

# TReeS News No.86

## December 2020

Dear TReeS members,

Welcome to this December edition of TReeS News.

In February it will be 35 years since the founding meeting of TReeS, which was in 1985 in Cambridge. I don't think any of us at that meeting had any idea of how long the charity would endure or the amount it would achieve, and it is heartening that since then, in spite of inevitable ups and downs in funding and in the time the various committee members have been able to give, we have consistently been able to provide support for local initiatives related to conservation, sustainable development and indigenous rights in Madre de Dios. I think that quite a few of you have been members since the start, so thank you for your continued support over the years.

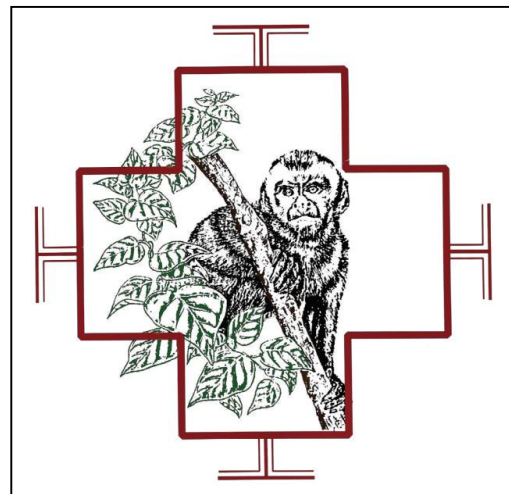
Nonetheless, over recent years the committee had become much less active as we have all been taken up with other responsibilities. It is largely thanks to our outgoing chair, John Forrest, together with Alfredo Garcia and Jenny Gomez in Puerto Maldonado, that TReeS has been able to continue to provide support to projects in Peru. But the situation had become unsustainable and therefore during the past few months we have begun a process to reset the way we work.

As part of this process, at the TReeS AGM in September we expanded the committee and reorganised the distribution of administrative tasks. Of those of us who were already committee members, I have taken on the position of chairperson after a gap of more than 20 years (!), John remains centrally involved as treasurer and Elizabeth Raine is the new vice-chair. Huma Pearce has stepped down from the committee: thanks, Huma, for your contributions in recent years. We have also welcomed three new committee members, each with relevant professional expertise: Lucy Dablin has a doctorate on Amazonian silvopastoral systems; Holly O'Donnell is a mammal biologist with WILDCRU at the University of Oxford, and Cecilia Montauban, who is now the TReeS secretary, is an expert on bat ecology.

At a more strategic level we have started a review and planning process that will last over the coming year. The context in which we operate has changed hugely since 1985 and we need to adapt what we do accordingly. I am thinking particularly of the massive growth in capacity in Madre de Dios and in international support for the region, and also the revolution in online communications, which transforms the possibilities for collaboration and coordination. We need to make greater use of these new possibilities. But the key constraint to what we can achieve, as always, will be the level of our funding, and therefore your continued support as members will remain crucial.

In terms of work on the ground we have been able to approve several new grants in the past two months, partly thanks to your response to the appeal in the last newsletter for emergency funds for the COVID crisis (which we are continuing in this issue) and partly thanks to a generous legacy that was received earlier this year.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please get in touch with us at [treesuk1@gmail.com](mailto:treesuk1@gmail.com).  
Helen Newing (chair)



### Food + PPE food aid appeal for those in need in Madre de Dios

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, TReeS has received a request to urgently support nearly 100 families and students in Puerto Maldonado, capital of the dept. of Madre de Dios, in south-east Peru. Many people now have few employment options and are finding their finances severely stretched, especially indigenous peoples. TReeS would like to supply them with a 'basket' of basic foodstuffs (rice, noodles, tinned tuna, ...), PPE and hygiene materials - £30 each - through our partner organisations in Puerto Maldonado.

Please support a family or student today.

**Appeal - £ 2,880**

(Many thanks to those members who have already donated).

Donations can be made directly to TReeS or via GoFundMe - <https://gf.me/u/zaa79z>

### GoFundMe appeal for tablets exceeds target

Many thanks to TReeS members who gave to a GoFundMe appeal set up by Tania Romero Bautista and others to buy Casa Miraflores students tablets, so that they would be able to continue their studies online during lockdown. The appeal exceeded its target, raising US\$5,535, and, consequently, 30 tablets were distributed to other indigenous students from Madre de Dios, living in Puerto Maldonado.

