

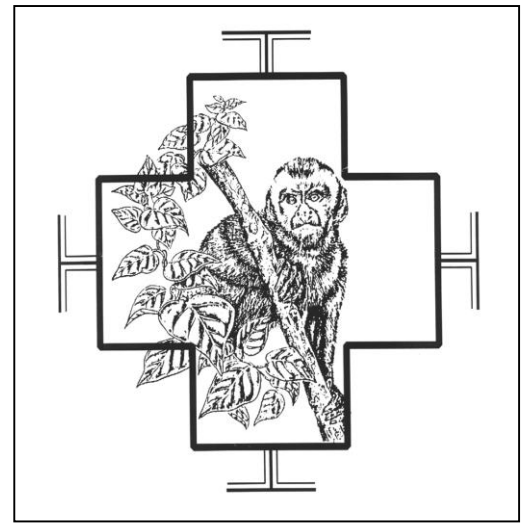
TReeS News No.85

August 2020

The **TReeS** newsletter provides an update to its members and for those interested in rainforest related issues in Amazonia, specifically in Madre de Dios, in south-east Peru, and the small-scale projects TReeS supports there.

This edition focuses on the impact of Covid-19 on the indigenous communities of Madre de Dios, on a TReeS collaborator in P.Maldonado and more widely in Peru.

There are also updates on the projects supported by TReeS members: the reforestation project; Casa Miraflores; increasing internet access for indigenous communities; and the small grants programme.



Covid-19 pandemic in Madre de Dios

"Nuestras comunidades ya no cuentan con alimentos de primera necesidad, peor aún no fueron beneficiados con ningún tipo de apoyo por parte del Estado" / "Our communities do not have the most basic of necessities and even worse they have not benefitted from any State support" said Julio Cusurichi (President of FENAMAD), in April - <https://www.facebook.com/201180499915660/videos/?v=C3%ADder-ind%C3%ADgenade-fenamad-reitera-el-pedido-de-apoyo-al-estado-para-pueblos-ind%C3%ADg/353235995632673/>

When President Vizcarra announced the nationwide lockdown on 15th March, the 37 native communities in Madre de Dios responded quickly and access to them was immediately restricted. However, this created a number of challenges –

- those that were able to return to their communities were required to isolate in the forest for several days away from the main community;
- communities suddenly had to accommodate and support a much larger population than normal: most communities are not normally fully self-sufficient nowadays;
- 30+ community/family members were 'trapped' elsewhere, including five of the students living in Casa Miraflores;
- the government family support scheme was impossible to access for those without bank accounts nor a local bank;
- health posts, found in a few of the communities, are not staffed permanently and those medics present chose to return to their own homes when the lockdown was announced. Communities have had to turn to traditional, often herbal remedies, to meet their health needs;

- most communities don't have access to a reliable, safe water supply to wash in, etc.

- loggers, gold miners, etc are still operating in the vicinity of communities and have not been prevented from doing so.

(Continued on page 2)



The President of FENAMAD – Julio Cusurichi – appeals to the government © FENAMAD



CN Shintuya – entry prohibited due to Covid-19 © FENAMAD

Madre de Dios COVID-19 APPEAL

TReeS is making an appeal to create an emergency fund in support of the indigenous peoples of Madre de Dios to meet their needs with respect to the pandemic as it begins to reach native communities.

Donation reference: 'TReeS Covid'



Members of the Madre de Dios indigenous Covid command © FENAMAD

Consequently, there was a major international outcry to which the government responded in May and a Covid-19 Command for the Amazon was established to –

- improve health provision;
- provide PPE, food and medicines;
- organise Covid testing in indigenous communities;

Regional Commands were then established in Loreto (northern Peru), Ucayali (central) and Madre de Dios (southern). In Madre de Dios the Command is headed up by Julio Cusirichi. This approach allows a more specific response given the wide cultural differences within the Peruvian Amazon. It also means that ethnicity based data is recorded so responses can be more culturally sensitive.

