

TReeS News

The Tambopata Reserve Society
Newsletter, No. 27

May 1994

Mobil Oil Exploration in Madre de Dios

Last year TReeS reported that Mobil Oil had been awarded exploration contracts within Madre de Dios. Recent reports indicate that their operations have now commenced. A large number of Mobil personnel have arrived in Puerto Maldonado and they have been making frequent helicopter flights in and out of the airport.

The initial focus appears to be on Block 48 (see map). Exploration blocks were established in Madre de Dios in the early 1980's when Shell/Petroperu undertook similar surveys in the area. Block 48 overlaps with the northern regions of the TCRZ and the Rio Heath National Sanctuary, and the native communities of Sonene and Palma Real.

We believe that Mobil intend to cut 2m wide transects through the forest in the area to set off seismic charges to establish the quantity and quality of oil deposits, though confirmation is still awaited.

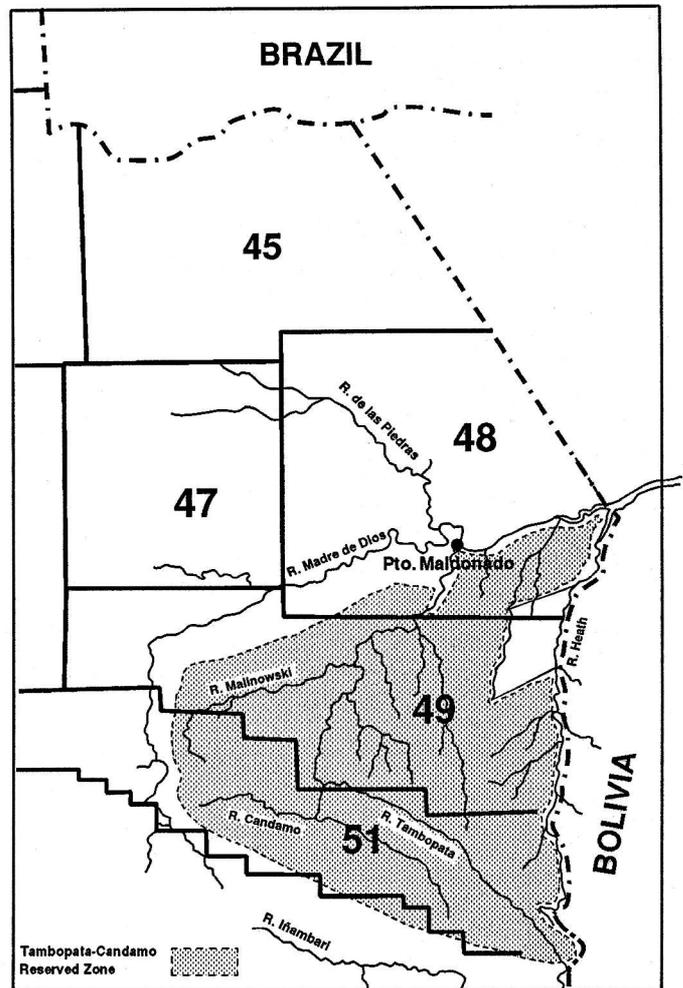
1994 TReeS Membership Reminder

We include with this Newsletter a Reminder to those members who have not renewed their membership recently. Even if you do not received a Reminder but you have not renewed your membership since October 1993, we would encourage you to renew your membership – NOW.

The funds donated by our members provide a crucial proportion of our income.

TReeS Policy Guidelines

Since 'TReeS' was founded our aims and objectives have been outlined in the membership leaflet through descriptions of the projects we support. It is now felt that a clearer Policy document should be available to members and funding organisations. The general Statements from this document are quoted below. If you would like the full version, including the explanatory Guidelines accompanying each Statement, please send a SAE to J.Forrest.



