

# TReeS News No.72

## April 2013

This edition of the TReeS Newsletter reports on the grants made by TReeS to Peruvian students this year to undertake field work in Madre de Dios as well as feedback from students supported in recent years.

It also outlines the major issue threatening south-east Peru at the moment, the expansion of the Camisea gas project eastwards towards Madre de Dios. This, potentially, brings it in to direct conflict with major conservation units and the territories of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation.

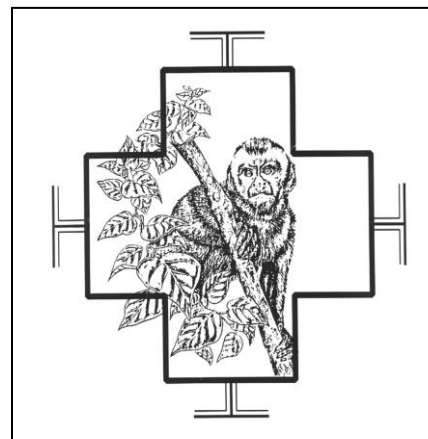
### Manu National Park & Uncontacted peoples under threat

The proposed expansion of the Camisea gas project, in south-east Peru, is causing major concern amongst local indigenous and international organisations concerned about the future of the region.

Lot 88: to the east of the existing Lots, has already been awarded to Pluspetrol, of Argentina despite it overlapping with the Kugapakori-Nahua-Nanti Reserve, established in 1990, for indigenous people living in 'voluntary isolation'. The decision was challenged by the government's indigenous affairs department (INDEPA). Now another new Lot – Lot Fitzcarrald: to the east of Lot 88, has been proposed. A quarter of it would overlap with the Kugapakori-Nahua-Nanti Reserve, established in 1990, for

indigenous people living in 'voluntary isolation'. The remainder of it would overlap with Manu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1987. According to UNESCO, Manu National Park's biological diversity exceeds 'that of any other place on Earth' - it contains 5% of the planets mammals, 10% of its birds and 15% of its butterflies – and is also inhabited by indigenous people living in 'voluntary isolation'.

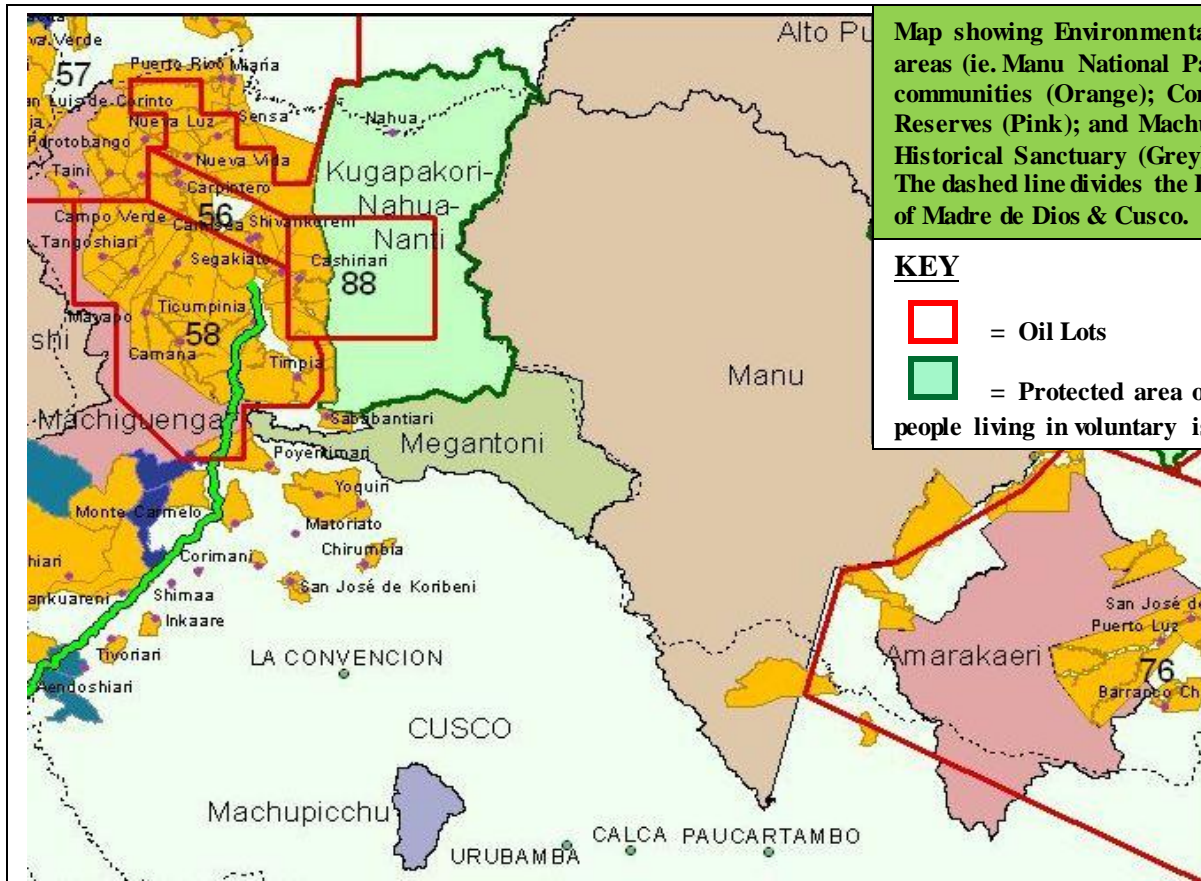
In a letter to the United Nations, five Peruvian indigenous organisations including FENAMAD (Federation of native peoples of Madre de Dios) called the expansion of activities in Lot 88 and, potentially, in to Lot 'Fitzcarrald' a "major threat to the indigenous people living there such as the Nahua and Mashco-Piro, especially the transmission of potentially lethal diseases with forced displacement and conflict as possible consequences."



