

The Tambopata Reserve Society Newsletter

TReeS Meeting

2 pm on Saturday 13th November 1999, DICE, Dept of Anthropology, University of Kent, Canterbury.

Speakers will include Chris Kirkby, TReeS co-ordinator in Peru during 1999 and Sandra Felipe, producer of "Amazon Consciousness", a TReeS-funded environmental tv series for Puerto Maldonado. Both speakers are arriving from Tambopata in late October and will report on recent activities.

Plus - 3rd November, 5.30-7.30pm, University of the West of England, Rm 3Q67, Q block, Frenchay campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol (tel: 0117.9656261 x3124 to confirm). C.Kirkby will give an illustrated talk about the 'impact of tourism on the Tambopata area'.

ZRTC-Zoning Proposals Update

A dynamic process, involving widespread local consultation and participation, has been taking place in Madre de Dios and Lima over the last year to consider the future of the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone (ZRTC). Reserved Zone status gives temporary protection to an area, until such time as studies can be undertaken and the most appropriate management categories determined. Mobil Oil Inc. are expected to withdraw from the Upper Tambopata area and most of this region will then be incorporated in to the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park, more than doubling the park area. The current discussions revolve around the future of the remaining areas of the ZRTC surrounding the National Park.

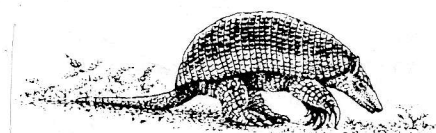
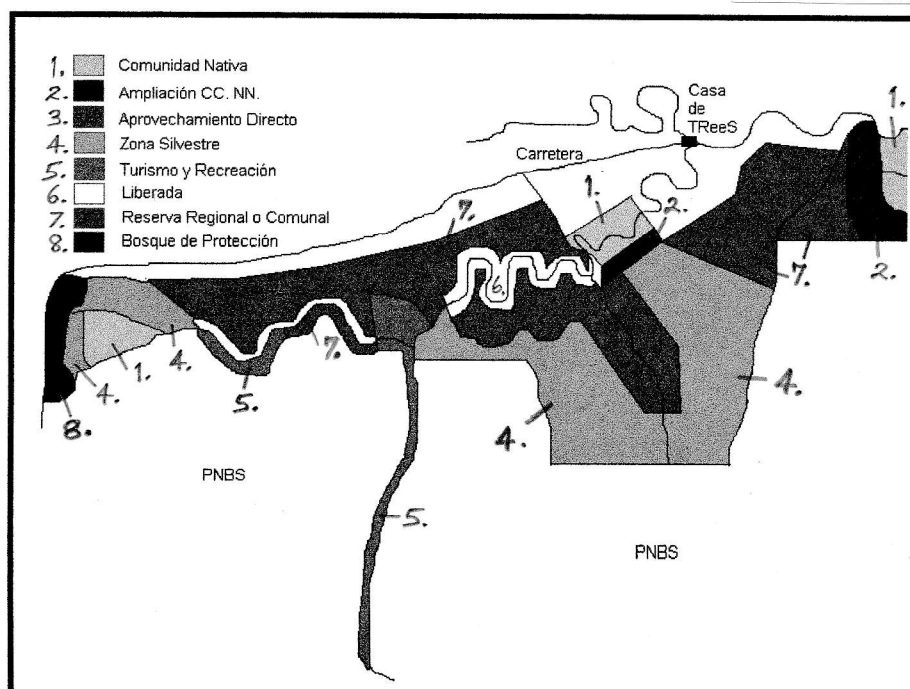
The overall co-ordinating body is the Consejo Nacional para el ambiente (CONAM), which is responsible within Peru for the Zonification Ecologia Economia (ZEE) process. CONAM is overseeing the compilation of all existing studies relating to Madre de Dios within one framework using a geographical information system (GIS)

and data relating to the Tambopata area is included within this. They have also held training courses for other organisations participating in the decision-making process about the terminology, methodologies, concepts, etc, of ZEE's.

