



# Environmental Network For Central America

ENCA  
NEWSLETTER  
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50p

## DEFORESTING HONDURAS



In 2004, thousands of Honduran citizens joined Father Andres Tamayo in the 'March for Life' (pictured here) to demand that the then President Maduro take action against rampant illegal logging.

In October 2005 the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) produced a report entitled '*The Illegal Logging Crisis in Honduras*' which detailed the companies and individuals involved in illegal logging throughout Honduras.

In 2007 the ENCA tour group will be visiting Father Andres and the Olancho Environmental Movement (MAO) to witness the struggle against the loggers.

More details of the logging, the report and the tour are given on the following pages.

(Photo: Centre for International Policy)



This edition of the ENCA Newsletter focuses particularly on Honduras and even more especially on the deforestation in that country. In part this is due to the fact that ENCA's next environmental study tour of a Central American country, in January 2007, will be to Honduras. But that fact is purely coincidental with the rampant corruption and greed that characterise Honduran politics and the neoliberal

economic agenda that turn a blind eye to the environmental and social needs of the country in pursuit of quick money. Illegal logging is not new in Central America of course, but a recent report from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), which has offices in both Washington DC and London, has revealed the extent and depth of the problem and the urgency with which it must be treated. It is coincidental, however, that, amongst other regions, the EIA's report covers deforestation in the department of Olancho and that the ENCA tour group will be visiting Olancho in order to meet with Padre Andres Tamayo and other members of the Environmental Movement of Olancho (MAO by its Spanish initials). More details of both the EIA report, the MAO and of the ENCA tour are given in the pages of this edition.

Also covered in this edition are examples of development projects and enterprises which have had or might have harmful environmental consequences: a new cruise ship terminal in Belize; a cable car system in Panama; and a fish farm in Nicaragua. Worst of all is the example of the gringo hunters in North Goyena – the arrogant and conceited abuse of power and privilege.

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## ***ILLEGAL LOGGING IN HONDURAS***



*Victor Ochoa (L) and Padre Andres Tamayo (R) of the MAO*

*(Photo: Martin Mowforth)*

In 2005 Father Andres Tamayo, the priest in the village of Salamá in the province of Olancho, Honduras, was awarded the 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize for his struggle with the people of Olancho to halt the rampant deforestation in that department and in the rest of Honduras.

For several years Tamayo and other members of the Olancho Environmental Movement (MAO by its Spanish initials) have been peacefully resisting the actions of illegal loggers in the region. And in so doing they have come under attack and threat from those who gain from the logging. In the past few months Father Tamayo and other members of the MAO have received a number of death threats intended to put an end to their opposition to the illegal trade. Since 1996 three MAO members, Carlos Luna, Carlos Roberto Flores and Mauricio Hernández, have been killed.

In November 2005 the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) published a report entitled *'The Illegal*

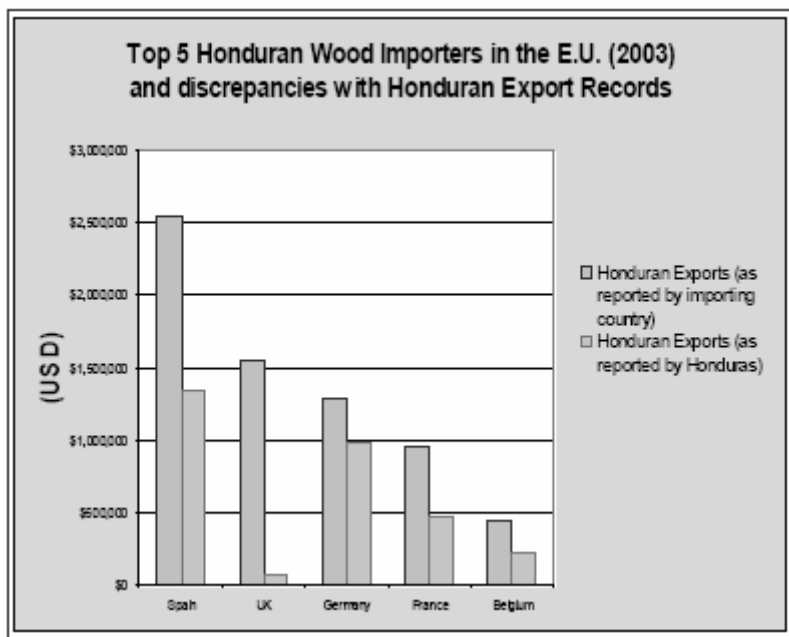
*ENCA Newsletter, May 2006, p.2*

*Logging Crisis in Honduras: How US and EU imports of illegal Honduran wood increase poverty, fuel corruption and devastate forests and communities*. The report is available from the EIA's website: [www.eia-international.org](http://www.eia-international.org) and we urge all our readers to visit the site and to examine the report.

