



## TReeS Peru – Project Updates

*This section includes details of some of the 19 projects which have received either funding or logistical support from TReeS during the course of 2003 and 2004.*

### Project Fauna Forever

Project Fauna Forever aims to monitor tourism impacts on local wildlife populations in Tambopata, around 5 jungle lodges over a long term period. This will be based on field research currently being conducted by TReeS RAMOS and on results obtained during the previous baseline study undertaken in 1997-1998.

This month saw the arrival of 8 new research assistants from USA, England, Australia and Canada. They join the three Peruvian Science Co-ordinators, and 3 Peruvian volunteers for the next three months of the study, following which a new team of volunteers and research assistants will arrive for the final 3 months of the year long project. A radio program for broadcasting locally is being produced by Sandra Felipa Luna and Edwin Espinosa which aims to communicate the project's work to the local population and provide a summary of results to date. Results from the first two phases will also be available on the project website shortly – [www.faunaforever.com](http://www.faunaforever.com)



### Presentation of Ese Eja Medicinal Plant Book

The Ese Eja are the indigenous inhabitants of the Tambopata (Peru) and Madidi (Bolivia) regions. A public presentation was held in Puerto Maldonado to launch the first ever book written by and for the Ese Eja in both Ese Eja and Spanish. This bi-lingual health manual was written and illustrated by Ese Eja from four different communities in Peru and Bolivia as part of a process facilitated by anthropologists and TReeS associates Miguel Alexiades and Daniela Peluso, from the University of Kent, UK. It is

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### About TReeS

*TReeS (Tambopata Reserve Society) is a non-profit organisation (UK Charity 298054) that supports local conservation and sustainable development initiatives in the Tambopata and Madre de Dios drainage basins, Peru. TReeS comprises two sister organisations: TReeS UK, founded in 1986, with members worldwide (many of whom came to Tambopata as tourists), and over with around 500 members worldwide and over 18 years experience working in the area; and TReeS Peru, founded in 2000 by a group of Peruvian biologists and social scientists who have worked in the region and share common interests.*

*For more information see [www.geocities.com/treesweb](http://www.geocities.com/treesweb) or [www.geocities.com/treesperu](http://www.geocities.com/treesperu)*

being distributed to all Ese Eja households and is one of the products of the working agreement between TReeS and FENAMAD. This Peruvian edition was largely funded by the Matthiesen Foundation and TReeS. A separate edition will be printed for the Ese Eja communities in Bolivia.

At the presentation were several of the authors, a representative of FENAMAD, the presidents of each of the three Ese Eja communities in Peru, Miguel Alexiades, Daniela Peluso and two invited guest speakers - Alfredo García (TReeS) and David Gonzalez, a biologist who worked for some years with the Ese Eja. Other guests included several dozen public officials, local



journalists and representatives from different educational institutions and charities.

Alfredo reviewed the process of writing the book, highlighting its value in terms of helping to document Ese Eja knowledge and promote Ese Eja language, and emphasised the role of FENAMAD in its production. He observed that besides including Ese Eja traditional knowledge, the manual contains details on plants used to cure *imported* diseases previously unknown to the area. David Gonzales reflected on how he saw the Ese Eja as respectful guardians of the forest. He gave a brief summary of the book and mentioned that 70% of modern day medicines are derived from plants.

Several of the Ese Eja authors, including Victor Pesha (ex-president of the FENAMAD), Gregorio Huajohuajo and Edy Manrique Huajohuajo, made short presentations, in which they thanked the supporting institutions, TReeS in particular, acknowledging the value of the book to the Ese Eja in maintaining their culture, language, history, traditions and knowledge.

