

TReeS News No.67

March 2010

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

EU / Peru Free Trade negotiations

Many thanks to all TReeS members who responded to the suggestion in TReeS News No.66 and sent a letter to their MPs with respect to the on-going EU/Peru free trade negotiations. Questions were subsequently asked in the House of Commons and a mini-debate on the issue was held in the House of Lords.

Replies were received from three government departments, principally Chris Bryant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for South America, several MPs and a couple of MEPs from four political parties.

In most cases they expressed agreement with the principles of free trade and support for the negotiations. However, they stated that Peru would receive support to strengthen its institutions monitoring indigenous rights and the environment.

The ninth round of negotiations between the EU and Peru and Colombia for a Multi-Party Trade Agreement, took place in Brussels at the end of February. It is not yet known if this will be the final round before the signing of an agreement.

Peru's Foreign Trade and Tourism Minister Martín Pérez said that "the negotiation is now at a political stage" which makes it appropriate for TReeS members to write again to their MPs and MEPs (see below). The Head of the European Commission delegation in Peru, stated that the FTA would generate a positive climate for foreign investment and that European companies are very interested in the Peruvian model of open economy.

However, obstacles remain including fishing arrangements. If Peru accepts the European proposal, will give up its maritime sovereignty to fish freely within a 200 miles radius of its Pacific coastline. This would allow European fishing boats, especially Spanish vessels, in to Peruvian waters.

Peru-China FTA Comes into Force in March

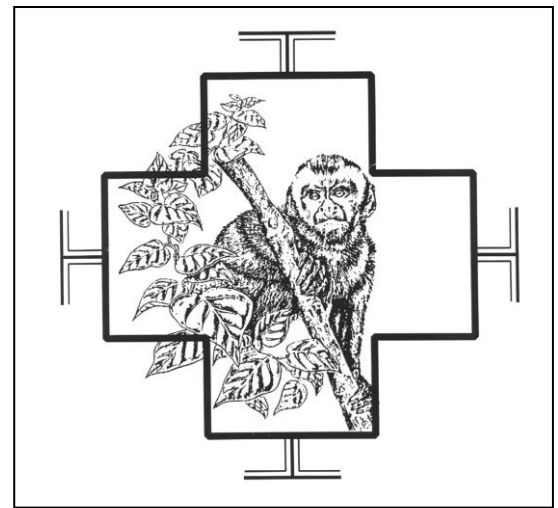
The trade agreement between Peru and China came into effect on March 1st. Approximately 90% of Peruvian exports to China will not now be subject to any tariffs. The Peruvian government hopes that the agreement will generate investment opportunities for small and medium domestic businesses in the short term. However commentators opposed to the agreement believe that China will try to use the Peruvian market as a bridge to access Brazil. This could lead to a significant increase in traffic on the Trans-oceanic highway through Madre de Dios.

According to Peruvian trade figures China is the country's second most important export market after the US, representing 12% of total exports, or US\$ 3.7 billion. China recently committed itself to invest \$1.2 billion in mining, electricity, telecommunications and the railways.

Peru-US Environment Meeting

Peruvian and US representatives held their first environmental affairs meeting in Washington on February 18th to discuss compliance on environmental provisions under the US-Peru FTA. At the meeting, the two countries created the Environmental Affairs Council as part of the Environmental Chapter of the FTA to examine conservation issues.

If you are concerned about this issue and the long-term impact that it may have on the Amazon rainforest and the indigenous (and other) peoples who live there, you may like to send the enclosed letter to your local MP, or MEP. TReeS would be pleased to receive copies of any responses that you receive.



Report on Bagua violence published

The national commission formed to investigate the confrontation between Peruvian police and indigenous protestors at Bagua released its final report in mid-December 2009. However, Jesús Manacés, an Awajún leader and head of the commission, refused to sign the document. Manacés did not sign arguing that it 'neither included the views of the indigenous members of the commission, nor did it identify those responsible in the police and military sectors'.

Several indigenous and legal organisations have expressed their dissatisfaction at the report. Peru's indigenous Amazonian alliance AIDSEP qualified the document as 'absolutely worthless' because it does not show the peaceful concept behind indigenous people's way of life; Peru's Institute of Legal Defense (IDL) reviewed the report as the "antithesis of a serious work of investigation." UK NGO Survival International rejected the report for being "a disturbing insight into the mindset of some of the commission members."