Of special concern are those indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation such as the Mashco-Piro in western Madre de Dios. (There are five territorial reserves, covering 2 million hectares, for those living in voluntary isolation in Peru). In 1984 approximately 80 Mishahua (Nahua) died after contracting a common cold or whooping cough from Shell employees. Ironically, they should be relatively safe from Covid – an illness requiring isolation to defeat it – as long as that isolation is maintained. However, loggers have been permitted to restart activities in Tahuamanu in an area bordering the territory of the Mashco-Piro. On paper, the lands of those living in voluntary isolation are intangible under Peruvian law but adjoining areas, if their exploitation is deemed a ‘public necessity’ can be logged, etc.

Madre de Dios has recorded 6,110 cases and 129 deaths so far – the second worst proportion of cases to population in Peru. Covid has now reached several indigenous communities - to date 3 elderly people have died. About 30-40 indigenous people are ‘trapped’ in P.Maldonado.

Covid-19 across Peru

Peru has become one of the countries most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic despite the governments quick response in mid-March to try to respond to the potential threats it posed.

At the time of writing there have been 29,250 recorded deaths (UK: 41,514), 663,400 cases (338,675) and the deaths to population ratio is 90.9 per 100,00 (61.8), the highest in the world. Most deaths have been amongst males (70%). The most up-to-date figures can be found at –

<https://data.larepublica.pe/envivo/1552578-casos-confirmados-muertes-coronavirus-peru>

On 15th March, the government imposed a wide range of severe measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 –

- a nationwide lockdown, with only one person per household allowed out to obtain essential supplies;
- the cancellation of all national and international flights and bus services in affect, isolating most cities;
- curfews that have run from as early as 4pm to 6am;
- a total lockdown on Sundays with no-one allowed out;
- a complete lockdown for all those aged 60+years;

Initially, Lima/Callao, the larger northern cities and Iquitos were badly affected. However, as the situation was brought under control to a degree in these cities it worsened in other large cities and remoter areas. Initially, fewer cases in sierra towns suggested that possibly that altitude and/or physiological characteristics of people might create a degree of Covid resistance though the actions of community patrols (*campesino rondas*) had self-isolated them and excluded many outsiders.

As in many Middle and Low income countries, the pandemic has presented many challenges –

- only 2.2% of annual GDP is spent on health care (WHO recommendation: 6%) limiting the health care available: there were only 275 ICUs in Peru at the start of the pandemic for 33 million people;
- many trained nurses and doctors have emigrated abroad in recent years to the USA, Spain and UK;
- a high proportion of people live in poor quality, overcrowded housing facilitating the spread of the virus;
- people are accustomed to shopping on a daily basis for food often because they don’t own a fridge: markets became a major transmission point in many places;
- 70% of the population are employed informally: about half of them lost their jobs overnight, in March;

Peru responded quickly to the pandemic –

- an aid package equivalent to 12% of the annual GDP was made available to those on low incomes and businesses – the largest % response in Latin America;
- food aid packages and payments of \$200 have been made to the elderly and poorer families;
- all Universities were closed with students now being taught on-line for the whole academic year (April-December);

Peru has been especially badly affected because –

- over 150,000 people in Lima decided, upon losing their jobs, to try to return to their ‘home’ towns in the *sierra* and set off walking. Unwanted in their ‘home’ towns most returned to Lima but the virus had spread;
- many, especially younger generations but also government officials, decided that it was an opportunity to ‘party’ and ignored the lockdown;
- the well intentioned payments had to be collected from banks by many people without bank accounts which lead to long queues and the spread of infection;
- private health care providers attempted to jump on the bandwagon and offered treatments at hugely inflated prices until the government stepped in and brought them under state control;

Current situation –

In mid-August the number of new cases hit 10,000 on one day – the highest daily rate of the pandemic. A nationwide lockdown applies on Sundays while a state of emergency exists in some regions until at least 30th September with wide ranging restrictions on movements and activities. On average 25,000 people are tested for Covid each day of which <20% are positive.

A new government programme – Operation Tayta – hope to try to identify the most vulnerable within neighbourhoods and support them to stay home.

