

TReeS News No.66

August 2009

Free Trade Agreement signature has immediate tragic impact in the Peruvian Amazon

One of President Bush's last acts at the end of his term was to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Peruvian government. However, within Peru there was widespread concern from environmentalists and human rights campaigners at the implications this would have on the Amazon rainforest and its inhabitants. A major concern is that large areas of rainforest will be sold off, or leased, to foreign trans-national companies and that indigenous peoples, the traditional inhabitants of these lands, will not be consulted. This is a violation of ILO Convention 169 of which Peru is a signatory, and in contravention of the UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights.

Since last August there have been widespread mainly peaceful protests by indigenous peoples and local farmers across the Peruvian Amazon. In April a major protest occurred near Bagua, in the Department of Amazonas, where indigenous Awajun and Wampis blocked the only road from the coast in to the northern Peruvian Amazon.

On 5th June, the police forcibly cleared the road without warning. This led to many injuries and deaths on both sides and the subsequent killing of 10 police officers. In total at least 14 police and 10 local people were killed.

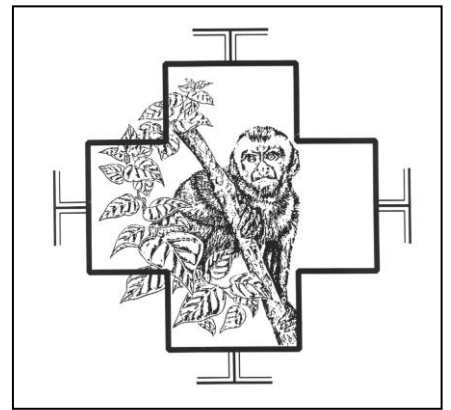
The government portrayed anyone working with indigenous peoples as being part of a conspiracy to stop Peru from developing and having sovereignty over its own resources. NGOs and human rights organizations were accused and the protestors were termed 'terrorists'.

AIDSESEP, the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon, was attacked in government statements and by the national press. The internationally known President of AIDSESEP, Alberto Pizango, was publicly vilified as the author of the attacks and a warrant for his arrest was released. As a result he and two other AIDSESEP officials had to flee Peru and seek political asylum in Nicaragua.

The EU has recently held a fifth round of talks with Peru (and Ecuador & Colombia) over the signing of a free trade agreement. There is concern within Peru that the agreement may be even less favourable than that signed with the USA and will facilitate the greater exploitation of Peru's resources and freely allow European goods in to Peru adversely impacting upon local industries and businesses.

There has been widespread international condemnation of the Bagua incident from environmental and human rights organisations, with public protests in many cities such as New York and London. Q'orianka Kilcher, the Hollywood star of Pocahontas, and half Huachipaeri - from Madre de Dios - helped to secure much international attention. See also The Guardian weekend magazine on 4.7.2009 and: guardian.co.uk/video.

If you are concerned about this issue and the long-term impact that it may have on the Amazon rainforest and the indigenous (and other) peoples who live there, you may like to send the enclosed letter to your local MP, or MEP. TReeS would be pleased to receive copies of any responses that you receive.



UN Report on Bagua

James Anaya, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people says that - 'the criminal charges against indigenous leaders should be revised. His report on the violence that took place in the provinces of Bagua and Uctubamba in the Amazonas region was released on July 22nd. It documents that violent acts were committed by both civilians and the police, but that the judicial investigations under way are only looking into the possible crimes committed by indigenous people, while irregularities with the police and other actors have been ignored. He further notes that the relations between indigenous communities and the government have broken down due to the criminalisation of protest, and that it is necessary to create new mechanisms for protecting indigenous rights.

In summary, the report recommends: establishing a special and independent commission, comprising credible national and international institutions, including indigenous representation, to investigate and clarify the facts behind the confrontation in Bagua; a continuation and deepening of the process of dialogue that began in the aftermath of the violence, including participation of indigenous leaders and authorities, in accordance with relevant international norms; and the development of a mechanism for consultation, and the proposal of a plan for the development of the Amazon, including an analysis of indigenous lands and territories.'

