



www.enca.org.uk

*Environmental
Network
For
Central
America*

No. 41

ENCA NEWSLETTER
October 2006

50p

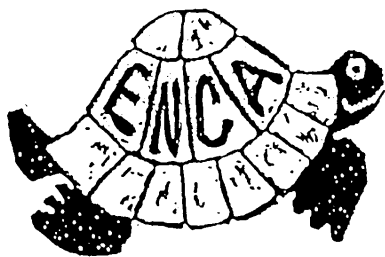
IWC SHAM

Japan buys Central American votes



Guatemalan environmentalists object to their government's support for Japan at the IWC meeting in June this year

ENCA Newsletter, Oct. 2006, p.1



Despite the front page, the focus of this edition (beginning on page 3) is the mining industry in Central America. The space we have devoted to this matter means that we can only cover so many other issues inadequately; and yet our coverage of the mining industry is also clearly inadequate. Trying to give a regional summary followed by a country-by-country outline on any given issue leaves us unable to give anything more than a series of summaries. So should we devote each edition to a

specific issue with little coverage of other problems? Or should we try, as we have done for so long, to cover a number of issues with each edition? Should we expand the newsletter from its current twelve pages to sixteen?

If any of our readers have views on these questions, we should like to hear them. Please tell us if you think the ENCA Newsletter is too long, or too short, or just right, or if you think that the balance of articles is appropriate or not.

The second major issue covered in this edition is that of the increasing cultivation of pineapples in Costa Rica. The article questions whether the financial and employment value for Costa Rica of this increase is really sufficient to offset the harmful effects of the over-use of chemicals, the concentration of land ownership in few hands, the poor labour rights records of the companies which reap the financial profits, and the increasing dependence on the one crop.

Central America helps Japan to mug the International Whaling Commission

(Continued from Page 1)

The 58th annual meeting of the IWC held in June this year on the Caribbean island of San Cristobal involved a number of Central American nations that do not have a whaling fleet. Central American nations which are members of the IWC are Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

In Guatemala, environmental organisations mounted major protest events (see front page) to pressure President Oscar Berger to oppose the renewed hunting of minke whales by Japan. Japan claimed that the renewal was purely for scientific purposes, although environmental groups, including Greenpeace and the Guatemalan NGO Trópico Verde, believe this to be false. Carlos Salvatierra of the Madreselva Collective said that “It is wrong that there is an over-population of whales. The IWC’s Scientific Committee has made this clear. To throw the blame for the collapse of fish populations on the whales is like blaming the woodpecker for deforestation.”

In Nicaragua, the Young Environmentalists’ Club (CJA) claimed that the Nicaraguan IWC vote, along with those of a number of other countries, was ‘bought’ by Japan, desperate to get permission for its renewal of hunting. Raomir Manzanares of the CJA said that the group has requested that the Comptroller General’s Office should investigate the impact of Japanese funding for MIFIC’s (Ministry of Trade and Commerce) fishing project. He also questioned why MIFIC’s Fishing

Administration Miguel Marengo was sent to the IWC meeting rather than someone from the Ministry of the Environment. Miguel Marengo defended his vote in favour of the Japanese proposal by saying that he is proud that Nicaragua was not intimidated by the “emotional blackmail” of environmental group protests at the meetings. Marengo echoed the declaration promoted by the Japanese that “the IWC’s own Scientific Committee has agreed that many species and stocks of whales are abundant and sustainable whaling is possible”, and suggested that environmentalists who criticise whale hunting “prefer whales over human beings”.

The vote taken on whether Japan should be allowed to hunt minke whales was passed by 32 votes in favour to 31 against. The issue in question here is not whether some populations of whales have recovered in recent years, but rather whether the blame for declining fish stocks can be placed on whale populations and precisely how and why nations such as Guatemala and Nicaragua should suddenly find it in their interests to support a declaration which in theory at least should have no significance to them whatsoever.

