

TRees News

The Tambopata Reserve Society
Newsletter, No. 21

April 1992

1992 TRees Membership Reminder

TRees annual membership runs from the 1st of January each year, unless you have joined since 1st October in the preceding year. We include with this Newsletter a Reminder to those members who have not renewed their membership. We hope that all of them will continue with their valuable support which makes a very significant financial contribution to the work that TRees can sponsor in Peru.

TRees Accounts

The unaudited TRees accounts for 1991 indicate that the Society had an income of around £13,850 (£32,900 in 1990 / £14,800 in 1989). Expenditure was around £20,625 (£13,900 and £11,700 respectively). Approximately, 93% of income went on supporting activities in Peru, the remainder was spent on running costs, administration and the promotion of TRees.

The fall in income clearly reflects a more troubled year, with many major international causes pressing for donations; environmental matters tended to receive less publicity and the growing recession also had an impact. It should be noted that many of the funds received towards the end of 1990 were already allocated to the 1991 AMETRA 2001 budget.

A substantial quantity of postcards, sound tapes and T-shirts remained in stock at the end of the year. The balance of account of TRees USA at the end of 1991 was around \$280.



Resident Naturalist News

The first two months of the year were the wettest on record at Tambopata. Rainfall in January was nearly 50% greater than in the wettest month of 1991 at 588mm, while in February it was 436mm. Total rainfall in

1991 was 2181mm, with March the wettest month at 388mm and July the driest at 24mm. On this basis the rainfall in the first two months of 1992 was nearly half the total rainfall in 1991. July also had the lowest mean temperature at 15.5°C in 1991, while March and October had the maximum mean temperatures of the year at 29.8°C.

There continue to be few tourists at the Lodge but those who have been there have been rewarded with frequent sightings of the Giant River Otters on both Cocacocha and Katicocha. In December there was a considerable increase in the number of cat foot prints on Main Trail but no confirmed sightings. The Saddle-backed Tamarinds have spent a lot of time near the Lodge recently visiting the flowering Chimbillo tree. The heavy rains in January greatly increased the level of frog and other amphibian activity. Recent sightings include 9 Banded Armadillos, 6 Giant River Otters on Cocacocha, Spider Monkeys, Red Brocket deer and a Bi-coloured Spined Porcupine. Fewer tourists walking the trails of the Reserve has led to an increased number of incursions by persons unknown and several trees have been felled along the La Torre river close to Katicocha.

Current and recent RN's and visitors include:

P.Huertas & M.Pehovaz – working on the Butterfly project.

E.Barnes – completed his identification key for Antshrikes.

M.Gregory – studying the characteristics and flight patterns of Butterflies.

C.Schenk & E.Staib, from Germany – returned for a few days to continue their river otter distribution study.

E.Ortiz – made a further visit to collect data relating to factors that influence the productivity of Brazil-nut trees.

A.Henderson & F.Chavez – returned to do a brief follow-up on some earlier palm tree studies.

From the 1st – 10th February the Smithsonian Institute held a Biolat workshop at the Lodge; 15 Peruvian students participated.

The Peruvian economy continues to remain stable in comparison to the last couple of years and there is a slightly greater level of optimism for 1992, though inflation reached 4.3% for the month of December.

Cholera returned to the northern coastal shanties and Iquitos but the number of cases in Cuzco and Madre de Dios have again been very low.

President Fujimori of Peru and the Third Kew Environmental Lecture

On the 6th of February President Fujimori of Peru followed in the footsteps of Prince Charles and President Barco of Colombia to present the third Annual Environmental Lecture at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. He had a brief meeting with John Major during his visit but it was principally a private visit to present the Kew lecture.

Professor Ghilean Prance, the director of Kew, introduced the lecture. After briefly describing the three principal vegetative zones of Peru, he drew attention to the fact that in the Amazon region, at the Tambopata Reserve, Peru has arguably the greatest concentration of wildlife yet recorded on Earth. He went on to state that projects associated with the Reserve were supported in the UK by the Tambopata Reserve Society.

