

TReeS News

The Tambopata Reserve Society
Newsletter No. 14

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Reserve News

MAJOR EXPANSION ANNOUNCED

At the end of January, the Ministry of Agriculture in Lima declared that an area of 1.479m hectares, including the existing Tambopata Reserve (5500 hectares), would now be protected as the Tambopata-Candamo Nature Reserve. It will be only slightly smaller than Manu National Park.

The area concerned stretches east from the existing Reserve to the Rio Heath National Sanctuary and south to include that part of the Rio Heath drainage basin lying within Peru and the complete drainage basins of the Rios Tambopata and Candamo. The western border is partly formed by the Rio Molinowski and part of the northern border by the Puerto Maldonado/Cuzco road. Access into the area from the south over the Andes is very limited, as it is from all directions apart from up the Rio Tambopata. This greatly enhances its potential as a protected area.

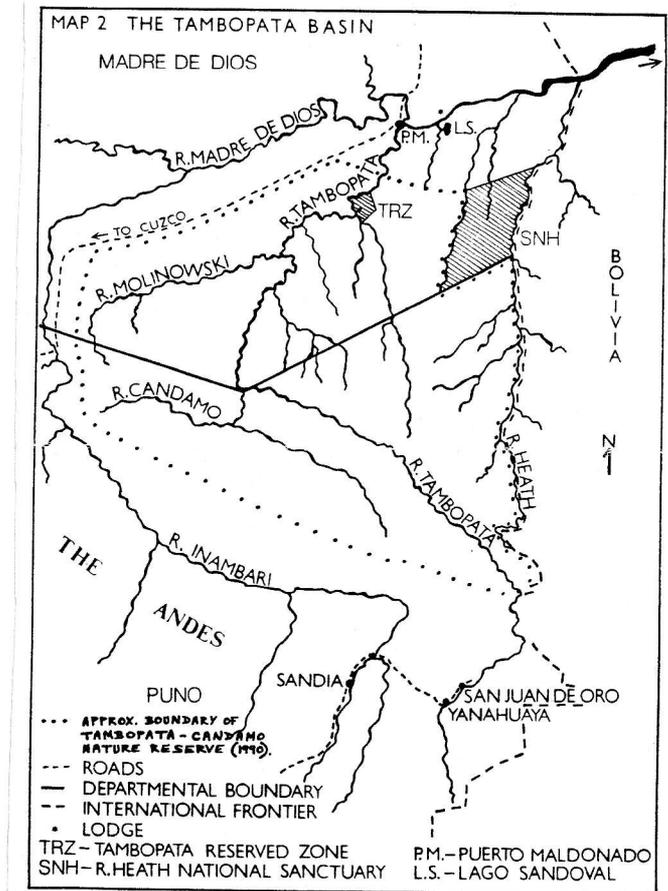
The area has been designated in recognition of its undisturbed populations of wild flora and fauna, and its numerous features of major cultural and scientific importance. Potentially, much of the new reserved area contains a similar diversity of species to those found to date in the comparatively tiny existing TRZ. However, the new area extends high up into the Andes to the south and contains a whole new range of habitats.

The extraction of wild flora and fauna for commercial purposes and other activities involving the use of natural renewable resources are prohibited, except for those products arising from contracts granted prior to the declaration.

The designation is the initial stage in the formal protection of the area. A detailed management plan, including consideration of the rights of those already living and working in the area, will now need to be undertaken.

***FUNDING APPEAL ***

As a result of this very positive and encouraging development, as well as the appointment of a former forestry scientist from Manu National Park to the post of Scientific Co-ordinator to be based at the Explorers Inn, the need for increased and stable funding is as great as ever. Since much of the funding that TReeS receives comes from its members, we need all members try to interest friends and relatives in TReeS and the work and projects that it supports in Peru.



The location of the Tambopata-Candamo Reserve

Background to the establishment of the Tambopata-Candamo Reserve

The Tambopata Reserved Zone was set up in 1977 by the Peruvian Government and Peruvian Safaris S.A. (the operators of the Explorers Inn, a centre for tourism and educational and scientific research on the edge of the Reserve).