Sources:

Trópico Verde, Guatemala: www.tropicoverde.org

Nicaragua Network Hotline: www.nicanet.org

International Whaling Commission: www.iwcoffice.org

EXTRACTING THE WEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

A focus on the mining industry

Over the last six months, ENCA has received a mass of material about the environmental and social problems caused by the mining industry in Central American countries. The questions are where to begin and how much space to devote to the issue. We have decided to attempt to give an overview followed by a summary of mining-related problems and conflicts in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. But please note that this does not mean that there are no such problems caused by the mining industry in Panama and Belize – mining in Panama was featured some time ago in Issue 27 of the ENCA Newsletter and oil exploration in Belize has been briefly mentioned in a number of issues. Please also bear in mind that we can only report here a fraction of the material, issues, reports, campaigns and news that we have received.

Central America

In June this year, environmental organisations and communities in Central America held a ‘Central American Week of Action Against Mining’ to raise awareness of the potential consequences of mining and to open up a debate on the role of mining in economic development. The event included

workshops, meetings, press conferences, marches and protests. The national media, government ministries and mining companies responded.

Hugo Barrera, the Salvadoran Minister of Environment, assured participants of the event that national laws would be respected in the process of approving mining projects. “There are no laws that prohibit mining projects,” Barrera said, “but there are mechanisms and laws for regulating them.” He recognised that Salvadoran laws may have gaps due to inexperience. “Where the Salvadoran law falls short, we will apply regulations established in developed countries. Projects that contradict these laws and regulations will not be approved.”

Yanira Cortéz, Deputy Attorney for the Defence of Human Rights, spoke of the close relationship between human rights and the environment. “The protection of the environment is the protection of human rights. Contamination of the environment is a threat to one’s life and health. The methods that need to be taken are preventative.”

Magali Rey Rosa of the Madre Selva environmental organisation, a partner of Oxfam America, said the Week of Action was a success in Guatemala. “In Guatemala, mining has been a very hot topic in the last few months. What we sought through this Week of Action was to keep this topic on the government’s agenda,” she said. “For the citizens of Sipakapa, the activities were very, very important. Many delegations from the interior of Guatemala arrived to share their experiences and to give their testimonies. International delegations from Honduras, Mexico and Europe also attended. It was a success. The spirits of the people of Sipakapa have been raised again.”

Sources: Oxfam America: www.oxfamamerica.org
Harvey Beltrán in BNamericas.com

Guatemala

In Guatemala, the first anniversary of a community referendum on mining was celebrated during the Central America Week of Action Against Mining . In the referendum, the indigenous neighbours of the Marlin Mine voted overwhelmingly against mining activities in their community. To date, however, the legal situation is indecisive and Glamis Gold, owner of the Marlin Mine, continues to operate.

In September this year, a World Bank report which investigated the Marlin Mine says that documents submitted to the leaders of indigenous communities near the mine “did not at the time have sufficient information to allow for an informed view of the likely adverse impacts of the project,” casting doubt on the appropriateness of the consultation with the community of Sipakapa in particular. Keith Slack, a policy advisor to Oxfam America, stated that the “report raises serious questions about how diligent the IFC [the International Finance Corporation which is the World Bank division which loans money to private



companies] was in assessing the social impact of the mine, and whether there is broad community support for the project.”

The IFC loaned Glamis Gold of Canada \$45 million to exploit gold deposits in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, 90 miles northwest of Guatemala City. The loan was approved in 2004 and Glamis began preparing the site for operations. In early 2005, local people protested against the mine and blocked roads to prevent the transport of equipment through Sololá and other towns on the way to the site. The military broke up the protests during which two persons were killed and 11 injured.

Indigenous communities in areas affected by the mine object to the Marlin project on the grounds that they were not adequately consulted in accordance with national law and international agreements. They are also concerned that mining operations will harm their natural resources and violate their religious and cultural rights. The report is directly critical of the IFC, Glamis and the government agencies involved and casts doubt on the likelihood that the Marlin mine will contribute to development, which is an essential function of World Bank funding. Moreover, the report questions whether the project would be environmentally and socially sound and sustainable.

