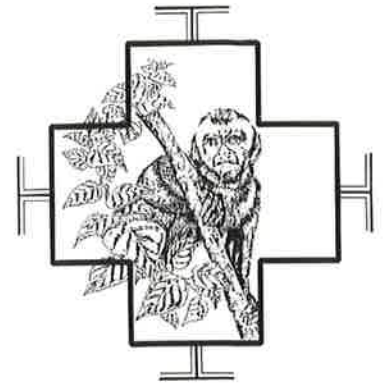


TReeS News No.61

July 2006



Oil exploration in Madre de Dios - update

The Peruvian government has now issued three new oil exploration/exploitation contracts in Madre de Dios to oil multi-nationals. All three Lots overlap with the traditional lands and territories of the indigenous peoples of Madre de Dios. This goes against Article 6 of Convention 169 of the International Labour Organisation, to which the Peruvian government is a signatory, which states that 'indigenous communities must be consulted each time that actions are taken that could affect them directly' and have the right to participate in meetings prior to any decision being taken.

Lot 111 – covering 1.5 million hectares, abuts the Tambopata National Reserve and includes the indigenous communities of Sonene and Palma Real as well as their traditional lands, plus four other native communities further north. This Lot will, initially, be explored by the China National Oil & Gas Corporation (CNODC) in a \$83 million contract.

Lot 76 – includes almost all of the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve and, along with Lot 113, abuts the Manu Biosphere Reserve almost completely to the east and north.

Lot 113 – also includes almost all of the Reserve of the 'indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation'. The exploration contract has also gone to CNODC. Much of this Lot was previously investigated by Mobil Oil in the early 1990s.

Perupetro recently invited FENAMAD (Federation of Native Peoples of Madre de Dios) to a meeting with CNODC at which TReeS Peru was also present. FENAMAD protested about the lack of

advance consultation and against the whole process of exploration and exploitation on indigenous lands.

FENAMAD is acutely aware that in other parts of the Amazon, including northern Peru and Camisea, oil companies have looked to divide and generate disagreement within indigenous organizations.

Consequently, TReeS responded immediately to a request from FENAMAD for emergency funds (£1,350) to visit the affected indigenous communities to -

- restate their position as the legitimate representatives of indigenous peoples of Madre de Dios;

- produce response strategies with the communities;

- disseminate information about the contracts and consolidate and unify the indigenous response.

TReeS is maintaining close contact with other organizations, local and international, involved in monitoring developments.

Emergency appeal: £1,350 to reinstate the rolling emergency funds we hold for FENAMAD, to allow a similar rapid response in future.

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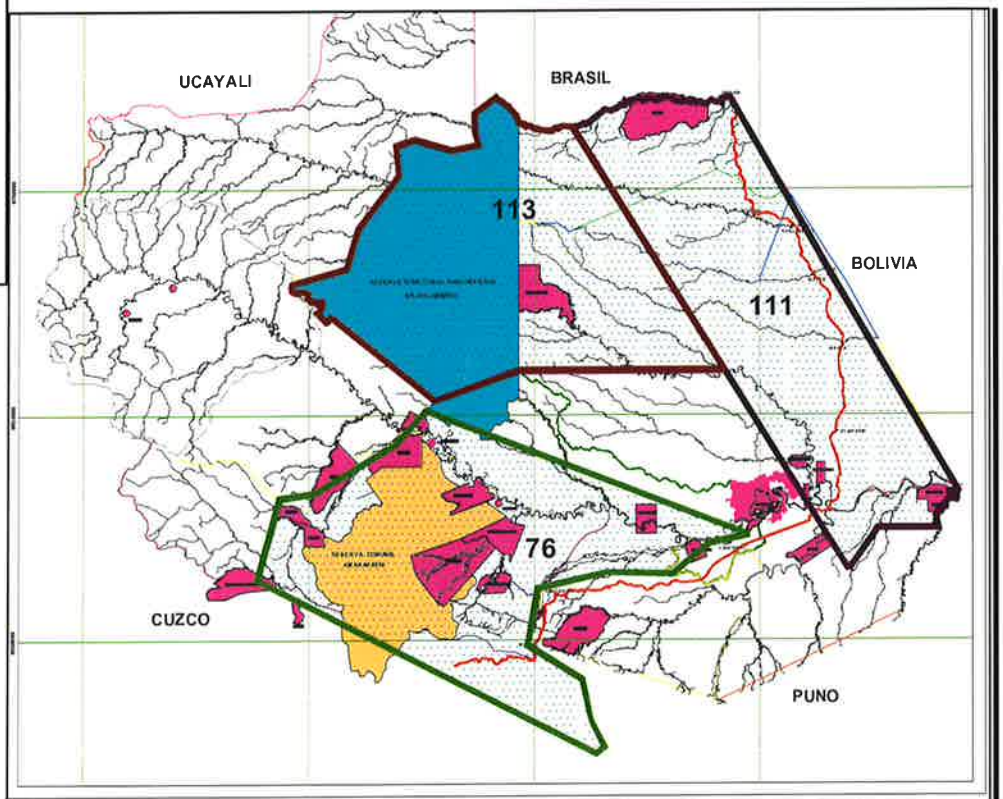
MAP KEY