The full report can be found at - www.dhperu.org/documentos/informe/55f9d9_baguainformerelatoronu.pdf



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Fauna Forever 2009

The third stage of Chris Kirkby's project: 'Monitoring and valuing biodiversity in an ecotourism destination area in the Peruvian Amazon' – has commenced. The first stage of the project ran from 1997-98, the second in 2004-05. The project aims remain to –

- gather bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile population information;
- identify eco-tourism impacts on wildlife and advise lodge operators accordingly;
- provide field training for young Peruvian and foreign biologists in monitoring rainforest wildlife;
- disseminate the project results locally, nationally and internationally;

The project operates with a combination of Peruvian and foreign co-ordinators / researchers supported by paying participants. Research will again be undertaken at sites associated with several lodges in the Tambopata area used in the earlier stages of the project. Further details about the project can be found at - www.faunaforevertambopata.org

TReeS Library - forthcoming deposits will include:

* A report entitled - **Análisis del estado de conservación de las especies de mariposas diurnas (*Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera*)** (untranslated) by Jose Cerdeña.

* A report entitled - **Consúmo de marsupiales (*Didelphimorphia*) por medio de la caracterización del patrón medular y cuticular de sus pelos** (untranslated) by Evelina Tavara.

* A report entitled - **Informe de la diversidad de hormigas del género *Pheidole* (*Formicidae: Myrmicinae*)** (untranslated) by Frank Azorsa.

(See page 2 for English translation of the titles)

TReeS Merchandise for Birdwatchers

'**A Field Guide to the Birds of Peru**': by J.Clements & N.Shany, Lynx Ediciones (2001). The guide refers to 1,800 species, most of which are illustrated on the 127 plates. The text describes the main identification features of each species, plus its range in Peru, preferred habit and worldwide range. **TReeS members special price - £20.00 (Only a few copies left in stock) (W & G.Foyles price: £49.00)**

Helen Devereux (1970-2007)

TReeS has recently co-ordinated the purchase and shipment of a copy of 'Latin American Insects & Entomology' by Charles L.Hogue (University of California Press) (1993) to the Explorer's Inn for use by the resident naturalists there. The book was purchased in memory of Helen Devereux who, along with her father, John, was a resident naturalist in the mid-1990s. Sadly Helen passed away a couple of years ago. For many years now, John and his wife Dorothy have run the popular Felinwynt Rainforest and Butterfly centre in Cardiganshire on the west coast of Wales.

Any donations in Helen's memory can be made to 'TReeS' in support of the '**Becas program**'.

TReeS Membership

Members are reminded that in line with other similar Societies the basic TReeS membership rate is now £15 / annum. Membership is due on the 1st of January each year.

We would be most grateful if members could amend their bank orders accordingly.

All cheques are payable to – 'TReeS'.

**TReeS Membership:
£15 per annum**

TReeS contact details –

**P.O.Box 33153,
London NW3 4DR**

www.tambopata.org

TReeS USA – New Address:

**P.O.Box 842, Shasta Lake,
CA96019-0842, USA.**

TReeS USA is run by Bud & Margaret Widdowson who can offer advice on visiting the Tambopata area, handle TReeS membership and donations in N.America, and have a small supply of TReeS merchandise.



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TReeS AGM 2009

The TReeS AGM will be held via the internet in early November. If you would like to participate, please send an e-mail to –
(TReeS website e-mail)
by 30.9.2009.

A review of TReeS activities and the accounts for 2008 will be made available. These can also be obtained, if required, by sending a SAE to –
The Secretary, TReeS, P.O.Box 33153,
London NW3 4DR.

If you would like to join the TReeS committee, please write to the above address stating your reasons for wishing to join the committee, by 30.9.2009.

2007 Becas Reports

Reports have now been received from all the students supported with *becas* (grants) by TReeS in 2007. Some of the reports from the students awarded *becas* in 2008 have also been received but others are awaited. In many cases there is a significant time delay in report submission as the research forms part of an on-going study.

Jose Cerdeña – Análisis del estado de conservación de las especies de mariposas diurnas (*Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera*) / Analysis of the state of conservation of diurnal butterfly species (*Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera*).