TReeS was also able to raise the future of the Tambopata region more directly with President Fujimori at private meetings he held with Professor Prance and Sir Crispin Tickell (Principal of Green College, Oxford and President of the Royal Geographical Society), to whom we are most grateful. A letter from TReeS, supporting environmental initiatives in Peru, was passed to the President by Professor Prance.

The common thread adopted by President Fujimori for his lecture was the link between the environment and poverty. He implied that only with the elimination of the widespread day to day poverty in Peru would Peruvians be fully able to turn their attention to conserving the environment.

A large proportion of the lecture dealt with land deforestation and the associated environmental destruction brought about by the Coca industry, principally in the Upper Huallaga valley. Fujimori suggested that the use of chemicals to eliminate Coca bushes – U.S. agencies initially wished to employ Agent Orange – was just as reprehensible as the original deforestation. However, he was somewhat ambiguous as to whether it was preferable for these areas to have remained forested or to have been deforested and converted to agriculture.

The President provided some of the latest rainforest statistics:

- the rate of deforestation increased by 75% between 1985-89 as agricultural frontiers were pushed forward by subsistence farmers, loggers and the coca growers.
- currently, 350,000 hectares per year of

rainforest are being lost, which equates to half the total cultivated land in the coastal valleys.

- in all, 15% of Peru's original forest cover will have been lost by the year 2000.
- at present 77m hectares remain, giving Peru the second largest mass of tropical rainforest on Earth after Brazil.

No mention was made of the concessions granted by the government last year for foreign oil companies to drill exploratory wells within the Pacaya-Samiri National Park, near Iquitos.

The President continued with the theme of the impact of Coca growing, delving deeper into the impact of the Coca industry on the environment. This almost certainly reflected the wider political agenda that Peru faces in its desperate attempt to obtain greater economic assistance from the USA and western Europe. However, it was apparent that this was not, unfortunately, felt to be an appropriate occasion for a detailed analysis of either the impact of the Coca industry on the environment or the complex link between poverty and the environment.

President Fujimori turned to other new initiatives in the last third of his lecture, describing how he had recently made an 'Ecology for Peace' proposal to President Borja of Ecuador. Each country spends nearly \$2bn per year defending their common border – Ecuador disputes the 1942 Protocol of Rio which confirmed Peru's control over a vast tract of Amazonia; the last major skirmishes were in the early 1980's. Fujimori said that he hoped his proposal would allow defence expenditure to be allocated to other areas and for cross border environmental co-operation to be initiated as a first step towards finally resolving the dispute.

The second initiative concerned Vicuña farming in the high Andes; a practical means for rural communities to assist in protecting a semi-endangered species while generating additional income for the community.

The President concluded by saying that Peru hoped concrete actions from all parties would result from the UN Earth Summit in Rio in early June.

Tambopata-Candamo Expedition '92

The Expedition has just received the approval and support of the Royal Geographical Society and, hopefully, this will strengthen further fund-raising efforts being undertaken by expedition members.

United Nations Earth Summit

The UN Earth Summit is due to be held in early June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and it is likely to dominate the Environmental press over the weeks leading up to it.

The original intention of the summit was to seek a fundamental reorganisation of world trade and the economic order that would lead to a more sustainable way of life and provide greater protection for the environment on a global basis. Sadly, the western economic powers, who have most to lose, are increasingly indicating at the preparatory talks that they are not prepared to make any significant changes in their economic and trade policies. The Summit is rapidly being politicised and the original main environmental issues are beginning to assume secondary importance.

The Forest principles that are likely to be adopted are a compromise and can hardly be viewed as progress. Good intentions with respect to environmental and social developments in forest areas have been combined with statements referring to nations' rights to exploit and convert forests. There would seem to be little hope for any real movement towards global sustainable development over the next few years.

