



## TReeS – Project Updates

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

### Emergency Taskforce – Defence of Isolated Indigenous Populations

Between June and August this year, and as part of the agreement between the Indigenous Federation of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD), TReeS Peru and TReeS UK, Anthropologist Maria Ponce was mobilized to support FENAMAD with tasks related to isolated indigenous communities and uncontacted indigenous groups in the Manu National Park,



and the development of an Emergency Taskforce.

An emergency plan for the Indigenous communities was prepared, and the team also accomplished an urgent mission to the Manu National Park to help the Matsigenka community of Tayakome as seasonal movements of other nomadic isolated (uncontacted) indigenous groups brought them close to the 200 strong Tayakome community – a crisis which was generated by the displacement of these nomadic groups from their traditional lands by illegal logging activities in the adjacent area of the Alto Purús National Park.

The aim of the taskforce was to develop preventative actions to avoid contact between the communities and nomadic groups, thus reducing the risk of potential conflict and the spreading of diseases, such as flu, to which the nomadic groups have no resistance.

A report of the Taskforces trip to the community of Tayakome was produced, preventative actions implemented and subsequently documented in the form of a contingency plan which is to be used in the future should such incidents re-occur.

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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)

This plan now forms part of the ongoing project by FENAMAD for the Defense of Isolated Indigenous Populations in the Madre de Dios.

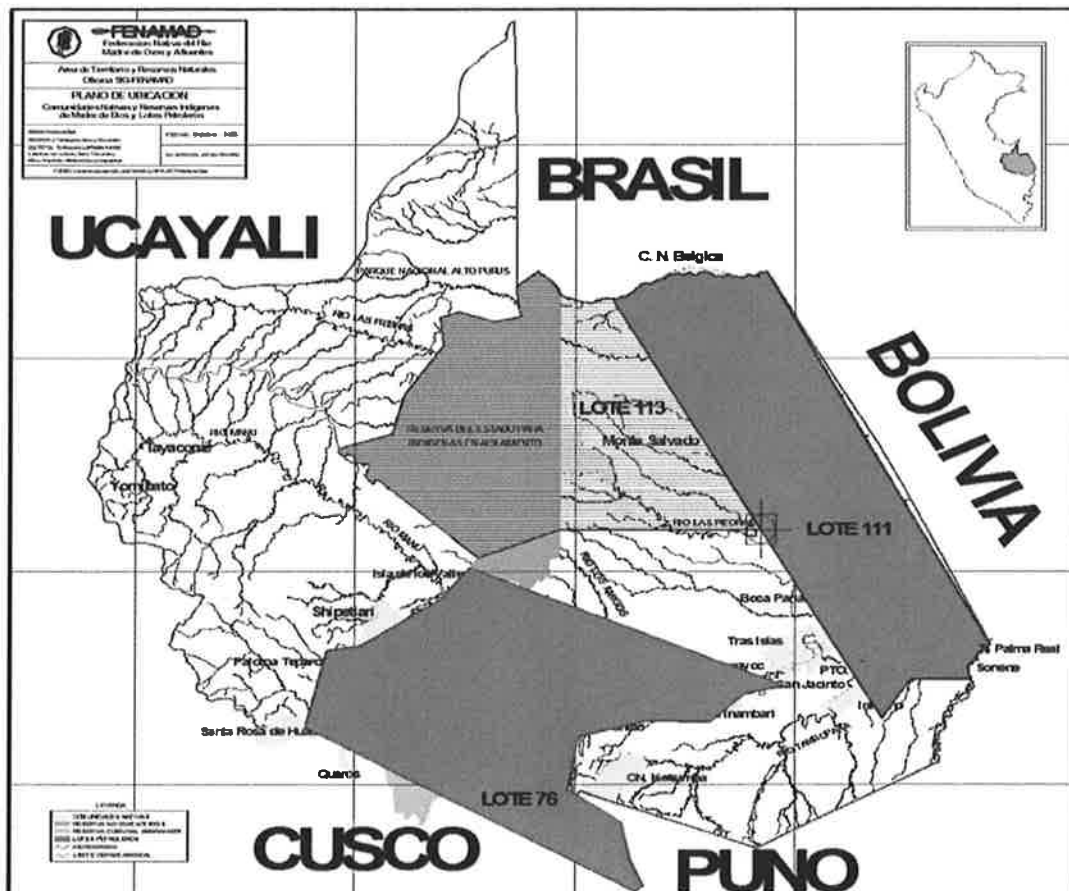
An action plan for a trip to the Las Piedras river has also been designed and is ready to be implemented as and when necessary, and funds raised by an appeal in the previous TReeS Bulletin will provide the economic resources necessary for such a trip.

