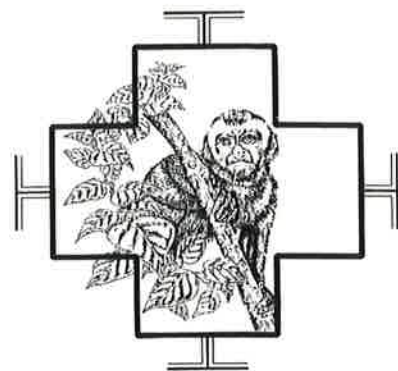


TReeS News No.64

June 2008



Inter-Oceanic Highway Update

Work on the \$1.5 billion Inter-Oceanic Highway has progressed apace during the wet season. The road has been asphalted from Iñapari on the Peru/Brazil border to Puerto Maldonado, and from Cuzco to Ocongate in the Andes. It is now possible to travel the 500kms from P.Maldonado to Cuzco in 15 hours though most journeys are still taking a lot longer. This is due to the major difficulties faced in constructing the Ocongate/Mazuko section in which the road descends over 4,000metres in 100kms from the high Andes to the jungle lowlands. A spur road will also branch off near Mazuko, on the river Iñambari, south to Juliaca/Puno. However, the bridge - with a central span of 75 metres and at over 700metres the longest in Peru - over the river Madre de Dios, in P.Maldonado, is progressing slower than projected due to problems with the cabling.

The road will greatly reduce the distance from central Brazilian states such as Rondonia to the coast - from the Peru/Brazil border it is 4,000kms to an Atlantic port such as Santos but only 1,200 kms to a Pacific port such as Matarani. The Highway is planned to boost trade between Amazonia and Asia with soya, timber, etc trucked out and manufactured goods from the Far East brought in. It is also projected that tourism to the area will increase with improved access from Cuzco and more Brazilians traveling overland to Peru.

However, doubts are now emerging as to whether the Peruvian link involving crossing several passes close to the height of Mt.Blanc will prove workable given the fuel consumption and altitude difficulties that will be faced by vehicles and their drivers compared to the flatter, straighter run across Brazil.

At least two link roads are projected from the Highway to the Tambopata and Malinowski rivers. Tourist access may be improved but gold miners, hunters and loggers are also likely to take advantage.

During 2007 meetings were held in Lima and Cuzco to discuss the environmental and social impacts of the highway on southern Peru. Eight projects, with a \$18m budget, mainly in the public sector will be undertaken by end 2009. Alfredo Garcia represented civil society in Madre de Dios in several of the meetings.

A consortium of Odebrecht (the Brazilian company constructing the road), Conservation International, Pronaturaleza and CONIRSA has been set up to finance developments to mitigate the indirect impacts of the highway.

Special thanks - to Tony Morrison of 'South American Pictures' for permission to include the photos.

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Photo 1
Road foundation preparations.

Photo 2
Bridge supports for the bridge over the river Madre de Dios in P.Maldonado.

Photo 3
The completed road, north of P.Maldonado towards the Brazil border.



South American Pictures



South American Pictures

Programa de Becas (Small grants program) 2008

As a result of an internet announcement, TReeS is pleased to announce small-scale grant awards to the following projects. The grants are offered to biology, ecology and resource management researchers to facilitate fieldwork in Madre de Dios. A total of 9 applications were received of which the following seven were successful:

* **Investigating the diversity of wood-boring beetles (Cerambycidae) and their specificity to a commercially significant group of timber trees (Sapotaceae). The study will take place at the Centro de Investigación y Capacitación Río Los Amigos (CICRA), on the Los Amigos river.**

\$997 awarded to Sarah Carbonel, UNMSM, Lima.

* **Comparing the density of natural regeneration of brazil-nut trees (Bertholletia Excelsa) in a brazil-nut concession and a conservation zone.**

\$ 641 awarded to Karina Salas, UNSAAC, P.Maldonado.

* **A study of a beetle species (Coleopteros Coproflagos - Scarabaeidae: Scarabeinae) in the Malinowski area.**

\$758 awarded to Luis Figueroa, UNALM, Lima.