However, earlier this month, President García expressed his support for the commission's report, declaring it to be "true and sensible". He claimed that is unfair to talk about a massacre against indigenous people when of the 33 people killed, 23 were policemen. The report also includes some "recommendations" to Peru's indigenous population. These include that the indigenous community should revise its "culture and social, political and religious structures"; "should abandon their concept of a static culture opposed to change... their belief that 'all people are equal'...", instead they should "adapt to a globalisation model inspired by an authentic humanism." !



Jaime Corisepa, new FENAMAD President, addresses the FENAMAD Congress © FENAMAD

Peru News

Early in 2010 much of the Andes was affected by unusually heavy rains, possibly related to mild El Niño conditions on the north coast. The resulting floods were particularly severe around Cusco leading to 40 deaths, the washing away of 14 bridges and 4,000 homes. Nearly 25,000 were left homeless, and 14,000 hectares of farmland were devastated. A section of the Machu Picchu railway was washed away stranding approximately 4,000 tourists at Aguas Calientes. The Peruvian military flew nearly 400 flights to evacuate them out over several days. Access to Machu Picchu was severely restricted for several weeks with the rail line only reopening on 1st April.

The Peruvian media has been dominated recently by the success of film director Claudia Llosa whose latest film '*La Teta Asustada*' was the first Peruvian film ever to be nominated in the 'Best foreign film' category at the Oscar's. The film did not win but, along with her earlier work '*Made in USA*', has established her as a rising star of Latin American cinema.

TReeS Library - forthcoming deposits will include the following reports (all untranslated):

'*Avances sobre la biodiversidad de las Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) en la RNT*', by Mabel Alvarado;

'*Estudio preliminar de la fauna de Agathidinae y Rogadinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) en el Explorer's Inn*', by Lidia Silca;

'*Estudio de la flora y vegetación de un humedal amazónico (el lago Condenado) de la RNT*', by Wilfredo Ramirez (untranslated).

'*Especies de escarabajos coprofagos (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) en la RNT*', by Marshory Cubas.

'*Diversidad y estructura de las comunidades de epifitas vasculares en un bosque montano del valle de Kosnipata*' by Michael Vega.

TReeS London Library

TReeS is grateful to the 'Rainforest Foundation' for housing the TReeS London library for the last couple of years. A new home for the Library is currently being sought.

TReeS Merchandise - NEW

* '*Rainforest Animal*' greetings cards – based on beautiful line drawings by Dr Laurel Hanna, seven designs are now available including four new designs: Scarlet Macaw, Puma, Razor-billed Curassow, Bolivian Blue-legged Tarantula*, White Capuchin monkey*, Yellow crowned parrot* and Tree-frog*. (* new designs)

Price: £5.00 for 7 or £1.00 each (including envelopes) (including P & P).

Camden Green Fair & Bike Fest – 6th June, 11am-7.30pm.

The Camden Green Fair, held in Regents Park, is the largest Green Fair in London. Environmental charities large and small, plus ethical craft organisations, alternative health and therapy providers will be present plus numerous organic food stalls. TReeS will have a stall. (Nearest tube stations: Camden Town, Euston, Baker St. & Regents Park – then a 10 minute walk).

TReeS Membership

Members are reminded that in line with other similar Societies the basic TReeS membership rate is now £15 / annum. Membership is due on the 1st of January each year.

We would be most grateful if members could amend their bank orders accordingly.

All cheques are payable to – 'TReeS'.

**TReeS Membership:
£15 per annum**

TReeS contact details –

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

www.tambopata.org

TReeS USA – New Address:

P.O.Box 842, Shasta Lake,
CA96019-0842, USA.

TReeS USA is run by Bud and Margaret Widdowson.

All members in Canada and the USA are requested to pay their annual membership via TReeS USA.



The River of Time: Place & History of an Amazonian People

Dr Miguel Alexiades

**Thursday 22nd April, 6.30pm
Peruvian Embassy, 52 Sloane St.,,
London SW1**

(Nearest tube station: Knightsbridge)

Dr Alexiades has spent many years working with the Ese'ejá living along the Tambopata and Heath rivers in Peru, and in Bolivia. He will speak about their relationship with the forest – some of the most biodiverse on the planet - and their history.