These organisations form the Comisión Ambiental Regional (CAR) of Madre de Dios, which is considering the future of the ZRTC and include CTAR (the government regional development organisation), FENAMAD (Federation of native peoples of Madre de Dios), FADEMAD (Federation Agraria de Madre de Dios), INRENA (the National Park authority), IIAP (Instituto Indígena Amazonica Peruana) and a non-government organisation (NGO) representative. The NGO's currently involved include TReeS, Conservation International, Candela, Centro EORI, ACSS, Wanamey and Pronaturaleza. Proposals to date include a narrow corridor for Tourism (Turismo y Recreación) along the mid-Tambopata between the Tavera and the Malinowski tributaries, including the 2 large collpas; a Wildlife zone (Zona Silvestre), where hunting would be permitted on a restricted basis; a protected forest (Bosque de Protección) along the western boundary of the ZRTC; a zone for sustainable activities (Aprovechamiento Directo) such as

brazil-nut gathering; and a liberated area (Zona Liberada) with no protected status covering the areas where people are living. To date the main discussions have focused on the extent of the tourist operations planned, mainly by companies from Lima, in the Tourist zone; and whether some areas should be 'liberated'. INRENA is strongly opposed to this while FADEMAD is unhappy with the idea that many of its members will live in areas subject to ZEE controls, including the communities of La Torre, Condenado, Sachavacayoc and Baltimore along the Tambopata.

There will be an update on forthcoming developments in the next Newsletter.



Puerto Maldonado Diary

The words on everyone's lips around here surprisingly enough are 'Global Warming'. I know it is supposed to be the dry season but this is ridiculous – it has not rained a drop in over two months. What is more, Maldonado is presently South America's most polluted city, and that's official! Smoke from the fires which have been lit across Amazonia to clear agricultural land, particularly those from the Bolivian Pampas grassland, has even managed to obscure the midday sun.

With conditions in Maldonado so unbearable, I seized the chance to head into the forest once again. I now find myself two boat-days from Maldonado in a Brazil-nut concession on the banks of the Patuyacu river within the Bahuaja Sonene National Park. "Heaven" basically!

I'm here to undertake a two month pilot study to investigate the effects of Brazil-nut harvesting and related practices on the abundance and diversity of large mammals. This small study is part of "Proyecto Castañales", whose aim is to investigate the biology and production of Brazil-nut trees and apply this knowledge to improve the sustainability and underlying economics of this locally important extractive industry.

This particular place is a haven for Tapirs and White-lipped Peccaries – I have seen 5 and 100 respectively in the last week alone. The disadvantages are the sweat bees, which are as plentiful as the leaves – they just love to buzz their way as far into your ear as they possibly can. Not to mention the ticks!

The conversation over dinner the other night centred around Brazil-nut zoning of land in the ZRTC. Proyecto Castañales has just finished mapping all the Brazil-nut trees and connecting trails for all 26 concessions, which will be used to determine once and for all the true number of trees and area of forest that each concessionaire manages – the main reason being so that more realistic taxes can be paid, although it will also enable concessions to obtain extraction permits for 5 years instead of having to apply for them every year. Concessions are more likely to implement better management practices if they are guaranteed a lengthy concession time.

Zoning has also been the talk of the town in Maldonado. Community workshops are being held to enable farmers in and around the ZRTC to have an input to the zoning process. Hopefully by the end of the year most of the workshops will have been held and some sort of consensus will be beginning to emerge. The ZRTC will then be a nice patchwork of appropriate people- and eco-friendly land-use zones. Then the difficult job of implementing it all can begin!

We are still eagerly awaiting the release of some of Mobil's oil exploration concession to expand the Bahuaja Sonene National Park, although the word on the grapevine is that no decision will be made this year.

My friend Freddy – who had the Brazil nut accident – is ok by the way!