Map showing Environmental protected areas (ie. Manu National Park), Native communities (Orange); Communal Reserves (Pink); and Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary (Grey). The dashed line divides the Departments of Madre de Dios & Cusco.

#### KEY

- = Oil Lots
- = Protected area of native people living in voluntary isolation



The then FENAMAD President, Jaime Corisepa, also went to Washington DC and, at a hearing of the Inter-American Commission on human rights, condemned the expansion of operations in Camisea.

The Pluspetrol consortium, which includes Hunt Oil (USA) & Repsol (Spain), plans to invest \$480m, starting with seismic tests in Lot 88 in April 2013. It faced criticism from the United Nations' Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). CERD urged the Peruvian government to 'suspend immediately' plans to expand the project. It discussed Pluspetrol's plans at its 82nd session, in Geneva, following a formal submission made by Peruvian indigenous organizations and UK based, international human rights organization, Forest Peoples Programme. 'Expansion violates the isolated indigenous peoples' rights under international and Peruvian law and could lead to their extermination,' said the organisations.

The plans became even more controversial with the publication of 'Research plan for geological exploration and surface geochemistry in Manú National Park and its Buffer Zone', written by Lima-based consultancy Quartz Services for Pluspetrol. Peruvian law prohibits extractive operations in National Parks. According to the report, Pluspetrol has applied for and been denied permission from Peru's protected areas authority to enter the region, but the fear is that Quartz could develop a strategy to obtain such permission in the future.

"This proves what conservationists and indigenous rights activists have long suspected, but which petrochemical representatives and Peruvian officials have concealed or outright denied: that there are gas and oil deposits in Manú" said renowned anthropologist Glenn Shepard, which could be exploited.

The Peruvian constitution states that the rights of the most vulnerable indigenous peoples in society must be respected. Peru is also a signatory of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Convention 169 and the UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.



**Harakbut elder – Ministry of Culture Museum, Puerto Maldonado**

The challenge is for the Peru government to establish policies protecting isolated peoples that are based on respect for indigenous Amazonians' view of the world and the environment rather than the rapid uncontrolled extraction of natural resources.