As with all Newsletter pieces, TReeS welcomes comments from members. The introduction to the document and the general Statements read as follows:

'The primary objective of TReeS is to promote conservation of the environment in the department of Madre de Dios, Peru, with special reference to the area covered by the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone (TCRZ). Conservation is interpreted in its widest sense, from total protection through the establishment of National Parks to environmentally sound development in more heavily populated areas.'

● Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development

TReeS supports the conservation of the rain-forest through appropriate sustainable land-uses, the regeneration of degraded areas. TReeS opposes large-scale, destructive development projects.

● Native People

TReeS supports the full consultation and

involvement of native people in any developments concerning their long-standing traditional lands.

● **Scientific Support**

TReeS promotes and supports scientific research into sustainable land-use and nature conservation in the Tambopata region.

● **Eco-tourism**

TReeS supports tourist initiatives which are ecologically sensitive and maximise the social and economic benefits for local people, especially the indigenous population, whilst minimising the impacts on the environment.

● **Education**

TReeS encourages education initiatives heightening public awareness of the needs and issues faced by the people and wildlife of the Tambopata region and of rainforest issues in general.

● **Merchandise and Promotion**

TReeS will produce and sell a range of environmentally and ethically sound products which contribute financially to TReeS and raise awareness about rainforest issues in general.

Tambopata-Candamo 1992 Expedition

The Report of the TReeS expedition to the Upper Tambopata in the Autumn of 1992, representing over 2 years work by its members, is now available. It runs to 172 pages and is available from TReeS at £10, including postage.

The main sections of the Report cover the 7 projects carried out by the expedition – Forest classification, Mammal survey and assessment, Bird survey, Herpetological survey, Fish inventory, Invertebrate collection and Dragonfly study. The Report also includes details of the satellite image analysis carried out by R.Hill, Dept. of Geography, Swansea University.

The Forest Classification report proves that there is a greater variety of forest types within the TCRZ than previously observed. The satellite image analysis successfully distinguished between a number of these types which will allow the results of field-work to be extrapolated to produce a draft vegetation map for a large proportion of the

TCRZ.

The Dragonfly study recorded 109 species, nearly a third of the known species in Peru. Peru contains a third of all South American species. 18 of the species collected were new records for the TCRZ and 8 new for Peru.

The Amphibian study produced a species which is believed to be new to science, while several new fish species have been added to the Peru species list. The Bird study has added to our knowledge of the distribution, particularly the elevational range, of many species. The Mammal study encountered two of the rarest species in the TCRZ only on a restricted basis - Spider monkeys in the remote southern areas of the TCRZ and Giant River Otters in the larger ox-bow lakes along the northern stretches of the Tambopata river.

The Report findings indicate that the TCRZ supports a very diverse range of forest types and associated fauna and flora. This is partly a reflection of the altitudinal gradient between the mountainous southern and western parts and the central/northern lowlands. However, even within the lowland forest a high degree of habitat diversity was encountered. The Expedition findings support calls by conservationists for the inclusion of as large an area, and as wide a range of forest types, as possible within the boundaries of the proposed Tambopata-Candamo National Park.

Copies of the Report have been sent to several Government agencies and NGO's in Peru, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Conservation International, who share responsibility for the future management of the TCRZ. Copies have been placed in the TReeS libraries in the UK.

The Expedition members would like to thank all sponsors from within the TReeS membership.

Resident Naturalist News from the Explorer's Inn

We hope that the information given in this section will allow the reader – including prospective RN's – to build up a picture over consecutive Newsletters of conditions in the Tambopata region.

Climate –

In December rainfall rose to 365mm with rain on 29 out of 31 days. The average maximum temperature for the month was 27.7°C.

The increased rainfall led to a rise in river levels and Laguna Chica rose by 48cm, placing some of the trails underwater. January was relatively dry for the time of year with 221mm, however, it still rained on 25 days. The av. max. temp. rose slightly to 28.5°C and the humidity to 96%. In February rain fell on 22 days, totalling 277mm, while the temperature and humidity figures were slightly lower than in January. In March rain fell on 15 days, totalling 415mm, and temperatures ranged from 22°C to 30°C.