- GREEN outline: Lot 76
- BLACK outline: Lot 111
- DARK RED outline: Lot 113
- TURQUOISE: isolated peoples lands
- BEIGE = Amarakaeri Communal Reserve
- PINK: Native Communities

Camisea project criticised

In March, the Defensoria del Pueblo (Ombudsman) issued a highly critical report about the huge Camisea gas project, in central Peru, especially its impact upon the environment and indigenous peoples.

Since it started operating in August 2004 there have been five major fuel leaks, principally blamed on poor pipeline construction. In the worst leak, in November 2005, 6,000+ barrels of fuel leaked in to the rainforest down-river from Machu Picchu.



Other TReeS Supported Projects

***Macaw Project:** TReeS has made a further donation to the major on-going Macaw research project run by Don Brightsmith.

The aims of the project in 2006 are to -

- monitor previously unstudied parrot/macaw clay-licks (colpas);
- improve existing parrot/macaw counting methodologies;
- survey parrot/macaw abundance with distance from colpas;
- train Peruvian ornithologists in field study methods/conservation.

TReeS has provided funding towards the cost of a young Peruvian from the local area to act as Field assistant to the 2006 project. The assistant will receive training in a range of ornithological techniques aimed at bird monitoring and conservation, plus ICT training and English lessons to improve his/her long-term career options.

***Forestry engineer training:** TReeS has made a small grant towards the participation of a local, recently qualified, forestry engineer in the marking of boundaries of the lands of the Picaflor Research Centre. This will enable the engineer to gain some useful practical experience.

***Ese'aja Health manual (Bolivian version):** TReeS, supported by the Matthiesen Foundation, has provided further funds for the publication of a Bolivian edition of the Ese'aja Health manual. Linguistic variations between the Ese'aja groups now living on either side of the Peru/Bolivia border necessitate different versions.

***Mini-MAP workshop:** the MAP workshops bring together local organisations from the Madre de Dios (Peru), Acre (Brazil) and Pando (Bolivia) regions. The latest workshop was held in Iberia, northern Madre de Dios, with over 120 delegates attending the 3 day event, including rubber tappers, farmers, fishermen, brazil-nut collectors, etc. The workshop allowed for the identification of appropriate development projects at a bi-national and tri-national level, an exchange of experiences, institutional training, a review of the implementation of the conclusions/decisions of the MAP IV workshop in 2004, plus preparation for MAP VI, to be held in Cobija, Bolivia. The TReeS representative in Peru - the anthropologist Alfredo Garcia - participated in the Conference.

***Mammal Colpa monitoring project:** TReeS has made a small grant to a La Molina University, Lima, study of a clay-lick (*colpa*) on the river Tambopata. The intensive study aims to gather detailed data about the use of the *colpa* use and will provide students with important field experience.

Emergency Task Force - in defence of isolated indigenous peoples: see box below.



Trans-oceanic highway conference

In March more than 200 participants from a wide range of non-governmental and government organizations, from across Madre de Dios, Puno and Cusco, attended a first conference to discuss opportunities, sustainable development and conservation issues associated with the upgrading of the highway linking Brazil to the Pacific ocean.

Discussions highlighted the biological fragility of the Madre de Dios/Cusco corridor, the need to generate worthwhile employment and improve the quality of life for those along the road.

A strategy was proposed based on planned development and sustainable management of natural resources, to promote -

- local capacity building, combined with information access and exchange;
- independent monitoring and evaluation of environmental and social impacts;
- incentives for forest protection along the highway corridor;
- enhanced collaboration between existing protected areas, community reserves and establishment of ecological corridors with non-timber forest, conservation, eco-tourism, etc concessions.

TReeS will continue to take part in and support others to participate in future workshops.

