

**TReeS AGM - 12th July, 2.30-4pm, at Born Free Foundation, 3 Grove House, Foundry Lane, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5PL. Horsham is accessible from Victoria train station - there are regular direct trains. Horsham train station is about 5 minutes walk from the offices. Updates will be given about TReeS projects and the work of the Born Free Foundation will be outlined.**

**\*\* We especially look forward to meeting south London TReeS members \*\***

## The Tourism Potential of the Upper Tambopata Valley, Puno

Chris Kirkby writes: I have recently returned from a trip to the Department of Puno and the south-eastern most portion of the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park (BSNP) in the Upper Tambopata area, where with funding provided by Conservation International, ProNaturaleza and Cesvi, I undertook a detailed assessment of the potential for tourism development. Over a period of months I travelled the route from the city of Puno on Lake Titicaca's shores northwards, stopping off in places such as Moho, the 'garden of the altiplano'; Isla Suasi, a secluded island paradise and home to 300 pairs of nesting cormorants, a few noisy Puna ibis and giant hummingbirds; Putina, with its hot springs and huge Puya de Raimondi plants; Cuyo cuyu, with its own mini Camino Inca, not to mention 300,000 Andean terraces full of potatoes; Sandia, Land of the Condor and 20 waterfalls; and, finally, Putinapunco which lies on the banks of the murky Tambopata at an altitude of 900m.

From Putinapunco it is 25 km to the BSNP. It is possible to take a combi part of the way and walk the rest (8 hours total). The area between Putinapunco and the Park is dominated by pre-montane forest dotted with organic coffee farms and tangerine groves, a paradise for birds if ever there was one. A 45 minute walk from Putinapunco for instance leads to a small canyon populated by 120 Oil birds and at least one Cock-of-the-Rock lek. These species feed on the abundant fruit in the nearby forests. These same species are also abundant around the small village of San Ignacio between Putinapunco and the Park, which also has its own airfield. Military macaws and several Tanagers species abound throughout the valley.

The BSNP is populated for a distance by local people from Putinapunco and surrounding villages, who claim to require new lands for agriculture for a lack of available lands closer to their homes. These people migrate in and out of the Park during planting and harvest time only. INRENA have an office and a couple of park guards, but progress in dealing with this land-use issue is slow. One option that the Park authorities are investigating, is whether land-use in this sector of the Park can be directed towards tourism as an alternative to rice, maize and peanut based agriculture. I believe there is much potential, however certain problems such as roads and transportation, lack

of suitable lodging, local hygiene standards, and lack of tourism consciousness amongst the local people need to be worked on before tourism can compete against agriculture as a viable alternative activity.

Travel agencies in Puno will need to become a little less introverted and will have to look beyond Lake Titicaca if they are to recognise the opportunities presented in the rainforests of northern Puno.

## Fauna Forever..... delving deeper into the impact of Tourism on Wildlife

Chris Kirkby, Karen Tailby, Alan Lee write:

A 2 year study was conducted during 1997/ 98 to assess the impact of Tourism in the areas around Tourist Lodges in the Tambopata region. Five years on, it is proposed to repeat this study, to allow analysis and comparison of the data collected against the original baseline report. The project - under the name of Fauna Forever - is once again being directed by Chris Kirkby, with new recruits in Karen Tailby as Project Manager / local co-ordinator and Alan Lee as International / Mammal Co-ordinator.

The main project objectives are:-

1. investigate the impact of tourism and tourist activities on wildlife abundance and diversity;
2. determine acceptable levels of change;
3. identify appropriate tourist management techniques, including trail-use carrying capacities and optimum tourist group size;
4. determine detailed levels of Beta diversity;
5. develop a long-term fauna monitoring database and Geographical Information System for Tambopata;
6. train a series of local biologists, students from the National Amazon University of Madre de Dios (UNAMAD) and the National University San Antonio Abad of Cusco (UNSAAC);
7. divulge results and recommendations via publications, local seminars and radio programmes.

Commencing in November 2003, each lodge will be studied on 4 separate occasions through to November 2004 - twice during the rainy season and twice during the dry season, for a total of 52 days each. Focusing on Mammals, Birds and Amphibians/ Reptiles, an expert in each field will act as Survey co-ordinator and lead the team of International and Peruvian research assistants.

**\*\* National Geographic , June 2003 - includes an article entitled: 'Peru's Highway of Dreams' about the proposed Transoceanic Highway from the Pacific coast to the Amazon, passing through Madre de Dios \*\***

## **Las Piedras Expedition 2002**

The ecological consequences as well as the socio-economic drivers of illegal logging activity along the Las Piedras river were investigated by the Edinburgh University expedition, June-September 2002.