* **A basic taxonomic study of Ichneumonidae - a family of wasps, looking at community diversity and seasonality, in the vicinity of the Malinowski guard post.**

\$829 awarded to Mabel Alvarado, UNALM, Lima.

* **A study of a little known palm species - Chelyocarpus ulei (Arecaceae), focusing on its mode of attracting pollinators. Plant specimens will be collected from the Los Amigos area.**

\$772 awarded to Carlos Martel, UNMSM, Lima.

* **An investigation of epiphytes and epiphyte host-tree characteristics in the Kosñipata valley, upper Madre de Dios, within the Waychechas conservation concession.**

\$750 awarded to Michael Vega, UNMSM, Lima.

* **A study of a family of ant - Braconidae, which will help to understand community diversity and may add to the list of ant species for Peru. It is based at the Malinowski guard post.**

\$1,002 awarded to Lidia Sulca, UNMSM, Lima.

Appeal: £25 donations to the cost of the 2009 grants program to allow more and larger grants to be offered. Many thanks to those who contributed to this years grants.

Baltimore Community Ecotourism project

TReeS has awarded small-scale funding to a community ecotourism project in the small settlement of Baltimore. Baltimore is located 3 hours up the Tambopata river from P.Maldonado and is populated by long-term migrants to the area. The project involves 13 families directly (a significant proportion of households in the community) and many other families are also participating in community workdays to improve tourism facilities.

The project began in February 2006 through a collaboration between an Italian development organisation (CESVI) and the TReeS office in Peru, and since then has made progress in assisting the community to develop a variety of activities to generate income from tourism, based on overnight stays and both wildlife and cultural attractions. Since then, TReeS UK has been in regular contact with the project in an advisory capacity.

Project activities in 2008-2009 will include -

- * Improvements to guest houses;
- * Logistical support for the first large groups of tourists to be received (due this summer);
- * Preparation and distribution of marketing materials;
- * Purchase of seedlings to allow the community to provide more locally grown food for guests;
- * A visit by ten community members to similar community tourism operations in Cuzco and Puno;
- * Assistance with negotiations over the creation of a new tourism concession next to the community's lands.

Orchid Inventory Expedition

TReeS has awarded a small grant to an Oxford University expedition to Madre de Dios. Oxford students will work with Peruvian botanists to investigate orchid diversity. They will pay special attention to new orchid species along Transects II and IV of the Inter-Oceanic Highway (IOH). This region's isolation has favoured its conservation but has also restricted research, making it one of the least botanically studied areas in Peru. However, the IOH is likely to bring significant and rapid change to the area. Latin America is home to over 20,000 orchid species, with Peru accounting for 10% of this number based only on minimal botanical activity over the last 30 years.

FADEMAD

TReeS has funded several local meetings and visits by the new directorate of the Federation of small farmers (FADEMAD) to farming communities adjoining the Tambopata Nature Reserve (TNR) along the Puerto Maldonado / Mazuko road.

PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT DROPS PLANS TO OPEN UP UNCONTACTED TRIBES' RESERVES

Peru's government has dropped plans to open up uncontacted indigenous peoples reserves to oil exploration. The latest round of concessions, announced recently, do not include any of the reserves for peoples living in voluntary isolation..

The move appears to be in response to a storm of criticism from indigenous organisations in Peru and international organisations such as UK based Survival International who had urged the Peruvian government not to permit exploration in such areas because it could lead to the tribes' extinction.

The decision represents a U-turn for Perupetro, the state body responsible for negotiating exploration rights. Perupetro spokespeople had previously suggested the uncontacted indigenous peoples did not exist, and that exploration in their reserves would be permitted. According to reports, a Perupetro spokesperson stated that none of the new areas include 'reserves for uncontacted tribes in order to avoid confrontation with local communities and environmental organisations.'

