

## The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

### TReeS Meeting

The next TReeS meeting will take place on **Saturday 31st October, 2 – 5 pm in Room 2.01, Department of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich**. The meeting will be held jointly with the MSc course in Applied Ecology & Conservation. John Forrest will report on his recent visit to the Tambopata area, Kevin Morgan will talk about the Resident Naturalist programme, Tina Smith will describe the research plans of the recently established Project Bahuaja and Dr. Helen Newing will talk about innovative approaches to forest conservation and management in Brazilian Amazonia. The UEA campus is situated on the western edge of Norwich, between Earlham Road and Bluebell Road. Bus nos. 4, 5, 26 & 27 run frequently from the City Centre.

### Mobil Update

Mobil Oil Inc's decision with respect to re-entering Lot 77 (Las Piedras) to drill test wells is expected on 26th September 1998 but is likely to be delayed further following the recent news concerning Camisea (see below). Any future development of Las Piedras would almost certainly depend on the Camisea development, to which it would inter-link. In the meantime, pressure is continuing to be placed on Mobil not to re-enter due to the likelihood of encounters with 'uncontacted' native people.

Mobil are currently drilling a test well in the Upper Tambopata region, within the Tamnbopata-Candamo Reserved Zone (TCRZ) and proposed Bahuaja-Sonene National Park extension. They are expected to drill another in the Karene region which lies between the TCRZ and Manu National Park. Mobil have until March 2000 to make a decision about their operations in this Lot. The Federation of Native Peoples of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD) have arranged with Mobil for five native people to be employed at each well so that there are some local employment benefits and they can monitor activities.

The Survival International 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 (Clements Inn, off the Strand, London WC2). TReeS members are welcome. Tel. 0171 242 1441 for details.

### Camisea Update

The uncertainty surrounding Shell's potential exploitation of the huge Camisea gas field, immediately west of Manu National Park, was confirmed in July when negotiations with the Peruvian government broke down. Shell not only wanted to exploit the deposit but also to manage its distribution, however, Peruvian law doesn't permit such control. Coinciding with this a wide range of NGO's contacted the Ministry of the Presidency to express their concern about the development going ahead due to insufficient social and environmental impact assessments with respect to the whole project.

The contracts will be put out to tender again next Spring. This process is being co-ordinated by Jorge Camet, a recent ex-Minister of Economy, not known for his interest in environmental matters nor native peoples.

### TReeS Projects

#### Re-evaluation of Ese'eja Culture

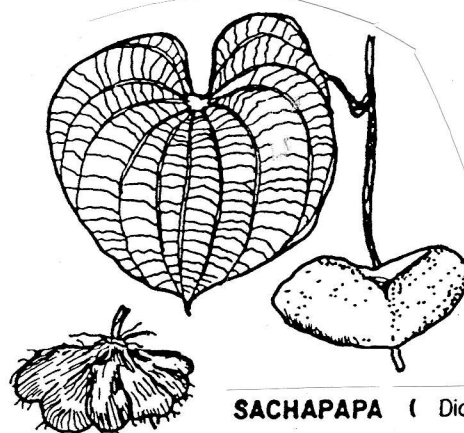
Many songs and traditional Ese'eja stories have now been recorded on tape, including some by an elder who has since died. Many of the songs and stories are only now known by two or three elders in the community and in some cases they no longer know the complete original versions.

One story recorded relating the legend of the 'deer' lasted over an hour. The elders have been enthusiastic about making the recordings and community members have enjoyed re-listening to them. They have been played throughout Madre de Dios on FENAMAD's radio station 'Voz Indigena.'

#### Centro Nape Project

The Centre is finalising arrangements for receiving tourists as part of an initiative to generate some of its own income. This will draw tourists from a new lodge just upriver which has been established by a tour company in conjunction with the native community of Infierno. Several community members are working there and the intention is that the lodge will become fully owned by the community in 20 years (see also the Macaw article below).

The Centre plans to hold workshops in traditional healing methods and the manufacture of traditional crafts before the end of the year.



**SACHAPAPA** ( *Dioscorea* sp. )

## TReeS RAMOS

This TReeS supported project is investigating the impacts of tourism on wildlife populations in the TCRZ.

