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ABOUT US

Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the biological diversity of the Amazon Basin, with offices in the United States and Bolivia. ACA's associate organization in Peru is the *Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA)*.

We envision a network of state, community, and private lands managed for conservation and sustainable resource use to conserve the biological diversity of the southwest Amazon basin.

In partnership with governments, local communities and other actors, we are developing new ways to protect the fragile habitats of the Amazon. Our actions are informed by scientific research and designed to achieve measurable outcomes. We are committed to concentrating our resources and capabilities where they have the largest conservation impact. We believe that long-term conservation is best ensured by active and informed participation, and we work closely with forest users seeking to improve their resource management practices.

ACA Appoints New Executive Director

From Adrian Forsyth,
President of the Board

Since its establishment in 1999, Amazon Conservation Association has grown significantly and made great progress in Peru and Bolivia. During these first years, Cristian Vallejos successfully led the organization to greater horizons, consolidating a foundation for solid, effective programs that have surpassed even the highest initial expectations of colleagues, friends, and staff of the Organization.

As part of ACA's adaptive strategy for meeting the coming challenges in conservation, we have appointed Steven Panfil as ACA's new Executive Director, starting January 2006. Steve has a doctorate in botany from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's degree in ecology from Princeton University.



Steven Panfil spends some time with members of the Qeros and Kosñipata communities in Cusco, Peru

Based in Cusco, Peru, Steve has served as ACA's Conservation Director for the past 3 years.

With greater presence in the field, we expect to strengthen our relations with governmental organizations, local

communities and other key partners in conservation. I would like to personally thank Cristian Vallejos for his excellent commitment and leadership during this important initial phase.

Madre de Dios Red List Project Underway

We know that an extensive area of the Madre de Dios basin (please see map on page 4) has been set aside for protection in parks and reserves. However, it is not known exactly which species

are protected in these areas, and which species have been recorded in the Madre de Dios basin but whose habitat is not protected. The answers to these questions will change in the coming decades, due to

increasing pressures from economic development and climate change.

ACA is thus developing new plans and tools to help

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CURIOUS NOTES



Ceratophrys cornuta

This frog species found in Los Amigos lays up to 1000 eggs at a time and wraps them around aquatic plants.



Dasyprocta variegata

The agouti is the number one Brazil nut seed disperser. This Amazonian rodent uses its chisel-like teeth to make a hole in Brazil nut pods, eating some nuts and burying the rest.



The Amazonian seed, Sacha Inchi, has high concentrations of Omega 3, a fatty acid proven to help prevent heart disease and stimulate brain functioning. ACA is assisting communities in developing this new alternative crop.

Trans-oceanic Highway Project Presents Key Challenges for Conservation and Sustainable Development

A project that is already underway to upgrade existing roads linking Brazil to the Pacific Ocean will bring significant challenges for conservation and land use planners in southeastern Peru. In March, ACA joined more than 200 participants including Peruvian government authorities, regional environmental commissions, indigenous and native communities, representatives from academia and civil society in a workshop to facilitate discussion among the regions of Cusco, Puno and Madre de Dios on local opportunities and sustainable development and conservation issues around the construction of the highway.

One of the results achieved during this first workshop was a general consensus regarding the need to work together to ensure sustainable development, particularly in

the biologically fragile Madre de Dios–Cusco region. Many discussions focused on the need to generate employment and improve the quality of life and social conditions in the region, while conserving biodiversity and maintaining the



Multiregional workshop in Cusco, Peru

connectivity between the three regions' unique ecosystems.

A strategy has been proposed, based on planned development and sustainable management of natural resources, to promote:

- Local capacity building;
- Information access and exchange;

- Independent monitoring and evaluation of social and environmental impacts related to the project;
- Close collaboration among existing protected areas, and establishment of ecological and productive corridors with non-timber forest concessions, conservation concessions, ecotourism and reforestation, and community and indigenous reserves;
- Incentives for forest protection.

ACA will continue to work closely with all the parties engaged in these discussions, to propose and implement viable solutions to these critical challenges. We look forward to keeping you informed on this important issue.

