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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.

## Los Amigos Forever : 360,000 acres of the Amazon's richest forest to be permanently protected

Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) and its Peruvian counterpart, the Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA) are establishing a US\$ 1 million trust fund to ensure permanent protection of the Los Amigos Conservation Concession. The trust fund will cover the basic costs of both protecting and monitoring the ecological health of the conservation concession.

Established in 2001, the Los Amigos Conservation Concession is an example of one of the most innovative tools in conservation. Prior to the creation of the Los Amigos Concession, illegal logging and hunting in the area was steadily increasing. The government of Peru lacked the resources to protect the forest and fauna of the area.



In 2001, tapir populations were hunted throughout the Los Amigos



Today, we find their tracks a stone's throw from our research station

Today, thanks to the intervention and management of ACA/ACCA, all illegal logging and hunting activities have completely stopped. Wildlife populations are growing steadily, and ACA's Research Program in Los Amigos has tremendously helped to increase our understanding of these Amazonian ecosystems. In setting aside Los Amigos,

the Peruvian Government has entrusted us with the care of a large tract of the biologically richest forest on earth. To ensure that this forest is permanently conserved, we need to raise \$ 2.78 per acre!

More information on the creation of this fund, how to contribute and a detailed description of the budget is available at our website.

## *Atrium*, the Latest Breed of Technology for Bio-Research

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) recently released *Atrium*, an online biodiversity information system that provides scientists, students, and the general public with access to biodiversity data, images, maps, and more for the Andes-Amazon region of south-

eastern Peru, and beyond. *Atrium* facilitates the collection, organization, and sharing of organismal and ecological information generated by the biologists, ecologists, students, and local field assistants conducting studies in the region from the different ACA field sites: Los Amigos

and Wayqechas Research Stations.

With a standard Web browser, viewers can log in to *Atrium* and search over 5,000 collections that compose the Peruvian plant specimen data and browse

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CURIOSITIES



Photo: Rudolf von May

*Clelia clelia*. This species found in Los Amigos feeds not only on small mammals or lizards but also pit vipers (!) thus helping control poisonous snake populations.



Photo: John Janovec

*Vallea stipularis* is a widespread member of the Elaeocarpaceae family, restricted to upland Andean cloud forests. This family is better known for the diverse genus Sloanea in the Amazon region.



Photo: Rudolf von May

*Allobates femoralis*, one of the seven species of poison frogs at Los Amigos, lays its eggs in the leaf litter. After a few weeks, the male transports the tadpoles to small pools where they complete their larval development.

## Documenting Life at Los Amigos: Photo Guide to Reptiles of Los Amigos Now Available

After four years of intensive efforts to document the reptile species that live within the Los Amigos Conservation Concession, a team of experts has recently completed a detailed catalog of more than 80 reptile species.

Hundreds of species are still expected to be recorded in the coming years, and as the list grows, so does the chance of engaging the Peruvian government and other organizations in implementing new conservation activities.

“Knowledge of amphibian and reptile communities across Amazonian forests is crucial for understanding how highly diverse the region is and how important it is to preserve its diversity,” explains Rudolf von May, a Peruvian Ph.D. student at Florida International University. Von May has done field work at many sites in Peru, including the Manu Biosphere Re-

serve and Rio Abiseo National Park, and is currently completing his thesis on “Anuran beta diversity across forest types in a lowland Amazonian rainforest” at the Los Amigos Biological Station.



*Leptophis ahaetulla* (COLUBRIDAE)  
One of the hundreds of species found in Los Amigos now available in laminated color guides online

Along with colleagues Louise Emmons, Guillermo Knell, Jennifer Jacobs, and Lily Rodriguez, von May has now published a downloadable field guide, available at Field Museum of Natural History’s website:  
<http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/animalguides/guideimages.asp?ID=21>

Also available at the Field Museum website are guides to several groups of plants prepared by noted botanist Robin Foster and colleagues ([http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/rcg\\_intro.asp](http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/rcg_intro.asp)).

The reptile plates include some species from Peru’s Manu National Park and Tambopata Reserve. Both sites lie adjacent to the Los Amigos biological station and thus share similar ecosystems and species. A similar set of guides is currently being planned for the amphibians at Los Amigos.

“Laminated guides to identify tropical organisms are important tools for research and education,” finalizes von May.

“The study of these organisms and studies on plant and animal life will contribute to regional strategies for conservation.”

## Atrium, the Latest Breed of Technology for Bio-Research

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over more than 15,000 images. And they can compare plant species between different areas of the tropics, especially between Peru and the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica. The development and design of Atrium was partially funded by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation under the initiative to increase knowledge of the Andes-Amazon area and to develop new technologies to document and disseminate information about the species and ecosystems in the region.