Between 1990 and 1998 the number of tourist lodges in the vicinity of the TCRZ has grown from 3 to 13. In 1996 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.

Through the initiative of ex-RN's C.Kirkby, H.Lloyd & T. Doan, TReeS was able to respond with a 2 year project which began at the start of 1997. It has been investigating the distribution, diversity, abundance, community structure and behaviour of primates, birds, amphibians and reptiles (the longest ever recorded specimen of the highly poisonous Coral snake was recently found by the team!) in both undisturbed primary forest and that utilised by tourists at 6 different locations.

The research has been undertaken by young biologists from Peru and abroad, supported by interested volunteer assistants. Several of the Peruvian participants have been financially supported by TReeS. The fieldwork is now drawing to an end and all the data collected will be analysed during the first quarter of 1999 and a detailed report prepared.

TReeS has recently received a donation from the British Embassy in Lima to purchase a slide projector. This will be used initially by TReeS Ramos to publicise its research and findings in talks to schools and colleges in Puerto Maldonado.

## President Fujimori UK Visit

In mid-July President Fujimori undertook a full scale official visit to the UK, which included meeting Tony Blair and taking tea with the Queen. During his visit he was invited to speak once again at Kew Gardens on environmental issues. His talk was low key and mainly concentrated on El Niño related matters. In this respect he stated that he planned for Peru to become a net beneficiary from future El Niño events principally by tapping the increased rainfall and turning the desert 'green' - the La Niña lake in the Sechura desert is nearly as large as Lake Titicaca, up to 30m deep and expected to remain for many years. Substantial figures were given for the number of trees planted over the last year and number of hectares forested.

With reference to biodiversity he stated that - 'Peru is the seventh most forested country on Earth, including 75 million hectares of rainforest; contains over 1,700 bird species (19% of all known species), over 400 mammal species, over 250 amphibians, 175 reptiles, over 1,200 sea and river fish, over 3,000 types of potato and over 1,500 types of sweet potato'.

He stated that future development in Amazonia must be undertaken very carefully and on a sustainable basis, though this would be the responsibility of the relevant organisations. A new forestry law will take this into account and will note mistakes made in south-east Asia. He also acknowledged that education for forest peoples is essential in this respect.

## Peru News

President Fujimori, with the backing of Congress dominated by his Cambio '90 party, is continuing in his attempts to stand again in the Year 2000 Presidential elections. This would be his third term, if re-elected, though the Peruvian constitution only allows for two continuous terms. However, he is arguing that as this Constitution was only introduced during his second term he should be permitted to stand again.

The delay over the development of the Camisea gas field combined with big recent falls on Latin American stock exchanges is likely to have significant implications for the Peruvian economy in 1999.

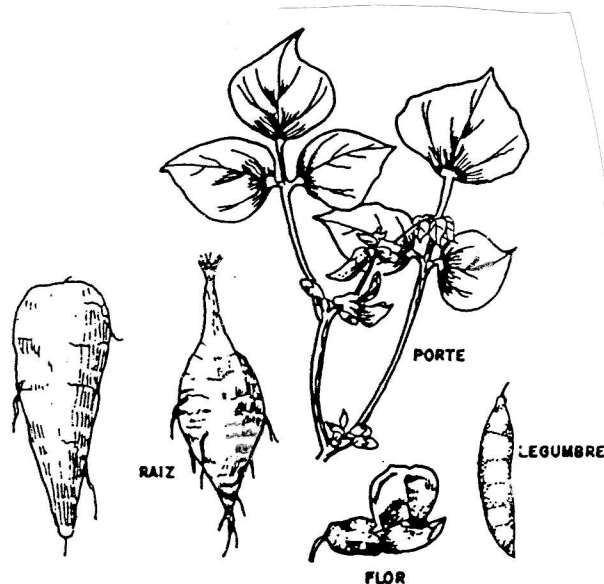
In August Peru and Ecuador came within hours of full-scale war over their disputed border when Ecuadorian mines injured Peruvian soldiers on Peruvian territory. However, General Hermosa Rios, widely held responsible for many military atrocities during the 1990's, was replaced as head of the Peruvian military.