### **Reconstruction of the Ese Eja Ancestral Territory**

At the presentation of the Ese Eja Medicinal Plant Book (see previous project), a presentation was also given on a related project, through which anthropologists Miguel Alexiades and Daniela Peluso are helping the Ese Eja document areas that were traditionally utilized and lived in - many of which are now inside the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park. Edy Manrique Huajohuajo and Arturo Chaetá, from Sonene and Palma Real respectively, emphasized how important this area was for them, both in terms of their subsistence and their identity, and vowed to always protect it from the incursions of outsiders. The project has so far documented the place names of lakes, cliffs, salt licks, dozens of sand bars, streams and many other features of the Heath river. A large map has been produced showing the locations of ancient settlements. Mateo Viaeja (Palma Real) gave a fascinating and animated talk on his life with his father in these areas which seemed to be very funny to those who understood both Spanish and Ese Eja! A video of the trips made up the Heath river as part of this project, and which showed the many places in which the Ese Eja have lived over the past, has also been produced and was shown to the guests at the presentation.

### **Forest Future – Project Las Piedras**

In 2003 a team from Edinburgh University completed its second successful field trip up the river Las Piedras, looking at the impact of mahogany extraction and associated hunting on wildlife populations. This year (2004) will see a third group, led by James Huff and Thomas Middleton (University of York – Biology Department), and a fourth, led by Ramsey Al-Chalaby (University of York – Environment Department), continue this work. It is hoped that, with the support of the concessionaries, Governmental organisations and NGOs, a long term monitoring scheme can be set up so that data can be collected and direct comparisons can be made.

### **Manos Amigas**

A baseline study, supported by TReeS, into the attitudes, knowledge and behaviour of adolescents towards Sexual and Reproductive Health in Tambopata was carried out in 2003. Following on from this study, the association Manos Amigas has been formed with the aim of

providing support for people living with HIV/AIDS in Madre de Dios.

In June the Prevention and Control of STIs and AIDS (PRO CETSS Ministry of Health), the National Police Safety Division, the Tambopata Provincial Municipality Social Development Office and Manos Amigas held a Workshop on the Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Illnesses for the Sex Workers of Puerto Maldonado. Ninety five Sex Workers, and twenty five bar owners joined local authorities, with the aim of consolidating the medical attention that the Sex Workers should receive from the Ministry of Health and to obtain a commitment from bar owners that they insist their Sex Workers receive a monthly medical check as a necessary working requisite, as stated by law.

In addition, Manos Amigas and the USA Navy are working together to start a study in August on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Sex Workers and homosexuals in Puerto Maldonado and its surrounding areas. It will involve a survey of 300 Sex Workers and 100 homosexuals to determine the risk factors and behaviour of these groups. Blood samples will also be taken to determine which HIV/AIDS virus types are present in the area.

Other activities due to commence include Nutritional Workshops for people living with Aids and workshops with local DJ's to encourage HIV/AIDS prevention messages being broadcast on their programs so as to provide accurate and ongoing information to their listeners.

#### Special Feature – The Nation at this Present Time - **Jorge Castillo Hurtado**

The Peruvian economy grew during 2003 at a rate of approximately 4%, higher than the majority of other Latin American countries. Unfortunately, this and other economic successes, such as lower inflation and a more stable monetary system, did not create a feel-good factor in the population. More than 60% of the population lives in a state of poverty or extreme poverty and an international debt of 26 billion USD, that represents 50% of the gross national product (GNP), is a heavy weight for the nation.

The majority of Peruvians believe that one of the main problems facing Peru is corruption. The

successes of Fujimori in the 90's were completely obscured by political scandals that resulted in him fleeing to Japan to avoid justice tribunals.

After a transitional government headed by Valentín Paniagua, the election of Alejandro Toledo as President in 2001 created great expectations, since he was a person who, despite his background of poverty and being a representative Peruvian of the Andean people, had succeeded in obtaining a prominent position in the academic and professional world. With a doctorate at Stanford, advisor to the World Bank and lecturer at the Escuela Superior de Administracion de Negocios para Graduados ESAN - one of the most prestigious academic training institutions in Peru - the economist awakened hopes in a people disillusioned with politics.

However, after three years of his government, discontent has returned. The majority of the excessive electoral promises made during his campaign have not been fulfilled, and this, together with the feeling that politicians are abusing their privileged status by receiving exorbitant salaries - embarrassing to a country in such a state of poverty - finally resulted in a national strike held at the end of July. It remains to be seen whether Toledo will complete his governmental term in 2006, in the midst of new corruption scandals that, this time, involve his surrounding family.

