



# TReeS News

NEWS FROM THE PERUVIAN AMAZON



Año: 2

Nº 4

July 2005

## TReeS - Project Updates

This section includes details of some of the projects which are receiving funding or logistical support from TReeS.

Emergency Taskforce - Petroleum exploration without consultation in the indigenous territory of Harakmbut

The Amarakaeri Communal Reserve is located between the Manu National Park and the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park and forms part of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor - see map in the March edition of the TReeS Bulletin. However, it is under threat from Petroleum Companies Perupetro and Pluspetrol and/or China National Oil Corporation. The companies are on the point of being granted contracts to conduct exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons in the area (also known as Lot 76).

The Indigenous Federation of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD) have protested to the Ministry of Energy and Mines **demanding** they consult with the **indigenous** communities who live within this area before going any further; such consultation is a requirement in **international** law under the

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169, to which Peru is a signatory. However, their protests fell on deaf ears and the response received was that the government doesn't have to consult with anyone on this matter. For this reason, FENAMAD has asked for urgent support and funds from **environmental** groups, including TReeS, so that meetings can be held with the communities affected, to inform them of the situation and to help them make decisions on the matter. Meanwhile the **Ombudsman** has initiated an **investigation** against the government who are in breach of Convention 169.

Emergency Taskforce - Isolated Indigenous Communities

Several local **institutions** including the **Indigenous** Federation of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD), the Manu National Park authorities, the Public Ombudsman, TReeS and the Ministry of Health have joined forces to form an **emergency** taskforce and are working together to help defend the rights of isolated **indigenous** communities, people who have **chosen** to live their **traditional** lives in peace and **isolation** - see our Special Feature

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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 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](http://www.geocities.com/treesperu) or [www.tambopata.org](http://www.tambopata.org)

The Taskforce has recently accomplished an urgent mission to the Manu National Park - pictured below - to help the Matsigenka community of Tayacome develop an action plan, as the seasonal movements of other nomadic isolated (uncontacted) indigenous groups brought them close to the 200 strong Tayacome community. The concerned community members had made urgent radio pleas for

assistance and advice as to how to manage the situation so as to avoid contact with the nomadic group.

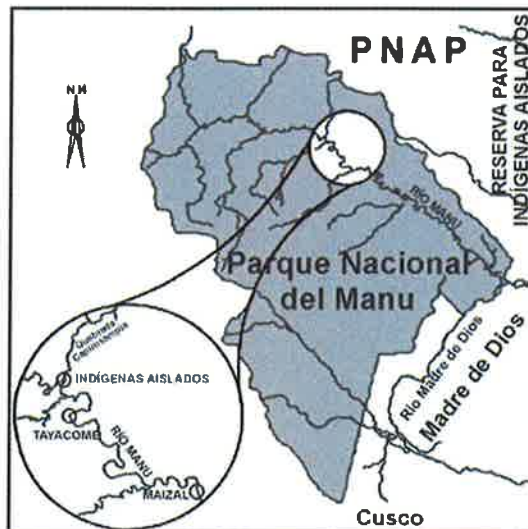
Whilst at Tayacome - which is situated on the Manu River near the borders with the Alto Purús National Park (PNAP) and the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve for isolated indigenous peoples - the Taskforce collected more information about the incident along with detailed descriptions of the nomadic group from eyewitnesses. The team also held a vaccination programme and undertook a health evaluation of all the community members at Tayacome during their time with them.

The Taskforce are currently in the process of producing a report about the trip and want to use the information and experience gained to help develop contingency plans which should be followed in the event that a similar situation arises in the future, either in Tayacome or other isolated communities.



Photo: M. Parice

Children in the Matsigenka community of Tayacome



**APPEAL:-** In order to make more effective our ongoing work protecting the rights of the isolated and indigenous peoples we are reliant on your donations. Please consider making a monetary contribution to assist the Emergency Taskforce progress with this specific programme of initiatives, and to allow us to help with future issues as they arise. Donations can be made through either TReeS-UK, TReeS Peru or TReeS USA - payment details and postal addresses can be found on the rear of this newsletter or you can contact us on [trebulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:trebulletin@yahoo.com) for further advice.

### Puerto Maldonado - Street Clean Up

A program of events was co-ordinated by the local Mayor's Office in order to celebrate World Environment Day on 5th June

Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June saw TReeS representatives wielding machetes and working alongside other institutions, armed forces and school children cleaning rubbish and cutting the vegetation across several blocks of the towns streets. Over 4 truck-loads of rubbish and weeds were cleared from 8 blocks alone!



Photo: K. Trailly

Volunteers working together to clean the streets

Public presentations were given on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, the theme being caring for our environment. Alfredo Garcia and Clara Hernandez Wong of TReeS gave a lively talk to the audience, encouraging them to take care of their city, dispose of waste properly, and maintain their streets in a clean and sanitary fashion, not only to provide a more visually pleasing environment for visitors and residents alike, but so as to prevent contamination and the spread of disease.