For further details, please see:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/supporting-the-education-of-indigenous-students?viewupdates=1&rcid=r01-160160814165->

[https://m.facebook.com/FENAMAD/videos/428542248320619/?refsrc=https%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com%2Fwatch%2F&\\_rdr](https://m.facebook.com/FENAMAD/videos/428542248320619/?refsrc=https%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com%2Fwatch%2F&_rdr)



### **Covid in Peru & Madre de Dios update**

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

At the time of writing there have been 36,825 recorded deaths (UK: 64,900), 987,700 cases (1.88 million) and the deaths to population ratio is 115.2 per 100,00 (95.6), the second highest in the world amongst larger nations. The most up-to-date figures can be found at –

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

Madre de Dios has now recorded 9,350 cases and 151 deaths – the second worst proportion of cases to population in Peru. Several indigenous communities have been affected but through most have been able to control infection by locking down. So far we understand that there have been just three deaths – all elders - amongst indigenous people in Madre de Dios.

A state of emergency will continue in all regions until at least 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 with a range of restrictions on movements and activities. The night-time curfew has been reduced to 4 hours (midnight to 4am). On average 20,000 people are tested for Covid each day.

### **'Two demons' – Covid pandemic in the northern Peruvian Amazon film**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgCRcihA0Qw&t=352s>

The film analyses the spread of the pandemic in Peru's northern Amazon region, by an indigenous journalist from Radio Ucamara, one of the most important forms of communication on the river Marañón, in the department of Loreto. The title reflects the fact that for the Kukama people, the twin '*maisangara*', or evil demons, are represented by COVID-19 and government abandonment of the Amazon's indigenous peoples.

### **Other TReeS supported Covid related projects**

#### **Enhancing food security: TReeS support for traditional food production**

In November TReeS sent a second instalment of funding to FENAMAD for a mixed *chacra* set up by students living in Casa Miraflores. Their immediate aim is to improve food security during the COVID crisis by growing traditional fresh fruit and vegetables, both for themselves and for other indigenous families in town. Longer-term crops are also being planted in a mixed agroforestry system, and the project also has a training component. The plot is in the native community of El Pilar, just upriver from Puerto Maldonado.

The second phase, in the forthcoming wet season, will involve the planting of a mix of over 150 fruit and timber seedlings, including avocado, brazil-nut, mahogany and limon to expand and enhance the plot. A small store house will also be built at the *chacra*. TReeS funding will buy equipment (including PPE), seedlings and pay a community member to maintain the *chacra* for two months while COVID restrictions continue to limit student involvement.

### **TReeS sends funds for basic supplies**

During the lockdown some indigenous families in Puerto Maldonado have been left vulnerable to the pandemic, being unable to return to their communities and being unable easily to re-start their economic activities. This has also been affecting students in the town, including those in Casa Miraflores (the student hostel run by FENAMAD) - at the end of the strict lockdown in September, most of the students (19) returned to Casa Miraflores to pursue their studies.

Expected support from the local government, in the form of goods, has not been adequately distributed and food security has been affected, with an associated increase in health risks.

Thanks to generous support from our members, TReeS was able to send much-needed funding earlier in the year for basic foodstuffs, cleaning materials and hygiene products, as well as guidance on how to continue to stay safe during the on-going pandemic.

**Appeal:** TReeS is currently appealing for funds to provide further Covid-related support through a '*canasta*' (basket of food & PPE) scheme.

**\*Please see page 1 for further details as to how to donate\***



*Students receive the supplies in Casa Miraflores © K.Mallea*

### **Other TReeS supported projects**

#### **TReeS to support FENAMAD's education programme in 2021**

In November the TReeS committee approved US\$4,000 towards the salary of FENAMAD's education director during 2021. FENAMAD has an extensive education programme that aims to ensure that indigenous children and young students can access high-quality, culturally appropriate education, but the programme is in jeopardy following funding cutbacks from other sources. The confirmation of funding from TReeS allowed FENAMAD to secure complementary funding from other sources for the rest of the year.