Along the Las Piedras river 261 logging camps were identified, 75% along tributaries and 92% within the declared territories of indigenous peoples. 18% of respondents had seen uncontacted peoples, sometimes in significant numbers. Only 2 of the active camps were legal according to the new forestry laws.

In 1999 Peru joined the International Timber Trade Organisation (ITTO) and agreed to stop exporting mahogany from unmanaged forestry concessions by the year 2000 and government law 27308 confirmed this. However, many foresters did not apply according to the law for new concessions granted in 2002. These were the 'illegal' foresters who demonstrated violently in P.Maldonado in mid-2002. It was estimated that there were almost 2,300 loggers working along the Las Piedras river, 8.76 per camp, with a maximum of 24 recorded in one camp.

The transportation of just over 6,000m<sup>3</sup> of big leaf mahogany was recorded during a 5 month period. On average a tree provides 2000' board feet, valuing each tree at about \$3,500. Timber worth \$5m+ in Puerto Maldonado and at least \$7m on arrival in the USA.

Over 1,100 kms of trails were surveyed along 6 transects to assess relative abundance and community structure of mammals. A strong impact of logging upon Long-haired Spider monkeys, Red Howler monkeys and Saki monkeys, plus 2 deer species and many bird species, was recorded. The monthly harvest of nearly 50,000kgs of bushmeat was calculated in the logging camps.

Further details of the report can be obtained from - [www.savemonkeys.org](http://www.savemonkeys.org)

## **Notes from Picaflor Research Centre**

Dutch biologist Rob Westerduijn writes:

Picaflor has started this year on a new research-project on stingless bees (Meliponinae). At the moment we are carrying out an inventory of the nests of local stingless bees in the forest around the research centre. Eventually, Picaflor wants to find ways for sustainable honey-production with stingless bees and provide workshops on how to manage natural bee colonies for local honey production in the Tambopata area. This could become a form of sustainable use of the local forest in the reserve. Preliminary results from the nest searching for bees show a high density of bees in the forest around Picaflor. Of 18 nests found in the first 950 m of trail surveyed, five were presumed wasps, the rest were stingless bees. A nest of the Amazonian Bumble-bee was also found.

Participating in setting up this new project I had the privilege of spending several months at the research centre. And besides bees there is a lot to be seen in the forest around Picaflor. Even around the centre itself a lot of mammals like Agouti, Opossum, Tayra and Saddle-backed Tamarins can be encountered.

At night even more mammals appear like the Night Monkeys, Paca, Mouse Opossums, Porcupines and of course the most noisy of them all the Bamboo Rats. Owls are very common as well and represented by 7 different species which can all be heard from the bungalows. Common and Great Potoo also call out at night. During my spare time I've been watching the birds of prey a lot soaring over the forest on the other side of the river. King Vultures are particularly often seen with up to 10 a day (6+ different individuals). A pair of Black Hawk-eagles also flew over several times, while on one occasion a group of 40-50 Broad-winged Hawks flew by. The Roadside Hawk and Black and Greater Yellow-headed Vultures are the most common species seen at Picaflor, while Turkey Vulture is very rare. Even its mimic the Zone-tailed Hawk was seen more often. Other birds of prey seen include Harpy Eagle (2 sightings), Short-tailed Hawk, Double-toothed Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Plumbeous Kite, Great Black-hawk, Black Caracara, Red-throated Caracara, Laughing Falcon and Bat Falcon.

In the forest some more interesting birds have been seen such as Spangled Cotinga, Bare-necked Fruit-crow and 5 Macaw species. The forest holds some good stands of Bamboo in which specialists such as Peruvian Recurvedbill, Rufous-headed Woodpecker and White-cheeked Tody-tyrant are often encountered.

I have also looked at the leaf-beetles (Chrysomelidae) Both the number of species as well as the number of specimens that can be seen are much higher than what I'm used to in Holland. The large Tortoise Beetles, that can be seen on Ipomoea and other vines, must be some of the most peculiar of leaf-beetles. The number of other insects that mimic (look the same as some poisonous leaf-beetles) the beetles is also apparent. On one occasion I observed a cockroach which mimics a leaf-beetle in appearance, mimicking it in behaviour as well. As a wasp was closing in on the leaf it was sitting on, it went to a hole in the leaf (where another insect had been eating the leaf) and started pretending it was eating there. When the wasp flew away it went back to its normal "roach" behaviour.

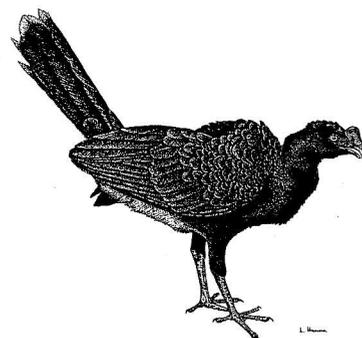
Rob Westerduijn [rob\\_westerduijn@yahoo.com](mailto:rob_westerduijn@yahoo.com)  
(please email me if you are interested in Chrysomelids as well).