***A full diagnosis of the pressures exerted in the area by illegal logging activities within the Alto Purús National Park is to be undertaken and through this Bulletin we ask for ongoing financial donations to enable the Emergency Taskforce to continue working towards this aim, thus protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and biological diversity.***

According to analysis made by FENAMAD, the new lots allocated for the hydrocarbon prospecting will have damaging effects on ethnic groups in the region as well as important Brazil nut, agricultural and biodiversity rich areas. Lot 76 includes the area of the Amaraeri Communal Reserve, which has 16 native communities including indigenous groups such as the Harakmbut, Yine, Matsigenkas as well as sites of small mining camps between the provinces of Manu and Tambopata. Lot 111 includes areas of other indigenous communities including Ese'eja, Shipibo and Yine as well as important agricultural areas.

Lot 113 which is still under negotiation, but is likely to be allocated to China National Petroleum Corp, includes all of the State Reserve for isolated indigenous groups in Madre de Dios, as well as an important area dedicated to legal wood extraction. FENAMAD had written to the Peruvian Government prior to the signing of the contracts, insisting that they comply with Agreement 169 ILO (Indigenous Towns in Independent Countries), which states that communities and lands likely to be affected are fully consulted beforehand. Nevertheless this

**Emergency Taskforce – New cycles of Hydrocarbon Prospecting in Madre de Dios**



did not happen and as such the Peruvian Government is in breach of this international agreement relating to human rights.

Based on experiences in other areas, Hunt Oil Company does not have a good environmental reputation, and in the neighboring region of Camisea (Urubamba) the activities of gas prospecting within the State Reserve of Nahua Kugapakorof have forced displacements of groups of previously uncontacted natives into first contact with the outside world. Also, these same populations and others have been themselves harmed by environmental damage (contamination of waters and fish) and to the health of women and children. In other parts of Peru indigenous groups are demanding fines and the implementation of environmental recuperation programs to counteract the destruction caused by these activities and their poor environmental management.

This hydrocarbon prospecting is taking place at the same time that work on the asphalt paving of the "South Inter-oceanic highway" is due to initiate, another state mega project that could cause other environmental and social effects in this region.

In defense of the rights of the regions indigenous communities, FENAMAD had an urgent meeting in November with representatives of all affiliated native communities, to examine the subject of hydrocarbons, territorial issues, human rights, environmental issues and regional movement. The meetings strategy was aimed at increasing unity and solidarity to enable it to increase its opposition against large companies such as Hunt Oil and China National Petroleum Corp. FENAMAD reiterated to TReeS their call for support in a campaign in defense of rights of the indigenous towns in isolation, the protection of the biological diversity, and to seek compensation from the companies operating in indigenous territories that have to date no legal protection.

### **International Schools Exchange Program**

La Pastora School, Puerto Maldonado made over 200 locally sourced plant necklaces for Hornsey Girls School, London. These were accompanied with a DVD of the students making the necklaces from their new 3 classroom school building which the two partner schools have contributed to creating. In 2003 La Pastora School sent water colour paintings to London

where they were sold to raise money for school repairs. This followed years of unsuccessful requests to the local educational department for funding to repair the school. Teachers, parents and students from La Pastora united to create the new school.