In spite of this difficult situation there have been recent economic developments. The natural gas discovered some years previously in Camisea has finally arrived in Lima and there are possibilities for exportation. Similarly, an agreement with neighbouring Bolivia will permit the exportation of gas found in the Bolivian region of Tarija through Peruvian gateways. Finally, an agreement has been made with Brazil to continue with the Interoceanic Highway that will pass through Madre de Dios and end at the Peruvian coast.

It is not the first time that natural riches present an opportunity for a better future for Peruvians. In past centuries the country has enjoyed the temporary riches of guano, salt, rubber, fish and mining. The question this time is whether better use can be made of them - the hopes and future of the country depend upon the answer.

## Life in Tambopata - The Doctor, Señor Adolfo Gonsalvez

At first glance you would never guess that Señor Adolfo Gonsálvez is 91 years old. He is articulate and energetic and continues to treat the local population for all manner of ailments with the natural remedies that he learnt over 70 years ago – “The best thing for our health is natural medicine, no chemical products and a totally natural diet” he told us, when we visited him in his home in Puerto Maldonado.



**TReeS:** Where did you first learn about plants and natural remedies?

**Sr Adolfo:** When I was 18 years old I went into the forest and lived with the natives for 3 years. Here they taught me all about the plants and their natural properties, they spoke in the native language of Ese Eja, and I also spoke this so that I could communicate with them.

**TReeS:** What sort of ailments do you treat, and what is the most difficult ailment?

**Sr Adolfo:** I can cure wounds, colds, cancer, kidney, liver and stomach problems, diabetes and relationship problems. Almost anything can be cured. I use Piper tree bark broth for prostate cancer; sangre de grado for wounds, bites and stomach ulcers; chicken liver bile for diabetes; ungurahui oil for kidney stones and *cafecillo* peel broth for yellow fever, to name but a few. They are all equal, none is more difficult than the other.

**TReeS:** Where do you treat people?

**Sr Adolfo:** They can find me here in my home or they come to visit me in my Consultancy, and I will check their pulse, heart and forehead. From this I can determine what is wrong with them and prescribe the right medication. I can also deal with emotional problems, but won't treat drunks. Some people have accused me of being a wizard. If I am a wizard then so is God. I cure people with natural remedies and the words of God. He has simply put one of his sons here to cure his other sons.

**TReeS:** How do you treat relationship problems with your medicines?

**Sr Adolfo:** I cure infidelity with prayer, and can cure loneliness in men. One patient was unable to find a wife, and didn't know what to do. I could see that he was very shy and timid. I told him to give me the name of the woman he wanted to marry, and that I would make her fall in love with him. I gave him one of my remedies to improve his confidence. It worked and they were married soon after.

**TReeS:** Tell us a little about your family.

**Sr Adolfo:** I got married in 1940 and have 10 children, 38 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. None of our children have died of illness, and all of them are sober and working – I am very proud of this and put it down to the healthy lifestyle that we lead and the way I raised them. We don't take the medicines that you can buy in pharmacies, these are just full of chemicals - there are no chemicals in my body. If ever I feel an ache or pain I just drink one of my remedies.

**TReeS:** What was Puerto Maldonado like when you first arrived here?

**Sr Adolfo:** I first came from Bolivia 1947 when I was 34 years old. We saw natives without clothes, and wanted to help them. As a doctor I felt I could help, so I returned a few years later with my family. There were no roads in or out of the town - the only means of access was via the river systems of the Madre de Dios and the Tambopata. There were a few paths cut through the forest but the areas that are now pizza restaurants, internet cafes and shops were farms. In 1949, there were

just 1500 people living here - there was one school with 9 pupils, 3 of whom were my own children.

