

EMERGENCY APPEAL JUNE 2002

In June 2002 TRees, a British organisation with whom The Matthiesen Foundation is working in Sonene and la Torre in conjunction with ANIA sounded the alarm with regard to a crisis situation that was developing in the area as follows:

EMERGENCY FUNDING APPEAL IN DEFENCE OF THE ISOLATED INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS OF MADRE DE DIOS, PERU June 2002

This proposal seeks urgent funding for the defence of isolated indigenous populations in Madre de Dios, southeast Amazonian Peru. The populations are immediately threatened by the expansion of uncontrolled, illegal mahogany extraction that is encroaching into their traditional territory. In May 2002, the Peruvian government declared a State Reserve in favour of the isolated indigenous populations; however, there appears to be no adequate plan by the government to give on-the-ground protection to the new Reserve and control illegal logging.

The urgency of the situation cannot be overemphasised. There is an immediate danger of direct confrontation, which could result in deaths among both the indigenous peoples and the timber workers. Even without a direct confrontation there is an acute risk of epidemics through the introduction of 'western' diseases, to which isolated indigenous populations have little resistance. This year's logging season is just beginning and unless action is taken it is highly likely that contact will be forced upon the isolated populations, with disastrous results[2]. Already, there have been reports of some sightings by loggers of isolated indigenous people, including a case in which a young timber worker was wounded by an arrow.

This proposal adopts a dual strategy. Its primary aim is to work to prevent contact with the isolated populations, guaranteeing their right to maintain their isolation and retain use of their traditional territories. In addition, it aims to put in place a contingency plan for emergency assistance, should contact occur. To this end the following objectives will

be pursued:

- Mount a national awareness-raising campaign and mobilise political support for the defence of the new Reserve;
- Establish an investigation team to visit the logging frontier and gather accurate information on the situation;
- Develop a cross-institutional contingency plan for emergency assistance in the event of epidemics as a result of direct contact.

Whilst it is likely that the total funding will take some months to raise, TReeS UK has undertaken to raise an initial sum of US\$10,000 so that some activities can begin as soon as possible. We are therefore urgently seeking donations to contribute to this sum. Please forward this proposal to any individuals or organisations who may be able to make a donation.

The original proposal was prepared jointly by the regional indigenous Federation, FENAMAD, and TReeS-Peru, a local non-governmental organisation. This English summary was prepared by TReeS-UK, which has a 15-year history of collaboration with FENAMAD.

Background: The isolated Indian communities are from the Yora, Mashco-Piro and Amahuaca tribes.

These isolated tribes are highly nomadic, and small family groups move around frequently. During the dry season families tend to live by the rivers, as fishing is relatively easy and turtle eggs can be collected from the sandy beaches.

In the wet season they retreat further into the forest to hunt and collect fruits, berries and nuts. Their ancestors were survivors of the rubber boom in the early 20th Century, in which tens of thousands of Indians died through disease, torture and mass killings as outsiders poured into the area looking to make their fortunes.

They have maintained voluntary isolation through the 20th Century but in the past 20 years have faced several major threats to their way of life. Part of their refuge was invaded in the 1980s by Shell, who were looking for oil. The oil exploration paths subsequently acted as an easy entrance for colonists, who brought with them colds, measles and other diseases which the isolated Indians had never encountered. Following an accidental contact with one isolated Yora population, a measles epidemic took hold, and the Yora began to come out of the forest in a desperate search for medical assistance. At that time the local authorities were ill prepared to cope with the disaster. A rescue mission was mounted by was hampered by the in spite of the logistical problems of taking medical supplies to an unknown population living in an unmapped area of remote rain forest. Within six months of contact an estimated 80% of the population was dead.

In 1996, the oil company Mobil also explored in this region. After a vigorous worldwide campaign of vigils, demonstrations and letter-writing facilitated by TReeS-UK and led by Survival International, Mobil withdrew two years later. However since then the area has been encroached increasingly by loggers and colonists.

In July 2000, the Peruvian government responded to international protests by creating the 'Upper Purús Reserved Zone' (UPRZ). This gave some of the area temporary protection from loggers and colonists, but it fell far short of the land ownership rights demanded by international law – and it left out a crucial area to the south-east where many of the isolated Indians live.

In May 2002 the Peruvian government announced the creation of a further State Reserve to protect those Indians living in voluntary isolation in the area. The reserve, which is just to the north of the popular tourist destination of Manu National Park, covers an area of 829,000 hectares in total. In theory, no logging will be allowed inside the area. However, there is still no plan to enforce the new Reserve and loggers are still operating

there.

It is in this context, and faced with an expected boom in illegal logging in the coming season, that FENAMAD is requesting assistance for emergency measures to safeguard the lives and rights of the isolated indigenous populations. The activities described in this proposal represent a short period of acute activity to put in place the political support and inter-institutional plans needed to deal with the immediate situation. They will complement ongoing negotiations by FENAMAD with the Peruvian government for the safeguarding of the long-term future of the isolated peoples.

Summary of Activities

: a. National, regional and local awareness campaign

: A short television spot and posters were prepared last year and disseminated in the state town of Puerto Maldonado. Funds are sought initially to show the 'spot' on national television in order to build political support for adequate control of logging activities and defence of the newly created Indigenous Reserve.