The TRZ's designation was initially to be for 4 years, and the protection of the flora and fauna of the Reserve was put in the hands of Peruvian Safaris. During this period, the full scientific value of the area became apparent.

After the establishment of the Reserve, it was discovered that 2000 hectares of it overlapped with the lands of the native community of Infierno. However, in 1987 the community and the traditional medicine project, AMETRA 2001 (see the last TReeS newsletter), signed an agreement covering the management of this part of the Reserve for a 3 year period. In return, AMETRA would build an Ethnobiological Centre from natural materials brought in from elsewhere on an old chacra (slash and burn settlement) on the edge of the Reserve.

The agreement was not renewed when it expired in 1981, though an unsuccessful proposal was made to enlarge the Reserve to 20,000 hectares. In 1985 another proposal was put forward to increase the area of the Reserve to 72,000 hectares, connecting it across to the Rio Heath National Sanctuary with a buffer zone for the native community of Infierno.

In 1986, a proposal was made to enlarge the Reserve to 100,000 hectares, including much of the Rio Tambopata drainage basin and combining it with the Rio Heath National Sanctuary. In 1987, a Peruvian group, 'Association for the Conservation of the Southern Selva' (ACSS) proposed an enlargement to approximately 1.5m hectares. It is an amended version of this proposal that has now been approved by the Peruvian Government.

The work of the Resident Naturalists

The Resident Naturalist Program is proving to be very popular indeed. Italo Alvarado returned for a further three months in October and worked on the medicinal garden. Fran Osbourne returned to continue her work in the Amazon Garden and she also finished the writing on the boards painted by Susan Holt for display in schools in Puerto Maldonado. John Sterling returned for 2 months to continue his work on the Bamboo birds. He added two new records for the Reserve - crested caracara and yellow chinned spinetail, and a new record for Peru - two black collared swallows.

In December, following the RN changeover, Linda Sharp studied the territory size and preferred foods of leaf cutter ants, Anita Diaz worked on pollination studies of lilies, and Simon Grove made a cassette of the common birds of the Reserve and a photographic guide to some of its insects. There were two Peruvian Naturalists: Javier Barrio who worked on the nesting behaviour of the yellow tufted woodpeckers and Paul Huertas who worked on pests and parasites on the seeds of legumes.

In February, Mike and Amity Doolittle began work renovating tree platforms and conducting a photographic study of the canopy and forest wildlife.

Recent sightings on the Reserve

Due to the small number of tourists in February, the Naturalists had some good sightings: a 20ft anaconda in a stream near the Big Tree; a harpy eagle over L. Cocococha; two adult white fronted capuchins with young; several agami herons seen in December; king vultures, sun bittern, paradise jacamar, emerald Toucanet, curl crested aracari and crested currawong. Near the Lodge itself, an armadillo was seen in the lodge clearing and a giant anteater was spotted strolling across the football pitch.

The giant otters are still periodically seen on Katicocha and Cocococha; coatis were seen near Laguna Chica and prints of jaguar, ocelot and the rare jaguarundi have been seen in the mud. One of the Naturalists was fortunate to have bumped into a puma on the Main Trail - it just strolled past her.

February and March were very dry and the local feeling is that each year is drier than the last. The economic and political situation in Peru is having its effect on the Reserve - there is a lack of fuel for the boats and for cooking, and beer, soft drinks and some food items are in short supply.

Peruvian Presidential Elections

The results of the first round of the election in early April came as a surprise to many - neither L. Alva (APRA - the governing party) nor H. Pease (IU - the United Left) nor A. Barrantes (a former mayor of Lima) qualified for the second round. The novelist M. Vargas Llosa (Fredemo - right wing) secured only about 35% of the vote and not the 45% expected, while A. Fujimori (centre right), a political unknown, came from nowhere in the final month of the campaign to secure approximately 28%. These two now go forward to the second round at the end of May and Sr. Fujimori, a former university rector and agricultural engineer, is currently the favourite to win. He is of direct Japanese descent and increased Japanese involvement in Peru cannot be ruled out should he win.