Chris Kirkby, TReeS Co-ordinator, Puerto Maldonado

TReeS Projects Update

Recent developments with projects supported by TReeS include the following:

* **Centro Ethno-cultural Ese'eja** – Juan Pesha has taken up a temporary 3 month posting as the FENAMAD representative for the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve project. This is a significant personal step for him and an important development for FENAMAD with Juan, an Ese'eja, working in association with an Amarakaeri project.

Juan and Carlos from the Centre attended a University conference in Lima about bilingual education which featured the work being done to develop a written form of the ese'eja language.

Several patients have been treated at the Centre by Jose Mishaja, the new healer, who has the confidence of the local community. He successfully treated two patients who had not responded to western medical care, one from Diamante near Manu, a 3 day journey away, and another from P. Maldonado. It is expected that a member of the Centre team will start to give regular talks to tourists at the nearby Posada Amazonas lodge in the next few weeks. A successful display was mounted, with FENAMAD, promoting Ese'eja culture at the annual independence day Feria in Puerto Maldonado.

* **Agro-forestry project** – with TReeS funds a suitable plot has been identified, tags purchased and the tree identification and tagging process can now begin.

* **Insect Research project** – the two students from Cuzco University undertaking this project will be returning to the forest for the second (final) stage in November.

* **Video project** – Sandra Felipe has undertaken the first viewers survey ever in P. Maldonado, in order to determine the most appropriate aims for a series of environmental programmes being prepared for broadcasting on local television. There will be 10 one-and-a-half minute slots and 5 fifteen minute programmes on various environmental themes. The programmes have been made possible through TReeS support. Most of the footage has been shot and the series is now going in to the production stage.

* **FADEMAD** – the first phase of workshops in FADEMAD (Federation of small farmers of Madre de Dios) associated communities was held in May. They were held in 5 communities along the P. Maldonado/Cuzco road and 2 meetings were held for the 4 communities along the river Tambopata. In the latter case these were the first meetings that FADEMAD had been able to hold in these communities for 2 years. The workshops enabled FADEMAD to identify in detail the problems being faced by these communities lying either within or close to the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone. The second phase of meetings to identify some solutions to the problems are due to be held this autumn and they will lead to the development of new project proposals, some of which are likely to be submitted to TReeS.

**** EU creates Brazil-nut crisis ****

Please see the enclosed letter which provides details of an EU ruling which may devastate the brazil-nut industry. We would ask all members to send the letter to their local MEP – this is an opportunity to find out who she/he is! – and if you receive a reply please forward a copy to TReeS.

BIRDWATCHING IN TAMBOPATA

Five years after helping to assemble information provided by Paul Donahue *et al* into the Checklist of Birds of Tambopata, I finally had the opportunity to visit the area.

In April 1999 I flew from my hometown of Cairns, Queensland to Lima and met up with an old friend from the UK for a months birdwatching and beer sampling in Peru. Not having been to Peru since 1988 I was keen to see how it had fared in the intervening decade. Surprisingly, very little appeared to have changed - although superficially the cities did appear more prosperous and the streets and railway stations were rather safer.

The highlight of the trip was a week long stay in the Tambopata area of the Peruvian Amazon. With the greatest concentration of bird species for any location of its size we were particularly looking forward to getting to the Explorer's Inn. With over 587 species it must be standing room only for the birds there. Little did we realise finding them was going to be slightly more difficult than we anticipated.

We arrived at the Explorer's Inn after a glorious boat journey upriver and were greeted by friendly Pancho the peccary, a current temporary guest. Our first surprise discovery was mud, lots of mud. About half of the trail system was up to a foot deep in mud. This made walking rather hard going. Rubber boots were a necessity. The week got off to a bad start when on putting on my first boot, an incredible searing pain shot through my toe. After rapidly removing the boot and banging it hard several times, the culprit, a wolf spider, crawled out. Stephanie our RN guide showed great concern.... for the spider !! To me it seemed little the worse for wear, although lacking one leg.