The EIA is an international campaigning organisation committed to investigating and exposing environmental crime.

EIA undercover investigations during 2005 revealed large volumes of wood products flowing from Honduran companies receiving illegally cut logs or timber to major US and EU retailers. The responsibility of the US and EU cannot be denied. In 2003 Honduras reported a total of \$3 million in

wood going to the EU while EU nations reported an import of \$6.8 million, representing a discrepancy in accounting of 126%. The greatest discrepancy was with the UK where Honduras reported less than 5 per cent of the total reported import by the UK (see graph.) The bulk of the discrepancy is probably accounted for by illegal logging activities; so despite the UK's and the EU's stated efforts to eliminate imports of illegal wood, their actual imports speak louder than their statements.



The report names companies, families and individuals involved in the illegal logging. According to former US Ambassador Robert

White, speaking at the launch of the report, "The US demand [to which we could add the EU demand] for this illegally harvested Honduran timber is helping to propel a rogue industry that destroys ecosystems, rots democratic institutions and harms the people, especially the poorest Hondurans, whose lives depend on healthy forests."

Months and years of peacefully resisting the activities of the loggers and of attempting to lobby government (specifically the Honduran Forest Agency, COHDEFOR), have brought little sign of an improvement in the situation and a host of broken promises. Three members of the MAO (including Tamayo) met with President Manuel Zelaya only a few days after his inauguration in January this year. Whilst the meeting was amicable, the MAO team were not filled with hope that the logging would cease. Indeed, in April the Movement distributed an open letter to the Honduran President informing him that they will soon be obliged to declare a hunger strike to further increase the pressure to bring an end to the illegal trade. We produce a translation of the open letter below, on page 4.

Deforestation is not of course a problem uniquely associated with Honduras. Since the last ENCA Newsletter, we have received reports of an international timber mafia operating in Nicaragua. In January this year the Nicaragua Network Hotline included a report entitled 'Government admits illegal tree cutters are 'protected'.' ([www.nicanet.org](http://www.nicanet.org)) And on 11 February the front page main headline of El Nuevo Diario (one of the two major Nicaraguan dailies) read: 'International Mafia: precious wood extracted with local help and resources' – [www.elnuevodiario.com.ni](http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni) .



## OPEN LETTER

April 2006

**TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS  
TO PUBLIC OPINION**

For the last six years the Environmental Movement of Olancho has been peacefully demonstrating against clandestine, illegal and legal deforestation. We know that the law is not always just and we have denounced cases which the authorities justify and which they claim are legal, but for which they do not consider the environmental impacts. The consequences of these have hugely affected the way of life of communities, leaving them in ever greater misery.

Sir, President of the Republic, in your inaugural speech you promised to resolve the environmental problem. As a movement we are willing to join in with this process.

But also we wish to make it known to the public that six years ago we denounced the cutting of timber in the country, especially in the Department of Olancho and especially in the Municipalities of Salamá, El Rosario, Manto, Silca, Guarizama and San Francisco de la Paz. More than 40,000 people are affected by the deforestation in these zones, and it has turned into a social problem. Ironically, the present government's manager of COHDEFOR, Ramón Alvarez, has not respected the agreements reached with the former government to suspend the felling until a regional assessment has been carried out. On the contrary, he opened the doors to the Sanzone company which hides behind its label of a cooperative.

This case has already been presented to the President of the Republic, the Manager of COHDEFOR, the Ministry of Defence and to Colonel Carlos Girón, and has not been resolved. We confirm that up to the current time we have had no substantial reply to our demands from the government.

Therefore, our Movement and the people of Olancho demand that the Government of the Republic find an immediate solution to this problem, as a priority over all other national work, within a period of eight days from the delivery of this letter. If we do not receive a positive reply, we intend to pursue a new avenue of action and we will be obliged to declare a **HUNGER STRIKE as a last resort**.

