

### Ese'ija Health & Medicinal Plant Manual

The Ese'ija are the indigenous inhabitants of the Tambopata region in Peru, and the Madidi / Pando regions in Bolivia. Originally semi-nomadic, in Peru they now live in settled communities: Bahuaja (Infierno) on the Tambopata river, Palma Real on the Madre de Dios river, and Sonene on the Sonene (Heath) river.

TReeS has worked since 1986 with the Ese'ija at Centro Cultural Ese'ija (Centro Nape). In terms of their health this has taken the form of promoting primary health care initiatives and the retention of the best of traditional approaches to health care along with appropriate aspects of western medicine.

The latest initiative is a bilingual (Ese'ija / Spanish) health and medicinal plant manual (60pp) which has been written and illustrated by Ese'ija collaborators.

The principal aims are to -

- promote the use of medicinal plants (in a suitable illustrated format) to treat common illness symptoms to improve the health of the Ese'ija;
- strengthen, encourage and value Ese'ija concepts of health and illness;
- strengthen Ese'ija capacitation through involvement in a project linking Ese'ija communities;
- encourage and strengthen the Ese'ija language: this is one of the first publications in Ese'ija.

The publication will complement the Plant Manual produced for native communities across Madre de Dios some years ago.

The intention is for FENAMAD (Federation of native communities of Madre de Dios) / TReeS to publish 500 copies, including one for distribution to every Ese'ija household - almost all households have a family member who can read.

**New sponsorship** is sought to contribute towards the total cost - £1,250 (£250 already secured).

### Las Piedras Expedition 2003

Project Las Piedras has recently returned from its second, highly successful field survey. The team this year consisted of twelve people: Björn Schulte-Herbrüggen (Project Co-ordinator), five students from the University of Edinburgh, two Peruvian students (one from Puerto Maldonado and one from Lima), three local guides and one cook.

After highlighting the devastating impact of mahogany extraction and its association with hunting by illegal loggers in our 2002 report (find our report at [www.savemonkeys.org/report](http://www.savemonkeys.org/report)) it was concluded that timber extraction has to be controlled and managed to achieve sustainable land use. As this is a relatively new approach to the use of natural resources in Madre de Dios, scientific data is crucial to gain local support for the project.

at [www.savemonkeys.org/report](http://www.savemonkeys.org/report)) it was concluded that timber extraction has to be controlled and managed to achieve sustainable land use. As this is a relatively new approach to the use of natural resources in Madre de Dios, scientific data is crucial to gain local support for the project.

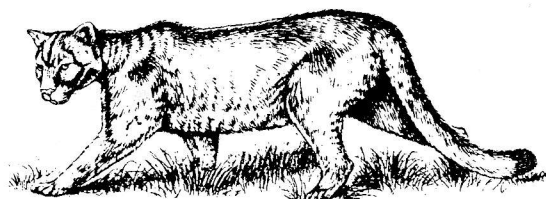
We decided to approach and gain the co-operation of timber concessionaires who have an interest in sustainable management and who could be provided with the data. Several concessionaires showed an interest and within each concession, we undertook the following surveys:

- a) An investigation into the natural regeneration of plants along tractor roads;
- b) A collection of detailed information on working processes and time budgeting of timber extraction;
- c) Set up an economic profile of each concession, to assess their economic viability;
- d) An assessment of the hunting behaviour of loggers;
- e) An extensive mammal census at several sites in Las Piedras, including the entrance of the "Reservado del estado para indigenas aislados", (6 days upstream from Puerto Maldonado).

It is already clear from our results that mammal abundance at 'hunted sites' in Las Piedras is at least twice as high as in the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park. These surprising results have been discussed with Chris Kirkby (TReeS) and Juan Loja (Conservation International-Perú) and has led to a collaboration between the two organisations to set up a database of mammal census data for the whole of Madre de Dios. This new project will hopefully give insight into the natural factors that influence mammal populations.

In addition to our study of the timber concessions, we continued monitoring illegal mahogany extraction from the "Reservado del estado para indigenas aislados" and working with the native community of Monte Salvado. We investigated the community's hunting impact on mammal populations and for the first time, we will provide detailed socio-economic information, including reasons for settling in the area, income from logging, hunting patterns, etc.

Our preliminary report will be finished by the end of October 2003. If you are interested in reading the report or finding out about potential forthcoming Edinburgh / York talks, contact Björn via - [www.savemonkeys.org](http://www.savemonkeys.org)



## **Fauna Forever..... delving deeper into the impact of Tourism on Wildlife**

Project Fauna Forever is an undertaking of TReeS-RAMOS, the Research and Monitoring Studies Unit of TReeS-UK, directed by Chris Kirkby.

