

TAMBOPATA
RESERVE
SOCIETY
(TReeS)

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TReeS News

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INTRODUCTION

The work of TReeS and AMETRA 2001 has continued to progress over the last three months. The first building of the Ethnobiological Centre is now complete, and part of AMETRA's first Annual General Meeting was held there. Didier Lacaze and the other AMETRA workers have been extremely busy visiting native communities in Madre de Dios and Ucayali. Exceptional and fascinating animals and plants have been seen on the Reserved Zone through the wet season, and the number of visitors seems to be higher than usual (deservedly!) for this time of year.

This newsletter marks the beginning of a series of changes; there will be a separate factsheet produced for interested people and organisations, while the newsletter will be for TReeS members only. The factsheet will be translated into Spanish to be sent to Peruvian organisations. The next newsletter should contain articles about more general aspects of tropical environmental concern, as the last TReeS meeting decided. There was also conclusive support for this in the response to the questionnaire. This will mean a longer newsletter, and we hope to move to a more magazine-type format. A couple of articles are already in preparation, but we will need more. Thus all those people who expressed strong opinions about what the newsletter should contain in the questionnaire are ideally placed to contribute to the new TReeS news. In this way, we aim to make TReeS News an active part of the campaign to save rainforests (but those of Madre de Dios in particular), rather than just "preaching to the converted".

AMETRA 2001 - FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AMETRA 2001, the Association for the Application of Traditional Medicine, held its first Annual General Meeting on the 20th/21st February. 20 people attended the meeting which was held partly at the Explorer's Inn and partly in the first building of the Ethnobiological Centre being built by AMETRA.

Over the past year, AMETRA 2001 has spent 421,454.64 Intis. Accomplishments include the designation of AMETRA 2001 as custodians of 2,000 Ha of land between the Native Community of Infierno and the Tambopata Reserved

Zone; the design of the AMETRA Centre and construction of the first building; establishment of an office and infrastructure at Puerto Maldonado; the holding of a second training course for health-workers, and two follow-up trips to the native communities involved; the creation of an ethnobiological database; presentations of AMETRA's work in Lima, Cuzco, Puerto Maldonado and in the native communities, with an audio-visual display using slides and projector donated by TReeS; liaison with regional, national and overseas organisations and the securing of funds from various organisations.

Plans for 1988 include 2 further training courses and four follow-up trips; continued construction of the Centre (the communities will send voluntary workers on a rota basis to carry out the work); the production of educational materials, including a film in conjunction with the Television Trust for the Environment (England); production of plant extracts for local use; a study of management techniques for Oje (the fig tree widely used as a cure for intestinal parasites) and a continuation of the ethnobiological inventory.

TReeS is acknowledged as having given a total of £1800 over the past year, plus considerable logistic support (books and papers, translation facilities, publicity, liaison with the UK and Europe). AMETRA's budget for the next year totals \$43,740 of which \$25,000 is secured. The next TReeS meeting will include a discussion on targets for contributions to AMETRA over the next year; costs particularly relevant to our aims include a salary for the caretaker of the 2000 Ha area of overlap with the Reserved Zone (\$1800 p.a.) and the provision of educational materials (\$500).

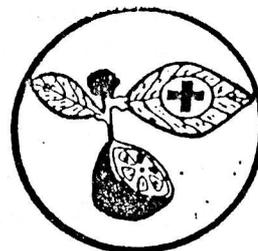
We are sending out £500 to AMETRA at the beginning of April to bridge the gap until the Swiss funds arrive.

Copies of the report of the AGM are available in Spanish and English from Helen Newing, 18 Huxley Close, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2AS (04868 22768).

MORE AMETRA NEWS

AMETRA has arranged co-operation with a group called AIDSESEP (Asociacion Inter Ethnica de Desarrollo de la Selva), who are concerned with forest development for all peoples. They are responsible for the HIFCO programme in Peru, which involves planning and constructing family and community gardens using traditional methods of agriculture.

This has already been quite successful around Iquitos in North-East Peru, and hopefully will slow the rate of forest destruction in Madre de Dios when the gardens have been constructed. The scheme is funded by a German group called "Brot fur die Welt".



Benito Arevalo, one of the founders of AMETRA 2001 in Ucayali, has been using traditional healing methods at the Ethnobiological Centre, Hermosa Chica, to treat local people.