TReeS was one of a number of signatories to a letter concerned with indigenous and environmental rights in the Peruvian Amazon which dealt with –

*-a threat to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact;*

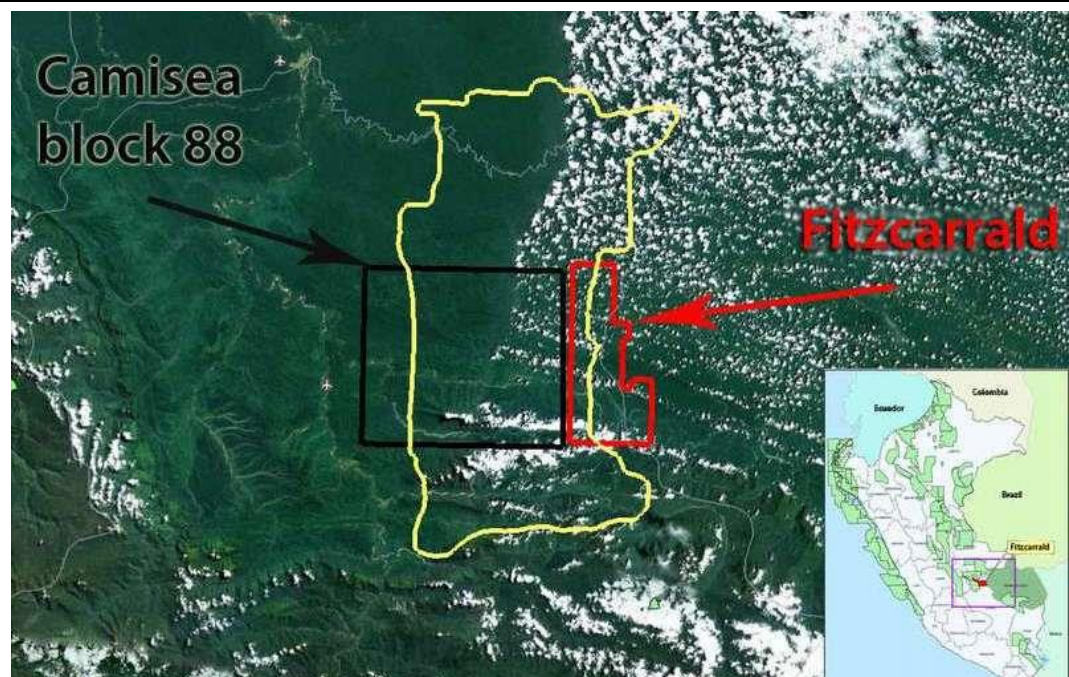
*-violates Supreme Decree 028-2003-AG which created the Nahua-Nanti Reserve;*

*-undermines and violates international human rights norms and obligations;*

*-violates Peru's commitments to safeguard its own 'protected' areas;*

In February 2013 Pluspetrol stated that it had abandoned its plans to start work in Lot Fitzcarrald and encroaching on Manu National Park and the Nahua-Nanti Reserve. Sernanp (Peru's National Park authority) stated that it had denied Pluspetrol's request to work in Manu National Park as its protected status 'expressly prohibits this.'

**Location of Lots 88 & Fitzcarrald superimposed over the Nahua-Nanti Reserve (yellow outline) – Manu National Park to its east**





## FENAMAD Update

At the end of January FENAMAD (Federation of native peoples of Madre de Dios) held their latest Congress and elected a new committee. It reflects the multi-ethnic composition of Madre de Dios with members of five different ethnic groups holding the six key positions. The new President is Klaus Quique Bolivar, from the Harakmbut community of San Jose de Karene.

The main challenge for FENAMAD over the next few years will be to continue to respond to rapid economic developments, now further encouraged by the completion of the Interoceanic Highway facilitating more migration to Madre de Dios. The new developments are numerous ranging from oil exploration and illegal logging on indigenous lands, to the potential dangers faced by those living in voluntary isolation, to health care provision and the education of indigenous pupils.

One of the most pressing issues remains that posed by gold-mining. Twelve native communities are directly affected by artisanal gold-mining. The regional government through the Ministry of the Environment has been pressing miners to regularise their activities, especially with respect to the environment. Over 0.5 million hectares have been authorised for mining but miners are already working in about 1 million hectares of native community lands, protected areas and forestry concessions. As well as obtaining an environmental permit, they must also show that they have permission to operate on the land from the land concession holder and authorisation to use the water resources.

However, miners' organisations lobbied the Congressional mining commission and paid for them to visit P.Maldonado in the hope that they would overturn the regulations. Illegal camps continue to be set up in the Tambopata Buffer zone, at La Pampa and along the road. Police have acted to deactivate mining operations but the loss is quickly replaced by new equipment and camps.