La Pastora insist that the necklaces are sold and the money raised should go towards Hornsey's "Sports Minibus" fund. Hornsey have embraced the project and have raised another donation which will be used to further improve La Pastora school infrastructure, suggested projects include; a new classroom, sports space and sanitation improvements.

Project Facilitator, Elizabeth Raine (pictured above) has been working with both schools in this mutually beneficial partnership to understand citizenship - locally and internationally for both schools. The project helped Hornsey Girls School achieve an International School Award from the British Council. Elizabeth is presently looking for any potential UK schools who maybe interested in participating in a similar partnership project.

Please contact [elizabeth\\_raine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth_raine@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Project La Torre**

Funds raised through Tourist donations and the 'Friends of La Torre' network have been handed over to the Community President this month. The community has decided that they will use the \$600 donation to fund the reconstruction and repair of the existing Community House which is used by community members for their meetings and special events.

## Brazil declares State of Emergency in drought effected Amazonia

At 4,000 miles, the Amazon is the world's second-longest river and carries far more water than any other river system. However, this year has seen river levels throughout the Amazon basin dropping to their lowest in over 40 years and a two month drought has resulted in many areas within the Brazillian Amazon to be declared disaster areas.

From Peru to Eastern Brazil the effects of the drought are dramatic - several major tributaries as well as parts of the main river itself contain only a fraction of their normal volumes of water, and lakes are drying up. The consequences for local people, animals and the forest itself are impossible to estimate now, but they are likely to be serious. Rainfall across Amazonia was down 65% in July, from 87.5mm to 30.8mm.



Many communities who rely on river transport have been cut off from the wider world, and residents are having to walk miles to obtain food, medicines, fuel and other vital supplies. Drinking water is becoming scarce, and there are concerns of outbreaks of diseases as inhabitants are now beginning to use stagnant pools for drinking and washing. Small farm-holders have no water to irrigate crops, having a knock on effect into their prospects for next year. Fires set by farmers to clear land were reported to be burning out of control without rain to dampen them down.

It is thought that rising sea temperatures in the North Atlantic are one of the principal causes with scientists having recorded some of the highest ocean temperatures on record, something which is also probably linked to the increased number of violent hurricanes experienced this year in the northern hemisphere.

It is also believed that the extensive and on-going deforestation throughout the Amazon is playing a role in the drought, as cutting down trees reduces moisture in the air and allows increased penetration of sunlight onto previously canopy-covered land. A fifth of the original rainforest has been cut down in recent decades.

## News from the Forest

In Tambopata, a fire burnt out of control for nearly two weeks until it was eventually contained with the onset of rain. The fire was located about 30 minutes outside of Puerto Maldonado effecting over 143 hectares of forest and swamps in the Tambopata National Reserve around the popular tourist destination of Lake Sandoval. The fire destroyed an important breeding area for Macaws and a unique Macaw collpa in the swampy palms which was the subject of investigations by INRENA, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the University of Alaska.

Local authorities, the Peruvian Army and tourist companies, worked together to try to contain the fire, investigations into the cause of the fire commenced, but it is commonly thought that winds fanned burning charcoal in local farms outside of the Reserve, and airborne sparks ignited the dry drought affected flora in the reserve itself.



The city was especially uncomfortable during these two weeks which co-incided with water shortages, temperatures exceeding 40C and the air heavy with smoke. Over 93 fires were recorded burning on the 18 September, with the majority of them being in the area between Puerto Maldonado and Iñapari.

### **Explorers' Inn – 30 years on**

Explorers' Inn have just celebrated 30 years of operation and 26 years of scientific research in the area. In order to mark the occasion, the Institute of Environmental Studies of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (IDEA-PUCP) arranged an International symposium at the new scientific station built at the lodge. The symposium was attended by prestigious scientists, government and local organizations, NGO's (including TReeS) environmental activists, INRENA, representatives of the German Embassy, local and national press amongst many others.