Tickets (£7 – state you are a TReeS member, including refreshments) from: The Secretary, The Anglo-Peruvian Society, P.O.Box 494, Wembley, Middx HA9 8ZB
(Please include a SAE)

JLA Advert

TReeS Supported Projects

* **Programa de Becas (Small Grants program) 2010** – Ten applications have been received this year from Peruvian biologists planning to undertake research in the southern Peruvian Amazon and are currently being processed.

Appeal: £25+ donations towards the cost of the 2010 and future grants programmes.

* **FENAMAD Congress** –

At the end of January the Federation of indigenous peoples of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD) held their XV Congress in the indigenous community of Boca Iñambari. It was attended by 80 representatives from native communities from across Madre de Dios.

A new President, Jaime Corisepa Neri a Harakmbut, from the native community of Puerto Azul, was elected to hold office until 2012. A wide range of issues were discussed to set the agenda for the life of the new management committee.

The meeting voted to oppose the activities of Hunt Oil and Repsol in Lot 76 inside the ancestral territories of the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve. Lot 76 covers almost the entire Reserve which was created in 2002 after 30 years of negotiations by Yine, Harakmbut and Machiguenga community representatives.

TReeS provided financial assistance to support the event and the attendance of representatives.

* **Amarakaeri Communal Reserve** -

TReeS responded to a request from FENAMAD to provide funding to enable a fact finding mission to enter the Reserve and visit the native communities affected. Hunt Oil's strategy is to approach each community individually which generates division, disagreement and confrontation between indigenous communities.

The original Master Plan for the Reserve stated that oil and gas extraction from within a protected area was incompatible but this has been ignored for many years by the Ministry of Energy.

(A more detailed report on this issue will appear in the next TReeS News)

Peru and Climate Change

A recent IPCC report lists Peru as the third most vulnerable country in the world after Bangladesh and Honduras to climate change. Since 1980 30% of Peru's glaciers have melted – an amount of water equivalent to 10 years water supply for Lima. By 2020 all glaciers extending below 5,000 metres are expected to have melted.

Many Peruvians are also wondering whether the Amazon 'drought' in 2005, the current heavy rains the length of the Andes and the increasingly severe, cold conditions in the southern Andes might be climate change related.

Several delegates from Peru attended the Climate Change conference in Copenhagen, last December. Amongst them was Pedro Casanova, from the Organic Farming Association of Madre de Dios, who went as the representative of MAP. MAP - Madre de Dios (Peru), Acre (Brazil) & Pando (Bolivia) – is the organisation that links representative groups in south-west Amazonia.

Post-Copenhagen, AIDSESEP, the representative organisation for indigenous groups across the Peruvian Amazon, organised a national conference, in Lima, to discuss the outcomes and the potential consequences - of the lack of ratification and agreement – on the Amazon and its indigenous inhabitants.

(A more detailed article about Climate Change and the Amazon will appear in the next TReeS News)

FENAMAD XV Congress © FENAMAD



Oil & Gas exploration update

In April, twenty more oil and gas exploration Lots in the Peruvian Amazon will be auctioned off by the government. The auction was postponed from January due to on-going negotiations with indigenous representatives from the affected areas. In mid-February the auction was promoted at an oil industry convention in Texas at which Survival International reminded *Perupetro* that in the 1990s Mobil Oil Inc explored an area of northern Madre de Dios where uncontacted indigenous peoples are known to live before they abandoned the project after significant international publicity and pressure. TReeS took a leading role in co-ordinating and responding to requests for assistance from the local indigenous Federation – FENAMAD.

Over 70% of the Peruvian Amazon will be covered by oil / gas exploration Lots once the new Lots are assigned. Matt Finer, a scientist at the US environmental group Save America's Forests, has stated that 'almost 90% of the energy concessions in Peru's Amazon overlap with nature reserves, lands titled to indigenous people or places where tribes living in voluntary isolation'. Finer believes that the recipe for increasing social conflicts is the lack of a legal framework in Peru that ensures (for indigenous communities) their free, prior and informed consent on such matters.

Peru's economy relies on mining and energy exports to grow. Although the Andean country was one of the few in the region that posted a positive growth in 2009 amid the global crisis, its government faces a tough opposition by indigenous groups upon the development of mining and oil and gas projects due to the lack of consultation.