A good **BBC summary** of the measures taken and why the number of cases/deaths has been so high can be found at:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-53150808?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c1038wnxe4rt/peru&link_location=live-reporting-story

Channel 4 report from the central Peruvian jungle -

<https://www.channel4.com/news/only-doctor-left-peruvian-village-as-covid-19-outbreak-took-hold>

Casa Miraflores update

Most of the students living in Casa Miraflores were able to leave Puerto Maldonado for their communities prior to the onset of the pandemic lockdown where they remain. However, a small group of five were unable to do so and have been living in isolation in the house for the last five months. They have received aid from the government and FENAMAD but at the start of the lockdown prior to the arrival of the official support, TReeS stepped in to supply some basic foodstuffs, cleaning materials and additional hygiene products as well as guidance on how to stay safe during the lockdown.

These students have been able to keep in touch with their communities and study on-line using the laptops and equipment provided by TReeS in the past.



TReeS rep. Alfredo Garcia with students & some of the supplies provided by TReeS © A.Garcia

TReeS small grants programmes 2020 & 2021

As a result of the pandemic the students awarded a small grant to undertake their field work this year have not been able to do so apart from a couple of students from Puerto Maldonado. TReeS has indicated that the deadline for undertaking their fieldwork can be extended by six months to 30th June 2021.

Some initial photos of the fieldwork being undertaken by Gorky Flores and his fungi study can be viewed at:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qxU7am9VW4ftEe7s5>

Details of the 2021 small grants programme have now been circulated. TReeS had already decided to change the timing of the application process and bring it forward by several months. Students will now know the outcome of their application before the end of the year and can undertake their fieldwork in the first three months of the year - Covid permitting – during their main annual holiday.

It has also been decided that small grants in 2021 will only be awarded to students from Universities in Puerto Maldonado because they have the greatest possibility of undertaking a successful fieldwork programme if the Covid restrictions on travel persist well in to 2021.

Appeal: £25+ donations towards the 2021 grants programme so that a small number of grants can be supported.

TReeS members support is hugely important in maintaining this programme.

Indigenous community internet access request

TReeS has been approached to fund a further phase in the installation of solar powered internet access in native communities in the Alto Madre de Dios. This would provide internet access in four Matsigenka communities within Manu National Park. TReeS has requested that Coharyima confirm with each community, the Manu National Park authority and SERNANP (Peru's National Park authority) that they are in agreement.

Until recently, these communities were extremely isolated – it could easily take two weeks to travel to P.Maldonado or Cusco. Special permission is still needed from the authorities for outsiders to enter Manu National Park and visit them. Internet access will greatly decrease their isolation and in terms of both their health and education will be very beneficial in the current pandemic.



The President of FENAMAD attends an installation © COHARYIMA



Members of CN Boca Ishiriwe in front of satellite dish, with instruction manual © COHARYIMA



Lessons for all age groups can continue on-line in the communities © COHARYIMA

Reforestation project update

The Bello Horizonte lodge like all others in Madre de Dios is currently closed due to the pandemic. A skeleton staff is maintaining the lodge and also, with a little support from TReeS, maintaining the 'reforested' plots.

Just prior to the end of the rainy season and onset of the pandemic some further planting was undertaken in the phase one plot to replace trees that had died.

Currently, further planting is being planned once the rainy season arrives later in the year to enrich phase one and two plots with more timber species as well as enhancing the phase three plot where any seedlings planted earlier this year have failed. The poorer soil and more exposed nature of plot 3, will make reforesting it especially challenging and a long-term exercise. A decision is still to be made as to whether to begin the 'reforesting' process of another two hectares plot (phase 4) at the end of the year.

With the lodge and the *Gustitos de la cura* cafes closed, the fruit now being produced by some of the trees planted is being consumed at the children's home run by APRONIA, in Puerto Maldonado.



Phase 3: newly planted seedlings after three months © John Arbex

COP26

The 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) was scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November 2020 but will now be held 1-12 November 2021. The conference will include the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the 16th meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16), and the third meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA3). This conference will be the first occasion in which a global review of the decisions resulting from the Paris Agreement will take place.

FENAMAD had planned to send a delegation to the 2020 event and is maintaining its plan to do so in 2021 as well as the pre-Conference meetings.