2005 National Population census

Despite many question marks over the accuracy of the Peruvian national census the figures released show a total population of 26.15 million, a 20% rise from 1993, which had been a 27.4% rise on 1981. 30% of people now live in Lima, compared to 28.6% in 1993.

In 1993 only 4.6% of the population was aged 65+ years, now it is 6.5%, while 9.9% of the population are aged 0-4 years, and 32.2% are below the age of 19 years.

The latest social indicators show that 40% of homes have no piped water and 50% no sewerage, while 12% of the population have no formal education, 21% didn't finish their Primary education, and 15.2% didn't complete Secondary education.

Average annual incomes now stand at \$500/person/year in rural areas, \$1,600 in urban areas and \$2,500 in Lima.

Emergency Task Force — in defence of isolated indigenous peoples

TReeS would like to thank all members who made generous donations to the Task Force fund following the appeal in the last Newsletter.

TReeS remains committed to supporting FENAMAD through the preparation of an emergency response plan should uncontacted indigenous peoples come in to contact with outsiders. The TReeS Peru representative is keeping in close contact with FENAMAD in this respect.

An interesting feature of oxbow lakes in temperate and tropical regions is their potential to attain "alternative stable states" (Scheffer, 1998). In the Rio Manu, where we study giant otters in their preferred feeding grounds of oxbow lakes, we have observed this phenomenon to add an unpredictable dimension to our field studies. In most years, Cocha Cashu and Cocha Salvador, our two main study sites, are dominated by phytoplankton, and have green, turbid water akin to "pea-soup" with very low visibility, and very few submerged or floating aquatic plants.

However, in some years, our study lakes can also attain a lovely clear-water state that supports thick beds of submerged aquatics (especially *Najas* sp.) and high visibility. Also seen in other oxbow lakes in the Manu, but rarely in Cocha Cashu or Salvador, is a lake state dominated by the floating macrophyte, *Pistia stratiotes*, better known as water lettuce. Interestingly, 2006 is the first year since observations began on the Cocha Cashu family of otters, in which this lake has been completely covered by

Pistia, to the chagrin of researchers attempting to follow otters for their research! The exact mechanisms within the food web dynamics that allow alternative lake states to be maintained (via positive feedback mechanisms) or to trigger switches between states (threshold effects) is better studied for temperate lakes than for tropical lakes, although there appear to be differences in lake ecology dependent on latitude. So, we can not yet offer a convincing explanation for the patterns observed in our oxbow lakes, nor predict with any accuracy which lake state will be attained in different years. However, for the case of dominance by *Pistia*, which depends on high nutrient levels, it is almost certainly related to and dependent upon the pattern of wet-season flooding that can provide rich nutrient input to oxbow lakes between December and April. In the absence of major flooding that removes *Pistia* altogether, conditions may become ripe for the rapid vegetative reproduction of the plants,

and complete take-over in a matter of weeks. The effect of different lake states on otter diet is also being monitored.

We are continuing to monitor fish migrations between the main river and Cocha Cashu during the rainy season, to better understand how fish movements affect otters and lake ecology. In the future we hope to better understand the importance of these changing conditions, and how the otters and their oxbow lake habitats interact.

Further details about the Frankfurt Zoological Society Giant Otter project can be obtained from:

Lisa Davenport otterologist@yahoo.com

Adriana Alvarez alvarezadri@yahoo.com

Darwin Osorio dhol79@yahoo.com



Climate Update

The last few months have remained dry across most of Madre de Dios—supposedly the wet season—adding to fears about long-term climate change in the region following the greatly reduced rainfall last year across all of Amazonia.

Only in April was there a significant amount of rainfall !

Peru News - 2006 Elections and other matters

Alan Garcia (President 1985-90) completed a remarkable political comeback with his victory in the recent Presidential elections. He secured 52.62% of the vote, to 47.38% for Ollanta Humala. Garcia's principal support came from the north coast, the stronghold of APRA, and Lima, while Humala secured the highest proportion of the vote from the indigenous population of the southern Andes.

In the first round Humala, promoting left-wing nationalist policies, had been the surprise leader securing 31% of the vote while Garcia, centre-left policies, secured only 24.5% just pipping Nano Flores, representing the centre-right, with 23.5%.

In May ex-President Fujimori was released from jail on \$3,000 bail on the condition that he remains within Chile. The Chilean Supreme Court is still to rule on whether he can be extradited to face human rights and corruption charges in Peru. In a BBC interview he stated that the charges against him were isolated and 'without substance'.