To the Government of the Republic, we demand:

- A territorial survey of the whole country, beginning in Olancho with the participation of the local communities. Whilst this is being conducted, exploitation of all commercial timber should be suspended.
- As a matter of urgency, declare and protect areas of forest reserve.
- As agreed on the March For Life, submit the Forestry Law to the Congress.
- Change COHDEFOR to a Secretariat – SEFONAP. Nominate a Commission of transition whilst the structure is being set up. Select employees and elect the director of the office.



**ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT OF OLANCHO (MAO)**

# THE ENCA TOUR OF HONDURAS

10<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2007

*Tour focus: Agricultural practice and development in Honduras*

Following successful environmental study tours of Nicaragua in 1997 and El Salvador in 2001, ENCA is now planning to run an environmental study tour of Honduras in 2007. It is open to anyone who is interested in the subject matter regardless of whether you are a paid-up supporter or member of ENCA or not.

Use of the phrase 'subject matter' makes it sound like a heavy fieldwork tour. Not so. There will be time for the beach, relaxation, following your own interests and visiting a few old Mayan ruins as well. In fact, we expect a few old ruins to be members of the tour group, but we must emphasise that it is open to one and all regardless of age, sex, colour, creed, or any other attributes.

As with previous tours, members will be responsible for their own travel arrangements and flight costs to and from Tegucigalpa where the group will meet on the 10<sup>th</sup> January. The charge for the tour will be £750 which will cover:

- All accommodation
- All transport within Honduras (including airport transfer) from the start date to the end date
- All breakfasts
- Many other meals (but not all)
- Entry fees (for national parks or other protected areas)
- Payments and donations to the organisations which assist us in running the tour
- Organisational expenses and pre-tour publicity

At this time we are unable to give a fixed tour itinerary as communications with our contacts in Honduras are ongoing. But we are able to give those interested in joining the group a short summary of each of the organisations which we hope will help us in the running of the tour. The following is not an exclusive list of these organisations – others may also become involved between now and the start of the tour – but it gives just a taster of what we can expect.

## Movimiento Madre Tierra (MMT)

Juan Almeyda is a driving force behind the MMT, which serves as the Honduran member of Friends of the Earth International (FOEI). The organisation struggles and campaigns against the myriad social and environmental injustices suffered by Hondurans, including deforestation, conversion to monocultivation



techniques under neoliberal economic policies, and its inability to feed itself at the same time as exporting enormous quantities of selected crops to the rich countries of the North. It links these struggles with the fight for the human rights of those it represents.

### **Centro Internacional de Información sobre Cultivos de Cobertura (CIDICCO)**

CIDICCO is a NGO founded in 1990 to research, document and disseminate information about the use of green manures, compost and cover crops amongst small-scale farmers – the *campesino* sector. Its director is Milton Flores who has developed the notion of ‘la finca humana’ (the human smallholding or plot). CIDICCO runs a sustainable agriculture programme of training designed specifically for *campesino* farmers.

### **Zamorano University**

Zamorano is a private, non-profit university of international renown which takes students from throughout the Americas. It has a significant reputation for the teaching of and research into agroindustrial and biotechnological techniques, but it also supports programmes of research into small-scale and organic farming including the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). With Zamorano we hope to visit projects concerning melon farming, shrimp farming and the use of IPM.

### **Movimiento Ambiental de Olancho (MAO)**

The MAO is essentially a movement of resistance – peaceful resistance to the illegal logging which is gradually denuding the territory of Olancho. The most famous member of the organisation is Father José Andrés Tamayo who last year won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize. In 2003 he won the Honduras National Human Rights Award. Both of these awards and others serve not only as forms of international recognition of the valid and valuable work that the MAO is doing, but also serve as a form of protection against the death threats and violence from the illegal loggers and their bosses. In February this year ENCA donated money for the purchase of a printer to the MAO and during the tour we hope to spend a couple of days in Olancho with the MAO investigating the problem of illegal logging.

### **Fundación Prolansate**

The Fundación Prolansate is responsible for the management of four local national parks and reserves. One of these is the Punta Sal Marine National Park, renamed the Jeannette Kawas Marine National Park in 1995 after the assassination of Jeannette Kawas, the Fundación’s director at the time. Her assassination was thought to be linked to her opposition to extensive tourism developments in and around the park. With the Fundación we aim to visit the national park and study the problems of development in the area.