Activities of the programme include coordination with the Ministry of Education and with higher education institutes; implementation of the student hostel, Casa Miraflores; campaigns for supplies for schools in native communities; coordination with the Asociación Agroecológica (AEE) for technical assistance in the implementation of an agroforestry site at El Pilar, and monitoring of the provision of intercultural bilingual education teachers for native communities.



### 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Ten applications were received from UNAMAD (National University of Madre de Dios, in Puerto Maldonado) students to receive a small grant in 2021. The process was limited to UNAMAD students this year because they have the greatest possibility of undertaking a successful fieldwork programme, if the Covid restrictions on travel persist well in to 2021. The applications are now being reviewed and the successful candidates will be advised prior to the end of the year.

**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.**

### Bello Horizonte reforestation project update

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

Currently, further planting is being planned once the rainy season arrives early in the new year to enrich phase one and two plots with more timber species. In the phase three plot, seedlings planted earlier this year that have failed will be replaced as well as any of the seedlings lost to fire - see below. 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 plot (phase 4) at the beginning of next year.

#### Amazon Burning

The dry season, June-October, is the 'burning' season when farmers still choose to burn off ground vegetation. This is undertaken in an uncontrolled manner and fires often spread over to adjoining properties. 2019 was a bad year for fires across Amazonia and 2020 has been little better. The ACCA Amazon mapping project records fires in real-time:

<https://luciovilla.users.earthengine.app/view/monitoring-amazon-fires>

Over 2,500 major fires were recorded in 2020, almost half in October and 38% in September, with 88% (<2,200 fires) in Brazil and 4% (88) in Peru. In Peru, almost half occurred in Madre de Dios.

On a much smaller scale, fires spread to the ex-ranch grasslands of Bello Horizonte adjoining the project. Staff struggled in to the night to bring the fire under control and, fortunately, limit the damage to a few trees.



*Fire spreads across the ex-ranch towards the forest and planted areas © John Arbex*



*The burnt ground cover of the ex-ranch – the fire was extinguished at the edge of the planted areas © John Arbex*



*Phase 2 seedlings planted January 2019 © John Arbex*



*Phase 3 seedlings planted January 2020 (in November, post-fire) © J. Arbex*

### K'erenda Homet damaged by fire

Other victims of the fires were the private conservation concession of Victor Zambrano at "K'erenda Homet", his homestay on the Tambopata eco-tourism corridor. It was the first such concession in Peru and won many awards for its tree planting, including a National Geographic award. Trees along the periphery of the concession were damaged and destroyed.

The forest surrounding the nearby 'Amazon Shelter' for rescued animals was also affected by the uncontrolled burning.

More details at - <https://larepublica.pe/sociedad/2020/09/10/madre-de-dios-incendio-forestal-alcanza-areas-de-conservacion-y-refugio/>

## Peru & Madre de Dios conservation news

### Breakup of illegal logging operation

In August, regional and state authorities broke up an illegal timber 'laundering' operation involving personnel from the regional government, SUNAT (the tax authority) and local police. This is one of the first times in which the authorities have intervened to break up an illegal logging mafia.

Over 180 police and 25 prosecutors raided 21 sites and arrested 17 people, including current and former directors of the regional government's forestry dept. The action followed a submission by ACCA (Andes to Amazon Conservation Association) which had used satellite images to track illegal logging operations for months. The timber had been extracted from government concessions without approved forestry management plans and reforestation measures. Clear evidence of on-going illegal logging came in July when 130 trucks loaded with timber arrived in Puerto Maldonado even though logging had only been allowed to resume only 4 days earlier post-lockdown.

[https://mongabay-latam.lamula.pe/2020/08/26/peru-detienen-a-17-personas-involucradas-en-red-de-lavado-de-madera-conocida-como-los-hostiles-de-la-amazonia/mongabaylatam/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Cepesrural+%28CEPESRURAL%29](https://mongabay-latam.lamula.pe/2020/08/26/peru-detienen-a-17-personas-involucradas-en-red-de-lavado-de-madera-conocida-como-los-hostiles-de-la-amazonia/mongabaylatam/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Cepesrural+%28CEPESRURAL%29)



*Recently cut logs arrive in Puerto Maldonado © TReeS*

### FENAMAD v Road builders victory

The US-Peru Free Trade Secretariat has upheld a FENAMAD claim that Peruvian government law 30723 (January 2018) promoting road construction violates the US-Peru free trade agreement that states indigenous peoples must be consulted. FENAMAD was concerned that potential road building in the Dept. of Ucayali might impact upon indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation.