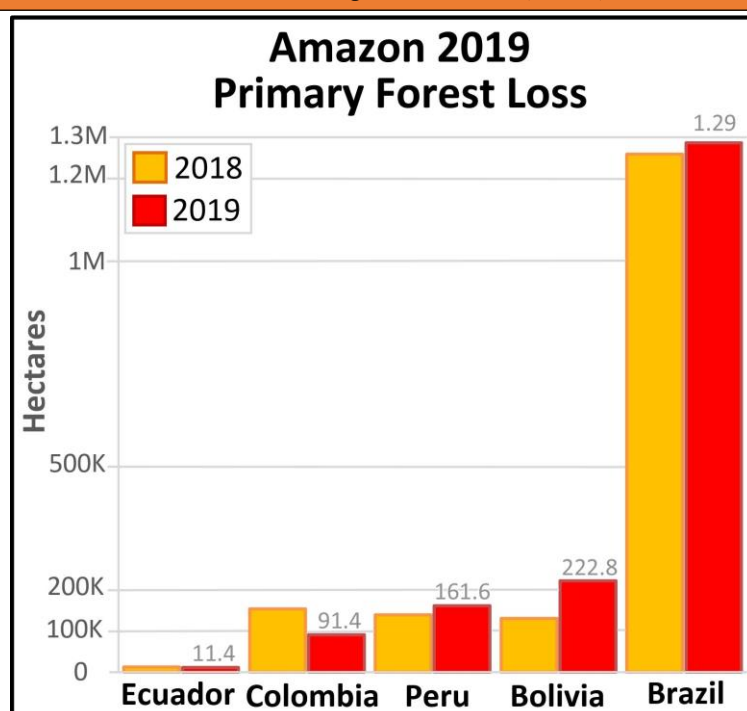
SERFOR update

The Head of SERFOR (Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre) has been removed by more senior officials within the Ministry of Agriculture. SERFOR has had some success in the last couple of years in reducing the export of illegal logged timber, improving the tracing the origin of timber and opposing the deforestation of large areas in the central Peruvian Amazon for oil palm plantations.

SERFOR had stated that it wanted all Peruvian timber to be legally certified as from sustainable sources. In 2017, the USA banned all Peruvian timber imports on the basis that about 90% of it was illegally logged. Currently it is thought that about 60% is logged illegally. Peru is committed to '0%' net deforestation by 2021 under the REDD+ initiative.

For several years it has been suggested that SERFOR and OSINFOR should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture as there is clear conflict of interest.

Amazon 2019 primary forest loss for 2019 compared to 2018 © Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA (MAAP)



Deforestation in the Amazon update

The rate of primary forest loss increased across Amazonia in almost all countries from 2018 to 2019. This is especially noteworthy as efforts should be being made to reduce to reduce to '0%' net deforestation by 2021 under the REDD+ initiative.

Most worrying is the extent of primary forest loss in the Brazilian Amazon where the current government of President Bolsonaro shows no interest in limiting deforestation.

In fact, deforestation rates have increased significantly – may be by as much as 25% this year - as the authorities turn a blind eye during the chaos brought by the pandemic.

Meanwhile, in Bolivia, which recorded the greatest year on year increase in primary forest loss from 2018 to 2019, a Minister has been recorded as stating that the pandemic is a good time to 'deforest and construct pipelines'.

In Peru there is an on-going struggle to prevent large-scale oil palm plantations being created in the central jungle region around Pucallpa.

Covid-19, gold prices & Madre de Dios

Gold prices have risen on world exchanges during the pandemic to reach a 5 year high of nearly \$2,000 per ounce up from \$1,560 in January.

Peru is the world's fifth largest gold producer, producing on average 145,000kgs per year since 1990 with peak production recorded in 2005 at 218,000kgs. However, production declined from 143,000kgs in 2018 to 130,000kgs in 2019.

Much of the gold is produced by large multinational mining companies but the informal mining sector, especially in Madre de Dios, has contributed a significant percentage in recent years. However, this has led to widespread deforestation, environmental contamination and a host of social issues as described in previous editions of TReeS News.