Currently in Guatemala, 550 mining concessions cover 10 per cent of the country and 20 per cent of these are for open-pit mining of minerals such as gold, silver, nickel and copper. Oxfam America believes that mining is emerging as the primary concern of the indigenous people of Guatemala.

In May this year, representatives of the communities directly affected by Glamis Gold’s mining activities in Guatemala and Honduras read out a statement at the Glamis Gold annual shareholder’s meeting in Toronto. After outlining the problems being caused by Glamis Gold’s mining activities, the statement demanded the closure of the San Martin mine in Honduras and the Marlin mine in Guatemala.

Sources: Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network: www.arsn.ca
BNamericas.com

Honduras

Environmentalists say that for Honduras the current Mining Law sets the country back to the 19th century in legal, tax and environmental terms. Since the 1990s, the law has given great advantages to the mining companies and has tied the hands of various government bodies which try to counter the negative effects of mining.



Details of Glamis Gold’s attempts to find and extract gold in Honduras (mentioned above) were highlighted in an article entitled ‘Dark Side of the Gold Rush’ in *The Independent* in May this year. Andrew Buncombe reported that a David-and-Goliath battle between Honduran villagers and Glamis Gold shows how mining can threaten some of the most vulnerable people and their environment. The mine in question is the San

Martin mine in the Siria Valley where the extraction methods used can produce up to 30 tons of toxic waste for every ounce of gold produced.

Glamis Gold, however, is not the only transnational mining company that is operating open-pit mining techniques. Western Minerals is also extracting lead, zinc, silver, gold, mercury, iron and other minerals. Their activities and the ease with which they are able to gain concessions to conduct them have been the spur to opposition, much of which has been supported and even coordinated by representatives of the church. In July for instance, Catholic priests, numerous civil society organisations, farmers and local inhabitants shut down sections of the Pan-American Highway to demand that the government alter its Mining Law.

Manuel Gutiérrez, a community priest, denounced the pollution affecting rivers and forests caused by the mining activities, which also increase the poverty experienced by 80 per cent of the Honduran population. Roman Catholic Bishop Luis Alonso Santos Villeda led the protest which was organised by the Civic Alliance for Democracy and later met Honduran President Manuel Zelaya. The bishop hopes that the government will halt open-pit mining for minerals, but that mining for building materials such as cement and rock would be able to continue. “We want the law to favour Hondurans, not investors,” said Bishop Santos. “We do not want foreign capital that destroys our territory. We will maintain our position until the mining law is abolished,” he said.

Currently, mining profits in Honduras total more than \$100 million yearly and mining companies employ more than 5,000 Honduran workers.

Sources: *Prensa Latina*, 21.7.06, Tegucigalpa.
Mesoamerica, September 2006
Orellana, X. (9.4.06) ‘Four Communities on the Verge of Disappearance Because of Open Pit Mining’, www.laprensahn.com
Andrew Buncombe, ‘Dark Side of the Gold Rush’, *The Independent*, 11.5.06

El Salvador

In June this year, the Salvadoran Human Rights Official for Environmental Protection, Yanira Cortez, stated that mining exploitation in El Salvador is damaging the environment and putting the population at risk. The action of foreign companies in the country violates the peoples’ rights to an undamaged ecosystem and acts against the physical integrity of present and future generations.

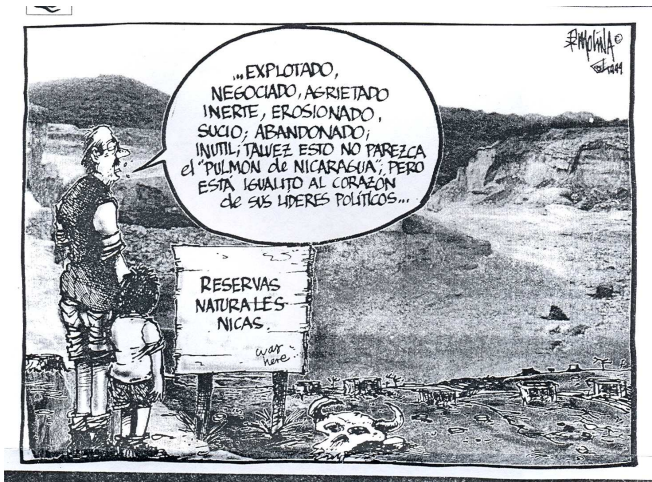


She asserted that the irrational use of natural resources provokes harmful diseases, particularly on the skin and lungs and she described the ingestion of polluted water, to which populations close to the mines are exposed, as the worst effect on human health. She demanded a guarantee of an undamaged environment for the entire population and the prevention of the implementation of mining projects which threatened such aims.