In a separate move the human rights ombudsperson called on the government to implement the new law on prior consultation of indigenous peoples and publish the official database of indigenous peoples, which will set out who will be entitled to be consulted about mining projects. It is believed that the database has been ready for some time.



**FENAMAD Congress meeting (A.Garcia)**

## Leeds University Peru expedition 2012

TReeS provide some funding for a Leeds University expedition to Tambopata. The expedition aimed to undertake important trialling and development work with respect to the techniques used to estimate forest carbon stocks, especially in the context of the United Nation's program for reducing the rates of deforestation and degradation (REDD/ REDD+). Detailed tree inventories were conducted in nine 1 hectare plots within the Tambopata National Reserve. The height and crown diameter of all trees and palms were measured. The data was used in new tree and palm equations to estimate above ground biomass stocks of –

- trees, using height and crown dimensions; and
- palms (family *Arecaceae*) using palm-specific models.

The possibility of estimating the biomass of single, emergent trees directly from light detection and ranging (LiDAR) imagery was also explored. This work could be used to calibrate LiDAR metrics with plot biomass and forest structure. Ultimately, this work will also be applicable to forest and carbon conservation management, and international policy, ie. REDD+ schemes.

## Peru News

A free trade agreement has, finally, been signed between the EU and Peru. The Trade Minister described the deal as the country's most important trade agreement and claimed it could stimulate economic growth of up to 0.7 percent.

However, NGOs stated that although it includes references to human rights, social and environmental standards, unlike other provisions, these are not binding. The groups highlighted that human rights violations and environmental destruction caused by European agro-fuel exports, mining and energy companies are condoned by the agreement.

Several key economic indicators dipped in 2012. The Peruvian economy is still growing quickly but falling global mineral prices and strong domestic demand lead to a 50% trade surplus decline.

Mining exports fell 4.4% and mining tax revenue fell by nearly 20% from 2011, bucking the overall trend that saw a strong rise in tax revenues. However, mining still accounted for more than 25% of national revenue, well ahead of manufacturing. The value of food exports also fell, as global demand declined and coffee production was hit by a damaging fungus. However, total tax revenues reached 16% of GDP, the highest level ever recorded.

## **Upper Tambopata coffee: best in the world !**

Coffee is grown all along the eastern foothills of the Andes with the largest production in the north.

However, Cafe Tunki produced in the upper Tambopata, was voted the best in Peru at the 8<sup>th</sup> National Coffee competition at Expo Cafe Peru 2012. In 2010 it was voted the best in the world by the American Association of Specialist Coffees.

The success of coffee growing in the upper Tambopata is likely to lead to greater deforestation in its headwaters and, increasingly, further down river.

## TReeS Supported Projects

### Programa de Becas (Small Grants program) 2013

Six applications were received this year from Peruvian biologists planning to undertake research in the southern Peruvian Amazon. The review process lead to four grants being awarded (see below).

The Becas programme is an important contribution to the career development of young Peruvian scientists who will, potentially, be working in and promoting Amazonia for decades to come. TReeS funding assists them in gaining all important field work skills that may allow them, subsequently, to join other more significant field research projects and conservation organisations.

**Appeal: £25+** donations towards the cost of the 2014 and future grants programmes.

**\*Yazmin Rivero (PUCP)** – *‘Análisis de la estrategia de comunicación de FENAMAD para la incidencia política: caso conservación de la Reserva Comunal Amarakaeri (RCA) (2006-actualidad).’*

Yazmin is a student at La Católica University, in Lima. She will work closely with the FENAMAD directorate, in Puerto Maldonado; the anthropologist and TReeS representative Alfredo Garcia, a former head of the RCA; and the ex-TReeS representative Claudia Galvez, who is currently working with FENAMAD. She will assess the participation of FENAMAD in the political process that lead to the creation of the RCA and its subsequent operations, and what FENAMAD can learn from it with respect to their involvement in similar issues in future.

**Awarded: \$990**

**\*Lourdes Falen (UNALM)** – *‘Comparación de la composición de la avifauna en diferentes estratos de los bosques del IIAP (Instituto de Investigación de la Amazonía Peruana) Provincia de Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios.’*

Lourdes is a student at La Molina University, in Lima. She will study and compare bird species between different types of forest using the established IIAP plots, outside Puerto Maldonado. Once her studies are complete, she will hold a workshop to feedback to the local population about their findings.