In 2019, the Peruvian government undertook a large-scale campaign involving hundreds of police and military to close down the mining camps and destroy mining equipment at various sites across Madre de Dios. The fall in the annual national production figures from 2018 to 2019 suggest that this may have had an impact.

However, the pandemic induced price rise is causing concern given that many miners have already returned to the area and resumed their activities. It is felt that the government, given the current economic crisis may be unwilling to step in again on such a scale again to prevent large-scale illegal artisanal mining from resuming.

An update on the situation in the La Pampa former gold-mining area can be found at -

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00119-z>

Tourism in Madre de Dios

There are over 30+ lodges in the vicinity of P.Maldonado and Tambopata area. They range from large luxury lodges with capacities for 80+ guests, heavily reliant on foreign tourist groups, to small ecolodges which also cater for many national tourists. The former tend to be run by large, Lima or Cusco based, companies while the latter tend to be owned and run by local families. All have been forced to close by the pandemic.

All international flights have been suspended since mid-March and there have been no flights in to P.Maldonado since then. Even when the government-mandated social isolation ended on June 30th and limited domestic flights resumed, they didn't do so to P.Maldonado. By late July a handful of regions, including Madre de Dios, were again placed under strict local lockdown measures to halt a rise in infections which has further delayed the reopening of the tourist sector.

The Peruvian government has indicated that the country's international borders may not reopen until the end of 2020, but the travel industry is optimistic that international restrictions may be lifted sooner, if the infection rate begins to fall. From 1 million international visitors in the year 2000, over 4 million visitors to Peru were recorded in 2018 and 2019. Madre de Dios (pop.600,000) has been receiving over 300,000 international and national tourists per year and any significant downturn in numbers will greatly affect the local economy.

Peru (Other) News

Aside from the chaos associated with the pandemic, Peruvian politics remains in turmoil. President Vizcarra hoped that Congressional elections in the Spring would bring a more supportive Congress to allow him to pursue his reformist, anti-corruption agenda. However, the new Congress would appear to be little changed in approach to its predecessor. Congress rejected the President's preferred initial candidate for Prime Minister in a cabinet reshuffle which he hoped would instigate a new approach to deal with the pandemic. Instead the new Prime Minister is an ex-army General and Minister of Defence.

Vizcarra has reconfirmed that for now, the 2021 Presidential elections are planned to go ahead on 11th April.

Keiko Fujimori has been released from jail and placed under house arrest again pending her trial for receiving illegal cash payments from the Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht. Meanwhile, her father, ex-President Alberto Fujimori remains in jail and was not granted compassionate release.

The economy declined by 40% in April and the 2020 annual decline is currently estimated at 15%. However, 3.2% growth in the Chinese economy in the second quarter offers some hope given China's large-scale consumption of Peruvian resources. Peru is also developing close links with China with respect to trialling Covid vaccinations.

The UK further consolidated its position as Peru's major European trading partner with a 2 year, \$1.5 billion agreement to oversee reconstruction in northern Peru following the 2017 El Niño event. The infrastructure projects include 15 hospitals, and 74 educational facilities. A similar model was successfully employed to construct the 2019 Pan-American games facilities, in Lima, and avoid corruption and wastage.

Thirteen people died at a nightclub, in Lima, in a stampede during a police raid – 11 were Covid positive. The nightclub had managed to obtain funding under the 'Reactiva' programme to reopen despite the lockdown rules preventing such establishments from operating.

We are grateful to the Peru Support Group (PSG):

www.perusupportgroup.org

for the sourcing of some details in TReeS News.

Peru Support Group webinar:

'The differing impacts of Covid-19 in Peru'
Saturday 5th September 4pm

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5f4hP1zfT3SJS2wOyogUuw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The panel will discuss the varying effects of the virus on Peru and what it has exposed. And consider, what policy implications follow from the analysis?

COVID en Madre de Dios: un informe personal

Madre de Dios es una de las 24 regiones del Perú, reconocida como la capital de la biodiversidad, por su selva; en ella podemos encontrar a siete pueblos indígenas que viven en diferentes comunidades. Hace un año y medio inicié mis prácticas preuniversitarias de Psicología Social en la Casa Miraflores de la Federación Nativa Del Rio Madre de Dios y Afluente (FENAMAD) que culminaron en febrero del 2020; sin embargo, aún sigo en Madre de Dios, ya que decidí quedarme para seguir trabajando.