Source: *Prensa Latina*, 15.6.06, San Salvador

Nicaragua

The Humboldt Centre in Managua has been exposing the dirty work of mining companies in Nicaragua over the last twelve months. In November 2005, Felipe Ortiz of the Humboldt Centre denounced the Spanish transnational mining company Iberominas for the contamination and damage caused by its explorations in five municipalities of Chinandega. Moreover, they had been causing this damage without appropriate permits since February 2005 when their original permit ran out. The Humboldt Centre made a formal complaint to the Environmental Prosecutor in Managua and against officials of MARENA (Ministry of the Environment) for not intervening to stop Iberominas' activities.



In March this year, the Humboldt Centre, again, revealed that the mining company Desminic had been causing significant environmental contamination to the water used by residents of communities along the Mico River. Preliminary investigations carried out by the Ministry of Health showed that fish in the river had also been contaminated. At a meeting called by the Centre and attended by 38 representatives of universities, local governments, the Ministry of Education, the National Police and local doctors, residents explained that mining would not help them out of poverty nor bring development. As evidence, they pointed to towns such as La Libertad and Bonanza.

Monitoreo Ambiental

Editado en la Oficina de Monitoreo y Gestión Ambiental del Centro Alexander von Humboldt.
Editores: Magda Lanuza, Amado Ordoñez, Francisco Barquero, Marcos Mairena y Abel García.

Esta publicación es posible gracias al apoyo de HIVOS

Centro Alexander von Humboldt

Teléfonos: 505-249 2903 ó 088 35806
E-mail: humboldt@ibw.com.ni
Dirección: Bello Horizonte, E-III-17; Rotonda 4c al Sur, 1c arriba, 1c al Lago, ½ arriba. Managua, Nicaragua
Apartado Postal: 768 Managua, Nicaragua



In June this year, the Liberal National Alliance (ALN) and the Constitutional Liberal Party (PLC) voted to approve the government's

decision to sign contracts with two US companies for the exploration and exploitation of oil reserves off the Caribbean Coast.

Sources: Nicaragua Network Hotline, 9.11.05 and 6.7.06
Nicaragua News Service, 13.3.06

Costa Rica

It was reported in July this year that the Harken Costa Rica Holdings company is attempting to recover millions of dollars in damages that resulted from the Costa Rican government's cancellation of an oil exploration contract – see ENCA Newsletter no. 31. Harken was originally awarded a contract to explore and extract oil offshore from the Caribbean port of Limón under a previous administration (Rodríguez, 1998-2002). When Abel Pacheco took office in 2002, however, he issued a moratorium on all future oil exploration and extraction and on open pit mining. But he excluded the Harken project which caused many protests within the country and within his government. The Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (SETENA) rescinded the contract in any case because Harken had not complied with the environmental impact study requirements.

Harken responded by filing for an international arbitration in which it demanded \$57 billion – four times the Costa Rican GDP at the time. It withdrew its suit soon after and began direct negotiations with the government in January 2004. These stalled, and so Harken representative Brent Aberdie took the claim to the Chamber of Commerce’s arbitration centre, claiming £13 million as compensation for the money spent in seismic and geologic testing. Pacheco’s government calculated those costs at \$3 million only. The current government of Oscar Arias has rejected the process of arbitration.

Source: Leland Baxter-Neal, *Mesoamerica*, July 2006.