Recent Sightings –

Reports from all over the Peruvian Amazon suggest that the number of fruiting trees is unusually low this year and this is having a significant impact on the wildlife. Possibly as a consequence of this, RN's report reduced sightings, though a wide variety of species have been seen. Some hides are being put up at the TRZ which should improve animal sightings. The first has been placed near Cocococha close to a 'run' used by Tapir, Giant River otters, Red Brocket deer and big cats

Big cat and bushdog tracks have been found along trails on many occasions over recent months. Jaguar and tapir tracks have been found within 100m of the lodge and along Main and Tapir trails. A puma was heard calling frequently at night but no actual sightings of big cats have been made.

The most common sightings have been of primate species; giant river otters, though less often; red brocket deer; armadillos; white-lipped and collared peccary; coati; tayra; paca; agouti; a large tortoise was encountered near Sunset point and many twist-necked turtles on the trails. Groups of up to 40 Swallow-tailed kites have been observed gathering at Cocococha. Many snake species have been found, those identified included a vine snake, coral snake and a very large bushmaster (2.5m long). A possible Hoffman's Sloth was seen for 2 days around the lodge clearing.

Fewer tourist groups will be taken along Main Trail over the next few months and greater use will be made of the trails leading to Katicocha. This decision, probably, reflects both overuse of the Main Trail and the lack of an agreement between Peruvian Safaris and the native community of Infierno regarding access to some parts of the TRZ. Infierno

have applied for an extension to their titled lands and their proposal includes part of the land previously designated as the TRZ adjoining Cocococha.

Current and Recent RN's and visitors to the Explorer's Inn include –

P.Hammond & M.Hammond – investigating sign of bush-dogs, renovating trail signs and building hides.

A.Wilson – improving and maintaining trail signs.

R.Vilchez – studying Orchids and renovating the medicinal plant garden.

J.Fernandez – studying shorebirds.

Butterfly Project -

Further discussions have been held with 'Wings for the Earth' in California with respect to technical aspects of the research. The next major step in the development of the project depends on the discussions currently being held with respect to the establishment of a Rainforest Education centre/Butterfly house in P.Maldonado.

FENAMAD Indigenous Medicine Project –

The project is currently receiving funding from NORDICO and other Scandinavian NGO's channelled through AIDSESP (Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest). These funds are supporting work in about half the native communities of Madre de Dios, principally in the lower MDD. The work is a continuation of the approaches formulated by FENAMAD/AMETRA 2001 over the last few years with TReeS funding. TReeS continues to provide limited funding for the continuation of the programme in the other communities and at the Nape and Oamanokkae Centres. The programmes support traditional approaches to medicine, on an individual ethnic group basis, within the native communities. Only very limited support is currently offered to the contacted communities within Manu National Park but FENAMAD have indicated that they are preparing a proposal, which we await.

Peru News –

Economic growth was 6.8% in 1993, the best since 1987. However, the economy had contracted by 25% 1988-92. Inflation was the lowest for many years at 40% as was the number of deaths resulting from terrorist

activities at just under 1,700. A recent study indicates the degree of social polarisation within Peru with fewer than 50,000 families, less than 4% of the total population, earning more than \$25,000 per year.

TReeS Libraries – New Addresses

The **TReeS London library** is housed at the Living Earth Foundation. Their new address is - Warwick House, 106 Harrow Road, London WE2 1XD. (Tel: 071.258.1823). It is a 5 minute walk from Warwick Avenue tube station (Bakerloo Line). Opening times 10am - 5pm, no need to ring.

The **TReeS Oxford library** is likely to be rehoused over the next few weeks. Please check with Oliver Tickell (0865.727082), if you are thinking of consulting it.

The libraries contain all documents submitted covering scientific research in the Tambopata area, the designation of the TCRZ, and the activities of the FENAMAD Health project in MDD, amongst others.