Antes de que iniciara la pandemia viajaba cada 3 meses, aproximadamente, a Lima, capital del Perú, para visitar a mi familia. La última vez que regresé de Lima fue el día 16 de marzo del 2020, día en que el presidente decretaba el estado de emergencia por 15 días debido al COVID, y no tuve otra opción que quedarme. A los dos días de mi regreso, sentí una pequeña molestia y pensé que sería una gripe cualquiera; sin embargo, en los siguientes días empecé a sentir otros síntomas (dolor de cabeza, fiebre, pérdida del olfato y sensación de extremo cansancio) que me hicieron pensar en que podría ser COVID, además del hecho de haber estado expuesta a un lugar “foco de infección”, como lo era el aeropuerto, por lo que decidí llamar al centro de salud para que puedan venir a evaluarme. Durante esos días, yo no salía de mi cuarto, porque tenía el temor de poder contagiar a alguien.

Pasarían aproximadamente 8 días hasta que me entregaron los resultados de la prueba. Durante ese tiempo, no recibí ningún medicamento o atención médica alguna; pero yo me sentía mal, y solo intentaba tomar cosas calientes y cuidarme como si tuviera un resfriado común. Los resultados salieron positivos. Vinieron los médicos, quienes me revisaron muy cuidadosamente, quizá con un poco de miedo, y me dejaron medicamentos. Dijeron que me iban a monitorear continuamente y que les realice una lista de todas las personas con las que había tenido contacto. Descansando en mi cama, veía las noticias en Facebook e informaban que se había confirmado el segundo caso de COVID, que debíamos tener mucho cuidado en Madre de Dios; y la gente empezó a reaccionar en los comentarios muy agresivamente. Después de unas horas empecé a recibir llamadas de las personas a las cuales había puesto en la lista de contactos, muchas de ellas preocupadas por mi situación y otras cuestionándome, pidiendo explicaciones. Esta situación me afectó emocionalmente y, por supuesto, en mi salud física, por lo que tuve una recaída. Debido a esto, decidí dejar a un lado el celular por unos días, hasta sentirme mejor, lo cual me ayudó mucho. Durante este tiempo, me ayudaron mucho mis amigos en las compras de las cosas que necesitaba, y mostrando su aprecio hacia mí; esos días fueron difíciles, ya que estuve casi un mes sin salir de casa, y me encontraba sola, sin compañía de mis familiares. Y aunque su apoyo fuera a la distancia, lo sentí siempre.

Los casos de COVID en Madre de Dios empezaron a subir muy rápido, y la reacción de las personas con esta situación empezó a cambiar, porque ya no eran solo un caso más, sino familiares cercanos, por lo que empezaron a ser más considerados y a tener más cuidado, ya que comenzaron a reportarse casos de personas fallecidas y el único hospital de la región empezó a colapsar, situación que no solo pasa en

esta región sino en todo el Perú, debido a que el sistema de salud siempre ha sido muy deficiente, por lo que ha colapsado con mucha facilidad en todo el Perú, teniendo un incremento diario en el número de infectados y fallecidos, siendo considerado el segundo país a nivel mundial con más casos positivos de COVID. Madre de Dios es la primera región a nivel nacional con mayor número de casos, razón por la que permanece en aislamiento social después del 30 de junio, en la que la mayoría de regiones dejó de estarlo; sin embargo, muchas personas ya no cumplen con esta norma: en las calles se ven las motos circulando como en un día normal en el cual todos transitan, los alimentos básicos se encuentran con facilidad, pero han subido de precios; muchas de las personas optan por no llevar a sus familiares a los hospitales, ya que la atención no es eficiente, lo que ha generado que las medicinas que son utilizadas para combatir el COVID, incrementen su precio excesivamente. Cabe añadir que es complicado conseguir estos medicamentos, así como los balones de oxígeno, que han incrementado su costo también, debido en parte a la escasez, ya que aún no se tiene una planta generadora. Poder viajar a otras provincias del Perú es casi imposible actualmente, porque se requiere tener una prueba de COVID negativa, permisos policiales, y el costo de ello más el incremento de los pasajes, es muy elevado.