**Awarded: \$550**

**\*Jhazel Quispe (UNA: Puno)** – *‘Factores climáticos influyentes en la abundancia relative y actividad de anuros de la RNT, Madre de Dios.’*

Jhazel is a student at the National University of the Altiplano, in Puno – he is the first recipient of a TReeS beca from Puno. He will study the impact of climatic factors, including climate change, on the abundance and activity of amphibians, in the Tambopata National Reserve (RNT). SE Peru has been subject to extended dry periods and more severe *friajes* (cold spells) in recent years both of which are likely to impact on amphibian populations.

**Awarded: \$925**

**\*Pedro Nascimento (UNAMAD)** – *‘Determinación de las propiedades termofísicas de los frutos de Pseudolmedia laevis (Chimicua), Pseudolmedia macrophylla (Pama) y Perebea tessmannii (Moquete de tigre) mediante el uso del Calorímetro de Barrido Diferencia (DSC), y diseño de modelos matemático para el desarrollo de software predictivo multi-plataforma, en Madre de Dios.’*

Pedro is a student at the Agrarian University of Madre de Dios, in P.Maldonado. He will study the thermal properties of three fruits to determine their properties with respect to their storage and processing, and if this can be predicted mathematically in different conditions. **Awarded: \$1,000**

### Becas Feedback

**\*Jesus Rojas (2012):** *‘Las garrapatas silvestres como potenciales reservorios de Leishmania sp. en la provincia de Tahuamanu, Madre de Dios’.*

Jesus collected 360 tick (*garrapatas*) specimens from tapirs, peccaries, dogs and people – 304 from animals and 56 from people, to investigate whether they act as a vector for the transmission of *leishmaniasis* between animals and people. The species and gender of each tick was identified. *Leishmaniasis* was carried by ticks hosted by peccaries. This is the first piece of research in the world that has made this link.

**\*Gildo Valero Vega (2012):** *‘Análisis de la morfología de la lengua ese’ija y su relación con el conocimiento tradicional del bosque’.*

Gildo based his study on UNESCO research that there are links between language conservation and the conservation of the environment and biodiversity. In the 2008 Peruvian census 588 indigenous Ese’ija people were counted living between the three native communities of Bahauja (Infierno), Palma Real and Sonene. In the last Bolivian census, in 2003, an additional 583 Ese’ija were recorded in Bolivia.

Gildo focused on fish species such as *Hueo-ay* (Anguilla – electric eel), *Wío* (Macana) and *Hawa* (Piraña). The more *Ese’ija* names for each species the greater the significance of the species to the *Ese’ija* and the greater the respect for the species and its habitat.



**Tapirus terrestris (Jesus Rojas)**



**TReeS Library** - forthcoming deposits will include the following reports (those in Spanish are untranslated):

- *'Regime-building for REDD+: evience from a cluster of local initiatives in SE Peru'*, F.Hajek et al (2011).
- *'Shifting dynamics of climate-functional groups in side growth Amazonian forests'*, N.Butt et al (2012).
- *'What controls tropical forest architecture? Testing environmental structural & floristic drivers'*, L.Banin et al (2012).
- *'Drip-tips are associated with intensity of precipitation in the Amazon rainforest'*, A.Malhado (2012).
- *'The carbon balance of S.America: a review of the status, decadel trends & main determinants'*, M.Gloor et al (2012).
- *'Biome-scale forest properties in Amazonia based on field and satellite observations'*, L.Anderson (2012).
- *'Tree height integrated into pantropical forest biomass estimates'*, T.Feldpausch et al (2012).
- *'Estimating tropical forest carbon stocks using small-footprint lidar remote sensing data'*, University of Leeds expedition report, R.Goodman et al (2012).
- *'Estructura vertical y horizontal de Couratari guianensis Aublet (Misa) de estrato en el Fundo Noaya'* and a *'Resumen del proyecto'*, R.Quispe (2012).
- *'Evaluación de regeneración natural de Bertholletia excels H.B.K., en poblaciones naturales en dos tipos de concesiones: de conservación y de aprovechamiento, en Madre de Dios'*, Karina Salas (2012).
- *'Comunidad Nativa Shipetiari – Plan de vida'*, C.N.Shipetiari (2012).
- *'Estimating tropical forest carbon stocks using small-footprint lidar remote sensing data'*, University of Leeds expedition report, R.Goodman et al (2012).
- *'Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+): transaction costs of six Peruvian projects'*, O.Rendon (2013).
- *'What future for the Amazon'*, by Dr Oliver Philips, Geography Review (2013).