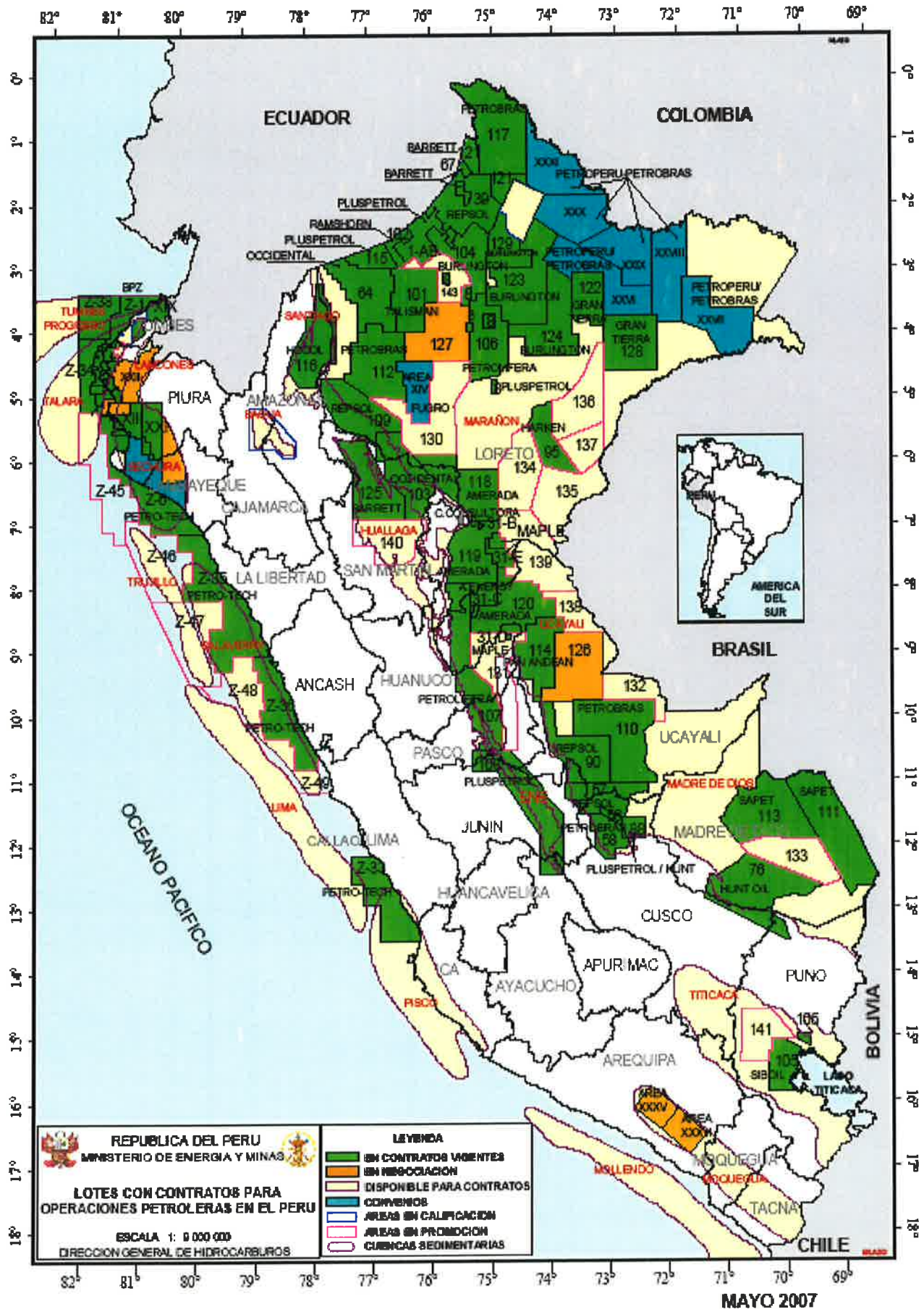
However, the decision does not affect concessions outside of reserves inhabited by uncontacted indigenous peoples. The French company Perenco has recently bought the rights to work in the northern Peruvian Amazon in a non-reserve area where at least two (of the 15 in Peru) uncontacted tribes live. The area is believed to contain the largest oil find in Peru for thirty years and President Garcia has stated that he hopes this deposit will transform the Peruvian economy.

AIDSESEP (Asociación Indígena de la Selva Peruana) has filed a claim on behalf of the indigenous peoples of the area urging the judiciary to prohibit Perenco from working in the area and making contact with the uncontacted. The outcome will set an important precedent given that several other companies: Repsol-YPF, Petrolifera and a consortium led by Pluspetrol, are all work in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples.