Esta pandemia ha hecho visible muchos déficits en el Perú, y ha agrandado mucho más esas brechas sociales existentes, que nos acompañan desde hace muchos años. Pero también es importante recalcar que, así como muchas áreas han colapsado, también se ha visto unión y apoyo de los familiares, amigos y vecinos. En algunos casos, los lazos emocionales se han visto fortalecidos. La mayoría de personas están a la espera de la vacuna, pero no hay certeza de cuando llegarán, y también existe la incertidumbre de quiénes serían beneficiados inmediatamente. Mientras esto sucede, el estado peruano sigue en su intento por tomar las medidas más adecuadas para seguir evitando el aumento de contagios, pero es evidente que no ha dado los resultados que se esperaba, y que esto afecta mucho el comportamiento de las personas, quienes han bajado la guardia y desconfían del gobierno y sus medidas, y que salen con más frecuencia, muchas de ellas por necesidad, y algunas otras porque no comprenden la complejidad de la situación.

Karla Bontemps, Puerto Maldonado, 16 de agosto 2020



Karla visiting NC El Pilar in January 2020 © TReeS

TReeS Website update

A TReeS supporter – Harshad Modha – has kindly updated the TReeS website so that all past newsletters are now accessible: more than 85 have been published over the last 35 years.

The majority of reports submitted by recipients of a small grant have also now been uploaded. We hope to upload the remaining ones and update other aspects of the website in the near future.

The Tambopata Library: the following articles, documents and reports about Tambopata and Madre de Dios have been received/ sighted over the last few months. Many of them can be traced via the internet while some directly linked to TReeS will be placed on the TReeS website.

The following publications can be accessed through the 'MAAP' website: www.maap.org

- 'Amazon deforestation 2019', MAAP 122, June 2020;

The following publications can be accessed through the 'RAINFOR' website: www.rainfor.org

- 'Primer catálogo de los árboles de la Amazonía de Madre de Dios' / 'First catalogue of the Amazonian tree species of Madre de Dios', A.Monteagudo et al, 2020;

- 'Biased-corrected richness estimates for the Amazonian tree flora', Hans ter Steege et al, 2020;

- 'Variations in soil chemical and physical properties explain basin-wide Amazon forest soil carbon concentrations', C.Quesada, 2020;

- 'Biased-corrected richness estimates for the Amazonian tree flora', H.ter Steege et al, 2020;

The following publications were also sighted by TReeS –

- 'Estudio diagnóstico hidrológico de Madre de Dios', ANA, 2010;

- 'Compendio de los recursos hídricos superficiales de Madre de Dios', ANA, 2012;

- 'Caracterización hidrológica de la región Madre de Dios', Senamhi, 2017;

- 'Amarakaeri Comunal Reserve: The role of multi-stakeholder forums in subnational jurisdictions', CIFOR, 2019;

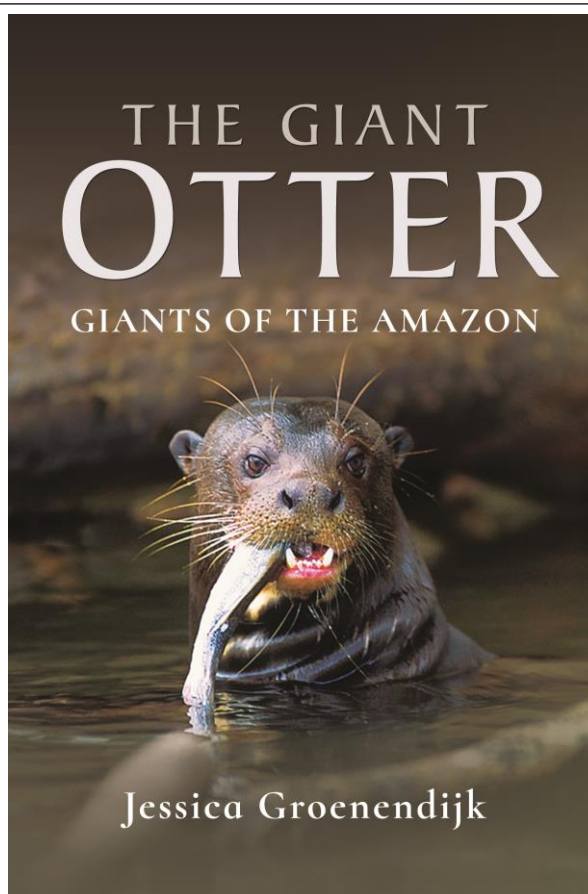
- 'The impact of formalizing rights to land and forest: Indigenous community perspectives in Madre de Dios and Loreto', CIFOR, 2019;