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With this newsletter you should find a flyer advertising the tour. We ask that anyone interested in joining the tour should contact Martin Mowforth in the first instance, merely to give an expression of interest, at:

51 West Street, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8JZ; or on:

01822 617504; or by email at:

[mmowforth@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mmowforth@plymouth.ac.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you.

# CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES TO BOOST OR BUST BELIZE

By Martin Mowforth

In April 2004 the government of Belize and the Belize Tourism Board signed an agreement with Carnival Cruise Lines and the Port of Belize for a new facility to be built for Belize City. Carnival is financing the \$50 million port expansion. The agreement was cloaked in secrecy and did not involve any public consultation, but was leaked to the press in November 2004. The Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) then asked the Supreme Court to review the contract, challenging prime minister Said Musa's right to approve the deal without public consultation. The matter is still in court, but the BTIA's demand for an injunction on construction was denied. So in August 2005 work on the expansion began and completion is expected in 2007.

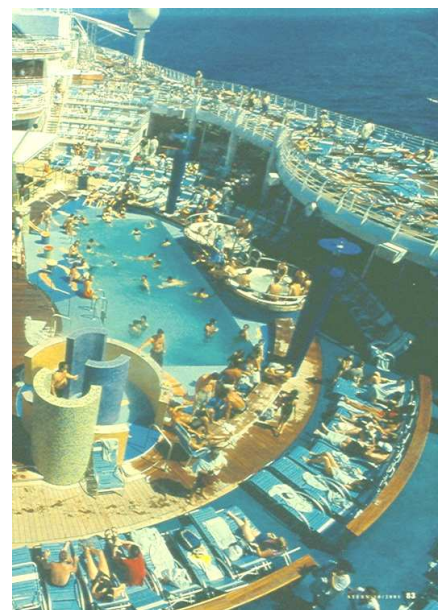


The new port is designed to eliminate the need for the use of small boats to ferry passengers from the cruise ship to the shore and thereby to increase the time the passengers can spend ashore. A Welcome Centre (incorporating shopping, cultural and recreational facilities) will also be built ashore along with a new transport hub which will accommodate large numbers of buses and taxis.

Local tourism operators, however, were concerned that the agreement gave Carnival *carte blanche* over the number of visitors that it could bring ashore on any given day, with no regard to carrying capacities set for various sites to be visited by the cruise passengers. Assurances that it will abide by the laws of Belize have however been given by the company.

Clearly, it is hoped by many Belizeans that the new terminal and the resulting increase in the number of cruise ship tourists will lead to more tourist money being spent in the country. The number of big boats stopping off in Belize has increased nearly fivefold since 2000, despite a slight decline in 2005. The 2005 decline was explained by the Director of Tourism, Tracy Taegar-Panton, as due to Carnival's removal from the Belize circuit of one of its vessels for use in hurricane relief for Katrina victims in New Orleans. The vessel, *Elation*, has not yet been re-scheduled to Belize, and as it has a capacity of over 2,000, if it does not re-start its visits to Belize, this will translate into a loss of over 100,000 passengers over the year.

In spite of the decline, in 2005 more than 800,000 cruise ship visitors came ashore – nearly triple the country's population of 280,000. The economic benefits of this increase since 2005 have been felt by taxi drivers, hair braiders and many other small-scale entrepreneurs who flock to the waterfront when passengers come ashore. Cruise ship visitors spent an estimated \$65 million in Belize in 2004 and obviously many Belizeans are looking forward to benefiting from future increases in this amount.



In a report for the Belize Forum, however, Marla Dickerson makes clear that all that comes off cruise ships is not gold. She reports that for years tour organiser Lascelle Tillett has been leading nature lovers to see many of the natural wonders of Belize. So it came as something of a shock when he ferried a small party to a spot near the country's coral reef two years ago and encountered a floating mob. "There must have been 600 people in the water, and the boats were lined up like cars," he said. "We didn't see a single ray or shark." Such aquatic traffic jams are becoming more frequent. Dickerson also reports that "other long-time operators say the herd mentality is at odds with Belize's carefully crafted niche as an ecotourism paradise. Overnight guests, many of whom spend weeks scuba diving, kayaking and exploring archaeological sites ... provide the lion's share of Belize's tourism revenue. Hoteliers say those visitors want solitude and unspoiled wilderness, not hordes of Disneyland-style day trippers swarming the pyramids and scaring the wildlife. The fear is that big-spending adventure travellers will no longer come if Belize is too welcoming of mass tourism, particularly if it draws more and more cruise ship visitors, who have gained a reputation here as skinflints."