**TReeS:** What do you think Puerto Maldonado will be like in 5 years time?

**Sr Adolfo:** Puerto Maldonado is going to suffer very soon, over the recent decades we have taken nearly all of the things that nature has given to us... we have taken the gold from the area, the rubber industry ceased some years ago, there is no market anymore for brazil nuts. At the moment we are taking all the valuable wood from the forest. Soon there will be nothing else for us to take, no way for people to make a living. Puerto Maldonado is full of students, by the time they leave college looking for work there will be nothing for them. How will they find work, what will they do, how will they feed their families? Already we see some poverty here, but what sort of life will Puerto Maldonado have to offer the students of today? I fear for them and what the future holds for them.

Sr Adolfo has his life memories recorded in 14 journals. He has previously approached the local bank to see if they would lend him money to help get them published but they were not in a position to able to help him. Do you know anyone who might be interested in funding or assisting with such a project? If so contact us on [treesbulletin@yahoo](mailto:treesbulletin@yahoo).

## News from the Forest

### Explorer's Inn

Explorer's Inn (EI), under the new administration of Gisela Plenge, continues its policy of having at least two Resident Naturalists (RNs). The present RNs are working on forest productivity, tree growth and leaf area index, in the run up to the arrival of Dr Oliver Philips and his team who will take over the research next year. They are also converting part of the museum, now called Discovery Centre, into a talks area with light and built-in seating. Other researchers at EI include a group from Edinburgh University and La Molina University, led by Alistair Pask, undertaking a 6-week study on the impact of trails on understorey vegetation and rates of regeneration on abandoned trails. Hannah Clegg, a student



from York University, has begun a 2-month project monitoring parrot and macaw activity at the small claylick near EI.

Sightings this month have included a giant anteater, seen on two different occasions near the swamp, a jaguar, spotted on the river bank less than 1000m from the lodge, and sightings of what appears to be the newest member (a cub) of the resident giant otter family at Cocococha. Karl Melkerts will continue monitoring this family to confirm, so watch this space...

### Tambopata Jungle Lodge

Tambopata Jungle Lodge recently celebrated its 13th anniversary with a successful party where staff and tourists alike took part in a football competition and BBQ. The lodge has rebuilt seven of its bungalows in the past year, and has two RNs working on various biological projects, such as an inventory of the flora and fauna, monitoring fauna species and maintaining the library and slideshow room. The nine qualified guides, employed mainly from the Puerto Maldonado area, receive further training by the lodge, including English lessons from the RNs.

During the last month various sightings have been made at the lodge of rarer species such as the king vulture, jaguar and tapir. Giant otters also frequent Condenado 2 Lake, a management plan into the use of the lake is being prepared.

The lodge also works with the local communities and last year built a series of dwellings structures for the peoples of Sachavacayoc, Condenado, Baltimore and La Torre to use to display and sell agricultural and handicraft items to tourists.

### Recent Research and Publications

Yalda Davis (MSc Conservation, University College London) visited Tambopata to carry out a 6 week study with La Torre community on the use of natural resources in Tambopata National Reserve (RNT) and to identify any conflicts of interest that exist between this use and the management of the reserve. Interviews were carried out with members of La Torre, the Park Guards, INRENA, the Agricultural Federation (FADEMAD) and local NGOs. Many interesting perspectives were revealed. A copy of the final report will be sent to the TReeS library, and a summary in Spanish will be given to all participants, the Management Committee of RNT and the INRENA Protected Areas office in Puerto Maldonado

### Volunteer Work in the Tambopata Area

Time on your hands? Fancy doing something worthwhile? There are often opportunities for volunteers through local businesses or organizations lodges, helping out with English teaching in schools or through helping with maintenance or research at lodges. You can call into the TReeS office in Puerto Maldonado for details of up to date local opportunities, or alternatively e-mail us on [trebulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:trebulletin@yahoo.com).