Madre de Dios Red List Project Underway

Continued from page 1

INRENA (the Peruvian National Institute of Natural Resources), researchers and conservationists to avoid species extinctions in the region.

The first phase of the “Parks and Species of Madre de Dios” program consists of a preliminary compilation of species lists and publications for select groups of animals (birds, terrestrial mammals, bats, fishes, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles).

We expect the first products to be ready two months from now:

- 1) Lists of the species present and expected within each protected area in the Madre de Dios basin;
- 2) Lists of the species known to occur in the Madre de Dios basin but not yet recorded in a protected area;
- 3) A list of high-priority research projects to fill gaps in the previous lists;
- 4) A plan to monitor and protect species not yet covered by the region's parks.

New Agreement Signed with the Peruvian Government for Amazon Weather Stations

The Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA) and the Peruvian National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (SENAMHI) have signed a cooperative agreement that will enhance the network of weather stations throughout the Madre de Dios basin. This two-year renewable agreement will upgrade SENAMHI-operated weather

stations and integrate them with two stations monitored by ACCA. The staff responsible for collecting data at the stations will be mostly selected from the communities adjacent to the Los Amigos Conservation Concession, as a means to benefit the communities while achieving sustainable conservation. As part of this agreement ACCA will also have access to his-

torical data collected by SENAMHI in the Madre de Dios basin. Data obtained from these archives and from the stations will be critical in our ongoing efforts to monitor the impacts of climate change in the Andes-Amazon region.

New partnership with the ACEER Foundation for Amazon Science Training

ACA recently partnered with ACEER, the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research, to enhance education and research training activities at CICRA—ACA's Research Station adjacent to the Los Amigos Conservation Concession.



Laboratory at CICRA

With support from the National Geographic Society, ACEER will expand current facilities at CICRA to accommodate groups of up to 20 course participants in

comfortable dormitories. Course participants will have access to laboratories, ACA's library, internet, and other facilities. Most importantly,

they will have access to the Los Amigos Conservation Concession, a pristine Amazon setting.

ACEER plans to sponsor several courses at CICRA during the year, and expand in the years to come. For more information visit ACEER's webpage www.aceer.org

Wayqechas Research Station Begins Construction!

As ACA's premier Amazonian biodiversity research station, CICRA, continues to grow, ACA's new Wayqechas (*why-key-chas*) Cloud Forest Research Station is under construction at full speed. Jorge Herrera, who successfully administered CICRA in previous years, is now taking the reins as the

new administrator at Wayqechas. He plans to have the first three cabins available this April 2006. Three teams are working busily on the cabins, competing among themselves to deliver the best product. The station will receive its first visitors in April.



First cabin under construction at the Wayqechas Research Station

CURIOUS NOTES



There are approximately 25 Brazil nut seeds inside a pod. Harvesters use a machete to cut it in half and collect the seeds.



Hundreds of macaws of different species gather in clay licks along river banks in the Amazon basin. These clay licks are an important source of minerals and salts.



Cordyceps tuberculata
This type of fungus found in Los Amigos infects certain moths, eventually killing them. It is a recent addition to Peru's biological inventory.

ACA's BOARD MEMBERS

- Adrian Forsyth, President
- Enrique Ortiz, Vice President
- John Tobin, Secretary-Treasurer
- Elizabeth Losos, Director
- Sarah DuPont, Director
- Dorothy Batten, Director
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Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization legally incorporated in the United States and Bolivia, with offices in Peru as well.

In 2001, the Peruvian government awarded ACA's Peruvian partner, the Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA), a long-term renewable contract for the world's first Conservation Concession: Los Amigos, which means "friends" in Spanish. The Los Amigos Conservation Concession directly protects 400,000 acres of Amazonian forest and connects with nearly 5 million additional acres, around Manu National Park and the Mashco Indigenous Reserve, in the Madre de Dios River basin of southeastern Peru.

