



TReeS News

NEWS FROM THE PERUVIAN AMAZON



Año: 2

Nº 3

Mar 2005

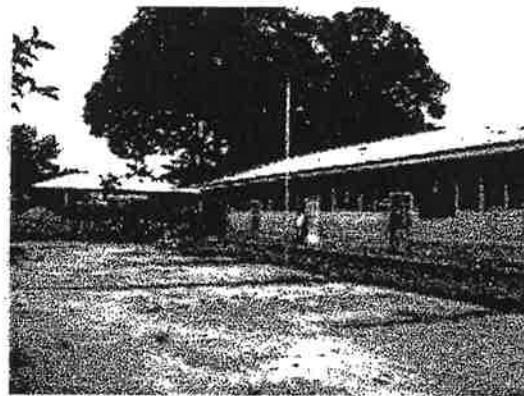
TReeS Peru – Project Updates

This section includes details of some of the projects which have received either funding or logistical support from TReeS over the recent months.

International School Partnership Programme

The International School Partnership Programme (ISPP) links international schools with schools in the Peruvian Amazon, Madre de Dios. Generally the international partner benefits through learning about life (culture, society and environment) in the Amazon for the students of their Peruvian partner school, whilst the Peruvian partner school generally have a specific project aimed towards improving the school. In most cases the project is to improve basic school infrastructure, hygiene and sanitation. International school fund raising initiatives also include participation of the Peruvian school by means of making arts and crafts which the international school then sells or auctions.

Two of the schools involved, La Pastora, Puerto Maldonado, Peru (pictured below) and Hornsey Girls School, London, England have worked together to fund raise in order to help realize renovations which are desperately required at La Pastora. Built in 1978, the school is in very poor condition. La Pastora sent over 100 watercolour paintings of the rainforest to Hornsey, who auctioned the paintings during the fund raising "Peru Week". During this week, students executed many fund raising activities and have raised 1000 GBP since the partnership was established.



Content

• TReeS Peru – Project Update	1	• Peru News	6
• Special Feature	3	• Other News	6
• News from the forest	4	• Volunteer Work	7

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/treesperu

Parents and teachers at La Pastora, inspired by Hornsey's generosity, are pulling together to do the manual work and will use the money raised to buy materials to build two new classrooms. La Pastora are making light weight arts and crafts to send to Hornsey as gifts. La Pastora have also been motivated to make a "Children's Park of Biodiversity", where parents and children will plant saplings for medicinal use, food and building resources to help educate the children about the value of their environment

Elizabeth Raine, the Project Director is always looking for international schools who are interested in becoming a partner school. The majority of schools in Madre de Dios are very enthusiastic to participate – please contact her for more information at elizabeth_raine@yahoo.co.uk

Yuliana Yabar Bautista

24 year old Yuliana, an Architecture student of UNSAAC University in Cusco recently traveled to Nicaragua to participate in a conference and present her ideas and projects regarding bamboo house construction. Her presentation was based on her work over the last two years using bamboo extracted from Madre de Dios. TReeS provided Yuliana with a grant of \$370 USD to help towards the costs of her participation.

Yuliana, who is from Puerto Maldonado, attended the conference as the invited representative of CLEA (National Co-ordinator for Architecture Students). She hopes that some of her bamboo structures will be put to future use in the Madre de Dios region .

Reconstruction of the Ese Eja Ancestral Territory

With funding and support from both TReeS and FENAMAD, village elders from the community of La Torre are making their final preparations before heading up La Torre River, a tributary of the Tambopata River, in order to continue mapping the Ese Eja Ancestral Territory. Jaime Malaga

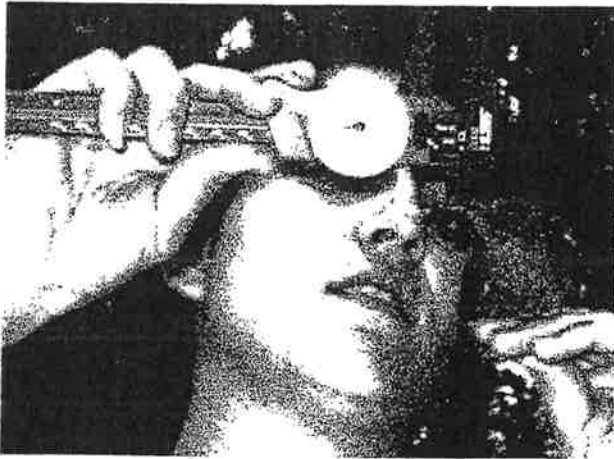
Troncoso of FENEMAD has been working closely with the group over the past few months and has been training them in use of GPS equipment and data collection.