## TCRZ & BSNP Gain and then Lose Funding

In early 1998 the Dutch government granted INRENA \$3.58 million to be spent over four years in the management of the TCRZ and BSNP. \$1.35 million was donated for 'conservation of tropical ecosystems and the sustainable use of resources in the TCRZ.' The plan involves more guards and guard posts along the Cusco/Puerto Maldonado road, scientific research and the drawing up of a long term management plan for the area.

The remainder of the funding was for the territorial demarcation of the BSNP and the preparation of a management plan for the area.

Unfortunately some of the funding in the initial stage was mis-allocated by INRENA in Lima. This led to the resignation of the head of INRENA and the withdrawal of the remainder of the funding by the Dutch government. It is not yet known whether this funding will be re-instated if more effective financial management criteria are introduced by INRENA.



ASHIPA ( *Pachyrrhizus tuberosus* )

## Macaws, Harpy Eagles & Community Ecotourism

In 1989 a Wildlife Conservation Society expedition verified the presence of a large clay lick or Colpa on a river cliff by the Rio Tambopata, about 80 kilometers upriver from Puerto Maldonado. Fifteen species of parrots and macaws were found to regularly descend in large numbers to eat the clay. This habit was believed to counteract the effects of toxins found in some of the forest fruits that form part of the birds diet. In 1990 a small lodge was built near the Colpa with the aim of protecting the clay lick and the birds from hunters, and also providing a research and ecotourism facility. In 1992 the lodge, known as the Tambopata Research Centre, was bought by Rainforest Expeditions, and has continued to fulfil this varied role.

A macaw project was started at the Centre with assistance from the Wildlife Conservation Society. It collected much new information on macaw reproductive biology, which showed that the reproductive success of the birds was low. Only approximately one in every four eggs laid produced a fledgling, because of egg failure due to poor nest sites, the predation of eggs and chicks, and malnutrition. As an experiment to improve this situation the youngest chicks from some nests were removed for hand-rearing to the Tambopata Research Centre. Once fledged, these young successfully integrated with the wild population of macaws, but also returned to the Centre for occasional handouts. It was discovered that another reason for the low reproductive success was the lack of good natural nest sites – this was remedied by hanging artificial nests for use by Red & Green Macaws and Scarlet Macaws, and also by the creation of a concentration of nest sites for the Blue & Yellow Macaw in a nearby Aguajal palm swamp.

Rainforest Expeditions expanded their work on macaws to start a joint ecotourism project with the Ese'eja native community of Infierno, situated in the buffer zone of the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone. Some members of the community had already been hired to work at the Tambopata Research Centre, and so were familiar with the dual role of research and ecotourism. In 1995 more formal arrangements were made between Rainforest Expeditions and the Ese'eja community as a whole, with the signing of a 20 year contract to develop a lodge within the community's territory. This resulted in the Ke'eway, or Harpy Eagle, Association which will allow the community to participate directly in regional ecotourism. Initial building work on the Posada Amazonas lodge was completed in the Summer of 1998, with the community closely involved in its construction. Nesting harpy eagles, a small parrot and macaw clay lick, mammal clay licks, and lakes with giant river otters are some of the natural attractions that will be available for ecotourists staying at the lodge.

The Ke'eway Association is actively protecting the Harpy Eagle and its nests (five nests have been reported since 1995). A community member finding an eagle nest becomes the guardian, protecting it, and reporting activity. Those areas within an 800 meter radius of a nest, and 500 meters on each side of access trails, are protected.

The Ese'eja have also initiated their own macaw project. Similar egg and chick manipulation techniques will be used to those developed at the Tambopata Research Centre, in order to increase the numbers of macaws in the buffer zone. Macaw populations in the buffer zone are lower than around the Colpa, principally because of trapping, hunting, and habitat degradation. The forest around a small clay lick in the buffer zone, which is regularly visited by parrots and macaws, is now protected.

The Ke'eway Association has given the Ese'eja Community the opportunity to become involved in an ecotourism initiative which will hopefully benefit its members, as well as providing protection for the macaws and harpy eagles of the Tambopata area.

Hilary French

(TReeS member and former project participant).