Reports published by Biosphere expeditions about their activities in Madre de Dios -

- *'Parrot colpa and geophagy behaviour, and vertebrate species lists from the El Gato region of the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone, Peru, May-July 2001.'*
- *'Surveying monkeys, macaws and other animals of the Peruvian Amazon, May-June 2002.'*
- *'Surveying monkeys, macaws and other wildlife of the Peruvian Amazon, June-July 2003.'*
- *'Surveying monkeys, macaws and other wildlife of the Peruvian Amazon, May-July 2005.'*
- *'Surveying mammals, macaws and other wildlife of the Peruvian Amazon, May-June 2006.'*
- *'Icons of the Amazon: jaguars, pumas, parrots and peccaries in Peru, Nov-Dec 2008.'*
- *'Icons of the Amazon: jaguars, pumas, parrots and peccaries in Peru, Nov-Dec 2009.'*

### **TReeS Membership**

Members are reminded that the basic TReeS membership rate is now £15 / annum.

Membership is due on the **1<sup>st</sup>** of **January** each year.

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

All cheques are payable to – 'TReeS'.

### **TReeS Membership:**

**£15 per annum**

### **TReeS contact details –**

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

[www.tambopata.org.uk](http://www.tambopata.org.uk)  
[treesuk1@gmail.com](mailto:treesuk1@gmail.com)

### **TReeS USA –**

P.O.Box 842, Shasta Lake,  
CA96019-0842, USA.

TReeS USA is run by Bud and Margaret Widdowson.

All members in Canada / the USA are requested to pay their annual membership via TReeS USA.

### **TReeS committee 2012-2013**

*Sally Edwards  
John Forrest  
Dr Helen Newing  
Huma Pearce  
Elizabeth Raine  
Daniel Turner  
Rebecca Warren*

### **TReeS T-shirt (limited edition)**

To celebrate 25 years of TReeS a limited edition full colour T-shirt (Large or Medium) reflecting the risks posed if large areas of tropical rainforest are destroyed .

**Price: £10.00, including P & P.**  
All cheques payable to 'TReeS'.

**\*Details of other items of merchandise can be found at the TReeS website:**  
[www.tambopata.org.uk](http://www.tambopata.org.uk)



### **STOP PRESS**

A Survival International co-ordinated protest outside Peruvian embassies and consulates around the world was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April to call for an end to the proposed expansion of the Camisea gas project, highlighting its potential impact on uncontacted tribes living in the region. A petition calling for the cancellation of the expansion, signed by 120,000 people, was submitted.

### **TReeS Presentation**

Last November John Forrest, of TReeS, and the renowned photographer, filmmaker and author Tony Morrison gave a lecture to the Anglo-Peruvian Society about the InterOceanic Highway – its construction, impacts and the future. A summary of the talk can be found by using Google to search:

*'The New Amazonia' – from Nonesuch Expeditions*; then select the *'Interoceanic'* link; then select the *'Update November 2012'* link.

### **TReeS Website & Newsletter by email**

The TReeS website [www.tambopata.org.uk](http://www.tambopata.org.uk) is being 'rebuilt' progressively over the Summer.

If you would like to receive the next TReeS Newsletter, in the Autumn, by email – please send a request to – **treesuk1@gmail.com**



This edition of the TReeS Newsletter is sponsored by 'Ceviche'. Ceviche is the UK's first Peruvian restaurant. Martin Morales, founder of Ceviche, has kindly sponsored this Newsletter and offers his wholehearted support to the work of TReeS.

He very much hopes that TReeS members passing through central London will visit 'Ceviche'.

More details about 'Ceviche' can be found at: [www.cevicheuk.com](http://www.cevicheuk.com)

*"This place is brilliant. The cooking is super-confident, rare and interesting. The music is lovely and the staff and incredibly sweet and kind. It's great value. I never want to go anywhere else again !"* Giles Coren, The Times, 2012