Miguel Alexiades and Daniela Peluso, based at the department of Anthropology at the University of Kent, Canterbury, worked with FENEMAD and the Ese Eja from the community of Sonene during the course of 2003-4, as part of FENAMAD's project on the reconstruction of the Ese Eja ancestral territory. Several trips were made with Ese Eja families from Sonene and Palma Real to the headwater regions of the Heath River. Precise locations and histories of sites traditionally used and occupied by the Ese Eja were recorded, and a map and video were produced as a result of these trips, thus helping to record health beliefs and practices. The project also seeks to serve as a model for the more active involvement of indigenous peoples in initiatives pertaining to the documentation and diffusion of indigenous knowledge.

Project Fauna Forever Tambopata

For the past year, the Fauna Forever Tambopata team, with assistance from Peruvian and overseas volunteers, has been collecting field data relating to the impacts of tourism on local wildlife populations in Tambopata . The research has now concluded and whilst the volunteers return home or continue their travels over the next months the biologists Alan Lee (Mammals Co-ordinator), Wilfredo Arizabal (Herpetofauna), Alexis Nuñez (Birds), along with Chris Kirkby (Project Director), will conduct an analysis of their findings and compare them to those of the first study conducted in 1997-98. The team are due to complete their final report outlining the results and recommendations in April 2005. A radio program about the project is currently being aired in Puerto Maldonado to communicate to the local population details of the research undertaken and and results to date.

The project is being extended this year to include the Manu Biosphere Reserve.



Fauna Forever Manu, as the new project is called, is a forward-thinking training and leadership programme with a strong environmental monitoring component. The aim of the programme is to develop future leaders skilled in tropical biodiversity assessment and project management and will contribute to our understanding of how natural ecosystems in and around protected areas change over time. More information can be found on the following websites: www.faunaforever.com and www.crees-manu.org

Special Feature

Vilcabamba-Amboro Conservation Corridor

In 2003 the governments of Peru and Bolivia established a mega-conservation corridor running for 1,000 km along the eastern flank of the Andes in western Amazonia. The extent of it is without comparison anywhere else on earth. The idea of environmental conservation through international cross border co-operation through environmental co-operation was an initiative encouraged by ex-President Fujimori in the 1990s as part of the solution to the Peru-Ecuador border conflict.

The concept of conservation corridors has been established and become accepted over the last 20 years as a necessary mechanism to attempt to retain a few key ecological 'hotspots'. The 'hotspot' concept was developed by TReeS patron Dr

Norman Myers in the late 1980s, and the Tropical Andes hotspot is widely considered to be the global epi-centre of biodiversity - with Madre de Dios, encompassing Tambopata and Manu, at its core. By linking key locations with additional but lesser forms of protection in which sustainable activities are promoted a buffer around the key locations is, hopefully, created and the corridor established.

The Vilcabamba-Amboro conservation corridor links 16 existing protected areas and covers approximately 30 million hectares. A huge range of habitats, enormous biodiversity and many IUCN red list endangered species are contained within these areas, plus tremendous cultural diversity.



Fig. 2. The Vilcabamba-Amboro Rainforest Corridor (after Conservation International 2002). 1 = Ashaninka Comunal Reserve; 2 = Olishi National Park; 3 = Machiguenga Comunal Reserve; 4 = Alto Purus Reserved Zone; 5 = Manu National Park; 6 = Amarakaeri Comunal Reserve; 7 = Historic Sanctuary of Machupicchu; 8 = Tambopata National Reserve; 9 = Bahujia Sonene National Park; 10 = Madidi National Park; 11 = Apolobamba Biosphere Reserve; 12 = Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve; 13 = Cotapata National Park; 14 = Isiboro Secure National Park; 15 = Carrasco National Park; 16 = Ambaró National Park; 17 = Los Amigos Conservation Concession.

Within the wider Tropical Andes hotspot there are up to 50,000 plant species, 15% of the global total which is twice as many as in other hotspots, 20,000 of which are endemic. There are at least 1,650 bird species, the highest of any hotspot area, 677 of which are endemic. Amphibians number 830 species, 604 of which are endemic, both figures the highest of any hotspot. Reptiles number 479 species, 218 of which are endemic and mammals 414 species, including 68 endemic.