Cruise ship passengers coming ashore at Belize City

Concern for the environmental impact of ever-increasing numbers of visitors is also strongly felt. Although cruise passengers each pay a \$7 visitor tax, \$1:40 of which is earmarked for conservation, the nation's coral reefs and more heavily trafficked wilderness areas are showing signs of wear and tear, said Anna Dominguez-Hoare, executive director of the Belize Audubon Society. "It's not compensation for the damage," she said of the tax.

Adelma Broaster sells watercolour artwork, handmade dolls and other locally-produced artesanía at a stall in the cruise village. She said she can take in \$1,000 on a good day. "They're rude sometimes, but I don't mind," she said. "The bottom line is that I'm making money, and so is everyone else out here."

But others fear that Belize is killing its golden goose. Tillett shakes his head at the memory of hundreds of snorkelling cruise tourists standing on the coral and frightening the fish. "We are destroying the very things that people are coming to see," he said. "Money and greed are powerful forces."

#### Sources

Marla Dickerson, 'The fast-growing port is bringing boatloads of traffic that are changing the tiny nation', *Los Angeles Times*, March 13, 2006. [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com) and [www.belizeforum.com](http://www.belizeforum.com)

William Ysaguirre, 'Carnival will begin to build!', *The Reporter*, Belize, July 30, 2005. [www.reporter.bz](http://www.reporter.bz)

Adele Ramos-Daly, 'Cruise tourism arrivals declined 6% in 2005, forecasted to decline more in 2006', *Amandala*, Belize, March 20, 2006. [www.amandala.com.bz](http://www.amandala.com.bz)

Cory Schott, 'Carnival to Build \$50 Million Port', *Mesoamerica*, San José, February 2005. [www.mesoamericaonline.net](http://www.mesoamericaonline.net)

Carnival Cruise Lines, [www.carnival.com](http://www.carnival.com)



# Panama's Ancon Hill cable car folly

*An editorial comment in February 2006 under the unambiguous heading 'The government's proposed monument to stupidity' in The Panama News illustrates the tendency of many governments to pursue large-scale and eye-catching projects in the name of development. The Panama News gave us permission to reproduce their article here.*

It's what happens when overly enthusiastic fans of American culture who aren't very bright – people who worship Disney World as the epitome of North American civilisation and wouldn't know about the national parks of the United States and Canada – try to superimpose their bizarre notions of what foreign tourists want over one of the great symbols of the Panamanian nation. This is the same kind of thinking that dressed up some employees in silly fourth-rate baseball park mascot suits with the expectation that this would attract hordes of gringos to Colón 2000. The inherent mental flaw at work here is the confusion of foreign visitors with people who have lots of money but no culture or conscience.

As Panama again observes the Day of the Martyrs, might anybody recall that people died so that the Panamanian flag would fly atop Ancon Hill? After all these years talking about ecotourism, might anybody think that foreign visitors would like to visit a capital with herds of deer and bands of monkeys within city limits? *[This is a reference to the fact that Panama City is the only city in Latin America which encloses within its borders an area of tropical rainforest, known as the Metropolitan Natural Park.]*



*Panama City's Metropolitan Nature Park with skyscrapers in the background*

Apparently these considerations don't register at all in the collection of minds that comprise the Torrijos administration.

Some critics have said that for the current government the only thing that counts is money. However, that estimate probably needs to be revised in light of the planned cable car to run between Ancon Hill and the Amador Causeway. Because of the hill's unique and fragile geology – weathered and fractured rock that makes for wonderful wildlife habitats but weak foundations for a cable car tower – the cost of building a safe and solid cable car system

would be elevated. Because the plan is to fell 8 hectares of trees under the cables, a priceless urban national park would be trashed and its wildlife driven to extinction. Because of busloads of tourists coming and going to the hilltop terminal and gawking at residents of Quarry Heights and Ancon from above during their faux Disney ride, some of the most valuable residential real estate would be seriously devalued.

Even in the unlikely event that the cable car system would turn a profit, the net economic loss to the nation implicit in the cable car project would be catastrophic. That, given our tradition of public corruption with impunity, naturally leads to questions about whether certain public officials may have been bribed to sell out the national interests by allowing this monstrosity.

To top all that off, we are insulted by the assurance that every tree that the developers fell, they'll plant ten elsewhere, and they'll provide moving service for the birds and animals that will be left homeless. Anyone who knows anything about tropical forest ecology knows that a unique ecosystem can't be replaced in this way.