The Project aims to monitor the population status of wildlife around 5 lodges along the Tambopata and Madre de Dios rivers, comparing the data with the degree of tourism at each lodge and how this might affect the wildlife. This study builds on similar research undertaken between 1997-98.

The Project is to be financed by general fund-raising and through the participation of international volunteers. The Project planning process is now entering its fifth month with the recruitment drive for volunteers still in full swing. Initially, due to begin in November 2003, the project will now be starting in February 2004 due to a lack of sufficient numbers of volunteers. Although many volunteer places have already been snapped up, there are still a few places, particularly on the Herpetology Team. The final phase of the project will run November 2004-February 2005.

On the fund-raising side of things, we received a sizeable contribution from TReeS-UK, and the Lindeth Charitable Trust (UK) kindly offered their support again this year having supported the initial Project Tambopata back in 1997-98. Furthermore, 2 motion detection cameras have been donated by Ideal Wild (USA). These cameras are still in the USA waiting to be brought over to Peru for trials, so we would love to hear from anyone travelling to Peru from the USA who would be able to bring them over for us.

The 5 principal members of the team at the moment are Chris Kirkby, Alan Lee, Karen Tailby, Wilfredo Arizabal and Alexis Nunez. Chris is also collaborating with Conservation International, Bjorn Schulte-Herbruggen (Las Piedras expedition), and half a dozen other people in an effort to pool mammal abundance data for the Madre de Dios region. Two of the products from this will be a database and GIS. Most of the mammal data from Project Fauna Forever and the previous Project Tambopata will also go towards this initiative.

As for Alan, he has returned from a bird-watching trip up the Las Piedras river during which he had had amazing sightings, including 3 Harpy Eagles. You can read his trip report on the News Section of the Fauna Forever webpage ([www.faunaforever.com](http://www.faunaforever.com)). The website has also been recently updated with more photos, and will be worth revisiting again.

Karen has been juggling the budget, doing the marketing and answering emails. She has, finally, managed to get out of dusty P.Maldonado for a very well deserved break up the Las Piedras river where she stayed at Emma Humes' lodge (more details at - [www.tambopataexpeditions.com](http://www.tambopataexpeditions.com)).

Wilfredo is leading a series of field workshops in Manu designed to teach students to use techniques for investigating mammal, herpetofauna, bird and tree populations in the rainforests of Madre de Dios.

The countdown to the Project is firmly underway and there are still a number of equipment items to be found. This includes a project house in P.Maldonado, although this is unlikely to be difficult with all the new building work that is going on.

Conservation International continues to support TReeS work and also helped by providing housing for Alan. We have also have to thank the Frankfurt Zoological Society for the use of their computers when the TReeS-Peru computer was busy.  
[www.faunaforever.com](http://www.faunaforever.com)

### **Project La Torre:**

- \* **Cross-cultural efforts to improve education in Peru / South Africa** - Four life skills workshops for 11-15 year olds took place in Sept-Oct, in conjunction with the local hospital. They were attended by 35 students who act as health promoters within their own schools. Issues covered included drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse, HIV / Aids, depression, etc.
- \* **Life Skills Training Programme** - The Project links four UK schools and one in China, with schools in P.Maldonado. Some of the funds raised are being used to undertake school building improvements.

### **TReeS Peru Update**

- \* **TReeS Peru:** the TReeS Peru website can be viewed at - [www.geocities.com/treesperu](http://www.geocities.com/treesperu)

In addition to activities mentioned elsewhere TReeS Peru team members have undertaken the following:

- \* **Alfredo Garcia:** co-ordinating TReeS donations to Fauna Forever, Forest Future 2003, Stingless Bee research project, the Life skills training programme and the Ese'jea territorial rediscovery project.

Chaired TReeS meeting in Lima with Dr Lizzie Wahl (TReeS Peru) and Dr H.Newing (TReeS UK).

- \* **Laia Cateura:** the TReeS Peru volunteer, has completed her secondment to the Technical team of the Tambopata National Reserve Master Plan working on the socio-economic survey with mining and brazil-nut extractor/agricultural groups.

Laia has been working in the TReeS Peru office and represented TReeS at a social development workshop in Puerto Maldonado organised by 'FondeBosque'.

- \* **Daniel Rodriguez:** has sat in on a number of FENAMAD internal meetings to offer advice as required. He has also given talks in secondary schools in P.Maldonado about indigenous issues and visited San Jose de Karene/Huaypetue valley to photograph the illegal gold-mining activities

- \* **Chris Kirkby:** assisting and assessing a Cusco University biology student project investigating the impact of the Paucartambo/Pilcopata road (the Manu road) improvements on epiphyte populations.

- \* **English students:** 2 of the students supported completed their exams satisfactorily in August.

TReeS has been approached by numerous other students with appropriate backgrounds but without the funds to take a supplementary english course, at Tina Smith's Academy, to complement their studies.