### Peru News

- The Presidents of Bolivia, Brazil and Peru met in Assis, Brazil, for the inauguration ceremony of the Peru-Brazil Integration Bridge (a 16m by 240m suspension bridge) over the river Acre. The building of the bridge will allow for further improvements to the Interoceanic Highway through Peru. The highway passes through Madre de Dios and Puerto Maldonado, and the Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo emphasized the importance of this link to the isolated people of this region in terms of economic growth, vowing to finish improvements to the highway before his government completes its term in 2006. However, whilst good for the economy, there are of course concerns relating to the environmental impact of this initiative.
- The travel industry was rocked in July as, following CIA allegations that the owner was involved in drug trafficking, the airline Aero Continente was suspended from operating. Co-inciding with the start of the main tourist season, and the Copa Americas football competition being hosted in Lima, this resulted in many angry passengers were being

stranded with tickets they couldn't use. The airline has since re-entered the market under the name of Nuevo Continente and, transferred its shares to the workforce, and tickets previously purchased with Aero Continente are being honoured and the situation seems to have been resolved.

- Copa Americas, July 2004 – it was disappointment all round as football crazy Peru were eliminated from the competition (the Latin American equivalent of Euro 2004) in the Quarter finals, leaving Brazil, Columbia, Paraguay and Argentina to battle it out in the semis and final, with Brazil eventually winning in an exciting penalty shoot-out against Argentina. Many Peruvian stadiums were greatly improved for the event and, apart from the airline fiasco and performance of the national side, the organization of the competition was seen as a great success.

### Other News.....

#### • *Japipi – The Butterfly House*

The 'Butterfly House' reopened under its new name of Japipi (the Ese Eja word for butterfly). Formerly privately owned by Augusto Mulánovich, the project is managed by Pronaturaleza, a Peruvian NGO, in consultation with Augusto. Japipi enables visitors to see some of the butterfly species that live in the Tambopata region, in a beautiful enclosed tropical garden. There is also a puparium where the butterflies are bred from eggs collected in the garden and an information centre to provide visitors with information not only about the butterflies themselves, but also the biodiversity of this region, the protected areas in Peru and their importance, and the Ese Eja peoples. Japipi also plays an active part locally by giving educational talks to the local population and schools.



- **Environmental Education Program for Lake Sandoval and its Surrounding Area**

The Lake Sandoval Environmental Education Program started in 2002, in co-ordination with the Bahuaja Sonene National Park (PNBS) and the Tambopata National Reserve (RNT). It aims to promote and develop Environmental Education for Lake Sandoval and its surrounding area based on the development of assets, attitudes and knowledge from a human and sustainable perspective. This is done through two projects; the first, "Walk to Lake Sandoval" is the organization of carefully guided school visits to the Lake (the guides being volunteers from different colleges of further education). The trips will be educational and will complement the students' school curriculum. The second project, "Pepe, the Giant Otter", involves furthering knowledge about the Giant Otter, with the aim of raising ecological consciences and creating investigative skills in the students. Both projects aim to involve the communities, the NGOS and Regional Education Management. Further information can be obtained from the Frankfurt Zoological Society at [fzpm@terra.com.pe](mailto:fzpm@terra.com.pe)

- **New Observation Tower – by Iñez Vera, INRENA**

The Tambopata National Reserve has recently installed a new attraction in Lake Sandoval, the most popular ecological destination close to Puerto Maldonado. In June, an 18 meter-high Observation Tower was opened for the 8,000 tourists that arrive annually at this location. The tower is part of Lake Sandoval's Recreational and Tourist Area Site Plan and has been placed in the refuge zone. Lake Sandoval is renown for its high biodiversity and as a key zone where several endangered species like macaws, black caimans and giant otters reproduce and feed. The new observation tower has contributed to the tourist appeal of Lake Sandoval. It offers visitors the opportunity to watch birds, other fauna and the tropical rainforest landscape with minimal disturbance. "This definitely contributes to the sustainability of the project", states Frank Hayek, Coordinator of the Frankfurt Zoological Society program that supports the protected natural areas of Madre de Dios.