WET SEASON ON THE RESERVE

Since February 16th Explorer's Inn has had a new manager, Guillermo Castro, a Peruvian, to continue the unique blend of ecotourism and conservation the Reserved Zone provides. The group of giant otters that live at Lake Cocococha have been seen more frequently than usual this wet season,

and there have been many monkey sightings as well. An ocelot was observed on the main trail, being scolded by a giant red squirrel, and a rarely-seen jaguarundi was spotted by a visitor. The naturalists have found a lot of armadillos, supposedly nocturnal animals, on the trails in daylight.

Another new bird species for the region has been recorded by Paul Donahue; the rufous-fronted ant wren. This has only been reported twice before in Peru, at Manu, and was seen in secondary growth between the chacras on the riverbank opposite the Reserved Zone. Paul has cut another trail to Lake Cocococha to allow the old one to regenerate, and a new trail has been cut linking Lake Chica to the swamp trail, called the zigzag trail. Resident Naturalists Oliver and Renan have started re-cutting the trails on the far side of the La Torre river, which have been rather infrequently used in the past.



THE RESIDENT NATURALISTS AND OTHER SCIENTISTS

Jeanie Edgerton: producing artistic work for the Reserved Zone, including a mural and other displays.

Sean Reed: studying bird nesting behaviour.

Dr. Nigel Matthews: bird surveying in different forest types. He is particularly interested in finding the zigzag heron to carry out behavioural studies.

Oliver Phillips: continuing his study of the Oje tree, *Ficus insipida*. He has set up germination experiments, and has found and tagged over 60 trees and saplings for regeneration studies.

An agroforester called Renan, a Peruvian, has also been working as a Resident Naturalist on the Reserved Zone.

TREES MEMBERS' EXPEDITIONS

Barry and Lyn Trevis have sent us their very interesting report of their ornithological trip to Peru last summer. In their 7 days on the Reserved Zone they recorded many notable bird species, including red-capped mankin, curl-crested aracari, white-cheeked tody-flycatcher, Peruvian recurvebill and scarlet-hooded barbet.

Rachel Fowler is leading an expedition of sixth-form students from Assumption and Richmond Schools, North Yorkshire, to the Reserved Zone this summer. They aim to produce a brochure and leaflet for use in schools on the conservation of Peruvian rainforests, and thus to raise awareness of rainforest issues. Their concentration on the educational side of the work of the Reserved Zone should yield particularly valuable results.

TREES

First, a note from Sarah Wilkins, the membership secretary and treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES

Due to ever-increasing costs, it was decided at a TReeS meeting in late 1987 that we would unfortunately have to increase the annual subscription to £5.00 (£3.00 for students, OAP's, unwaged). US \$12 to cover extra postage.

At the moment, TReeS members pay annually from the date of joining the

Society. We are not yet computerised, and checking everyone's membership dates takes an increasing amount of time now that the Society has grown. In order to simplify the Membership Secretary's job, it has been decided to have subscriptions on an annual basis from January 1st to December 31st of each year. Members who joined/renewed their membership since October 1987 will next have to pay on January 1st 1989. Other members will receive their membership renewal reminders as they are due during 1988, and next year's (1989) subscription will be due on 1st January 1989. To further simplify the situation, we are at present preparing a Banker's Order form which will be sent with your subscription reminder. It would be a great help if members could use this as a means of payment - your subscription is automatically paid to TReeS on January 1st each year. All the work is done by the banks at no cost to us, and it saves us the expense of reminder notices and postage.

TReeS meetings in future will take place every three months, and have a talk or slide-show to act as a focus. The next will be on June 4th, though the location has not yet been decided. Once a meeting-place has been found, a mailout will give more details. This meeting will include a presentation by Barry Trevis on the birds of Peru. We also hope to hold a meeting early in September, which John Todd has provisionally agreed to organise in Oxford. Any other volunteers to arrange or help with this meeting should contact Helen Newing.

Finally, I would like to recommend that all TReeS members read Paul Stewart's excellent article about the Zona Reservada in the April edition of Oryx, the journal of the Flora and Fauna Preservation Society. The synthesis of the past and future of the Reserved Zone, with some excellent photographs, makes it compelling reading.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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All articles for inclusion in the newsletter and letters can be sent to: Paul Wilkin,
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