**New sponsorship** is sought - £140 for a 6 month course or £25 / month per student.

## **MAP Workshop IV**

TReeS was represented at the fourth MAP workshop held in Brasileia, in mid-August by Laia Cateura. 650 delegates from a wide variety of institutions in Acre (Brasil), Madre de Dios (Peru) and Pando (Bolivia) attended. TReeS participated in the 'Social equality' workshop whose conclusions included highlighting the increased need for indigenous and settler representative participation in future to resolve and promote sustainable development issues within the regions.

## **Notes from Picaflor Research Centre**

Laurel Hanna writes:

Volunteers working at Picaflor during the dry season have helped us improve forest access, with four new footbridges over tributaries to the Gallacunca stream as well as steps down the more heavily used slopes. Other additions include a mirador on a cliff-top chosen by our birding volunteers, which gives good views of the stream, forest canopy and sky. A further mirador has been set up overlooking the Tambopata river and has also become a popular birding spot.

In May, we had a single observation of a giant otter near the mouth of the Gallacunca stream. This was our first record of giant otters, presumably it was a young dispersing adult. Also in May, Pico's wildlife highlight was a close encounter with two pumas; he was sitting under the breadfruit tree outside our bungalow one morning, when a puma crossed the path just a few metres from him. He was about to get up, when a second puma emerged and paused for a few moments, looking out over the river before following the first, both were apparently unaware they were observed.

Three weeks later I also met a puma, just at the start of the Quebrada trail. I walked straight up to it without noticing a thing; the first I knew of it was a tawny eruption from the undergrowth just a metre and a half in front of me, reminiscent of a pheasant breaking cover but a lot more alarming. All I saw was a couple of seconds of a sleek body and an undulating, black tipped tail until the forest returned to its customary stillness; in two bounds the puma had completely vanished. Several months later I still walk that section of the trail with extreme caution.

Previously, Brazilian rabbits were abundant around Picaflor bungalows, but they are now something of a rarity; our records show that you are now more likely to see an ocelot than a rabbit on a short nocturnal wander around the centre. The obvious explanation is supported by an observation of an ocelot slinking under the covered walkway carrying a good-sized rabbit. If the ocelot stays around I might even venture to replant the vegetable patch!

<b>April</b>	max. temp 43.6 C	minimum 17.8C
<b>May</b>	31.6 C	18.1 C
<b>June</b>	31.7 C	16.9 C
<b>July</b>	34.0 C	12.8 C
<b>August</b>	40.0 C	13.0 C

[www.picaflor.com](http://www.picaflor.com)

## **Lago Sandoval Interpretation Centre**

The Lake Sandoval Interpretation and Control Centre is up and running. One hour down-river from Puerto Maldonado, a 4 kilometre trail begins to the pristine lake located within the Tambopata National Reserve (TNR). There, one can find a high diversity of wildlife, including a family of giant river otters, and an impressively large *Mauritia* palm stand.

Consequently, the lake attracts numerous tourists; in fact, it is the most visited area of the TNR (about 50% of the TNR's visitors go to Sandoval; from July 2002 to July 2003, about 8,000 persons visited).

In July 2002, the Frankfurt Zoological Society co-financed and implemented a Control Post at the entrance of the trail leading to Lake Sandoval, where INRENA wardens are now able to carry out their functions. The Interpretation Centre is located at the Control Post, where local people from Puerto Maldonado, kids from the Sandoval Environmental Education Programme, and national and international tourists enter to visit the lake.

The Centre was developed not only to be a powerful educational tool, but also an additional attraction away from the lake, decreasing the amount of time spent on the lake by visitors and consequently reducing the pressure put on the giant otter habitat.

One of the objectives of the Centre is to inspire the visitors to marvel at some of the wonders of nature, and by doing so invite them to choose their role in the web of life. Nearly 30 bilingual installations (Spanish and English) organized in five areas by the following themes: the aquatic environment (formation of oxbow lakes, aquatic plants, herbivores and carnivores), the conservation of water, the skills of some jungle animals, the history of the department of Madre de Dios, and the National System of Protected Areas have been developed.

An inauguration celebration took place on July 21st at the Sandoval Control Post and its new interpretation centre under a huge fig tree. About 70 persons - representing local institutions, authorities, NGOs (TReeS Peru was represented by Laia Cateura), professionals and residents - gathered to break a bottle of champagne. Entrance is free, and there is lots to learn... so, come visit any time!

Raphael Notin & Kimberly Failor (both ex-RNs at EI)  
[raphaelnotin@yahoo.com](mailto:raphaelnotin@yahoo.com)

## **TReeS UK Libraries:** Forthcoming deposits -

- Giant Otter project newsletter No.8;
- Serjali project 2002 annual report;
- Explorer's Inn Nature Diary: Jan-June '01;
- Forest Future (Las Piedras) project: 2003 proposal;
- Ese'ija Territorial and Cultural reconstruction project proposal;

## **Wildlife Photographer of the Year**

One of the winner this year is Jeremy Woodhouse whose photos include some taken in Tambopata. All the winning photos can be seen - until April 2004 - at the Natural History Museum, London SW7.