We must hope that the Summit will at least remain a significant first step for the crucial issues raised to be taken more seriously over the next few years by the governments of the North.

FENAMAD 'AMETRA 2001' Health Project

The Health project is now operating out of two centres: the Ñape Ethnobiological Centre in Infierno covering the Tambopata region, and the Oamanokkæe Centre in Shintuya covering the Manu Biosphere Reserve region.

The project has received a major boost with the awarding of a \$20,000 grant by the Inka regional government. This is a major step forward for the project which has long sought official recognition from the central authorities. The establishment has, until now, been unwilling to adopt traditional medicine and permit native people to assume responsibility for their health care. The project will now need to review its administration and organisation to respond to this new challenge.

Two areas are now designated medicinal plant gardens at the Centro Ñape. One lies 300 metres from the centre deep into the

forest, covering an area of 3000m² and contains 700 medicinal plants representing 40 species. The second area garden lies around the centre and contains 80 different species.

In addition to the medicinal gardens, an area of 250m² adjoining the centre was planted out last Spring in co-operation with the HIFCO (Huerta Integral) project with 27 food plants to produce seeds for future plantings. Another area next to the centre has been given over to a small trial re-forestation project with the planting of 98 Ungurahui, 17 Ojé, 64 Cedro and 9 Sangre de Drago. Some of the same species were also planted in the medicinal gardens.

Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meeting – 16th May, 2-5pm in the Committee Room, Green College, Woodstock Road, Oxford. Helen Newing will give an illustrated talk about her 2 year research project in Tai National Park, in the Ivory Coast, from where she has recently returned, plus TReeS updates.

"At Play in the Fields of the Lord" (see enclosed leaflet) was released in London in early April and is due for general release to cinemas around the UK in early May. We are grateful to Entertainment Film Distributors for arranging to distribute and display the leaflet to cinemas around the country.

Anglo-Latin American Fiesta (ALAF), the third such event will be held in Battersea Park, London, SW11, on the 12th of September. Further details of this excellent event and the "Latin American en Vivo" concert, to be held at the Royal Albert hall on the 12th October, can be obtained by phoning 071.924.5854.

FUJIMORI 'Autogolpe'

On Sunday April 5th President Fujimori dissolved Congress claiming that corruption and inefficiency were rife and opted to rule the country through the military alone. He subsequently also sacked a large number of judges, accusing them also of high level corruption.

Fujimori had increasingly found his position untenable and his wishes unenforceable, his Cambio '90 party had less than 20% of the seats in Congress.

In the aftermath of the 'Autogolpe' the country has been relatively quiet, though the largest bomb ever in Lima exploded in an outer shanty town. It is conceivable that Sendero and more radical APRA factions are still planning their response.

T-Shirts, Postcards, Rainforest Booklet & Rainforest Sounds Tape

T-shirts –

‘Earth Warriors’ (bottle green design on unbleached cotton): XL only – £8 each, or 3 for £20. A limited edition of 100 in this colour.

‘AMETRA 2001’: Small or Medium – £5.50 each, or 3 for £15. Large or XLarge – £6.50 each, or 3 for £18.

Martin Jordan, the well-known Rainforest artist, has kindly agreed that TReeS may use one of his ‘Macaw’ paintings for a TReeS T-shirt:–

‘Macaws’ (full colour on bleached cotton): XL only - £9 each, 3 for £25.

We are also able to offer two other designs by Martin Jordan – ‘Toucan’ and ‘Tree Frog’ (on bleached cotton): XL only – £10 each.

All prices include postage and packing.

POSTCARDS, Rainforest BOOKLET & Rainforest Sounds TAPE are available as per the last Newsletter (No. 20).

‘The Living Rainforest’ – an educational video, with teachers’ pack, based on Tambopata is now available from: Anna Culwick, 3 Mermaids, Sea View Place, St. Ives, Cornwall.