- **Fiestas!**

The past few months have been filled with celebration for Puerto Maldonado. With



National Holidays, Saint Days, and Anniversaries. The streets have been regularly filled with marching children, flag waving juveniles, beautifully made costumes, brass bands and decorated vehicles, thus ensuring that not a week went past without there being something colourful for the visitors and locals alike to view. On 9th and 10th of July Puerto Maldonado celebrated its own anniversary, with every business and educational institution in Puerto Maldonado marching through the plaza. Last but not least was Independence Day on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2004, celebrated across all of Peru. At the stroke of midnight fireworks were let off around the town and two days of yet more marching and celebrating followed.

### And finally....

We would like to thank the Funding Network, (UK, [www.thefundingnetwork.org.uk](http://www.thefundingnetwork.org.uk)) for a grant of £3,780, which has made it possible for TReeS Peru to launch the new version of the newsletter. The grant is also contributing to the refurbishment of our office, updating of office equipment and to a step-up in fund-raising activities and project adoption by our governing committee.

If you have any comments, submissions or suggestions for the bulletin, please send to: [treesbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:treesbulletin@yahoo.com)



**Please join TReeS and help support Conservation and Development projects in this area!!**

**Aims**

TReeS has two main aims: 1) Biodiversity Conservation, 2) Community-based Development and 3) Environmental Education. This has lost aim number 3 since the last edition – why? I think aim number 3 should be back in.

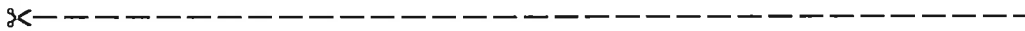
The work of TReeS is based on the idea that there is a strong link between these two objectives: nature conservation can only come about if it addresses issues relating to social well-being, particularly health and justice. TReeS philosophy is to support local initiatives as they arise, so as to improve local capacities, increase awareness and help generate solutions to environmental and social problems.

**What you can do to help!**

**Join TReeS** - The support that TReeS can give to the Tambopata area depends on the subscriptions and donations received from its members: mostly

visitors like you who have come over here as researchers or tourists and care about the future of the rainforest and its people. If you identify with the aims and work developed by TReeS and would like to contribute, you can become a member by completing the form attached. Membership will enable you to receive our newsletter four times a year, keep in contact with Tambopata, and hear how your funds are being used. UK residents can also attend meetings every 3 – 6 months that include talks on our work.

**Make a donation** - A small donation can make a big difference in achieving this (delete - in achieving what?): most of the projects supported by TReeS are under US\$1,000. We work on a minimal budget, and on a volunteer basis, to ensure that the maximum amount of money goes to the projects.



**Application for Membership/Donation** - complete this form and return to:

Canada/USA: William Widdowson, TReeS-USA, P.O. Box 1114, Woodland, CA 95776, USA

Rest of World/UK and Europe: John Forrest, TReeS-UK, PO Box 33153, London NW3 4DR, United Kingdom

USA: William Widdowson, TReeS-USA, P.O. Box 1114, Woodland, CA 95776, USA

or drop it into our office in Puerto Maldonado at Jr Lambayeque 488

<b>Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other)</b> .....	<b>Types of Membership (please tick box)</b>
.....	
<b>Name</b> .....	<b>Tapir (Superior)</b> – £100/\$180 pa... <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Address:</b> .....	<b>Hoatzin (family)</b> – £25/\$45 pa..... <input type="checkbox"/>
.....	<b>Tree Frog (individual)</b> – £10/\$18 pa..... <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Zipcode/Postcode</b> .....	<b>Donation:</b> - £ _____ / \$ _____ / Other_____
<b>Telephone</b> .....	<b>Total :-</b> £ _____ / \$ _____ / Other_____
<b>E-mail</b> .....	

Please make cheques payable to "TReeS", or British Subscribers can pay by Banker's order using the form below. Pay as you earn donations, gift aid donations and covenants are also welcome.



**Banker's Order:**

To (Members Bank) \_\_\_\_\_ Bank PLC

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort-code & Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay now and thereafter on January 1st each year to: Lloyds Bank PLC, Queen Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1TF (Sort Code: 30 99 83), to the credit of the 'Tambopata Reserve Society (TReeS)' Account No. 00574637, the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_

Note one too many 0's on account no.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_