The focus of the event was to raise awareness of the conflicts that exists between conservation and the plans for regional development - specifically the impacts of the Interoceanic Highway, the potential extension of the gas exploration in neighboring protected areas, informal gold mining, the extension of the agricultural borders and the illegal extraction of forest species.

It is 26 years since an expedition to the lodge supported by the National Geographic Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Smithsonian Institution, World Wildlife Fund. U.S. Chapter, the United States National Museum, the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru and the company Peruvian Safaris undertook the first evaluation of the existing biodiversity in the region of the Tambopata. The team included notable biologists such as Dr David Pearson, Louise Emmons, Terry L Erwin, and the late Theodore 'Ted' Parker – the legendary ornithologist. It was thanks to this first evaluation that the vast fauna and flora of the region first became known, leading to the area being named the Biodiversity Capital of Peru, and the implementation of the Tambopata Candamo Reserved Zone (TCRZ), which has since been extended and superseded by the Tambopata National Reserve and Bahuaja Sonene National Park.

Dr Max Gunther, the owner of Peruvian Safaris, was recognized for his remarkable efforts in the conservation of the area, and in the promoting of his Resident Naturalists Program and support

of scientific studies on his land. He received an Honorary Medal from Eric Cosio, Vice Director of IDEA – PUCP.

### **Crisis in Logging industry**

Mahogany is a rare and beautiful timber that has been logged almost to extinction in many countries. Illegal loggers are driving ever deeper into South American forests in their search for the highly prized, dark red wood.

In November, 2003, CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, required producer countries to define sustainable rates of harvest and limit their exports to that amount of mahogany timber. Peru has now reached this limit, and exportation of mahogany – both legally and illegally harvested - has been suspended throwing the logging industry into crisis. With Mahogany now selling internally at just S/4 per foot compared to the normal price of S/11-S/12, many logging businesses are either storing this years harvest and awaiting the lifting of the restrictions in the New Year, whilst others are looking at harvesting other hard woods which are more accessible and not (currently) subject to any international limits.

This situation will escalate year on year as wood from the previous years harvest floods the international markets in the first few months each year, and international exportation limits are reached earlier each passing year. With INRENA stepping up action against illegal logging outfits locally, some loggers in Puerto Maldonado are predicting that the local mahogany operations will only be able to survive economically for a couple of years more, before alternative woods become the focus of their attention.

Whilst this may be good news for mahogany, will we find that other hard woods, commonly found today, are under threat of extinction in a decade's time?

### **Peru News**

- Peru features on a list of "Best Ethical Travel Destinations" which was the result of a study looking at ethical destinations in the developing world. Along with 13 other countries, Peru was recommended for tourists looking for vacations that are both self-rewarding, and supportive of the people and environments. The survey was undertaken by Ethical Traveler, an American organization.

- The National Newspaper El Comercio held a political survey during October which revealed that President Toledo's popularity has fallen to just 11%. With Presidential elections due in May 2006, the survey suggested that if voters would go to the polls today 27% would vote for Lourdes Flores (Unidad Nacional), centre-right, who is gaining popularity on the basis that a woman might do a better job! Meanwhile, a cashiered army officer Ollanta Humala is winning favor as the candidate of the rural poor. He has been drawing large crowds in poor communities, particularly in the Andes, and is rising in the polls. Of Indian descent, 43-year-old Humala is speaking out attacking the Bush administration's free-trade policies and opposing some coca eradication programs. Humala first came to attention when he led a small army uprising in 2000 in the waning days of Fujimori's rule
- Ex President Fujimori himself was imprisoned in Chile, awaiting a court decision on a Peruvian extradition request to face 21 charges ranging from corruption to approving death squads. Fujimori had apparently hoped to capitalize on Peruvians' frustrations when he returned from exile in Japan to neighboring Chile during early November. He still enjoys a core group of support from his presidency from 1990-2000 when he decimated the Shining Path guerrillas, extinguished hyperinflation and oversaw Peru's economic rebound. He faces a long jail sentence if sent back, but with worsening relations between Chile and Peru in a dispute over their sea border, the Chilean government may be reluctant to do Peru any favors.