FENAMAD stated that the law ignored indigenous rights, and also threatened Communal Reserves and other areas with protected status. More details at:

<https://www.saca-seem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Expediente-de-Hechos-Carreteras-en-frontera-web.pdf>

### New protected area created in Madre de Dios

A small local forest reserve - 'Señor de la Cumbre' (3,179 hecs) has been created in the Iñambari valley, Tambopata district of Madre de Dios. The forest has high biodiversity and abundant wildlife, including three species such as the Saddle-back tamarin, which are endemic to Peru. Despite its size, it provides another important piece in the Manu-Madidi conservation corridor which runs from Manu, in the north, to Madidi, just over the border in Bolivia with the Bahuja-Sonene National Park at the centre of it. More details at:

<https://www.acca.org.pe/una-nueva-area-de-conservacion-bosque-local-senor-de-la-cumbre/>

## Madre de Dios development plan & REDD+

**REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation)** is a UN programme designed to promote the conservation and sustainable management of forests and to increase forest carbon stores in 'developing' countries.

FENAMAD and the national indigenous organisation AIDESEP are discussing with the Madre de Dios authorities how the REDD+ Indigenous Amazon Strategy (RIA) can be included in the Madre de Dios development plan. The aim is to ensure that REDD+ strategies offer more than just carbon offsetting schemes which aren't always very beneficial to indigenous groups.

Of the indigenous lands in Madre de Dios, the well-managed Amarakaeri Communal Reserve has promoted REDD+ ideals and attracted international support but it only covers 5% of the Dept., while the remote territorial reserve for indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation covers just 10% and the 32 fully titled native communities cover just 5%. However, the protected areas of Manu Biosphere Reserve and Bahuja-Sonene National Park/Tambopata National Reserve, which are fully administered by the state and currently give only limited recognition to the territorial rights to indigenous peoples, cover 30%.

### Killing of environmental human rights defenders

There has been an increase in attacks on environmental campaigners in Peru, including in Madre de Dios. Most recently, in September, Roberto Pacheco, the son of a Brazil-nut farmer living about 30kms along the Interoceanic highway towards Mazuko was assassinated, probably by the illegal gold-miners he had opposed. This was the second such killing in the area in the last 5 years.

To counter this growing trend, the UN has promoted the Escasu agreement which encourages greater justice in environmental issues across Latin America & the Caribbean. It is also the first international treaty to legally recognise the role of 'environmental human rights defenders'. The agreement has been promoted since Rio+20, in 2012. Peru was one of the first signatories to the accord in 2018 but hadn't ratified it.

In October, Congress discussed the issue again and voted not to ratify the agreement. Those opposed also argued that Peru already has the environmental laws and a justice system to offer such protection. The opposition in Congress arose from those with strong links to large commercial companies, accompanied by a fake news campaign suggesting that it would impact on national sovereignty, for example, Peruvian government control over Amazonia.

24 countries have now signed the agreement and, with the ratification of Mexico - rather than Peru - the minimum 11 countries needed for ratification was achieved and the agreement came in to force across the region.

More details at: <https://perusupportgroup.org.uk/2020/09/another-environmental-defender-assassinated-in-madre-de-dios/>

### Tambopata National Reserve 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Tambopata National Reserve is celebrating its 20th anniversary. SERNANP - the National Park service has posted videos of the guards at the Sandoval and Malinowski guard posts commemorating the occasion -

<https://fb.watch/1RX5ui4Vyy/>

<https://fb.watch/1RXe16An0/>



## Research feature: Short-eared dog scavenging armadillo carcass

New TReeS committee member Holly O'Donnell last month published the paper "First record of a short-eared dog scavenging on an armadillo carcass" in the journal 'Canid Biology & Conservation'.