## Resident Naturalists News

### Explorer's Inn, February 1998 to July 1998

#### Climate

Month	Temperature °C		Av. Humidity (%)	Rainfall (mm)	
	Av. Max.	Av. Min		Amount	No. of Days
Feb '98	28.0	23.1	93.6	308.1	20
March '98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
April '98	30.1	22.2	95.0	139.0	9
May '98	25.8	18.6	95.3	235.6	8
June '98	26.2	23.0	95.2	17.7	6
July '98	27.9	19.9	91.3	23.2	2

(NB: No records for March '98)

At the end of January the river was very high at times and during the first part of the 1998 'dry' season there were still some periods of heavy rainfall (particularly in May). The first 'friaie' (cold spell) was recorded very early this year, in April, when temperatures dropped as low as 13.5 °C.

#### Interesting sightings

An interesting record at EI was that of a Black Spider Monkey. In April a tourist who was a competent birder claimed to have seen one on the Katicocha trail at 1500m. These very infrequent claims for Black Spider Monkeys on the lower Tambopata continue to be frustrating.

- Are there elusive groups in the interior that occasionally visit forest closer to EI ?
- Do adolescent males occasionally move through the area ?
- Are the infrequent sightings of released, previously captive animals ?
- Or is it just a case of mistaken identity ?

Maxence Gross at EI has been studying bats and this has resulted in more bat records. He has also been giving talks on bats to tourists and hopefully details and advice left behind will help future RNs to improve on the records of bat species - a group that has been under recorded in the past.

Cats at EI have been more elusive of late but two staff saw a sub-adult Jaguar near Sunset Point just before dusk in June. This is further indication that large cats regularly use the forest around the local trail network - even at quite 'busy' periods for tourists (tracks of all four terrestrial cat species have also been found). In addition Jaguarundi were seen in February and June.

Records of amphibians and reptiles have increased recently after Matt Waldran started as an RN at EI. Matt formerly worked on the herpetological team of the TReeS RAMOS project for 3 months. Such projects provide an ideal way for potential RNs to build up their skills.

### TReeS Subscriptions

TReeS membership subscriptions have not changed since the formation of the Society in 1987. It has now been deemed necessary to introduce a rise, given the increasing commitments of TReeS to projects. With effect from 1.1.99 Tree Frog category membership will increase from £5 to £10 and Hoatzin category from £20 to £25. Tapir category will remain unchanged. Members with bankers orders are kindly requested to make the necessary arrangements with their bank.

We enclose a TReeS membership reminder with this Newsletter for those members who have not yet renewed their membership for 1998. Please do renew your membership - TReeS is heavily dependant on subscriptions to fund its work and every membership counts. Existing rates will apply to any renewals received before 31.12.98.

### TReeS Merchandise - order now for Xmas !

'Macaw' T-shirt - this very popular T-shirt is now in Stock again: £7.50 (S) and £8.00 (XL), bleached or unbleached.

**Rainforest prints** - a set of 6 very attractive limited edition prints of water colour paintings by Adam Booth. The prints feature Cana Cana, Piro Sanango, Achiote, Heliconia, Banana tree and the Pineapple. Price: £5.00 each or £20.00 for the set.

Prices include postage and packing. All other TReeS Merchandise as per the enclosed listing.

**Trees for Life** (Findhorn Foundation) 1999 diaries and calendars - often feature beautiful photos from Tambopata. They are available from - Trees for Life, The Park, Findhorn Bay, Forres, Scotland, V36 OTZ.

'**Rainforests of the World**' - is the latest coffee-table style book to look in depth at rainforests. Packed with incredible photographs, many taken in the Tambopata area, and with text by G. Prance, Director of Kew Gardens, it offers a more serious look at rainforests than most such books. Published by the Harvill Press, £30, from all good bookshops.

### Charity Donations Card

A new method for making donations to charities has recently been launched. Further details are available from the Charities Aid Foundation - Tel.: 0800 993 311.

### TReeS Libraries

The **TReeS London library** is housed at the Living Earth Foundation, 4 Great James St., London WC1. If you intend to visit please ring first (Tel.: 0171 242 3816). It is a 5 minute walk from Holborn tube station. Opening times 10am-5pm.

The **TReeS Oxford library** is located at the Plant Sciences Library, Oxford University, South Parks Road, Oxford (Tel.: 01865 275 082) and is open from 9am - 5.30 pm Monday to Friday.