TReeS intends to continue this work over the coming months and will be co-ordinating a series of ongoing activities with other institutions. If you have experience or ideas on recycling activities or waste management, please feel free to share them with us! Write to us on [treesbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:treesbulletin@yahoo.com)

### Ese'ija territorial reconstruction project

During April and May this year new information relating to historical and cultural data collected in the traditional ethnic territories of the Ese'ija was being recorded and evaluated. The information had been collected by members of the Native Community Infierno who had undertaken a journey up the Tambopata River to the mouth of the Távara River, an area known since last century as Astillero. The data has been recorded in a book during their journey and will be transferred onto a map in due course. The group wishes to continue with this work, and wish to explore waters higher up than the Távara River, and also the Kuisho Kuei River (La Torre), another traditional ethnic territory where the Ese'ija have many cultural and historic links

### Project Fauna Forever

Tambopata - (more than just) a study of the impacts of tourism on local wildlife populations

With Fauna Forever Manu due to start this month, the results from Fauna Forever Tambopata are currently being analyzed by the Project Director, Chris Kirkby. It is anticipated that the final report will be completed during the next couple of months. Meanwhile, congratulations go to three of last years volunteers, with Naun (Peruvian) and Rachel (British), pictured below, marrying here in Puerto Maldonado in April, followed by Liam (Irish) and Ursula (Peruvian) marrying in Lima in June. Our congratulations and best wishes go to both couples, each of whom met their respective partners whilst participating on the project in May last year!



Naun and Rachel tie the knot

Photo: K. Trailly

### Special Feature - Peru's Isolated Indigenous Peoples Threatened - a new crisis

In south eastern Peru, in the departments of Madre de Dios, Ucayali and Cusco close to the borders with Brazil, 'indigenous' native peoples still exist, choosing to maintain their traditional lifestyle and intentionally keeping apart from society and the rest of the country. Locally they are known as isolated or 'uncontacted' indigenous people or, more perjoratively, "galatos" - naked people - as often they use little in the way of clothing.

This is a special feature of the cultural diversity, closely related to the biological diversity that is part of this amazing Amazonian region and whilst the modern world itself is becoming increasingly "globalized", these dwellers of the Amazon resist being part of this modernity. This may well be due to previous conflicts and problems caused in the early 20th Century when their lands were being exploited for the extraction of natural rubber from the tree species *Castilloa elastica* and *Hevea brasiliensis* or "caucho" and "shiringa" as they are respectively known locally. Even more recently - in the 1980s - a group of isolated indigenous people in the Manu National Park were infected with influenza by oil prospectors working on the Urubamba river near their lands. Tragically, the majority of the natives died as a result of contracting the virus, with a small group of just 40 individuals surviving the outbreak.

In the recently created Alto Purús National Park and the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve for isolated indigenous peoples, the ancestral territories of some groups of isolated indigenous peoples are currently being invaded by loggers looking for valuable commercial species, such as mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). The fact that these areas and the isolated indigenous peoples living in them are supposedly protected and that such activities are prohibited is completely disregarded by the illegal logging

outfits, and further to this, the invasion of their ancestral territories is a violation of their basic human rights.

As a direct consequence of the invasion some groups of isolated indigenous people are being forced to displace themselves to the Manu National Park. During the summer months of June to September, the nomadic isolated indigenous people traditionally come to the main rivers to fish and to collect turtle eggs (*Pseudemys unifilis*). This year has already seen aggressive behaviour from one such group, probably because of attacks that they have suffered themselves from the loggers on the Las Piedras river.

In February 2001 at least 8 isolated indigenous people, from the ethnic group known as the Mashco-Piro, were killed by illegal loggers. In June 2004, an illegal logger was killed by an arrow in clashes with isolated indigenous peoples as he invaded the territorial reserve. Further fatalities occurred during May this year, when two young loggers from Puerto Maldonado were attacked and killed whilst illegally extracting timber from the area around the Tacuatimanu River, a tributary of the upper reaches of the Las Piedras River. Whilst initially these attacks were presumed to have been by the isolated indigenous people, there remains a lot of local controversy regarding exactly who is to blame for these deaths. What is certain, however, is that the cutting and extraction of illegal timber is a serious problem in the whole of the Peruvian Amazon and sets the stage for unknown



Abandoned camp - uncontacted indigenous group

Photo: M. Ponce



amounts of indigenous death, and potential genocide.

TRees is working alongside several other local institutions that have formed an emergency taskforce to help defend the rights of these people. At the same time, emergency action is being planned with the Department of Health in order to administer vaccinations against diseases such as influenza should the need arise, in an effort to reduce the risk of history repeating itself.