[https://www.canids.org/CBC/22/Shorteared\\_dog\\_scavenging.pdf](https://www.canids.org/CBC/22/Shorteared_dog_scavenging.pdf)

The Short-eared dog (*Atelocynus microtis*) is one of two canid species found in Madre de Dios, the other species being the Bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*). They are the only canid species in the world to inhabit dense rainforest. Very little is known about the ecology of the short-eared dog because it is so elusive and infrequently sighted. We know that it is solitary, of medium size, with partially webbed feet. Previous studies pointed towards an omnivorous diet of fruit, fish and live prey such as frogs and spiny rats, with the skull form indicating a specialist in small vertebrates.

Holly was working as Mammal Team Coordinator for Fauna Forever at the time of the record. She was carrying out an early morning line transect survey in June 2016 at the Las Piedras Amazon Center when she smelled a carcass which turned out to be a recently deceased Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*). Holly set up a camera trap at the carcass, expecting to record vultures and perhaps a curious cat. The last thing she expected to record was a Short-eared dog! After skipping through hundreds of videos of Greater yellow-headed vultures (*Cathartes melambrotus*) and King vultures (*Sarcoramphus papa*); two Collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*); a Common opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*); and a Green acouchi (*Myoprocta microtis*), Holly was shocked to find 3 videos of a male short-eared dog at the carcass, on 2 different days, 4 days apart. This was a hugely exciting find, not only because it was the only time that Holly had ever recorded Short-eared dog on a camera trap, but because it was also a new-for-science discovery.

This is the first peer-review publication of scavenging behaviour in the Short-eared dog. Indigenous Sharanahuas people of the Alto Purus, advised using peccary intestines as bait when collaring Short-eared dogs for a study by R. Leite-Pitman, demonstrating knowledge of scavenging behaviour. However, this is the first known record of Short-eared dog scavenging specifically on an armadillo of any species. The behaviour may be opportunistic; however, the dog (believed to be one individual although sex could only be determined in one video) did return to the carcass several days later. The area had just experienced a *friaje* (cold weather spell), which may or may not have played a part in the event. Although Holly cannot say for certain whether this is a common behaviour of the species or a one-off event, publications such as this still provide useful ecological information. Short-eared dogs are very difficult to study in the wild and so there is little information about them. It is difficult to know how to best conserve a species without first understanding its ecological needs and the role that it plays in the wider ecosystem.



Short-eared dog (*Atelocynus microtis*) © Holly O'Donnell

## Peru News

In September, Congress moved to impeach President Vizcarra on the basis of 'permanent moral incapacity' relating to the possible misuse of public funds by the Ministry of Culture on an entertainer known to Vizcarra – Richard Swing. The motion suggested that Vizcarra was personally involved and had, subsequently, tried to influence an investigation in to the matter. Ironically, Vizcarra's anti-corruption campaign was at the heart of the opposition of many members of Congress's to him – more than half of Congress have been convicted or face trial for a range of offences but have immunity as Congress members. Vizcarra asked the Constitutional Tribunal - appointed by Congress - to rule on whether this action was legal according to the Constitution.

However, in the meantime, the move to impeach was rejected – only 25% voted in favour – in part because it became apparent that prior to the vote, the Head of Congress - Manuel Merino - had already prepared a new cabinet and approached the military for their support.

### Peruvian Constitution

*The Peruvian Constitution dates back to 1993 and the first Presidency of Alberto Fujimori. It does not clearly define the term 'physical or moral incapacity which might lead to the removal of a President. It also provides the President and all members of Congress with immunity against prosecution whilst in office.*

In early November, Merino moved again against Vizcarra despite his extraordinary 70%+ poll popularity rating. This time it was based on allegations that Vizcarra may have accepted bribes while Governor of Moquegua (2011-2014). The vote passed with a surprisingly large majority and the Congressional *coup d'état* was complete. Vizcarra chose not to contest it and stood down as President.

Merino became the new 'unelected' President but days of large-scale, widespread peaceful protests all over Peru followed. In Lima, the police reacted violently with tear gas, rubber bullets, water cannon and a variety of 'dirty tricks' which resulted in the deaths of 3 young protestors and over 100 injured. Members of Fuerza Popular – Keiko Fujimori's party – were seen spraying 'terrorist' graffiti as if done by the protesters.

The new regime went unrecognised internationally. The UK government stated that it would await the decision of the Constitutional Tribunal's ruling on the impeachment. However, after two months deliberating, the Tribunal opted out of making a ruling given that Vizcarra had already chosen to go. The new government attempted to pass new legislation such as reducing the need for small-scale mining, for example, to obtain environmental certificates. However, the public reaction forced the new cabinet and Merino to resign after just 5 days in power – one of the shortest Presidencies in Peru's history.