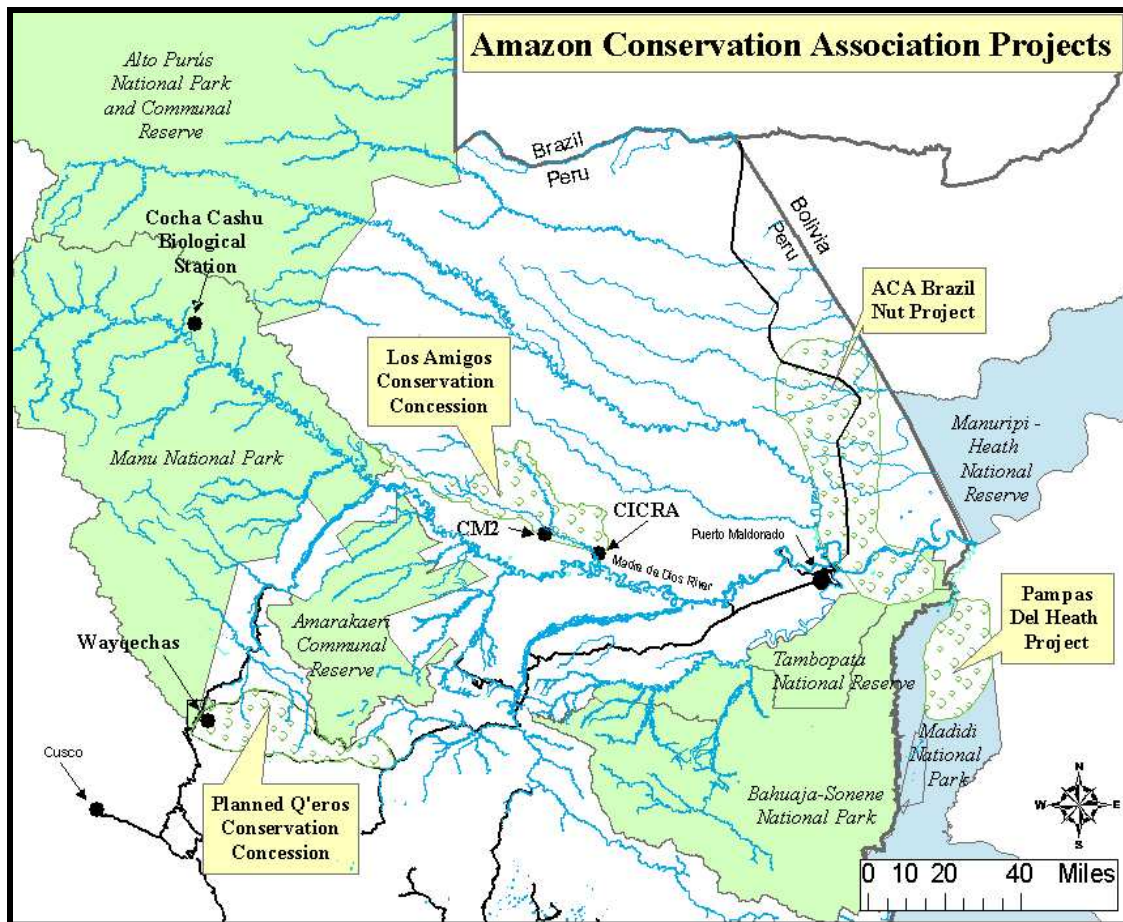
ACA and ACCA manage a premiere research station, known by its acronym in Spanish: "CICRA", adjacent to the Los Amigos Conservation Concession. CICRA provides scientists with access to the concession, as well as to excellent facilities for long-term research in pristine Amazon habitats. CICRA is also a center for field courses conducted by prestigious universities in the United States.

This year, ACA and ACCA launched a bid for a second conservation concession: the Río Keros Conservation Concession. ACA and ACCA manage a 9,000-acre property in the cloud forests of the Kosñipata Valley, the area of the proposed conservation concession. A second research station, based on the CICRA model, is being established there.

ACA and ACCA have been working successfully with Brazil nut producers in Madre de Dios since 2000, to secure long-term access to Brazil nut stands in exchange for the adoption of sustainable forest management practices.

In Bolivia, ACA is conducting research projects to study the Pampas del Heath: a complex system in which natural fires maintain biodiversity-rich savannas. ACA works closely with local authorities to ensure protection and conservation of the Pampas del Heath and surrounding protected areas.

WHERE WE WORK



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