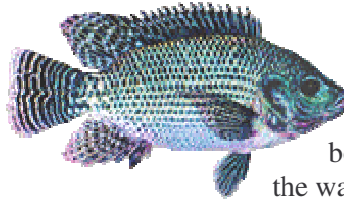
The bottom line? What the Torrijos administration proposes is not an advance for national development. It's a monument to stupidity. The Ancon Hill cable car needs to go the way of Mireya's road through the Volcán Baru National Park, for many of the same reasons.

[www.thepanamanews.com](http://www.thepanamanews.com)

# GIANT TILAPIA THREATEN LAKE COCIBOLCA

(Lake Cocibolca is also known as Lake Nicaragua.)

The large-scale fish farming project which produces million dollar profits for the multinational company Nicanor (Mares Nica Noruega S.A.) through the mass production of tilapia fish which are exported mainly to the US was in the news in January this year. Several environmental experts warned about the damaging effect this project has on the lake's ecosystem. According to ecologist David Rios and former Minister of the Environment Jaime Incer Barquero, Nicanor's fish farm poses a serious threat to the lake's native species and the ecosystem in general.



being fed to the fish includes chemicals and hormones. "the waste from Nicanor's project accumulates at the bottom of the lake and alters the quality of the water and the habitat of the native species. If Nicanor is not forced to introduce a proper filtering system the damage caused to the lake's ecosystem will be immeasurable."

Rios explained that this type of fish farming is normally carried out in artificially created lakes or large tanks because of the negative effects it has on the ecosystems of natural bodies of water. Where a project of this sort is located in a natural body of water, an appropriate filtering system is always required in order to avoid unnatural alterations taking place in the water. Rios is baffled as to why the Nicaraguan government gave permission to Nicanor to make use of Lake Cocibolca's water to breed tilapia on such a large scale without demanding that the company take all the necessary measures to protect the lake's ecosystem.

Nicanor received authorisation for the project from the government of ex-president and convicted felon Arnoldo Alemán, who overlooked a law prohibiting the use of a protected area like the company's site on Ometepe Island for agro-industrial projects. Since then, efforts to reverse or call attention to the decision have fallen on deaf ears within the government. Alcides Flores, vice-mayor of Altagracia on the island, explains, "we have attempted to take legal actions against Nicanor for the environmental damage the company is causing but our attempts have been blocked by MIFIC [Ministry of Industry and Commerce] and MARENA [Ministry of the Environment]." This might have something to do with the fact that at the time of the project's conception Nicanor's managing director was Patrick Bolaños, nephew of the current president, Enrique Bolaños.

"Each tilapia is given 6% of its body weight in food every day. This means that for a million pounds of fish we are talking about 60,000 pounds of fish food which results in a huge amount of waste being deposited into the water of Lake Cocibolca on a daily basis." Rios says the amount of waste produced by the tilapia project is impossible for the lake's ecosystem to cope with because, apart from the sheer quantity of waste being produced, the type of waste is unnatural as tilapia is not a native species in Nicaraguan waters and the food

Lake Cocibolca is soon to become a source of potable water for surrounding cities such as Managua and Granada and its protection is more important than ever. But both Rios and Incer Barquero agree that, unless drastic changes are made to government policies which affect the lake, the fate of the largest body of fresh water in Latin America will be similar to that of Lake Xolotlan (Lake Managua) which is one of the most contaminated bodies of water in the world.

## Sources:

Nicaragua Network Hotline, [www.nicanet.org](http://www.nicanet.org), January 4, 2006.

Mesoamerica, January 2006.

# GRINGO HUNTERS IN NORTH GOYENA

*In February this year, we received the following report from Daniel Pulido in Nicaragua. It illustrates the arrogance and conceit of power and privilege.*

On Saturday 11 February at six in the morning, two coaster vehicles with tinted glass windows turned up in the small and humble campesino community of North Goyena in Sutiava, near the city of León. Sixteen men got out of the two vehicles, all US citizens dressed in combat uniforms and carrying hunting guns and belts of ammunition and each equipped with their own folding seat.

Without seeking permission from any local people, they entered some of the local *fincas* [farms] and began to shoot the St. Nicholas pigeons, the *zanates* [these are the common black birds of Central America], and any other types of birds that happened to be there at the time. Many of the bullets fell on the roofs of nearby houses and in neighbouring peoples' gardens. Many of the birds that were killed also rained down on the local fields.