Congress then elected Francisco Sagasti, an engineer and academic, of the centre-left Partido Morado, as the third President in a week!

The economic decline in 2020 is estimated at 12%, with the tourism sector the worst affected at 75%. Over 1.5 million have lost their regular jobs and Peru has now slipped well down the Global Hunger Index with people in six regions now experiencing serious hunger issues.

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

[www.perusupportgroup.org](http://www.perusupportgroup.org) for sourcing some of the details in the 'News' sections of TReeS News.

### **Tony Morrison (1936-2020)**

Tony Morrison, the naturalist, filmmaker and writer whose enthusiasm and talents over half a century were focused on Peru and the Amazon, has died at his home in Woodbridge, Suffolk after a short illness.

Tony was one of the pioneers, with David Attenborough, of the BBC's world-leading wildlife film tradition. Many of Tony's film and writing trips to the Andes and the jungle were made together with his wife Marion. At an early stage, in the early 1960s, they became friends of the editor and publisher of the *Andean Air Mail & Peruvian Times*. Dozens of Tony's photos and stories on the coast, the highlands and jungle appeared first in the paper. In those days the Peruvian Times was famous for publishing every week first-hand accounts of travels in the often remote and little-travelled corners of the Andes and the western Amazon.

Looking back just a few years ago on what turned out to be the last of a lifetime of visits to Cusco and Urubamba, which he knew from the days half a century earlier before tourists, Tony reflected that he and a few others of his generation were the last to travel through the Amazon and the Andes "when the going was still good. When we started, they didn't even give us plastic bags to keep our film or our matches dry. It was canoes, the back of a lorry, a clapped out World War II plane if you were lucky. The jungle really was awful, difficult, dangerous even. Keeping your notes and food from the ants and your precious film out of the river was a bugger."

Tony took his degree at Bristol University in Zoology, travelling and working in the Middle East and India. In Beirut he became friendly with Kim Philby, the spy, who was on his way, as it turned out, to end his days in Moscow. A first expedition took him around the world via India and Bolivia. Then came nine months as a cameraman for Tom Stobart, who filmed the successful 1953 ascent of Everest.

In 1963 Tony formed Nonesuch Expeditions with Mark Howell, with a contract to make films in South America for David Attenborough's BBC Adventure series. These were some of the first films to show people and places on the Andean side of the continent and included a first account of the Nazca lines with Dr Maria Reiche, the German mathematician trying to resolve the mystery. An attempt to raft through the fierce Pongo de Mainique, downstream of Machu Picchu, almost cost the lives of Mark, and Johannes von Trapp as well as Tony himself.

Together in the mid-sixties they returned to South America filming for BBC World About Us and Anglia TV's Survival series. They drove the length of the Andes many times in their Landrover and ventured into the Amazon to make the first film of the wildlife, rain and cloud forests of the newly designated Manu Park.

Tony and Marion later made a best-selling film of the people and wildlife of the Falkland Islands, which led in turn to the filming for the BBC of the salvage and tow home of the *SS Great Britain*, which had foundered nearly a century earlier in the Falklands. The *Great Britain* was then restored in Bristol docks.

Tony with Marion continued to produce films, write books and undertake photographic assignments all over South or Central America. Subjects were diverse, including *The Andes* for Time-Life World's Wild Places, still one of the best books on the Andes; a search for Vilcabamba, the real 'lost city of the Incas'; two books on the Nazca Lines; award-winning Great Railway Journeys: *Peru* with Miles Kington; a BBC film *Lizzie*, about a Victorian lady's Amazon adventure during the rubber boom; and a collaboration with the group *Incantation* for a Channel 4 production *Music of the Andes* in which he accompanied them to Peru. Tony edited and published the diaries of Margaret Mee, the botanical artist extraordinaire and together, he and Marion also created the *South American Pictures* archive.

In recent years, Tony with Marion travelled hundreds of miles by bus across Amazonia, to see the many changes since their first visits. At a joint-talk in London in 2012, with John Forrest of TReeS, Tony described the impact of the Interoceanic Highway ([see link](#)).