<b>January</b>	temperature range 21.4-33.7 C	17 days rain
<b>February</b>	17.3-37.4	18 days rain
<b>March</b>	20.4-41.8	14 days rain

To clarify a point in the last newsletter:

The bee project at Picaflor is part of our 'sustainable living in the rainforest' programme, and concerns only native species of stingless bees and not the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*), which is an introduced species.

Laurel Hanna [picaflor\\_rc@yahoo.com](mailto:picaflor_rc@yahoo.com)



The main source of funding for the project will be from international participants, who will each be asked to contribute \$3300 for a place on the team, but additional funding is necessary to help cover the set-up costs and those of the Peruvian participants.

Project set up activities have commenced, with the focus on finalising the project proposal, project plans and survey schedule. Development of the project website is underway and will be used to raise the global profile of the project and recruit participants.

**Funding:-** is sought to cover the costs of the Peruvian biologists - **\$880 per participant**.

If you would like to make a donation please contact us by e-mail at [faunaforever@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:faunaforever@yahoo.co.uk)

Do you know anyone who may be interested in participating in the study or providing sponsorship? Forward them our email and website address for full details: [www.geocities.com/faunaforever](http://www.geocities.com/faunaforever)

### **TReeS Peru Update**

\* **TReeS Peru:** the TReeS Peru website is now up and running where the first TReeS Peru bulletin can be viewed: [www.geocities.com/treesperu](http://www.geocities.com/treesperu)

TReeS Peru is also working with FENAMAD, AIDSESP (Inter-ethnic Association for the development of the Peruvian Amazon) and ProManu to organise a June meeting with Brazilian counterparts to consider common issues relating to the isolated indigenous peoples. At the end of April non-indigenous loggers, miners and other forest extractors again protested in Puerto Maldonado for greater access rights to indigenous protected areas.

\* **Laia Cateura:** the TReeS Peru volunteer, has been seconded to the Technical team of the Tambopata National Reserve Master Plan as a field assistant (Tourist Use sub-Plan) to work on the socio-economic survey with mining groups on the river Malinowski, and agricultural/brazil-nut groups along the rivers Tambopata and Madre de Dios, and the Cuzco road.

\* **Alfredo Garcia:** has participated in further MAP workshops to discuss environmental conservation, social justice, economic development and public policies relevant to the Madre de Dios, Acre (Brazil) and Pando (Bolivia) regions. The fourth international meeting with representatives from all three countries will take place in August, in Brazil.

Alfredo also attended a meeting in Lima to train facilitators supporting local and indigenous processes in the Peruvian Amazon which was hosted by RED-Peru (local development initiatives co-ordinators).

\* **Chris Kirkby:** has offered advice on sustainability to a new Ornamental Fish project in P.Maldonado. Run by the Peck family they are keen to establish contacts with the European ornamental fish 'fanciers'. More details from - [www.gonewild.net](http://www.gonewild.net)

### **Madre de Dios Floods Appeal**

We would like to thank all TReeS members who made donations to the appeal in the last newsletter. The funds will be distributed by TReeS Peru to those in need in communities along the Tambopata river.

### **Project La Torre:**

#### **\* Cross-cultural efforts to improve education in Peru / South Africa -**

As an attempt to improve education for children in the South, South Africans and Peruvians in South Africa came together in a cultural diverse environment, to raise funds for both TReeS Project La Torre and San Martin de Porres School, Soweto. Hosted at the Peruvian Embassy residence in Pretoria, under the shade of a Fever Tree, guests indulged in traditional Peruvian food and were entertained by the San Martin choir. The spirit of Africa was captured in the voices of the children, and the spirit of Tambopata, in the images of Michael Langford, a talented South African photographer and TReeS member.

The children felt a great sense of accomplishment, knowing that through their voices and artwork (which was auctioned off), they assisted in the upliftment of their school and sparked interest in the Peruvian rainforest! Almost \$1,000 was raised for both causes.

#### **\* Life Skills Training Programme -**

Nicole Antonie of PLT has been in South Africa, liaising with many NGO's and organisations on life skills training (LSTP) available there for both children and adults from different cultural backgrounds. Her aim is to adapt successful approaches in South Africa for use in a Life Skills Training programme in Madre de Dios, which she will establish under the auspices of TReeS. With the high teenage pregnancy rate; the global spread of HIV / AIDS; and child prostitution, the LSTP aims to provide young people with informed and positive life choices, as well as improved self-esteem.