In 2004, John Janovec, Ph.D., BRIT botanist and head of AABP; Amanda Neill, BRIT collections manager and co-director

of AABP; and Mathias Tobler, doctoral student and co-director of AABP, began defining the types of data necessary for a biodiversity information system. Since the release of the initial version in August 2005, the team has added new features, including custom field guides, satellite imagery, bibliographic records, and live mapping of specimen locations. Moreover, the team has developed a portable version of Atrium that can be taken into the field by researchers, allowing easy access to data and images without requiring an Internet connection. Many new components and datasets will be added during 2006-2007. Atrium can be seen online at: <http://atrium.andesamazon.org>.

## Moths: Winged Marvels of the Rainforest Nights

During daylight, butterflies reign over the rainforest, but at night other winged marvels appear to claim the throne: Moths. ACA's Wayqechas and Los Amigos Research Stations are the two most important sampling stations for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), which is currently conducting studies of selected moth families in the Andes-Amazon region of southeastern Peru. BRIT has engaged in long-term investigation of the diversity,



Photo: Pedro Centeno

ecology, and distribution of the Sphingidae (hawkmoths), Arctiidae (tiger moths), and the Saturniidae (emperor moths); species that easily found among the tropical vegetation of the ACA field sites. In 12 months of sam-

pling at one light trap site at the Los Amigos Biological Station, Pedro Centeno, BRIT Moth Project 2005, sampled nearly 100 hawkmoth species, more than 500 tiger moth species, and dozens of species of emperor moths, such as the *Automeris liberia* depicted in this image. For more information on BRIT's Moth Project contact John Janovec at: [jjanovec@brit.org](mailto:jjanovec@brit.org)

## Weaving a Better Future with Sustainability

From June 26th through 30th, members of the weavers association of the community of Quico participated in the VI FERIA INTERNACIONAL HUANCARO 2006, celebrated in the Peruvian district of Santiago, Cusco. Quico is one of the eight traditional Quechua communities in the Q'eros Nation, and ACA has been supporting this community in efforts to generate income through the sales of weavings made with traditional patterns and natural dyes. The Huancaro Fair provides an opportunity for these weavers to discuss techniques with others from

around the region and most importantly, it brings new trade opportunities for isolated communities that could be otherwise forgotten.



Santusa Mamani and husband Nicolas Flores representing the Quico community at Huancaro

Santusa Mamani, president of the association's textile com-

mittee, husband Nicolas Flores and other fellow weavers organized a stand to promote their work and represent their community.

At the fair, members of the weavers association (*Asociación de Tejedores de la Nación Q'ero*) were able to network with national textile organizations and learn from their experiences. Now, they are directly informed about pricing tendencies, techniques, and marketing strategies to satisfy a broader public's demands.

## ACCA Joins Private Conservation Network in Peru

ACA's Peruvian counterpart, ACCA, recently joined the Red de Conservación Privada, a private conservation network with representatives from various civil groups, native communities, and private companies that work together for the conservation of Peruvian forests. The network's mission is to promote initiatives for private

conservation. Its members have protected lands in Huiquilla, Chaparri, and Cacioncillo. Other member organizations include the Association for Children and their Environment (ANIA), the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA); and ecotourism companies like Rainforest Expeditions and Inkaterra.

For information about the network's projects, please visit: [www.redconservacionperu.com](http://www.redconservacionperu.com)



### CURIOSITIES



Photo: John Janovec

This is the larvae of a *Automeris liberia*. Spiny and painful, but check out the moth it becomes after metamorphosis. (see article on the left)



Photo: Rudolf von May

*Lithodytes lineatus*  
Although this species mimics poison frogs, it is not poisonous! It actually belongs to a different family. It can be found in microhabitats like small burrows or tunnels in leaf-cutter ant nests.



Photo: John Janovec

*Mollinedia killipii* is an aromatic small tree species of the Monimiaceae family. It is one of the 2500+ plant species that have been documented so far in the Los Amigos watershed.

### ACA's BOARD MEMBERS

Adrian Forsyth, President  
Enrique Ortiz, Vice President  
John Tobin, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dorothy Batten, Director  
Sarah DuPont, Director  
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In 2001, the Peruvian government awarded 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 360,000 acres of Amazonian forest and connects with more than 12 million acres of wilderness in Manu and Alto Purus National Parks in the Madre de Dios River basin of southeastern Peru.