Peru is in the global top three in terms of butterfly diversity providing many opportunities for field research. Jose aimed to evaluate and compare the diversity of daytime butterfly species in areas with varying forest structures. Research was undertaken in the dry and wet seasons at seven sites in an altitudinal range of 500-1,000 metres. Nearly 3,000 butterflies were sighted, nearly 80% of them in the dry season. They belonged to 439 species spread across five families, with 50 species new to the study area. The two dominant families were *Nymphalidae* (62%) and *Riodinidae* (19%).

A greater diversity of species was recorded on lands belonging to native communities compared to colonised lands. The forest on native community lands is often less disturbed and has a greater structural complexity.

Roxana Arauco – Ant assemblages in mono-dominant and mixed canopy forest.

Roxana's research was based at the Los Amigos research station. She established paired study sites (25m x 25m), five in bamboo patches and five in *terra firme* forest, and used baiting trails to assess foraging activity and behavioural interactions among ant species.

6,000 specimens were collected, 4,000 of which were mounted and identified. The genus *Pheidole* was the most common with 45 species while 46 species were recorded of other genera. Ten of the species recorded were at least new to the sites. Specimens were identified with reference to the Museum Comparative of Harvard (MCZ). All specimens identified to species will be deposited with the Entomology department of the Natural History Museum of the University of San Marcos (UNMSM), in Lima. The research helps to provide a more comprehensive knowledge of the ecological role of these genera in neotropical lowland forests.

Evelina Tavera – Consumo de marsupiales (*Didelphimorphia*) por medio de la caracterización del patrón medular y cuticular de sus pelos / Characterisation of the consumption of marsupials (*Didelphimorphia*) through evidence from their hair.

Few studies of marsupials have been undertaken in the Peruvian Amazon and little is known about their ecological importance as prey for numerous carnivores. Marsupials can be identified through the characteristics of their hair. Evelina's study aimed to establish which mammals were eating marsupials by looking for evidence of their hair in mammal faeces. However, there is no key to identify marsupials based on studying their hair so the specific types of marsupials being eaten could not always be identified.

Evelina collected 280 faecal samples from jaguar, jaguarundi, puma, margay and ocelot, from sites within Manu National Park and the Los Amigos research station. They were all collected in similar areas of forest at about 250 metres. Each sample was washed, dried and dissected to separate out its contents, including marsupial hair, for identification. The hair of 33 individual marsupials were identified from at least 14 species. Over 90% of the marsupials were eaten by ocelots and margays while there was evidence of only one marsupial in jaguar faeces.

Frank Azorsa – Informe de la diversidad de hormigas del género *Pheidole* (*Formicidae: Myrmicinae*) / Report on the diversity of the ant genus *Pheidole* (*Formicidae: Myrmicinae*).

Frank's research was undertaken over two years at Picaflor lodge, the Los Amigos research centre, Cusco Amazónico lodge and Cocha Cashu research station, in Manú National Park. This led him to compile a list of 80 ant species of the genus *Pheidole*, 22 of which are new to Peru and five are new to science. In the neotropics approximately 3,100 species in 15 sub-families and 115 genera have been identified of which there are 1,112 *Pheidole* species, making it the most numerous species.

Frank's findings were confirmed by the MCZ Harvard. 56 species have been deposited at the UNMSM, in Lima.

Peru News - The Peruvian economy is coping better than many with the credit crisis – economic growth is expected to exceed 3% this year and 4% in 2010. Peru is considered well positioned to cope due to an expanding agricultural sector, a diverse mineral sector and greater political stability attracting foreign investment.

Former President Fujimori was found guilty and sentenced to 25 years in prison for being in 'effective military control' at the time of the Barrios Altos and La Cantuta incidents in which 15 and 10 civilians, respectively, were killed. This is the first time in Latin America that a democratically elected leader has been tried and convicted in his own country. Fujimori also received a 7.5 year jail sentence for channelling state funds (\$15 million) to his former adviser Valdimir Montesinos.

Peru recently hosted the latest Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum in which further trade links with China, Japan and South Korea were agreed, leading to the signing of a free trade agreement with China.