We are aware that the above short articles have given only a taster of some of the problems caused by the mining industry in Central America. For readers who wish to find out more, we recommend that you visit some of the following websites:

Oxfam America	www.oxfamamerica.org
News Service	www.einnews.com
World War 4 Report	ww4report.com
Planet Ark	www.planetark.com
Mining Watch	www.miningwatch.ca (especially for Guatemala)
Mines and Communities	www.minesandcommunities.org (especially for Costa Rica)
Global Exchange	www.globalexchange.org (especially for Honduras)
Trópico Verde	www.tropicoverde.org (especially for Guatemala)

The Pineapple Paradox

ENCA previously reported on the environmental and social problems in pineapple cultivation, with the visit by Patricia Blanco from Costa Rica in 2000. Since then pineapple expansion has exploded, with Costa Rica now the world’s biggest supplier of this tropical fruit, exporting over 75,000 tons a month. Land under pineapple cultivation has more than tripled in the last seven years, notably in the northern and Atlantic regions of the country and many small and medium scale farmers have entered the business, attracted by the prospect of better earnings than in the more traditional crops of coffee and bananas. Tico pineapple exports now earn over US\$325 million and provide an estimated 60,000 jobs for men and women, as well as over 1,000 individual growers. There is no denying pineapple’s crucial role in the national economy, but who really benefits from the boom?



Labour rights and social justice NGOs ASEPROLA and Foro Emaus recently launched a Campaign against pineapple expansion with the following aims:

- raise awareness of the negative social and environmental impacts of the intensive monoculture model of export pineapple production and its uncontrolled growth;
- demand better labour, health and environmental conditions for workers on pineapple farms;
- demand state institutions enforce national regulations, carry out a proper impact assessment and set up a stakeholder committee with citizen participation;
- demand fruit companies obey labour, health and environmental laws;

ENCA Newsletter, Oct. 2006, p.8

- demand the right of communities to take part in plans for integrated development.

Based on a detailed report last year of the social, economic and environmental consequences of the pineapple boom, the campaign is also working to denounce specific cases, prepare legal actions and support workers and campesinos to organise better in defence of their rights. The NGOs have been joined by community groups in Guácimo, Siquirres, Pococí and Sarapiquí in the Atlantic coast, who are outraged by the destruction of the area's precious forest and water resources. With an eye on the international audience, the Campaign circulated a flyer before the Costa Rica-Germany World Cup match on 9 June 2006, illustrated with a football sporting a pineapple foliage crown and describing the impact of pineapple production.

Pesticide impacts on farm worker and community health are one of the concerns, with exposure risk exacerbated by the type of chemicals used and the length of working day and the way pesticides are sprayed in pineapple fields, easily drifting in the air or running into water sources. Even more than in banana plantations, with the uncontrolled expansion, many people now live and work virtually surrounded by pineapple fields. The government ombudsman has officially noted concern about the relation between excessive pesticide application and the use of solvents and the increasing incidence of respiratory complaints among local communities. One complaint registered with the Health Ministry by a resident in the Atlantic Region stated *"One house stands at scarcely 10m from where the pineapple are grown. At around 9pm they start to fumigate the fruit, putting at danger those living in the house, with real worries for a 2 year*

old child who frequently suffers allergies. The house has no piped water supply and uses a small spring nearby. This spring could be contaminated by the chemicals applied on the pineapple which are washed into the water with the rain". A resident from the PINDECO zone testified *"We live between banana and pineapple plantations. Practically all the aerial fumigation falls on us. They spray at night and the stink is intolerable; the air gets hotter. They've destroyed everything, they do whatever they want and never think about the health of neighbours."*

Todo el mundo habla de Costa Rica

COSTA RICA - ALEMANIA
9 de Junio 2006

Partido inicial del Mundial 2006



¡Que gane el mejor equipo!

¿Sabía Usted...