Translating & Word-Processing

Due to an increasing number of documents coming through from Peru, we would be extremely pleased to hear from anyone who can assist our esteemed regulars with some rapid word-processing and translating every so often. If you could offer both this would be ideal.

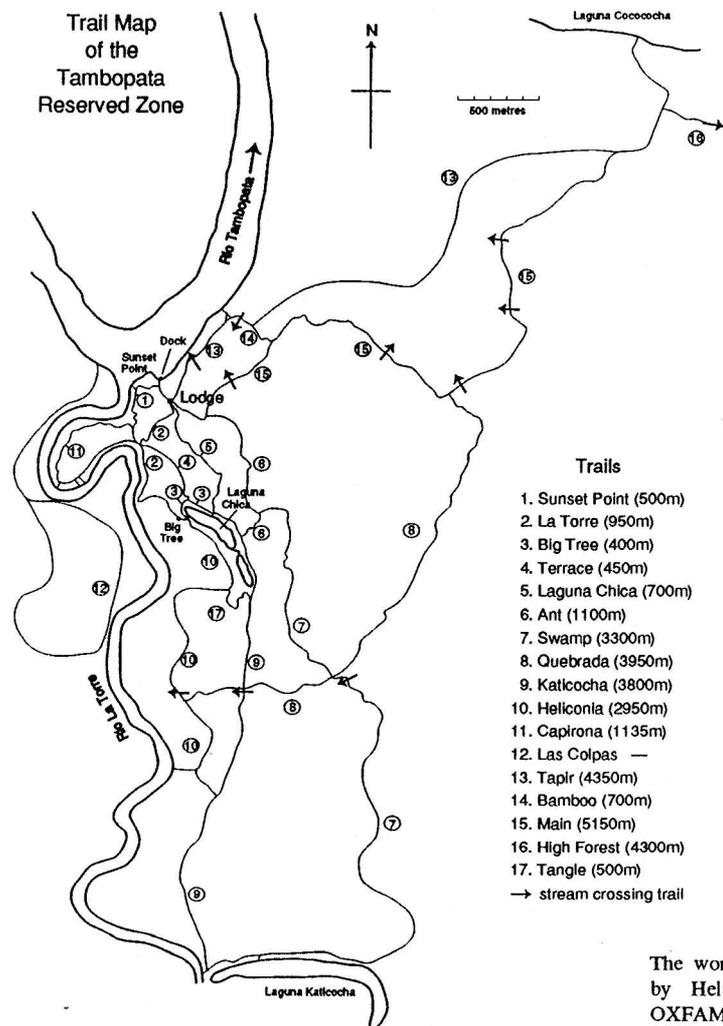
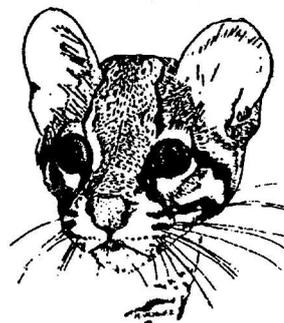
TReeS Library

The TReeS London Library has been moved from the British Museum of Natural History to the Living Earth Foundation, The Old Laundry, Ossington Buildings, Moxon St., London W1N 3JD (Tel: 071.487.3661) – a 5 minute walk from Baker Street tube station, just off Marylebone High Street.

It contains all major documents pertaining to scientific research undertaken in the Tambopata area, the establishment of the TRZ and TCRZ, the activities of the AMETRA 2001 project, plus documents relating to other regions of the Peruvian Amazon.

The other TReeS library remains with Oliver Tickell in Oxford. We congratulate Oliver on having a Parasitic Wasp named after him as the winner of a recent competition on the Radio 4 programme ‘Costing the Earth’.

Ocelote *Felis pardalis*



The work of TReeS/AMETRA 2001 is endorsed/supported by Helpage, ICBP UK/USA, Anglo-Peruvian Society, OXFAM, the Body Shop International PLC, several FoE groups and schools, and various small trusts and charities.



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