The most southerly protected area in the Vilcabamba-Amboro corridor is the Amboro National Park west of Santa Cruz in the Bolivian lowlands. Other protected areas within Bolivia include the Carrasco National Park, Cotapata National Park and Madidi National Park which adjoins the Peruvian border. In Bolivia the rates of deforestation have been running at 400,000 hectares per year for the last 10 years so this development is to be welcomed.

The Bahauja-Sonene National Park marks the extension of the corridor into Peru. Other significant protected areas within the Peruvian part of the corridor include Manu National Park, Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary and the Otishi National Park lying within the Cordillera Vilcabamba region.

The protected area components of the corridor are being managed within Peru by INRENA (Instituto de Recursos Naturales) (www.inrena.gob.pe) and within Bolivia by SERNA (Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas) (www.sernap.gov.bo) with NGO support.

In establishing the corridor the respective governments aim to promote –

- minimizing human impact upon flora and fauna: preventing the extinction of species;
- the improvement of the standard of living of people living within the region by promoting sustainable activities and reducing illegal ones;
- biological and socio-economic studies;
- the incorporation of environmental matters into the wider government agenda;
- a reduction in contamination by industrial activities;
- the sustainable management of the related protected areas;
- the extension of programmes of environmental education.

It is hoped that in establishing the corridor, the governments will include trying to remove all oil and gas exploration

concessions that currently overlap with the protected areas covered by the corridor, restricting gold-mining operations and turning timber extraction concessions into conservation concessions. However, the development of the Trans Oceanic Highway will soon cut straight through this corridor, having negative impacts up to 50km either side of the road (see Other News), and raises a question about the feasibility of achieving the aims outlined above.

News from the Forest

Inkaterra

The rainforest lodge of Reserva Amazonica, owned by Inkaterra, located on the Madre de Dios river downstream from Puerto Maldonado, has recently opened up a canopy walkway to its visitors, which as well as enabling them to see the forest from a different level, aims to support conservation and development programs in the department of Madre de Dios by investing all benefits obtained from the activity in these programs.

The Canopy walkway is a complex set of hanging bridges, towers and platforms enabling visitors to experience a part of the rainforest eco-system seldom seen by human eyes.



Inkaterra have also received the first private eco-tourism concession in Peru, known as the Inkaterra Ecological Reserve (REI). Consisting of 10,000 hectares allocated exclusively to the conservation of Amazonian ecosystems and the support of native communities, the concession is overseen by ITA, the NGO recently formed by Inkaterra. They have also received Rolin Island from the Peruvian Marine Corps, where they aim to establish an animal rescue center.

Tambopata Research Centre

During the course of this years rains, and subsequent high river levels, the Tambopata River has continued to erode away several more meters of river bank leaving the Tambopata Research Centre perilously close to the waters edge. Work has been underway for some months on the development of the new Centre, set in a clearing 600 meters further back into the forest. In February it was ready to take in it's first visitors, and with the Tambopata River just 3m from the original structures, these were hastily taken down bit by bit by the staff before the next heavy rainfall saw the river rise again and potentially beat them to it!



Explorer's Inn

Resident Naturalists Report - Salvador Salvador (RN, Sep 04 – Jan 05)

"With funding provided from the University of Girona, and with my position as Resident Naturalist, I was able to undertake a research project on endangered fauna species in the forests around the lodge, complementing data that was already being gathered by Project Fauna Forever.

The objective of the study, which was thought through and initially implemented by Chris Kirkby (RN Coordinator) and previous RNs, was to determine the relative abundance of parrots and macaws both at the collpita (small clay-lick) and at 2 point count stations, as well as the abundance of caiman and gaint otters on Lake Cocococha. An additional objective was to set-up methods to determine whether tourism activities affect these species.



Preliminary results indicate that tourism-related impacts are not significant, although more data will be required before we can be certain of this, and that the abundance of species changes quite dramatically with weather patterns, as expected. Full results will be published shortly and the research will be continued into the future by other RNs."

Mauricio Lopez – RN (Jan – Jul 2005), continues with this work and is also improving the medicinal garden, helping with trail maintenance, and teaching English to the staff of the lodge, so that they can better serve the tourists' needs.

