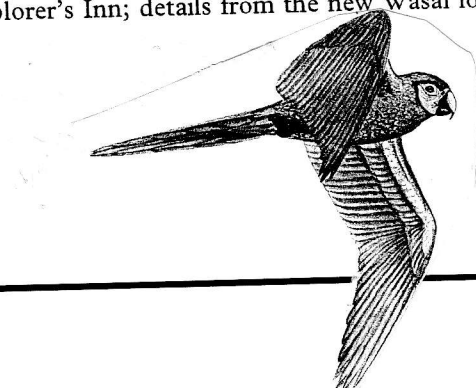
TReeS Course for future Naturalists & Guides

Following the success of the first such course last year, TReeS is organising a second course on 6th June, in London. The course aims to provide background information on the Tambopata area, how best to prepare for an extended visit to the area and how to become a successful Naturalist/Guide. Further details, including timings, location and fee from Kevin Morgan, 64 Fairford Gdns, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7BJ. (0181.337.2725)

TReeS UK Libraries

- forthcoming deposits will include:

Planning document for the 10th FENAMAD Congress; report entitled 'Visitation patterns of mammal clay-licks'; report entitled 'Observations on the distribution and diversity of Tree Ferns in the ZRT'; report entitled 'Study on the effects of nest position on reproductive success in the Yellow-rumped Cacique'; recent Centro Nape reports; article entitled 'Birding opportunities on the rio Tambopata'; recent monthly RN reports from the Explorer's Inn; details from the new Wasai lodge.



TReeS 1997 Accounts & Membership

The TReeS accounts for 1997, as yet unaudited, indicate that the Society had an income of about £34,300, while expenditure was about £31,900. A significant percentage of the income and expenditure related to our handling of funds for Project Tambopata.

Almost 92% of expenditure went on supporting activities relating to projects in Peru, 2% 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 under \$1000 at the year end. Total global membership has increased to just over 500 individuals.

1998 TReeS Membership Reminder

A 'Reminder' is enclosed with this Newsletter to those members who have not renewed their annual membership recently. If you have not renewed your membership since October 1996, we would be most grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.

Didier Lacaze

Since completing his work with FENAMAD and Centro Nape in Madre de Dios, Didier has been based in Pucallpa in the central Peruvian jungle. He is custodian of the Koriwayti ethnobotanical garden project which promotes traditional approaches to health care. Opportunities exist for visitors with a serious interest in the subject to visit the project.

Didier can be contacted at - Casilla 222, Pucallpa, Ucayali, Peru or by e-mail on:-
k.sani@protelsa.com.pe

Other Events

5th July - Gran Gran Fiesta, 2-7pm, Gabriel's Wharf, on the South Bank, London SE1. Latin American fiesta with live music, food, and stalls. TReeS expects to have a stall there. (Phone 0171. 620.0544 for further details about the Fiesta).

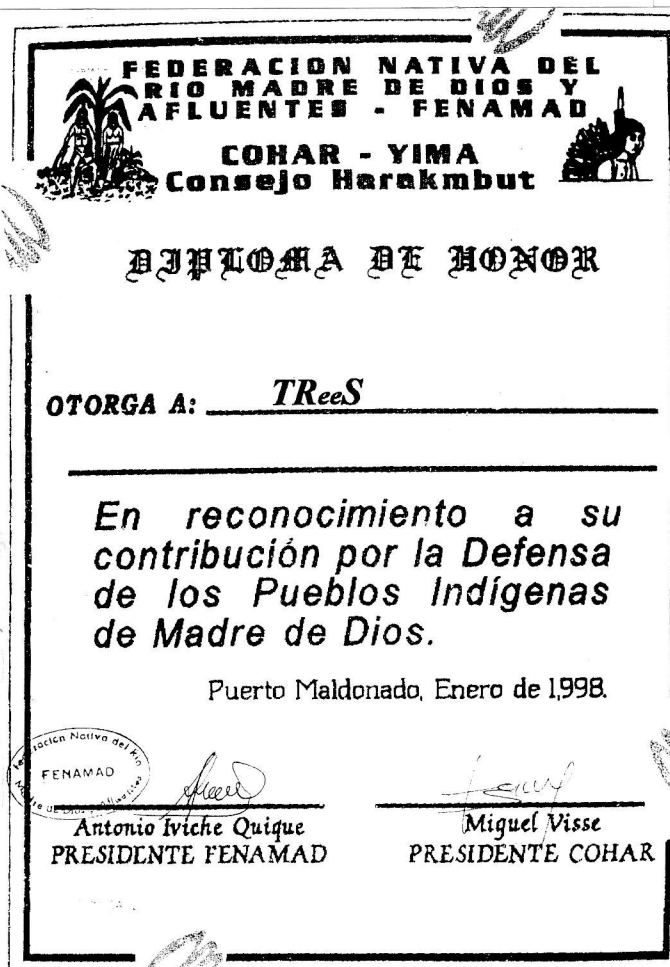
New TReeS Merchandise

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, Achioté, Heliconia, Banana tree and the Pineapple. Price: £5 each or £20 for the set.

'Peru Reader': a compilation of 70 items, many by well known authors, covering a wide selection of topics relating to the fascinating history, politics and culture of Peru - 530 pages, with photos & maps. **Special TReeS price** - £17 (equivalent to p & p free), only a few copies available.

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

Certificate awarded to TReeS by FENAMAD



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