His daughter and former first lady fared rather better in the Congressional elections by winning the most votes — more votes than any candidate has ever received in Congressional elections ! However, Garcia's party only controls 35 of the 130 seats in Congress and Fujimori's party still has 13 seats.

Economic growth remains good at over 7% in the first quarter: almost 5 years of consecutive monthly growth — with the fishing, mining and construction sectors to the fore.

Recent scientific reports relating to Madre de Dios - the following papers will be placed in the TReeS Libraries. They are also available from TReeS (£1 each, plus an A4 sae).

- * Parrot nesting in south-eastern Peru: Seasonal patterns and keystone trees, D.Brightsmith, Duke Univ., 2005;
- * Tropical forests and global atmospheric change: a synthesis, Y.Malhi & O.Philips, Leeds Univ. 2004;
- * Efficient plot-based floristic assessment of tropical forests, O.Philips & others, Leeds Univ., 2003;
- * Large lianas as hyperdynamic elements of the tropical forest canopy, O.Philips & others, Leeds Univ., 2005;
- * Increasing biomass in Amazonian forest plots, T.Baker & others, Leeds Univ., 2004 ;
- * Habitat association among Amazonian tree species: a landscape-scale approach, O.Philips & others, Leeds Univ., 2003;
- * Concerted changes in tropical forest structure dynamics: evidence from 50 S.American long-term plots, S.Lewis & others, Leeds Univ., 2004;
- * Pattern and process in Amazon tree turnover, 1976-2001; O.Philips, Leeds Univ., 2004;
- * Local values for harvested forest plants in Madre de Dios, Peru: towards a more contextualised interpretation of quantitative ethnobotanical data, A.Lawrence, Oxford Univ., 2005;
- * Etnozoología de aves silvestres de importancia socio-economía en las comunidades nativas de Queros y Shipetiari, S.Bellota & K.Cereceda, University of San Antonio de Abad (Cusco), 2005.

SPECIAL OFFER: 'DIVERSITY IN THE RAINFOREST' video

Now only £5.00 last remaining copies (PAL & NTSC versions available)(50 mins). Beautiful footage of butterflies recorded in the natural forest, featuring 150 of the 1234 species found in the original Tambopata Reserved Zone (337 Nymphalidae; 239 Riodinidae; 170 Lycaenidae; 51 Papilionidae; 437 Hesperidae; 51 Pieridae).

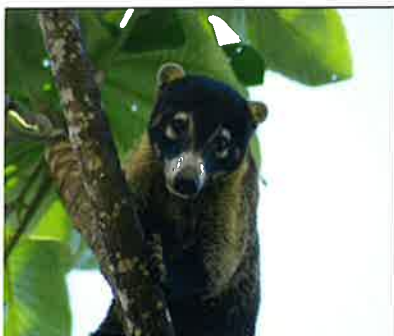


Other TReeS Merchandise - Books

***Ayahuasca Reader: Encounter with the Amazon's sacred vine** — a wide range of extracts from over 30 texts about the ayahuasca experience. These include indigenous mythic narratives and narratives related by western travellers, scientists and writers; 250 pages. **TReeS Price — £20.00** (RRP—£21).

***Wizard of the Upper Amazon** — an extraordinary document of life amongst the Huni Kui indigenous group of the northern Peruvian Amazon at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries and the mixing of human, animal and dream worlds; 200 pages. **TReeS price — £13.00** (RRP—£14).

***Salud para todos** — a practical manual providing details of 80+ medicinal plants, their cultivation, preparation and uses, published by TReeS & FENAMAD; 287 pages. **TReeS Price — £15.00**



TReeS AGM - 23.9.2006

2-4pm, William Ellis School,
Highgate Road, London
NW5 1RN

All members welcome.

The AGM will be followed by
John Forrest reporting back
on his recent visit to the
Tambopata area.

**New committee members
required** able to -

- update the TReeS website
every 2 months;

- assume the role of TReeS
Secretary.



Please write to J.Forrest at
TReeS outlining your suit-
ability for the role by the
end of August, if you
would like to stand.

Other Press stories -

The Independent, 27.6.06
— 'Mahogany imports are
wiping out Peru tribes'. Go to
www.news.indepedent.co.uk
to read more. A Survival
International researcher is
currently in Madre de Dios
looking in to this issue in
greater detail. We hope to
carry a report on his trip in
the Autumn newsletter.

* New York Times, 28.6.06
— 'The cry of the wild'. Go to
www.nytimes.com to read
this article about develop-
ments in the Tambopata
area.

TReeS details/
Merchandise
available from -

TReeS, P.O.Box 33153,
London NW3 4DR



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