Patricia (my wife) and I have worked here in a Rural Cultural Centre for the last five years, and amongst other things, we try to teach the local children to value and respect natural resources; we try to educate them not to go killing every little animal they come across. That Saturday, my wife was beginning work when I heard the shooting. She approached the invaders and they showed her a supposed permit granted by MARENA [Nicaraguan Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources]. They said that they had bought a tourist package which allowed them to carry out this kind of criminal activity. We have only just learned that this 'exterminator tour' makes a business out of destroying natural resources.

We have taken legal action, supported by the *Yes to Life, No to Environmental Destruction* committee which operates in Goyena, Abangasca, Troilo and Poneloya. We are making an Urgent Action call to all individuals, institutions and environmental organisations to prohibit this type of 'tourist initiative'. It is crucial that we denounce and prevent this type of predatory action disguised as tourism.

The so-called tourists withdrew from the area after almost two hours of shooting. Hundreds of dead birds were the result of their morning's outing. On their return they threw many of the dead birds into the households of the locality, perhaps thinking of cleansing their miserable consciences, or simply in an effort to dissociate themselves from their crime.

The following day, by one of life's strange ironies, came the news that the US vice-president had accidentally wounded a lawyer friend of his whilst the two of them were enjoying killing quails in some fields in the USA. Perhaps with the paranoia that they have developed in the US they believe that the birds are also beginning to join forces with the Al-Qaeda network.

*Centro Cultural Rural 'Madre Tierra'  
Goyena Norte  
Sutiava  
León  
Nicaragua  
15 February 2006*

# ONE-LINER NEWS OF ITEMS WE HAVEN'T GOT SPACE FOR

## Turtles

- \* News of a two-headed Lora turtle born on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica – possibly due to pollution or to global warming. (*Opinión Ambiental*, no. 33, 2005, Costa Rica)
- \* Our partners SELVA involved in a scheme to set up two artificial nurseries and provide protection for Paslama turtles around the Cosigüina Peninsula of Nicaragua. (*El Nuevo Diario*, November 2005)

## Bananas

- \* April 2006: news of a possible out of court settlement between the Dole Food Company and most of the Nicaraguan banana workers poisoned by the use of toxic pesticides – see earlier editions of the ENCA Newsletter. (*Nicaragua Network Hotline*, 5.4.06)
- \* Mid-November 2005: Tropical Storm Gamma killed 34 people in northern Honduras and destroyed or seriously damaged 20 plantations. Nearly 1,000 workers were immediately suspended. (*Banana Trade News Bulletin*, No. 34-35, January 2006)
- \* The banana industry experienced declines in production in 2005 in both Panama and Costa Rica. (*Banana Trade News Bulletin*, No. 34-35, January 2006)

## Pineapples

News of damaging expansion of pineapple production in the N.E. of Costa Rica. “Extensively cultivated crops like the banana and recently the pineapple are causing damage which could be irreversible”. (*Opinión Ambiental*, no. 33, (Supplement) 2005, Costa Rica) We may include more details of this matter in the next edition of the ENCA Newsletter.

## Death Threats against NGOs and Environmentalists

(Apart from those against Padre Andres Tamayo and the MAO – see pages 1-4)

- Mario López, Director of Friends of the Earth Guatemala (CEIBA) received serious personal threats in 2005. ([www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/corporates](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/corporates))
- In 2005, a wave of violence against NGOs in Guatemala. In particular these included break-ins at offices of organisations opposed to DR-CAFTA. (*MS Central America*, <http://centralamerica.ms.dk>)
- In September 2005, lawyer Harold Rafael Perez Gallardo, advisor to the Legal Programme of Casa Alianza Guatemala, was shot and killed. (*Casa Alianza Guatemala*)
- In 2006, regular ‘social cleansing’ killings of street children continued in both Guatemala and Honduras. (For more information: [comunicacion2@casaalianza.org.gt](mailto:comunicacion2@casaalianza.org.gt))

## ENCA website

[www.blueplanetinternet.net/enca/](http://www.blueplanetinternet.net/enca/) We hope this will be developed over the coming months.

### **ENCA Contacts:**

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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Janet Bye	01473 254695	<a href="mailto:pfbye@globalnet.co.uk">pfbye@globalnet.co.uk</a>
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