Oil exploration in Peru

Much of Peru has been divided up into Lots for oil exploration. Many of them in northern Peru have been exploited for several decades but now attention is spreading further south. In the last TReeS Newsletter we reported the projected redesignation of the Bahauja-Sonene National Park to permit oil exploration within the Candamo valley region. In the end the proposal was never placed before Congress and the new Environment Minister (see page 3) has stated that such plans will not be considered. However, concerns remain with respect to the long-term future of the area and whether the idea will soon be revived given the substantial increase in oil prices over the last year.

Map Key: Green = active contracts Orange = contracts under negotiation Turquoise = treaty



HRH The Princess Royal has presented one of the world's top prizes for grassroots nature conservation – a Whitley Award – to Ernesto Ráez-Luna, of Peru, for his work to save the Tambopata river basin and surrounding regions from over-development.

Ernesto Ráez-Luna, 45, was one of 11 people honoured at the ceremony, held at the Royal Geographical Society, London, by The Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) – the UK-based charity which administers the international awards programme and which this year celebrates its 15th anniversary. He received a project grant of £30,000 – The Whitley Award donated by WWF-UK – plus long-term support and the opportunity to apply for further WFN funding, worth more than £0.4m a year. In all, HRH The Princess Royal gave out prizes worth £350,000. For the first time in the charity's history, the judges picked two winners for the schemes top prize - the Whitley Gold Award – which went to R.Hucke-Gaete (Chile) and Ç.Şekercioğlu (Turkey) with project funding of £60,000 each. Other Whitley Award and Associate Award winners came from Bangladesh, Borneo, Brazil, China, Guatemala, Haiti, and India.

The award to Ernesto Ráez-Luna recognised his work associated with the Tambopata river basin and surrounding region as head of the Inter-Oceanica Working Group. Much of the region is 'untouched' wilderness, but four hydro-electric dams are planned on the Madeira river in to which the Tambopata flows; timber, gold and oil booms are underway; and the Inter-oceanic Highway is cutting a line through the forest. To try to help the region survive, Ernesto has been managing an approach not previously attempted in Peru - co-ordinating a cross-border, multi-discipline, working group of over 50 stakeholders, to plan and find a way forward which improves the area's economy yet safeguards the natural environment.

Ernesto previously lived in P.Maldonado and headed up the CI office there for several years. Alfredo Garcia, as the official representative of the Inter-Oceanica Working Group in Madre de Dios, has been working closely with Ernesto over the last two years and recently published a new report entitled: 'Acción ejecutiva contra amenazas a la diversidad biológica y cultural en el ambito de la Inter-oceánica sur en el corredor de conservación Vilcabamba-Amboro'. Ernesto stated after the ceremony that TReeS has played an important role in supporting conservation efforts in the region and he hoped this would continue.

The fund's founder, Edward Whitley, said: "The aim of the Whitley Awards is to find and support the environmental leaders who are helping to build a future where nature and people co-exist in a way that benefits both. Once again, this year's finalists have risen to the challenge. They have impressed and heartened us by telling us their conservation success stories, and by demonstrating what can be achieved when vision, passion, intelligence and determination are brought to bear. An added bonus is that they give us hope. The example given by Sr Ráez-Luna is an inspiration for us all."

The awards ceremony was held in front of a 350-strong audience that included Sir David Attenborough, leading scientists and environmentalists and celebrity conservation supporters. Edward Whitley added: "As well as providing our winners with a substantial financial prize, we also strive to support them in wider ways – for instance, by offering them opportunities to seek further funding in future years and by uniting them with other donors and conservation organisations. They also become part of the Whitley Fund for Nature's network of past finalists which, after 15 years, now takes in over 100 dynamic environmentalists in more than 50 nations, making it an invaluable source of experience, ideas and best practice."



Peru News

President Garcia's popularity has declined consistently over recent months. The latest poll giving him a less than 30% rating. This reflects disenchantment at the governments move away from the leftist, social democratic policies pursued in many other Latin American countries. Despite APRA's left-leaning reformist origins, Garcia is shifting towards the right with property ownership reform at the forefront of his agenda. This includes large-scale (5,000+ hecs) land titling proposals for the Amazon to promote its exploitation. Garcia has stated that small land concessions don't encourage long-term investment, especially from foreign multi-nationals. He also criticised environmental NGOs for threatening Peru's mineral development.