In order to help continue with our ongoing work protecting the rights of the isolated and indigenous peoples, TRees is making an appeal for your support. Donations can be made through either TRees-UK, TRees Peru or TRees USA - payment details and postal addresses can be found on the rear of this newsletter or you can contact us on [trebulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:trebulletin@yahoo.com) for further advice.

## News from the Forest

### Rainforest Expeditions

Each year Rainforest Expeditions holds courses in their lodges at Rosadas Amazonas and the Tambopata Research Centre about environmental awareness. This year's attendees were trained in themes about biology, the environment, First Aid, tropical illnesses, security, ethnic groups and the protected areas. Whilst primarily for trainee guides, the course was also attended by two of the Tambopata National Reserve park guards, who in turn shared their newly acquired knowledge with their work colleagues.

### Tambopata Expeditions - Las Piedras Biodiversity Station

2005 started well for Tambopata Expeditions which is an ecotourism initiative based at their Research Station on the Las Piedras river, with confirmation from INRENA that they have been granted a 5500 hectare ecotourism concession in River Las Piedras. Additionally, they have just completed construction of a canopy platform at the Research Station overlooking flood plain forest. Built by two Kiwi volunteers along with a local carpenter the platform will be used to carry out bird surveys as well as to admire the beautiful views. During the summer, Biosphere Expeditions return and will be continuing to monitor the areas mammal populations as well



Photo: A. Lee

Macaws on clay lick.

as survey the macaw clay lick, the continuation of a project which commenced 3 years ago.

### Explorer's Inn

The 3 Resident Naturalist guides at Explorers Inn, Liz Shaw, Romain Perrot Mireia Casas Marcé are in the process remarking trails, improving the Medicinal Garden and renovating/replacing displays in the Discovery Centre and Museum. New talks are being developed for the visiting tourists and assistance being given to the guiding staff with their English language development.

During his time at the lodge, Romain is undertaking an "Ecotourism Evaluation Study" as part of his duties which will also contribute to his undergraduate thesis in International Adventure Tourism Management at Newcastle College (UK). This study, which is supported by the Explorers Inn Field

Studies Director (Chris Kirkby), will significantly help the lodge management to assess the current state of the ecotourism products that Explorer's Inn offers to its clients and what changes and improvements may be required to maintain the high standards that the lodge sets itself.

Meanwhile, Peruvian Biologist Javier Silva - who will be joining as a Resident Naturalist at the beginning of July - continues to work with the analysis of leaf litter and carbon emissions, part of a long term project being conducted by Dr Oliver Phillips of Leeds University, England, UK

### Peru News

- 'Make Poverty History' campaign - Peru does not fall within the category of 'highly indebted



poor countries' (HIPC) but is classed as a so-called 'middle income country'. Consequently, Peru is not eligible for any of the HIPC benefits despite spending 20% (16% - 2000) of the national budget on external debt servicing - \$2.5 billion in 2004. The external debt now stands at \$33 billion, 46% of Peru's GDP (annual income) and is a third higher than in 2000. Both the debt level and its growth rate cannot be sustained by the current economic activity which is increasingly becoming controlled, along with government policy, by outsiders.

The consequence of this is that government education expenditure has fallen to 15.6% of public spending and health care to 8.3% despite 54% of the population being officially classed as 'living in poverty', including 20% in severe poverty.

Furthermore, the economy is being hit by unfair trade terms. The latest concerns cotton production. Peruvian 'pima' cotton is very high quality and was once grown extensively on relatively small farms in the coastal valleys. This year a bumper US (genetically modified?) cotton crop has created a global glut which has led to a fall in world prices. It now barely pays cotton farmers in Peru, as well as many African countries, to pick their crops as US cotton floods the market.

This has increased Peru's need to exploit resources often far too rapidly from an environmental perspective and at unattractive terms through the involvement of transnational companies. China and Peru have signed

new trade agreements. China now accounts for 16% of all Peru's trade.

- In Lima, 4,000 frogs of the genus *telmatobius* have been saved from being the special ingredient in a popular "aphrodisiac cocktail". They were found hidden inside a refrigerator in an abattoir. Authorities reported that they were checking the refrigerators when one of the frogs escaped and started jumping around. About 5000 frogs in total were recovered - over 1000 had already died due to the conditions in which they were being kept. The frogs were quickly transferred to a public swimming pool until the ecological police returned them to their natural habitat which is about 3,500m above sea level in the Andean zones of Arequipa and Puno.

On the streets of Lima the frogs are put in buckets of water and then in front of the consumers are carved up and then liquefied with honey and other ingredients to make the cocktail. This species of frog is reportedly in a "vulnerable" state not far from being in danger of extinction, and there is no scientific proof whatsoever that the frogs contain substances that stimulate the sexual appetite or reproductive organs.