Several hours later the pain had subsided a little and wading into the forest it became apparent that finding birds was somewhat harder than we had anticipated. Although the diversity of species that can be found in tropical rainforests is high, the actual density of individuals can be very low. We found that we could walk along the trails for up to two hours without seeing a single bird! When we did find them they were generally in the form of feeding flocks. These we found to be of two different types. Firstly there might be a large number of different small brown birds all very similar but with slight variations. On getting a good sighting and investigating the appropriate page in *The Birds of Colombia* you could usually find, that there were up to 15 very similar possibilities to what had just gone past and had now disappeared deep into the forest ! The second type of feeding flock seemed to prefer to inhabit the high canopy requiring much neck straining to observe. Laying on your back on the ground to watch them with more ease is good advice - except when the ground is 8" deep in liquid mud!

We found *A Birder's Guide to the Explorer's Inn* by Simon Allen to be rather optimistic in terms of claimed numbers of birds to be seen. Indications of likely species to be observed on specific trails were also not found to be close. This is probably due to seasonal variations and maybe habitat changes since the author's visit.

The highlight of the week was the trip up to the Collpa, the macaw clay lick. Here, as hoped, hundreds of macaws and parrots did appear in the early morning to feast on the clay, a spectacular sight. On trees above the Collpa we also managed to see a Long-tailed Tyrant (not on *The Birds of Tambopata* checklist) along with Blue-throated Piping-Guans and Cuvier's Toucan. Despite the cost a visit to the Collpa is not to be missed by anyone who has already taken the trouble to get to Tambopata.

Overall, a week is too short to stay at the Explorer's Inn. With the passing of time the forest becomes more and more fascinating as you learn more about it. Much time is also needed to improve the chances of coming across some of the rich variety of wildlife that the forest undoubtedly contains but isn't always easy to come by. The difficulty in seeing birds turns from frustration to more of an enjoyable challenge.

For us the more memorable sightings experienced were: Reddish Hermits buzzing around like angry hovering bees on the Main Trail; Sunbitterns displaying to frighten off a Black Caracara on Cocococha; King Vulture soaring above the lodge clearing; a Poison Arrow Frog on Tapir Trail; Swimming Caterpillars; a Cat-eyed Snake on the side of one of the lodges; Saddleback Tamarins playing in the boot shed; Red Howlers eating clay on the way up to the Collpa; a Capybara family beside the river on the way to P. Maldonado and seeing the Paraponera ant. People who have experienced the bite from this ant claim it is the most painful bite that can be experienced without actually dying! I was lucky that it wasn't one of these in my boot !

Dominic Chaplin, TReeS Member

Peru News

President Mahuad of Ecuador visited Peru to cement the signing of the border peace treaty but faced protests in Iquitos en route to an Amazon fishing trip with President Fujimori. The agreement includes the formation of a Peace Park in the Cordillera Condor which overlaps the border - peace through environmental co-operation.

'Feliciano', the highest ranking Sendero Luminoso leader still at large, was captured in July with several other Senderistas, seriously weakening the remnants of the organisation.

Peru withdraw from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in July causing an international outcry and concern about the future upholding of human rights within Peru, especially with the Presidential elections fast approaching.

The current polls show Fujimori, who still has to declare his candidacy and is playing down rumours about his health, on 32%; Alberto Andrade, the Mayor of Lima, on 23%; and Luis Casteneda also on 23%. The latter two are both independents but neither are considered especially strong candidates. The election will be held in April 2000.

Forthcoming Events

'River Wolves' (Giant Otters of Peru)

In the Autumn the Channel 4 'Survival' series will broadcast a 1 hour programme about Giant River Otters. Almost all the footage was shot in Madre de Dios in the Tambopata and Manu areas, including Lake Sandoval.

Inner Visions: Artists of the Peruvian Amazon

4th November – 11th December, at the October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester St., London, WC1 (Tel: 0171 242 7367) (Nearest tube: Holborn, 5 minutes walk).