Tony was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society for almost 60 years, one-time Chairman of the Anglo Peruvian Society in London, a Trustee of the Bolivian Wildlife Society and a Trustee of the Yavari, a project dedicated to restoring the oldest British-built steamship on Lake Titicaca.



***Tony Morrison (centre) © South American Pictures***

### **Harpycam**

For some years 'Wired Amazon' has been filming one of the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) nests on the Tambopata river, close to Refugio Amazonas. Harpy Eagle's nest mainly on ironwood trees (*Dipterix micrantha*), a highly commercial wood which is exported to make parquet floors and furniture as well as for making charcoal. The Harpy eagle is the largest and most powerful raptor found in the Americas. It is estimated that there are about 50,000 individuals left in the wild throughout its range.

View nest footage at:

[https://www.perunature.com/wiredamazon/harpycam/?utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=93135036&hsenc=p2ANqtz-CqtP8nV6PAjXI53kA6MhrewvAFpCwiAa4kCseso3JvCvsxDQ3VOPJp9LXb7t5pJ0gbXmd-Hui3EeoJ2BlhcpcZvKPrsJ8P7vCKcACz4rQRkkRkM&utm\\_content=93135036&utm\\_source=hs\\_automation](https://www.perunature.com/wiredamazon/harpycam/?utm_medium=email&hsmi=93135036&hsenc=p2ANqtz-CqtP8nV6PAjXI53kA6MhrewvAFpCwiAa4kCseso3JvCvsxDQ3VOPJp9LXb7t5pJ0gbXmd-Hui3EeoJ2BlhcpcZvKPrsJ8P7vCKcACz4rQRkkRkM&utm_content=93135036&utm_source=hs_automation)



**Recent information sources on Tambopata & Madre de Dios**): the following articles, documents, reports and publications 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 TReS will be placed on the TReS website.

**The following publications can be accessed through the ‘MAAP’ website: [www.maap.org](http://www.maap.org)**

- ‘Detecting Illegal Logging in the Peruvian Amazon’, MAAP 123, August 2020;
- ‘Deforestation Hotspots 2020 in the Peruvian Amazon’ MAAP 124, August 2020;
- ‘Detecting Illegal Logging with Very High Resolution Satellites’, MAAP 125, October 2020;
- ‘Drones and Legal Action in the Peruvian Amazon’, MAAP 126, October 2020;
- ‘Amazon Fires 2020 – Recap of Another Intense Fire Year’, MAAP 129, November 2020;

**The following publications can be accessed through the ‘RAINFOR’ website: [www.rainfor.org](http://www.rainfor.org)**

- *'From plots to policy: How to ensure long-term forest plot data supports environmental management in intact tropical forest landscapes'*, T.Baker et al, Plants People Planet, 2020;  
 - *'Tree mode of death and mortality risk factors across Amazon forests'*, A.Esquivel-Muelbert et al, Nature Communications, 2020;  
 - *'Evaluating the potential of full-waveform lidar for mapping pan-tropical tree species richness'*, S.Marselis et al, Global Ecology & Biogeography, 2020;

**The following publications were also sighted by TReeS –**

- ‘Multiple speciation across the Andes and throughout Amazonia: the case of the spot-backed antbird species complex (*Hylophylax naevius*/*Hylophylax naevoides*)’, A.Fernandes et al, Journal of Biogeography, 2014;
- ‘Expediente de hechos: Ley de carreteras en frontera Ucayali’, SACA-SEEM, 2020;
- ‘Undermining rights: Indigenous lands & mining in the Amazon’, P.Quijano et al, World Resources Institute, 2020;
- ‘Who owns paradise - Using web mapping to enhance a geography course exercise about TR conservation’, M.Wiesse et al, Journal of Maps Vol.11, 2015;
- ‘Gold Mining and Mercury Bioaccumulation in a Floodplain Lake and Main Channel of the Tambopata River, Perú’, K.Roach et al, Journal of Environmental Protection Vol.4, 2013;
- ‘River transport of mercury from artisanal and small-scale gold mining and risks for dietary mercury exposure in Madre de Dios, Peru’, S.Diringer et al, Environmental Science Processes & Impacts, 2014;
- ‘Revealing the hidden - Indigenous perspectives on deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon: causes and solutions’, AIDSEP & Forest Peoples Programme report, 2015;
- ‘Mercury levels in human hair & farmed fish near artisanal and small-scale gold-mining communities in the Madre de Dios river basin’, International Journal of Environmental Research & Public Health Vol.14, A.Langeland et al (2017);
- ‘First record of a short-eared dog scavenging on an armadillo carcass’, H.O’Donnell, Canid Biology & Conservation (2020);
- ‘Biogeography and spatio-temporal diversification of *Selenidera* & *Andigena* Toucans (Aves: Ramphastidae)’, H.Lutz et al, Molecular Phylogenetics & Evolution (2013);
- ‘Amparo contra concesiones forestales que afectan reservas para aislados’, Servindi (2020);
- ‘Retoman procesos para categorización de reservas indígenas’, Servindi (2020);