Book Appeal

TReeS is applying to publishers of books on the subject of Rainforests and Amazonia for copies for the Naturalists' and Tourists' library at the Explorers Inn. TReeS is already grateful to Manchester University Press for a donation of *Developing Amazonia*, by John Hall.

1990 Membership

TReeS Annual Membership runs from 1 January each year, unless you joined the Society on or after 1 October in the preceding year. A Membership Renewal form (the final reminder) is enclosed with this Newsletter to those members who, according to our records, have not renewed their membership since at least Autumn 1988.

Our administration costs are greatly reduced if you pay your subscription by Bankers Order. Covenant Forms are also available from John Forrest.

Why not give TReeS membership to a relative or friend for their birthday?

TReeS Slide Library

The TReeS slide library is short of mammal, bird, invertebrate and named plant slides. If any member would like to give some slides to the library for use in slideshows and publications, please contact Nick Squirrel, 37 Braydon Road, Stamford Hill, London N16.

Nick would also like to hear from any member who has made use of the slide identification facility offered to TReeS members by the Smithsonian Institute for any slides of plants. Depending on the response, more information on this will be given in the next Newsletter.

Accounts

Fund-raising for TReeS/AMETRA has got off to an excellent start this year with more being raised by the end of February than in the whole of 1989. In part, this was due to a major donation from the Body Shop International to assist the work of AMETRA. A significant reward has also been provisionally made by the International Council for Bird Preservation (USA). The ICBP UK has for some time fully endorsed the work of TReeS at Tambopata.

The unaudited TReeS accounts for 1989 show that the Society had an income of around £14,800 and an expenditure of around £11,700, of which just over 80% went on supporting activities in Peru and the remainder on running costs, administration and the promotion of TReeS in the UK.

TReeS urgently needs an Honorary Accountant/Auditor for the 1989 accounts; if you are interested, please contact John Forrest.

AMETRA T-shirts

TReeS still has a limited number of the new AMETRA T-shirts, printed on a high quality white cotton 'Fruit of the Loom' T-shirt. It has the AMETRA logo in green, red and black printed on the front and back.

Small or Medium - £5.50 each, or 3 for £15.

Large or Extra Large - £6.50 each, or 3 for £18.

Prices include postage - available from John Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 4EH. An ideal purchase for the summer.

TReeS Postcards

Two attractive full colour postcards of animals often seen at the Reserve: Tree-Frog (photo by Paul Franklin) and Tapir (photo by Anna Culwick).

10 for £2; 60 for £10; 100 for £16.

Prices include postage - available from John Forrest.

Tambopata Reserve Rainforest Fund-raising Game

TReeS now has available a fund-raising game, which is particularly suitable for school events. It consists of a large laminated map of the Reserve drawn onto a grid plan. Players pay a fee to buy a square on the map in an attempt to locate certain places (eg. where jaguars are seen most often, etc) for which prizes are then given. A donation of at least £10 to TReeS is requested for its use and to cover materials supplied with it and postage. Available with full instructions from John Forrest.

Tambopata video

TReeS member Anna Culwick has put together a video about the Reserve and rainforest issues based on the illustrated talk she has been giving to interested groups around the country. For further details, please contact Anna Culwick, Three Mermaids, 2 Sea View Place, St. Ives, Cornwall.

Forthcoming Events

2-26 May - Peruvian Rainforest Paintings, Westbourne Gallery, 331 Portobello Road, London W10.

20 May-5 June - Friends of the Earth Rainforest Festival at various locations around the country - contact your local group.

8 June - GAIA Rainforest Concert for the Forest People of the World. Gala concerts have been organised around the world on this date - the largest will be at the Barbican Centre in London.

8 September - Anglo-Latin American Fiesta of Music, Dance and Art in Battersea Park. Tickets will be available nearer the event - see Press.

Next Meeting

Saturday 2 June, 2-5pm at The Stables, Great Leys, Binsey, Oxford. (near the railway station off Botley Road in West Oxford). The Stables is a pink house near a small bridge - ask for the Perch pub.

At this meeting, the recent news about the expansion of the Reserve will be discussed. The speakers will probably be Sarah Wilkins talking about Nepal, and Aisling Byrne about Peru.