The exhibition will feature the work of 3 Peruvian artists, including Pablo Amaringo, whose work draws upon the beliefs and practices of the shamanic traditions of the Peruvian Amazon. The paintings detail both other worldly landscapes and an urgent message of environmental concern for the Amazon rain forest.

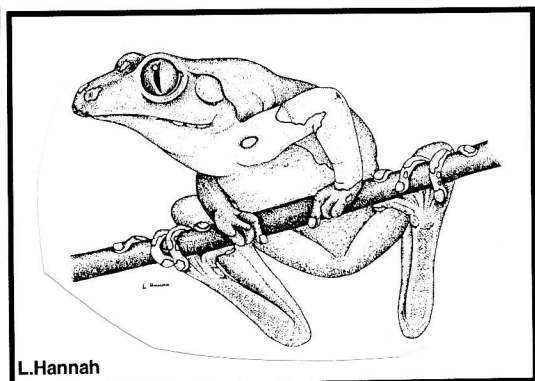
An exhibition of photos by the ethnobotanist R. Evans Schultes is also planned and a one-day symposium will be held on 6th November in which historical, artistic, biological, ecological and anthropological issues relating to the Amazon basin will be explored.

Third World Fayre

4th December, 11 am - 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., London WC1 (Nearest tube: Holborn, 5 minutes walk). Arts and crafts from around the world and a variety of NGO'S, including TReeS (to be confirmed). This year the event is being held in conjunction with the Jubilee 2000 campaign to reduce world debt.

TReeS Membership offers

For many years TReeS has offered members a free gift each year in the upper membership categories. However, the uptake has been very limited over the years and it is time consuming to administer. On this basis the offer of a free gift will be withdrawn as from next year. Those members qualifying in 1999 will be advised of their free gift offer with the first Newsletter of next year.



TReeS Merchandise - order now for Xmas !

* **New - 'Jungle Sounds' CD** - the popular recording, previously only available on cassette, is now also available on CD. Full details of the wildlife heard on the recording is given on the inlay card. Price: £10.

* **New - Rainforest Animal greetings cards** (blank inside) by Laurel Hannah - 7 beautiful designs featuring an Ocelot, Tree-frog, Scarlet Macaw, Puma, Razor-billed Curassow, Saddleback Tamarin and Black Caiman. Price (including envelopes): £5.00 (set of 7).

* **'Tambopata Map Guide'** - a fold out guide, with a full colour illustrated map of the Tambopata region. It gives a brief history of the area and details of the tourist facilities in and around P.Maidonado. Price: £3.00 (available in English or Spanish). **Only a few copies remain.**

* **'Macaw T-shirt'** - this popular T-shirt is back in stock. Price: £7.50 (S) and £8.50 (XL), bleached or unbleached.

All prices include postage and packing.

'Life after Logging' report

A new report published by FoE/The Rainforest Foundation looks at the impacts of commercial timber extraction in tropical rainforests updating developments since the last major FoE report in 1992. It looks in detail at the impact of logging on the ecosystem, how these impacts can be reduced and whether there is such a thing as sustainable management of tropical rainforest. A variety of case studies are referred to. Available from: FoE (0171 490 1555) or The Rainforest Foundation (0171 251 6345). Price: £10 (plus p&p ?).

Xmas cards - 17th century archangels playing musical instruments, taken from colonial paintings in Cuzco churches. 6 beautiful, full colour designs, blank inside. Price: £1.50 each, pack of 6 - £7.50.

The Tambopata Reserve Society (TReeS)

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Patron - Norman Myers

The work of TReeS has been endorsed/supported by the Rainforest Alliance, IUCN, IWGIA, Helpage, OXFAM, Anglo-Peruvian Society, Body Shop International PLC, Earthlove Fund, Reuters Foundation, the Yew Tree Gallery and the Lindeth Charitable Trust.



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