- 10 New International Petroleum Companies have set up in Peru with the intention to start exploration and extraction activities. The first foreign companies who are on the point of concluding their negotiations with the state are Yukos, Repsol-YPF y Pluspetrol. Meanwhile China National Oil Corporation, are in the advanced stages of contract negotiations to commence petroleum

exploration in the Madre de Dios zone, in the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve, which is located between the Manu National Park and the Bahuaia Sonene.

- The Rainforest Alliance have announced that Amy Duchelle of the USA has been awarded the 2005-2007 Kleinhans Fellowship, which will allow her to study the production of Brazil nuts in the face of major landscape changes in the Western Amazon. Specifically, she will examine how the production of these nuts, a popular non-timber forest product (NTFP) and important source of income for communities in the area, is affected by the construction of the Transoceanic Highway. This new road promises to have a huge impact on the region, by linking the Amazon river port of Assis in Brazil with Pacific Ocean ports in Peru

#### Other News.....

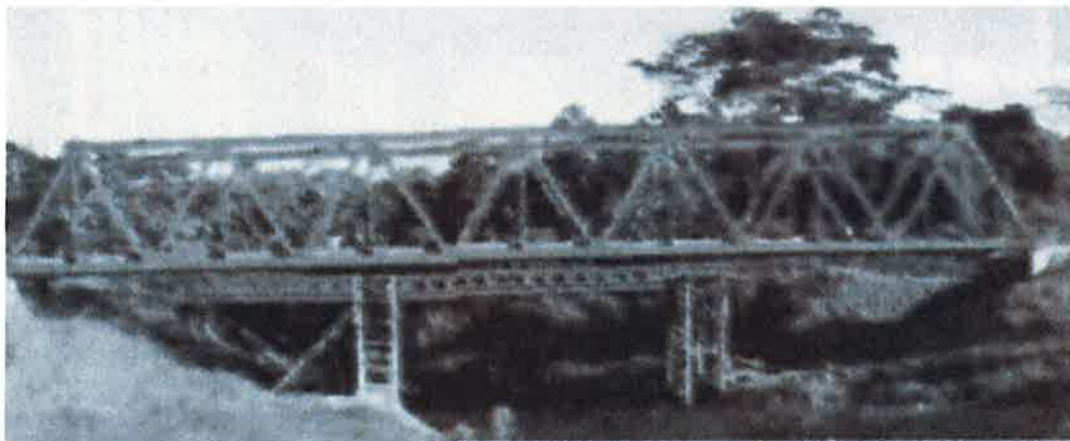
- Story Telling Contest - a story contest has been organised in the town of Puerto Maldonado in which locally born people are being encouraged to recount and record tales of the past and their childhood. Prizes have been donated by local organisations and NGO's and the winning story will be published locally.

- Training Workshop for Tourist Guides in Puerto Maldonado - "To have trained guides who can contribute to the development of Ecotourism in the Tambopata National Reserve". This was the principal objective of a Workshop given to tourist guides and tourism students, organised by Reserva Nacional Tambopata (INRENA) along with DIRECTUR, ProNaturaleza and the Frankfurt Zoology Society.

The workshops which took place in April were well attended with about 80 students participating. In addition to receiving training on themes such as Interpretation, Entomology, Ecology, conservation of species in danger of extinction, the zoning of the Reserve and the regulations about conducting studies, the participants had the opportunity to visit and appreciate the Butterfly House 'Uqipi'.

This event is the first step towards the accreditation of tourist guides, that is being implemented as part of the Management plan for the Lake Sandoval area and the Tambopata National Reserve as a whole.

- The recent completion of the Yaverija bridge (pictured below) 3 km outside of Inapari on the border with Brazil, is the first in a series



Bridge over Yaverija River

of improvements which are being implemented in support of the construction of the much talked about "Transoceánica" Highway.

Contract bids for the construction of the highway, the road which will join the asphalted Brazilian road network and those of Peru, are currently being submitted and will be opened on the 29 June 2005, according to the Ministry of Transport here in Puerto Maldonado. The bids will be reviewed and the results regarding who has won the contract announced by President Toledo on the 29 July 2005, to co-incide with National Celebrations for the countries independence. Work is not expected to commence until 2006, and during the first year work is expected to be limited to the preparation of the ground works and ongoing maintenance of the existing road system.

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, PO Box 1114, Woodland, CA 95776, USA

Rest of World:- John Forest, TReeS-UK, PO Box 33153, London, NW3 4DR, United Kingdom

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

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



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, W **olverhampton**, WVL 1TF (Sort Code: 30 99 83), to the credit of the 'Tambopata Reserve Society (TReeS)' Account No. 0574637 the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_

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