- 'Freshwater conservation planning in data-poor areas: An example from a remote Amazonian basin (Madre de Dios River, Peru and Bolivia)', M.Thieme et al, 2007;

- 'Fishes from the Las Piedras river, Madre de Dios basin, Peruvian Amazon', T.Carvalho et al, 2012;

- 'Bird diversity and occurrence of bamboo specialists in two bamboo die-offs in SE Peru', S.J.Socular et al, 2013;

- 'Deforestación en comunidades nativas: la necesidad de entender el contexto', Informe No.5, GIZ, 2020;



'The Giant Otter: giants of the Amazon'

by Jessica Groenendijk

BBC Wildlife magazine says: 'Jessica is both a scientist and a nature writer, and in 'The Giant Otter: giants of the Amazon' she delivers a wonderful blend of these two disciplines. Her account of the lives and ecology of her study species is authoritative and unsentimental - as though she wouldn't dream of romanticising - and yet the charisma of these Amazonian 'river people' burns through even the most factual descriptions, emphasised by an abundance of photographs. The real joy is in the inclusion of extracts from Groenendijk's field notes - they provide an insight into a truly enviable day job in the most biodiverse terrestrial ecosystem on Earth.'

Jessica first visited Madre de Dios in 1996 when she participated in an expedition up the río Las Piedras for which TReeS provided some small-scale support.

Jessica's blog 'Nature Bytes' was Highly Commended in the International Category of the 2015 BBC Wildlife Blogger Awards.

The book contains 150 illustrations. ISBN: 9781526711748

SPECIAL OFFER for TReeS members: 25% discount! (during September) Visit the Pen & Sword website:

www.pen-and-sword.co.uk and quote or use at checkout the following discount code – '25OTTER'.



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This edition of TReeS News is sponsored by the wine merchants Corney & Barrow – sole UK importers of Intipalka Peruvian wine

Corney & Barrow stock six Intipalka wines: Malbec, Syrah, Syrah rose, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Tannat – the last two are exclusively produced for Corney & Barrow – produced in the Ica valley, to the south of Lima.

In Peru the Sauvignon Blanc is especially recommended with fish dishes, including *ceviche* and *tiradito*, while the Malbec is also highly rated. It might not be possible to visit Peru at present but it is still possible to bring a flavour of Peru to the dining table in the UK!

TReeS Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that your annual membership fee is due in January each year. Banking apps. now allow on-line banking to take place anywhere, anytime.

TReeS annual membership (£15) and merchandise details can be found on the TReeS website.

Payments can be made to the TReeS bank account –

Bank: Lloyds Bank PLC

Sort code: 30 99 83

Account no. 00574637

TReeS Membership

The basic TReeS membership rate is still just **£15 / annum.**

Membership is due on the **1st of January** each year.

We would be most grateful if members could amend their standing orders, if necessary.

All cheques are payable to – ‘TReeS’.

TReeS Membership:

£15 per annum.

TReeS contact details –

**P.O.Box 33153,
London NW3 4DR**

TReeS website

Details of **TReeS merchandise** can be found at the website:

www.tambopata.org.uk

If you would like to receive the TReeS Newsletter by email, please send a request to –

treesuk1@gmail.com

TReeS committee 2020-21

John Forrest

Dr Helen Newing

Cecilia Montalban

Huma Pearce

Elizabeth Raine



Common squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*) ©
A.Portillo