A series of workshops are to be designed with local experts and Peruvian NGO's, taking into account local cultural attitudes and beliefs in Madre de Dios. By consolidating the vast range of educational materials available and local expertise in Peru, we aim to develop a programme, that inspires positive behaviour change in the youth of the Puerto Maldonado area.

**We are still looking for funding and any suggestions are welcome.**

\* **Volunteer opportunity** - 2 volunteers, spanish/english speakers, are sought to live in the La Torre community in the Project house (basic conditions) to continue the on-going teaching of english to children and adults in the community.

Further information on the above from -

[projectlаторre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:projectlаторre@yahoo.co.uk)

### **TReeS UK Libraries**

Forthcoming deposits will include -

- Explorer's Inn Bird Checklist for ex-TRZ, Feb'00.
- A paper entitled: 'Análisis Citogenético a nivel cromosómico del género Pamphobeteus sp. en el potrero de San Antonio - P.Maldonado (Phyllum Aracnida)' (untranslated).
- A paper entitled: 'The ecological importance of Dipteryx micrantha to nesting macaws in lower Tambopata: A comparison of natural cavities in 5 species of emergent trees'.
- Giant River Otter Project Newsletter No.7.
- Las Piedras 2002 Expedition final report.
- Las Piedras 2003 Expedition proposal.
- Project La Torre Newsletters Nos.4 & 5.

## **Giant River Otter Project - monitoring in the Tambopata National Reserve:**

During 2002, I focused my fieldwork on the five largest ox-bow lakes of the Tambopata area, all of which are within giant river otter territories. Five groups were identified and regularly monitored, 21 throat markings out of the 24 animals observed were recorded. Using a GPS, the respective territories were mapped, including lakeshore, streams, trails for use by tourists or local people, and giant otter signs.

Moreover, on two lakes along the Tambopata all giant otter sightings (location, duration, standardized simplified behaviour) were recorded by all guides in two nature tourism operations, as part of a voluntary monitoring of tourism-giant otter interaction. The data, collected over the past 2 years, shows dramatic changes in terms of the level of tolerance and length of observation of the resident otter groups, since the implementation of low impact tourism activities such as hides, fixed boat routes, wildlife refuge areas, etc.

These encouraging results, together with our knowledge of the habitat use patterns in the lakes, will provide strong tools towards further improving aquatic habitat use by tourism operators.

Raphael Notin

[raphaelnotin@yahoo.com](mailto:raphaelnotin@yahoo.com)

## **Peru News**

**\*\* Stop Press** - President Toledo has declared a 30 day national state of emergency following widespread strikes across the country over the last month. The strikers have included farmers, teachers, transport and health workers protesting at pay levels, foreign food imports and general dissatisfaction with Toledo's management of the economy. This is despite the re-organisation of his cabinet in the face of mounting criticism at the ineffectuality of his policies in April.

Part of a \$70m Inter-American Development Bank loan could be used to strengthen the governments capacity to supervise and analyse the social and economic aspects of the Camisea gas project and implement mechanisms for sustainable development in Camisea's zone of influence. However, the IADB has postponed the decision amid rumours of contact between project workers and uncontacted indigenous peoples leading to deaths amongst the latter.

Vladimir Montesinos, ex-President Fujimori's right-hand man, has gone on trial. He has already been sentenced to a 9 year term and faces up to 60 further trials on other charges.

48 died in a plane crash close to Chachapoyas.

### **The Tambopata Reserve Society (TReeS)**

P.O.Box 33153,

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Patron - Norman Myers

**Registered Charity No. 298054**

The work of TReeS has been endorsed/supported by the Rainforest Alliance, IUCN, IWGIA, Helpage, OXFAM, Anglo-Peruvian Society, Body Shop International PLC, Earthlove Fund, Reuters Foundation, the Yew Tree Gallery and the Lindeth Charitable Trust.

## **TReeS Merchandise -T-shirts for the Summer !**

\* **Earth Warrior:** the return of our very popular T-shirt with a design based on a Nasca line, in 'Andean earth red'. Price - £8.00 (XL), £7.50 (L), unbleached only.

\* **Curl Crested Aracari:** based on a colour painting by bird artist Eustace Barnes. Price - £8.50 (XL), £8.00 (L), bleached & unbleached.

\* **Macaws:** based on a colour painting by well-known wildlife artist Martin Jordan. Price - £9.00 (XL only), bleached & unbleached.

\* **NEW - Frogs of Tambopata CD.** A CD of frog calls identifying 70 frog species found in the Tambopata area. Price - £12.50.

(All prices include postage and packing)

\*Full Merchandise List available on request - please send a sae \*

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