#### Other News.....

- Puerto Maldonado's normally bustling streets, were strangely quiet for a few days in October, as an unexpected strike by petroleum lorry drivers in Cusco resulted in no supplies of petrol, gasoline and kerosene entering the town for a period of 5 days. With no re-fuelling opportunities to be had locally, deliveries of other supplies stopped to. Queues quickly formed at petrol stations and, with the exception of tourism operators who were able to continue to purchase the quantities needed to operate their businesses, sales were limited to 1 litre per person. The strike was in protest at the planned enforcement of existing legislations, relating to weight limit restrictions for the lorries loads. Currently lorries arrive in Tambopata laden with fuel and leave loaded with timber. The weight limit restrictions will severely impact this current practice and make the road journey less economically viable for the petroleum and transportation companies, which in turn will no doubt have a widespread impact on the local inhabitants.
- November, and with the petrol crisis over for now, a Grand Prix - Puerto Maldonado style - took place, with approximately 30 of the towns 3 wheel moto-cars taking part in a race around the main streets. The initial laps suggested a nasty accident was sure to happen as the motocars all did the circuit at the same time. Drivers vying for position at each turn careered off into the heavy crowds sending spectators scattering in all directions. Luckily common sense prevailed, and subsequent laps were restricted to 3 drivers leaving at each time, and marshals and safety tape placed at each junction. Phew! The winning team received a brand new motorbike.



- Following on from the participation of TReeS volunteers in a town clean up campaign in June, neighbors encouraged by our activities outside our own office and locally, united together to clean and decorate our block of Lambayeque and saw us win the cleanest street in Puerto Maldonado competition! Bien hecho vecinos!!!

**Please contact us on [trebulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:trebulletin@yahoo.com) if you have any comments or articles, or if you would like to know more about the work of TReeS or local volunteering opportunities.**

### Save the Rainforest.... Eat a Brazil nut

An unailing constituent of Christmas nut mixes, the Brazil nut can often be found uneaten, left at the bottom of the dish. Yet few are aware of the nutritional benefits of this oddly-shaped, low cholesterol kernel.



*Brooke Anderson of Conservation International, Puerto Maldonado writes:*

The Brazil nut contains high levels of calcium, magnesium, potassium, vitamin B1 and selenium – a cancer fighting, emotionally uplifting mineral. Studies have shown that a diet containing Brazil nuts can lower the risk of prostate cancer. However, more than just a healthy component of a nutritional diet, this protein packed nut has a compelling history and important conservation message.

Brazil nuts come from the Brazil nut tree, endemic to the pristine Amazon rainforests of Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. The 20 million hectares of Brazil nut rich primary rainforests are home to various species of endangered and endemic flora and fauna such as Giant Otter, Black Caiman, Poison Frogs and several Macaw species.



The Brazil nut tree can only survive in the complex ecosystem of the rainforest and cannot be grown in plantations. It depends on large bees only found in natural forests for pollination and on a single species, the agouti, for the dispersal of its seeds. The nuts fall from the trees packed tightly inside large hard-shelled balls – definitely to be avoided!

Yet despite the delicate nature of the Brazil nut forest, Brazil nuts are one of the few forest products whose very harvest and use guarantees the conservation of their forest. Brazil nuts represent a traditional activity and important source of employment for the region as well as a significant export crop for the three countries. Brazil nut harvesters are the keepers of the forest – clearing trails and protecting their forests from illegal logging and slash-and-burn agriculture. However, due to declining prices for Brazil nuts in the major export markets of the European Union and the United States, Brazil nut harvesters are leaving the forest in search of other income-generating activities, leaving 20 million hectares vulnerable

Several initiatives are contributing to the ongoing health of the Brazil nut industry by increasing income for harvesters. One such is Organic and Fair Trade certification, which helps to guarantee the preservation of a traditional way of life and the conservation of these biologically rich forests.

So don't wait for Christmas, do your bit to help save the rainforests – eat Brazil nuts all year round!!



**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

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