STOP PRESS - Peru has not been greatly affected by 'swine flu' but in mid-August cases were reported amongst Matsigenka Indians in the lower Urubamba valley. Indigenous people have less resistance to 'western' diseases and there is growing concern about the potential impact of 'swine flu' on Amazonian peoples.

TReeS Supported Projects

* Programa de Becas (small grants program) 2009 –

Six grants have been awarded this year to Peruvian biologists planning to undertake research in the southern Peruvian Amazon as follows:

Hector Chuquillanqui, University of San Marcos (UNMSM), Lima. Efecto de la visita de hormigas sobre la herbivoría en plántulas de *Inga Mill.* (*Fabaceae: Mimosoideae*) durante la expansión foliar. Hector will investigate the relationship between ants and *Inga sp.* The study will be based at the CICRA (Centre of Conservation Investigation on the river Los Amigos) located half way between Manu and Tambopata). \$1,100 awarded.

Lianka Cairampoma Barros, UNMSM, Lima. Diversidad de *Besleria L.* (*Gesneriaceae*) y la importancia de la morfología floral en la atracción de los polinizadores en el valle del Cosñipata. Lianka will be studying the diversity of the *Besleria L.* plant and the relationship between its flowering and pollinators. The study is located in the Cosñipata valley, in the Manu Biosphere Reserve. \$1,200 awarded.

Marshory Yadira Cubas Quintanilla, University of San Antonio Abad (UNSAAC), Cusco. Estudio de escarabajos coprófagos (*Coleoptera: Scarabaeidea*) en el bosque de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata. A study researching a family of beetles (*Coleoptera: Scarabaeidea*) including their abundance, habitats and diversity. The study will take place in the Tambopata Nature Reserve. \$1,025 awarded.

Karen Siu Ting, UNMSM, Lima. Variación geográfica de especies de anfibios de amplia distribución en el sureste de Perú. A study of amphibians using molecular, morphological and ecological information to identify new species that have been misidentified as common species. The study will be based at the CICRA; the Las Piedras research station, in Tahuamanu; and in Tambopata. \$1,480 awarded.

Marcelino Riveros Shirakawa, UNMSM, Lima. Diversidad de *briofitos* en diferentes tipos de bosque y su uso como indicadores de perturbación. Marcelino will be looking at the diversity of mosses in different types of forest and their relationship with disturbed areas of forest. The study will be undertaken in the Tambopata area. \$572 awarded.

Wilfredo Ramirez Huaroto, UNMSM, Lima. Estudio de la flora y vegetación de los humedales amazónicos (cochas y aguajales) de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata. Wilfredo will be researching the flora and vegetation of the flooded forests – *cochas* and *aguajales* – in the Tambopata Nature Reserve. \$995 awarded.

Appeal: £25+ donations towards the cost of the 2010 grants program.

* Nahua study –

Anthropology graduate Conrad Feather has worked closely with the Nahua, who traditionally migrated between the Ucayali and Madre de Dios river basins, for several years. TReeS has agreed to supply small-scale funding to assist with the costs of translating his Phd thesis entitled 'Indigenous perspectives on history, territory and identity in Madre de Dios' and its distribution in hard copy and cd formats within Peru.



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CIPIACI Congress in Paraguay

CIPIACI is a pan-Latin American group comprised of a wide range of national indigenous organisations concerned with the rights of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation across Amazonia. The current President is Antonio Iviche of FENAMAD. The annual assembly was planned to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay, in November 2008, with major international funding. However, no funding was allocated for Antonio to visit Paraguay in advance to plan and organise the event.

TReeS agreed to fund the pre-event visit which involved making the practical arrangements with respect to travel, hotels and conference facilities as well as setting the agenda and objectives of the assembly.

However, following the disturbances in Puerto Maldonado in July 2008, Antonio was barred from leaving Peru. Beatriz Huertas Castillo, the renowned anthropologist and long-term FENAMAD collaborator, substituted for him and went to Paraguay to make the necessary arrangements.

Over one hundred delegates, from seven Latin American countries, attended the assembly (18-21 November). Two highly successful meetings were held – the annual assembly of CIPIACI member organisations and a meeting with international representatives, including representatives from the UN High Commission on Human Rights – in which information was exchanged and new proposals agreed for implementation in 2009.