## **Giant River Otter Project - monitoring in the Tambopata National Reserve:**

Giant otter survey specialists met again in Puerto Maldonado, 17-26th of June. Specialists came from Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana, Brazil and Ecuador for the second, 12-day, Giant Otter Survey Methodology and Habitat Management Standardisation field course.

The course began with a 6 day field trip to the Palma Real and Patuyacu rivers, in search of indirect signs and direct sightings of giant otters. We were lucky on the first day when two giant otters were briefly observed on the Palma Real River. In the following days, we visited Lakes Cococha and Tres Chimbadas, on the river Tambopata, where monitoring of the resident groups of giant otters and the management of tourism was discussed, together with the guides of the two lodges.

At Cococha 8 individuals (including 2 cubs) swimming and hunting on the opposite shore were observed; later they approached to within a few metres of the observation point, before heading off peacefully. On Tres Chimbadas, 5 otters emerged out of the morning mist, and disappeared as unexpectedly.

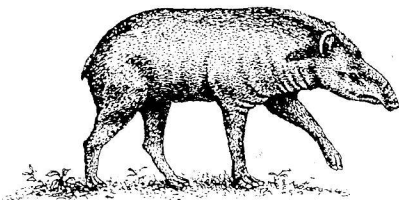
In parallel with the field visit, discussions and workshops were held to determine the terminology, and parameters for correct identification of indirect signs, to be used as part of a Standard survey methodology for the species. Preliminary points for the establishment of a continental distribution survey strategy were also discussed, but it was recognised and proposed that a meeting be organised in December to deal with this issue in depth. A document entitled "Giant otter distribution surveys, population censuses and monitoring - Towards a Standard Method" (Groenendijk et al) is being drafted with contributions from all those who participated in the first workshop (held in November 2002 in Peru) and this workshop. Geovanna Lasso [geoval11@hotmail.com](mailto:geoval11@hotmail.com)

## **Peru News**

In August the Truth Commission published its final report, confirming that 69,000 people lost their lives in the years (1980-2000) of insurgency. It was determined that Sendero Luminoso was responsible for 54% of them, the army for 30% and other groups 16%. The government must now decide how to respond.

The Camisea project - to develop huge gas fields in the Urubamba valley downriver of Machu Picchu with a pipeline down to Paracas on the coast - has been refused \$214m by the US Export-Import Bank on the basis that environmental standards have not been met. Proposals to mitigate the impact were described as 'woefully inadequate' and unique biodiversity faced 'significant long-term and largely irreversible' change. The pipeline is 70% complete - the brief kidnapping of a group of workers did not disrupt construction - but the Interamerican Development Bank has also postponed \$135m of funding.

The UK government has indicated that to fund reconstruction in Iraq overseas aid to 'middle income' countries such as Peru will have to be reduced.



## **TReeS Merchandise - Xmas presents !**

\* **NEW** - 'Andes to Amazon': a coffee table book published in Peru covering the Tambopata (Peru) and Madidi (Bolivia) regions, with high quality photos by TReeS member Andre Bartschi.

TReeS special price - £48 (RRP - £60), plus £7 UK postage. This is a one-off opportunity: only 6 copies are available on a first come first served basis - please send a separate cheque for any other purchases.

## **Forthcoming events -**

**Las Piedras expedition** - talks in Edinburgh / York. Contact [hjoern@savemonkeys.org](mailto:hjoern@savemonkeys.org) for further details.

**December: World Fair - 5th (4-8pm) / 6th (11-6pm)**  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., London WC1 (nearest tube station - Holborn). TReeS will have a stall - do your Xmas shopping from fair trade stalls with global goods on offer to the sound of world music.

**March:** Expedition evening of the Anglo-Peruvian Society - further details in the next newsletter.

## **This Newsletter is sponsored by -**

**natural COLLECTION / Trees for Life -**  
a charity that exists to regenerate and restore the native Caledonian forest.

Trees for Life produces beautiful calendars, diaries and Xmas cards  
(\* Discounted p & p rate for TReeS members)

## **Trees For Life Diaries and Calendars**

Trees for Life is a Scottish charity that aims to regenerate and restore the native Caledonian forest to a large area in the Scottish highlands, eventually reintroducing the missing species that formerly lived there. It seeks not only to counteract centuries of deforestation but also to pioneer ecological restoration.

Available from -

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the diary and calendar are beautifully produced, with

striking photographs of trees

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**10995 2004 Calendar (30x33cm) £9.95\***

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