Conversely, Garcia also announced that he would create Peru's first Environment Ministry. However, this measure may well prove to have been designed to appease US critics of Peru's environmental record prior to the recent signing of the free trade agreement (FTA). In early 2008 the FTA was approved by the US Congress - the first FTA approved since the Democrats took control in January 2007. The new Environment Minister, the ecologist Antonio Brack Egg who previously worked as a consultant to mining companies, restated that protected areas would not be modified in favour of hydrocarbon exploitation.

The formal establishment of the Ministry coincided with the EU-Latin American & Caribbean summit, in Lima, in mid-May at which climate change issues were to the fore of the agenda. Held every 2 years since 1996, the summit brings 60 heads of state and top officials together to discuss trade and economic development. Gordon Brown was unable to attend as originally planned. In November the Asia-Pacific economic co-operation summit will also take place in Peru. In preparation, President Garcia recently visited China and Japan to encourage greater trade and investment with Peru.

2008 is the 'International year of the potato' with Peru at the forefront of events given that 3,000+ varieties are still grown in Peru. However, of the 315million tonnes of potatoes grown globally in 2006, China grew and consumed a quarter.

The Pastoruri glacier, south of Huaraz - once Peru's premier ski facility, has divided in two. It is receding at over 20 metres per year and lost 40% of its glacial surface 1995-2005. Within 10 years it is expected to have disappeared.

The UN International Narcotics Control Board, backed by the US, caused outrage in Peru with a recommendation that coca chewing and the use of coca in teas should be banned. There was widespread government (Peru & Bolivia) and popular protest against the UN focus on coca cultivation rather than cocaine production and consumption. Protests focused on highlighting the medical, cultural and spiritual uses of coca for centuries by indigenous peoples.

The trial of ex-President Fujimori commenced in early December. Details of the progress of the trial can be found at - www.fujimoriontrial.org

Recent reports relating to Madre de Dios - the following papers, documents and articles will be placed in the TReeS Libraries. They are also available from TReeS (£1 each, plus an A4 sae):

- * 'Resilience of south-western Amazon forests to anthropogenic edge effects', O.Philips, et al., article from Conservation Biology, Volume 20, No.6, 2006.
- * 'The global relationship between forest productivity and biomass', H.Keeling & O.Philips, research paper from Global Ecology & Biogeography, Volume 16, 2007.
- * 'Growth and wood density predict tree mortality in Amazon forests', Kuo-Jung Chao et al, from Journal of Ecology, 2008.
- * 'Low stocks of coarse woody debris in a southwest Amazonian forest', T.Baker et al, article from Oecologia, 2007.
- * '20 años de cambios en los bosques del sur-oeste de la Amazonía', O.Philips et al, article from the magazine Q'euña, No.1, (Revista de la Sociedad Botánica del Cusco) (untranslated), 2007.
- * 'Acción efectiva contra amenazas a la diversidad biológica y cultural en el ámbito de la Interoceánica Sur en el corredor de conservación Vilcabamba-Amoro', A.García & V.Zambrano, a working document (July 2007) (untranslated) (£3 per copy)
- * 'Native culture and biodiversity: a complete sanctuary to conserve in Tambopata, Peru', M.Lopez, magazine article, 2007.
- * Explorer's Inn newsletter, Spring 2008, written by the current RNs (Also see box below).

TReeS London Library - the TReeS London Library is now based at: The Rainforest Foundation, 2nd Floor, Imperial Works, Perren St., London NW5 3ED (0207.485.0193) (open 10am-5pm, Mon-Fri; please phone first) (nearest Tube station - Kentish Town, Northern Line).

'DIVERSITY IN THE RAINFOREST' on DVD and video

NEW: Dvd version - a unique record of rainforest diversity recorded in one of the most biodiverse rainforest areas on the planet. The 50 minute film features 150 of the 1234 butterfly species (a world record) to be found in Tambopata and, potentially, a number that can be seen in the course of a day exploring the forest. The footage is accompanied by a memorable soundtrack.
TReeS Members price: £13.50, including p & p.