### Forthcoming deposits to the libraries will include:

Report entitled 'Composition of Amphibians in 3 habitats at Explorer's Inn'; report entitled 'Study of hylid frogs in two types of forest in the TCRZ'; report on a meeting of Ese'ija families to discuss a variety of issues; recent monthly RN reports from the Explorer's Inn; details/ brochures from several lodges in the area, and; 'Peru - The Rain Sanctuary' a photographic guide to Tambopata & Manu published by Shell Oil.

The **Slide Library** is looked after 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.

### Word Processing and Translating

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

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London,  
NW3 4EH, UK  
Patron - Norman Myers

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



## Achievements in 1998 – and an appeal for funds for 1999

During the past year TReeS has been able to support some very exciting new projects, with very promising results. Thanks to the commitment and diligence of Alfredo Garcia and Chris Kirkby, it has been possible to build up an effective interaction with local groups and respond promptly to requests for funds. As a result, in January we welcomed our first full-time co-ordinator in Peru, Jose Cabanillas. Jose is a sociologist who has worked in community projects in the Bolivian Amazon and in the Peruvian highlands, and will be based in Puerto Maldonado.

We have contributed to five **community projects**, of which three are new. In addition to continuing support for the Nape Cultural Centre in the native community of Infierno and the Cultural Revival project which operates from the Centre, TReeS support allowed a planning project to begin with non-native communities on the borders of the Tambopata Candamo Reserved Zone (see newsletter). TReeS also gave technical and financial support to the native community of Puerto Arturo, allowing them to set up a small loans system and secure a grant of over US\$11,000 to improve their returns from Brazil nut harvests – one of the lowest-impact types of forest use. Finally, a TReeS donation allowed a women's co-operative in the community of Rompeolas to establish an organic agroforestry site, in order to make jams for sale to tourist lodges and restaurants. The extra income will help them to pay for essentials such as medicines and schooling, and will reduce pressure on surrounding forest areas.

On the **research** side, the data collection for a two-year study of the impacts of ecotourism being carried out by Chris Kirkby is now complete, and Chris and his team are busy analysing data and writing reports. TReeS also supported field work by six Peruvian biologists, and donated meteorological equipment requested by the head of the Bahuaja Sonene National Park for climatological recording at the park guard posts. In 1999 another two-year monitoring project will begin at Bahuaja Lodge (see newsletter). Applied research for 1999 will include a study of forest regeneration after timber extraction, by Hector Vilchez, and a key study of the effects of conservation and development projects on the Ese eja native communities around the Tambopata Candamo Reserved Zone, which will be carried out by Alfredo Garcia. We urgently need funds to allow all these projects to go ahead.

TReeS' third area of interest is in **environmental education**, and there have been some significant new developments in this area. In 1997, TReeS gave a grant of US\$500 for the development of ecotourism materials about Tambopata. The work started with this small grant was taken up by the Ministry of Tourism, and in November we received the first copies of a colourful, cartoon-style fold-out map of Puerto Maldonado and Tambopata, which has been produced in both Spanish and English for wide circulation in Madre de Dios. On the reverse of the map there is concise information on the history, ecology and culture of the region which will increase awareness of conservation, development and indigenous issues both amongst visitors and among local tour guides and hoteliers who use the leaflets.

Secondly, a donation of £2,500 from the Yew Tree Gallery, an art gallery in Gloucestershire, through the Earth Love Fund has allowed TReeS to support Amazon Consciousness – a pilot series of **environmental television programmes** to be broadcast on regional television throughout Madre de Dios. The programmes will deal with a wide range of issues, including forest ecology and sustainable land use; indigenous cultures; the wildlife trade, and urban issues such as waste disposal and recycling.

**In order to meet expected new funding requirements for 1999 we need to raise a further £6,000. We have also been asked for additional funds for a number of projects. Please help however you can – make a donation, recruit a new TReeS member, approach local companies about charitable donations. It is the funding from members which has allowed TReeS to grow this far, and gives us the flexibility to respond quickly to local initiatives.**

Yes ! I would like to help TReeS to continue to expand its activities in 1999. Please accept my donation of:

☐ £10    ☐ £20    ☐ £50    ☐ £100    ☐ Other .....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Please return to TReeS, 64 Belsize Park, London, NW3 4EH.