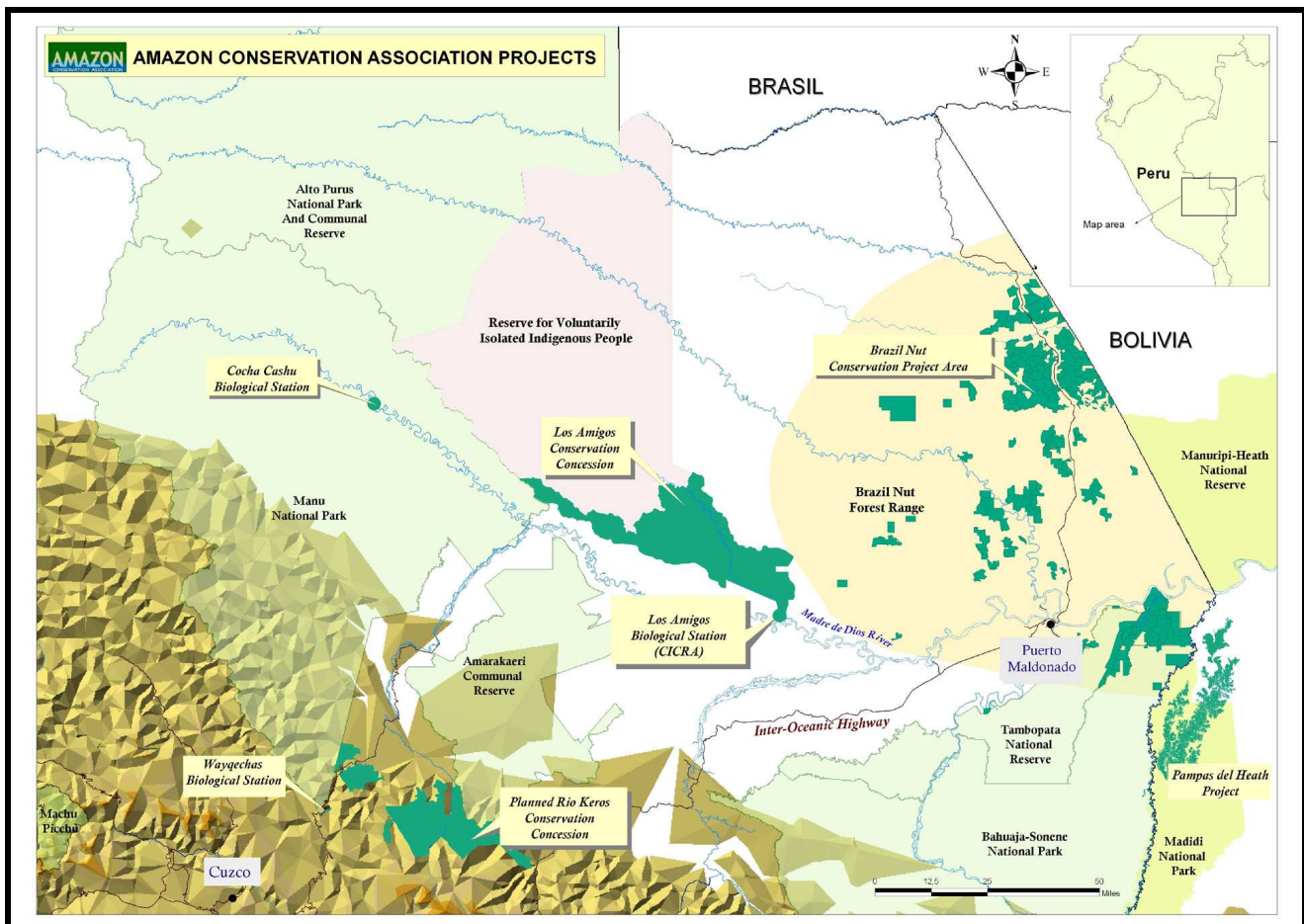
ACA/ACCA manages a premiere research station, known by its acronym in Spanish: "CICRA", adjacent to the Los Amigos Conservation Concession. CICRA provides scientists with access to the concession, as well as to excellent facilities for long-term research in several types of Amazonian habitat. CICRA is also a center for field courses conducted by universities in the United States.

This year, ACA/ACCA launched a bid for a second conservation concession: the Río Keros Conservation Concession. This concession will follow the Los Amigos model, including a research station that will give access to Andean cloud forests, one of the least understood and most seriously threatened habitats on earth.

ACA/ACCA third major initiative assists Brazil nut producers to manage natural forest around the city of Puerto Maldonado. Brazil nut harvest provides an income for local families, and provides an economic incentive to avoid clearing forested land for other uses.

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



Learn more and support our work with a secure online donation at [www.amazonconservation.org](http://www.amazonconservation.org)