Video - Now only £3.00 each: last remaining copies (PAL & NTSC versions available).

CDs (all recorded at Tambopata):

- * **Jungle Sounds** - Rainforest sounds (birds, monkeys, insects, etc) from dawn to dusk. Full details of all the sounds heard are given in the inlay booklet. **TReeS members special price: £8.00**
- * **Birds calls of SE Peru** - A specialist birders recording of 93 species commonly heard in the Tambopata area. Full colour inlay booklet lists all species heard in chronological order. **TReeS members special price: £10.00**
- * **Frog calls of Tambopata** - Frog calls of 70 species from the Tambopata area are identified with full colour inlay booklet. Produced by the Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds & Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. **Price: £12.50**



TReeS membership: £10 per annum.

TReeS contact address:
TReeS, P.O.Box 33153,
London NW3 4DR
www.tambopata.org

TReeS AGM

The AGM will be held on 28th June 2008, 2.30-4pm, at William Ellis School, Highgate Road, London NW5 (nearest tube station: Kentish Town; Northern Line; Buses 214, & C2).

Members will be updated about recent developments in the Tambopata area and TReeS supported projects. A series of photos taken recently during journeys along the Trans-Oceanic Highway between Cuzco and the Brazilian border by TReeS members will be shown.

Copies of the Annual Report are available by post - please send a SAE.

We would also like to hear from anyone able to assist in maintaining and updating the TReeS website on a regular basis.

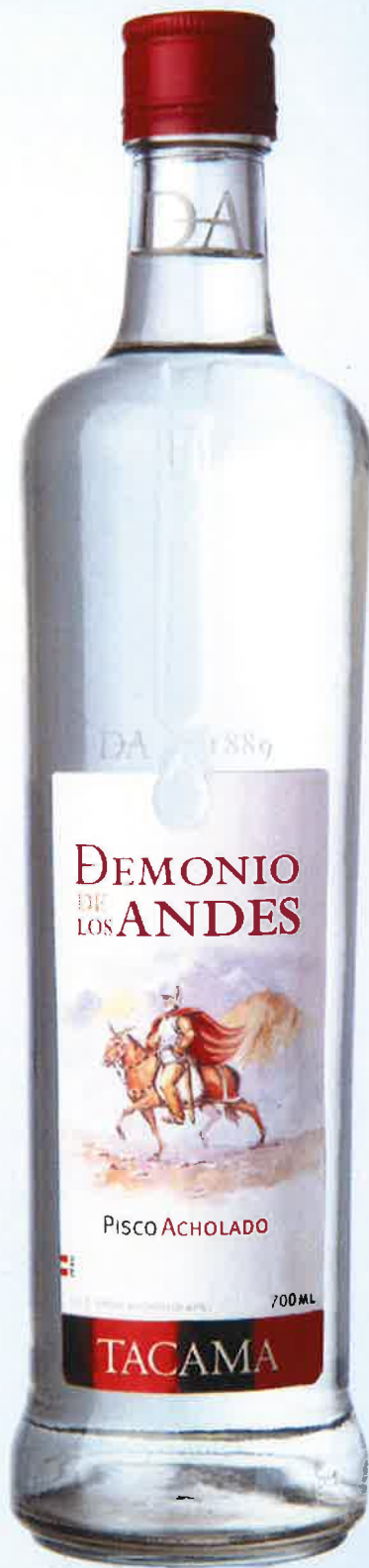
Explorer's Inn - 'Friends of EI on Facebook'

Ex-Resident Naturalists and visitors to the Explorer's Inn may like to keep in touch with others who have spent time there via 'Facebook'. Facebook is a fun and popular way to keep in contact with friends and people with shared interests. Go to -

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3413339363>



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This edition of the TReeS newsletter is sponsored by –

Mi Peru Limited (www.miperu.co.uk)

suppliers of fine Peruvian Tacama pisco and alfajores. They also offer a Peruvian food catering service within the London area.

MiPeru pisco sour recipe – blend 3 measures of Peruvian pisco with 6-10 ice cubes, 1 measure of sugar, 1 measure of lime juice and an egg white (optional).