## 'Trees for Life' perpetual calendar

Trees for Life have published a new perpetual calendar entitled '***Forests Forever***'. As a perpetual calendar, it's good for every year and features a photograph of trees or forests from around the world for every day (366 in total), each combined with a quote from someone who has been inspired by Nature and trees. Information about the calendar is available at:

<https://alanwatsonfeatherstone.com/product/forests-forever-perpetual-calendar/>

The calendar contains photographs from over 45 countries around the world, covering all forest types. It includes three photos from Tambopata, and three others from nearby in Peru - the rio Las Piedras and the Kosñipata valley, in the Alto Madre de Dios - one of these images appears on the next page.

### TReeS on Facebook

TReeS now has a Facebook page in the name of the 'Tambopata Reserve Society'. The page will be updated on at least a weekly basis and will allow members to keep in touch on a much more regular basis with TReeS projects, TReeS appeals, associated activities in Madre de Dios and Peru related matters. We look forward to seeing you on Facebook.

And, please share the page with your friends!

<https://www.facebook.com/Tambopata-Reserve-Society-109913004198901>



**Tambopata Reserve Society**  
Environmental conservation organisation

Send Email

### TReeS website update

All past TReeS newsletters are now accessible on the TReeS website: more than 85 have been published over the last 35 years. The majority of reports submitted by recipients of a TReeS small grant over the last 12 years have also been uploaded.

The website gives details of how to renew your membership and purchase our merchandise: [www.tambopata.org.uk](http://www.tambopata.org.uk)



Tangled lianas on the buttressed base of a fig tree (*Ficus* sp.) in lowland tropical rainforest near Lake Sandoval, Tambopata National Reserve, Madre de Dios Department, Peru.

“The plant life takes many forms that are quite unfamiliar to inhabitants of the temperate zone: Trees are huge and buttressed, or slender and smooth barked; climbing vines called lianas are squared, rounded, or crenellated; a host of epiphytic bromeliads and orchids live attached to trees.” – Ghilleen T. Prance

### TReeS member (92 years old) takes part in Extinction Rebellion climate protests

Longstanding TReeS member and our main translator for many years - Arnold Pease - recently took part in an Extinction Rebellion protest in central London. Extinction Rebellion is a global environmental movement which aims to use non-violent civil disobedience to persuade governments act to avoid tipping points in climate change and biodiversity loss, leading to social and ecological collapse.

His involvement was featured on the national news and can also be viewed at -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxHNc\\_pDBgA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxHNc_pDBgA&feature=youtu.be)

### Reminder: TReeS Membership Renewal

Annual membership fees (£15) are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. On-line payments can be made direct to the TReeS bank account at - **Lloyds Bank PLC** Sort code: **30 99 83**

Account no. **00574637**

Cheques, made out to 'TReeS', can be posted to -  
**P.O.Box 33153, London NW3 4DR**

### General enquiries

If you would like to receive the TReeS Newsletter by email, purchase TReeS merchandise, volunteer, etc, please get in touch with us at -

[treesuk1@gmail.com](mailto:treesuk1@gmail.com)

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

[www.tambopata.org.uk](http://www.tambopata.org.uk)

### TReeS committee 2020-21

Chair: *Helen Newing*

Treasurer: *John Forrest*

*Lucy Dablin*

Vice-Chair: *Elizabeth Raine*

Secretary: *Cecilia Montalban*

*Holly O'Donnell*



*Indigenous based modern textile design*