Explorers Inn is also currently hosting a research team headed up by Dr. Oliver Phillips from the University of Leeds, England. As part of on-going research conducted by Dr Phillips at the Lodge, the researchers have set up leaf index collectors in two 1acre parcels around the main trail, with the purpose of measuring the emissions and intake of carbon of various tree species and other indicators, such as the tree growth rate - a project that will last for another two and a half years.

Peru News

The government of Alejandro Toledo remains extremely unpopular, El Comercio recently put his rating amongst Limenos at just 8%. The further decline in his popularity results from new scandals concerning the first lady's misuse of World Bank funds and an accusation that Toledo's

sister organised the forgery of 520,000 (80%) of the signatures used to register his party - Peru Posible - for the 2000 elections.

On New Year's Eve, dissatisfaction with Toledo and grievances against their treatment while in the military, led a group of 150 ex-soldiers to seize the police station in Andahuaylas, in the southern central Andes. Four policemen and two civilians were killed before the group were arrested 4 days later. The group stated that they were inspired by General Caceres, President of Peru in the early 1880s who opposed the occupying Chilean force. The insurrection led the Minister of the Interior to resign. The incident echoes two other incidents in the southern Andes at the end of 2004 when local people took the law in to their own hands to lynch suspected robbers and a corrupt mayor.

President Toledo will visit the UK in March to attend a UK Foreign Office conference on extractive industries - the UK is Peru's largest Foreign investor, principally in the mining/drilling sector. There is now growing opposition within Peru to the granting of huge mining concessions to foreign multi-nationals and there are also some signs that shareholder concerns and NGO pressure are changing the approaches of such companies.

Other News.....

Trans Oceanica Highway

Posters offering jobs as manual labourers are already plastered on lampposts and walls around Puerto Maldonado advertising the imminent construction of the "Trans Oceanica", the highway that will join the asphalted Brazilian road network with that of Peru. The new highway will run from Iñapari, in northern Madre de Dios on the border with Brazil, to Urcos a town about 10 miles from Cusco. A journey from Puerto Maldonado to Cusco, which currently takes a little over 24 hours in a bus in the dry season, will take only 6 hours or so in a private car.



At the beginning of February, Puerto Maldonado hosted a 2-day conference on the Trans Oceanica with invitees from nearby Acre (Brazil) and Pando (Bolivia) states, as well as VIPs from Lima and even representatives from the government of the People's Republic of China. The theme of the conference were the "benefits" that the road would bring, and although some individuals (mainly representatives of NGOs) expressed concern about the negative environmental and social impacts, their opinions largely fell on deaf ears. An impact assessment undertaken 2 years ago, which was not made widely available to the public, stated that the impacts through increased degradation of forests and social impacts on indigenous peoples would stretch at least 50 km either side of the road.

Plans are already afoot to extend the electricity network in Brazil as far as Puerto Maldonado, this being a cheaper and quicker option than the previously lobbied idea of extending power lines north from the San Gavan hydroelectric station in Puno. The opinion is that with a good road and cheaper more reliable electricity, Puerto Maldonado will finally be able to develop as it has always wanted to.

S p e e d e d - u p development is already occurring. Four new saw mills are already gearing up and there are firm plans for a 5 star hotel on the outskirts of town. The Municipality, already stretched to its limits, will now have to contend with ever growing demand for basic public services from an ever growing population, a population which will likely double in the not too distant future.

Carnival!

It's February - the time of year when it is strongly recommended that you don't wander the streets on a Sunday wearing your best clothes or carrying valuable cameras. Street corners and busy junctions are crowded with children with water filled balloons and paint filled water pistols, bombarding passers-by without discrimination!! As sun comes down, paint covered and drenched, the participants return to their homes and the smell of gasoline fills the air, as the poor victims try to erase the traces of the oil based paints they have been plastered in before having to go to the office the next day!

Volunteer Work

Time on your hands? Fancy doing something worthwhile? There are often opportunities for volunteers through local businesses or 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 treesbulletin@yahoo.com

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

Aims

TReeS has three main aims: 1) Biodiversity Conservation, 2) Community-based Development and 3) Environmental Education. The work of TReeS is based on the idea that there is a strong link between these three 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, most of the projects supported by TReeS are under US\$1,000. We work on a minimal budget and 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: John Forrest, TReeS-UK, PO Box 33153, London NW3 4DR, United Kingdom

Or drop it into our office in Puerto Maldonado at Jr. Lambayeque 438.

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

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.

"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. 0574637, the sum of £ _____"

Signature _____ Date _____