Additional activities include workshops in the largest settlements in the region (Iñapari, Iberia, Puerto Maldonado, San Juan Grande); production of dissemination materials (booklets and posters and, should funding be sufficient, a video and radio programme); email dissemination to national and international support groups and other initiatives in defence of isolated indigenous populations.

Establishment of investigation teams to document evidence of the movements of isolated indigenous groups (always through indirect evidence from loggers and others; no attempt will be made to observe isolated populations directly). Such information will be disseminated both to government and to the loggers themselves, who are likely to avoid direct contact if they can do so.

:Development of a contingency plan for emergency assistance in the event of contact and the outbreak of epidemics. The plan will be informed by evidence collected by the investigation teams. It will develop interinstitutional capacity to deal with such an emergency through collaboration with existing state and civil organisations. There is already an alliance between FENAMAD, regional state organisations and unions of (legal) loggers in Madre de Dios that has collaborated on planning issues over the past year; and a team to work on the emergency plan comprising representatives of FENAMAD, the Regional Health Authority (Dirección Regional de Salud de Madre de Dios), the local judiciary (Oficina Descentralizada Puerto Maldonado de la Defensoría del Pueblo), local development agency (ProManu) and (invited) the office of the Director of Manu National Park.

We emphasise that these activities will complement ongoing initiatives by FENAMAD to develop medium- and long-term agreements with the Ministries of Agriculture and Internal Affairs concerning the problems caused by illegal logging, through the development of mechanisms for control and monitoring. This funding proposal is specifically for short-term emergency actions to deal with the current crisis. Timetable: The work described in this proposal has been planned for a six-month intensive period, and will be supported on the medium and long term by ongoing lobbying and organisational activities by FENAMAD. The work will begin as soon as sufficient funds are available.

Contact details of participating organisations:

Helen Newing, Victor Pasha Alfredo Garcia, TReeS-UK President, TReeS-Peru Dept of Anthropology FENAMAD Casilla Postal 28 University of Kent Av. 26 de diciembre 276 Lambayeque 488 Canterbury CT2 7NS , UK Puerto Maldonado, Peru Puerto Maldonado, Peru H.S.Newing@ukc.ac.uk marinke@terra.com.pe treespem@wayna.rcp.net.pe (44) 1227 827034 (t) (51) 84 572499 (t/f) (51) 84 572788 (t) (44) 1227 827289 (f) (51) 84 572589 (f) BUDGET PRIORITY* ITEM AMOUNT US\$ SUBTOTAL US\$

SUBTOTAL £ STERLING 1 TV y radio broadcast time \$10,000.00
 \$10,000.00 £6,834.00 2 Medicines, materials, field equipment \$5,000.00
 2 Radio and antenna \$1,500.00 2 Radio operator x 6m x \$200 \$1,200.00
 2 Transport hire \$5,000.00 \$12,700.00 £8,679.00 3 55HP boat motor
 \$3,500.00 3 Canoe 12 mts \$1,200.00 3 Social facilitator x 3m x \$800
 \$2,400.00 \$7,100.00 £4,852.00 4 Cameras 2 x 450 \$900.00 4 Flights
 \$1,500.00 4 Food \$4,000.00 4 Office materials and suministros
 \$2,500.00 4 Other services \$2,000.00 4 Production of booklets, posters
 etc \$3,000.00 4 River and land transport \$6,000.00 4 Tape recorders 2 x
 100 \$200.00 \$20,100.00 £13,736.00 5 Anthropologist x 3 m x 800
 \$2,400.00 5 Computer/printer \$1,500.00 5 FENAMAD coordinator x 6 m
 x 250 \$1,500.00 5 Production of video and radio programme \$5,000.00
 5 Promoter from COHARYIMA[4] x 6m x 250 \$1,500.00 5 Promoter from
 FEPEFMAD[5] x 6m x 250 \$1,500.00 \$13,400.00 £9,157.00 SUB TOTAL
 \$63,300.00 £43,258.00 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS (10%) \$6,330.00
 £4,326.00 TOTAL BUDGET \$69,630.00 £47,584.00 * Numbers show the
 priority of different items from top priority (1) downwards. It does not
 follow that the total amount for any one step is needed before any action
 can be taken; partial funding will be used immediately to carry out
 whatever actions are possible. + (Rate of exchange 1.463: FT, 5/06/02)

Reserva del Estado a favor de ... : Resolucion Ministerial 0427-2002-AG,
 May 2002. [2] There is strong evidence that the isolation of the
 communities is the result of their positive choice, based on negative
 experiences in the past. [3] Summary proposal in English prepared by
 Helen Newing, TReeS-UK, based on original proposal in Spanish by the
 Federation for Native Communities of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD) jointly
 with TReeS-Peru. TReeS-UK is UK Registered Charity no. 298054. [4]
 COHARYIMA is a regional branch of FENAMAD (= Consejo Harakmbut,
 Yine y Matsigenka). [5] FEPEFMAD is a Federation of loggers practising
 sustainable management in Madre de Dios (= Federacion de Extractores
 Forestales con Manejo Sostenible de Madre de Dios)
<http://www.thechildrensforest.org/>