The **TReeS Slide Library** is cared for by Nick Squirrel. His new address is - The Drey, 6A Halves Cottages, Corfe Castle, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5EY. Please send a SAE (29p) to obtain a catalogue. Slides may be borrowed in return for a small donation.

TReeS Merchandise

*** some prices have been slightly reduced ***

T-Shirts :

'Earth Warrior' (electric blue design on unbleached cotton, XL only) - £7.50 each, or 3 for £20.

'Scarlet Macaws', painting by Martin Jordan (scarlet macaws against a blue background, XL only) - £8 each, 3 for £22. We can also offer two other full colour designs featuring paintings by Martin - 'Toucan' (XL only - £9) and 'Tree Frog' (S only - £8). Plus 'Toad' (B & W drawing, XL only - £9). All 4 are on bleached cotton.

Postcards: Tree-frog, Tapir, Hummingbird/Heliconia, Hoatzin, Butterfly and Nape Centre postcards: 10 for £2.50 30 for £7 60 for £12

TReeS Tapes (recorded at the TRZ): 'Jungle Sounds' (general interest) & 'Birds of south-east Peru' (Birders guide): £5.00 each £9 for 2

**** Arriving shortly - some of the few remaining copies of 'Bird songs & calls from south-**

east Peru' recorded by the late Ben Coffey in the mid-1980's. £10 each - reserve your tape now.

'**The Ecology of Tropical Rainforests**' - an introduction for eco-tourists': a small book-let with B & W photos published by TReeS, £2.50 each.

TReeS Newsletters: any 6 - £2, please specify the back numbers required.

'**The Budget Travellers Guide to Peru and Northern Bolivia**', 7th edition: £4.95 each, including a £1 donation to TReeS.

Bird Prints: 'Andean Cock-of-the-Rock' and 'Rufous Headed Woodpecker' set in their natural habitat. High quality colour prints of paintings by Eustace Barnes. £25 each (20% to TReeS).

All prices include postage and packing.

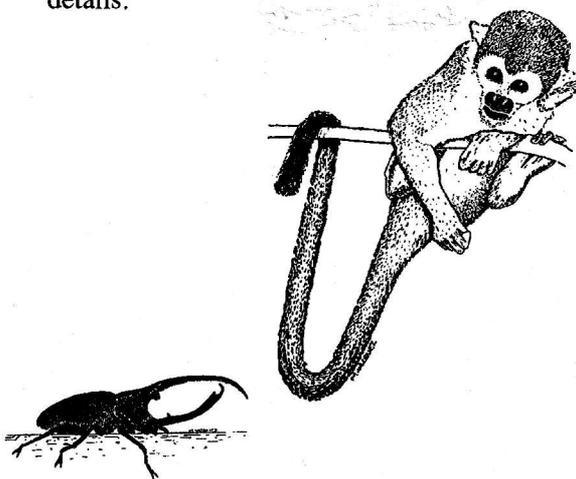
Cheques payable to 'TReeS'. Available from: J.Forrest, 64 Belsize Park, London NW3 4EH.

Forthcoming Events

TReeS Meeting – 11th June, 2-5pm, at Green College, Woodstock Road, Oxford. The speakers will be Andrew Gray, the anthropologist, talking about the native people of Madre de Dios, plus Kevin Morgan and several other former Resident Naturalists talking about the RN Programmes offered by 2 lodges in the Tambopata region.

Camden Green Fayre, 19th June, 11am-4pm, 5 minutes Camden Town Tube.

'**The Future for Mahogany**', 8th September, a one day lecture series at the Linnean Society. Phone: 071.434.4479 for further details.



The work of TReeS is endorsed/supported by Helpage, OXFAM, Anglo-Peruvian Society, the Body Shop International PLC, several FoE groups and schools, and various small trusts and charities.
Patron – Norman Myers.



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