- que Costa Rica, como principal proveedor de piña en el mundo, exporta cada mes más de 75 000 toneladas de piña?
- que en Costa Rica el área de plantaciones piñeras aumentó a más del triple en los últimos 7 años?
- que el valor de la exportación de la piña en Costa Rica ha aumentado de 142 Mill US- Dolares a 325 Mill US-Dolares, o sea a más del doble en los últimos 4 años, pero las ganancias de este negocio se fueron sobre todo para las empresas transnacionales?
- que los químicos usados en las plantaciones piñeras en Costa Rica contaminan el agua y el suelo, y tienen efectos graves en la salud de la población trabajadora y de las comunidades vecinas?
- que por el cultivo de las piñas, ríos y pozos se están quedando sin agua?
- que en la mayoría de las plantaciones piñeras no se permite la organización de sindicatos y se violan derechos fundamentales de las y los trabajadores?

¡Alto a la expansión piñera!



FORO EMAÚS
FORO DE ASOCIADOS HUMANOS Y EL AMBIENTE



ASEPROLA

Campana contra la expansión piñera

Comité Ambiental de Guácimo y Pococi, Costa Rica, Tel 00 506 716 74 82
ASEPROLA, Costa Rica, Tel 00506 285 13 44; incidencia@aseprola.org; www.aseprola.org
Foro Emaús, Costa Rica, Tel 00506 227 62 95; foroemaus@racsa.co.cr www.foroemaus.org

Can certification improve practice and build sustainability?

The Sustainable Agriculture Network and Rainforest Alliance (RA) have worked for many years in Latin America to develop standards for sustainable farming practice in several tropical crops. In Europe, they are best known for their RA certified bananas. Alarmed at the growing adverse impacts of pineapple expansion in Costa Rica, they set up a stakeholder consultation in 2003 with over 600 participants to identify the main problems and how these could be addressed via a certification scheme. They heard how new pineapple production areas have mostly replaced old pastures and some less profitable crops. Environmental damage includes the destruction of forests; the invasion, degradation and destruction of riverside forests and habitat, including the conversion of small waterways into drainage canals; increased sedimentation of rivers and streams due to uncontrolled runoff; and intensive and poorly controlled application of agrochemicals. Common social impacts include reduction in water supplies due to overuse for irrigation; destruction of roads by heavy equipment belonging to pineapple farms; blowing dust from recently cultivated fields; infestations of flies that breed on pineapple waste left in fields; and drifting smoke from the burning of pineapple waste. Workers and labour groups also voiced objections to working conditions and the treatment of union representatives and workers who try to organise.

Following the consultation, in June 2006 Rainforest Alliance launched its new standards for pineapple, based on their general agriculture standards and incorporating specific criteria relevant for pineapple. For example, RA certified pineapple may not be grown on slopes greater than 15%, to avoid erosion and water run-off problems. Pesticide spray booms must have a coloured sign, visible from 30m away, corresponding to the toxicity of product applied. Farms must provide shelter from rain and sun for workers and sanitary facilities within 5 minutes walk from all field operations.



Some NGOs feel that while RA certification certainly helps to bring some improvements, by legitimising large-scale monoculture operations, it fails to address the core problems of agribusiness dominance and scale, exploitation of *campesino* labour and undermining of food sovereignty. The Rainforest Alliance argues that certification is a proven method of increasing producers' awareness of agriculture's impacts on the environment and on people, and provokes them to take measures to be more environmentally and socially sustainable. By differentiating RA approved farms as more sustainable pineapple producers, certification can use market forces and consumer concerns to nudge the entire conventional sector towards better practice. Ultimately, it may be European and North American consumers who decide the fate of the lands under pineapple. Choosing certified sustainable pineapple is a step in the right direction, but should we be buying only organic and/or fair trade fruit, or is it ecologically and socially unsound to even consider tropical products?

To support the campaign, contact Nela Perle at ASEPROLA – email: nela-incidencia@aseprola.org

More information at www.foroemaus.org and www.aseprola.org

'Diagnóstico situación y condiciones de la agroindustria piñera en Costa Rica', ASEPROLA, 2005.

RA/SAN general and pineapple standards can be found at www.rainforestalliance.org

Golf Course to Destroy Bosque El Espino, El Salvador

In June this year, the Salvadoran Centre for Appropriate Technology (CESTA) criticised the Salvadoran Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) for authorising the destruction of 55 manzanas of trees in the El Espino woodland. El Espino has been a source of conflict for many years, as it covers the major water sources for the capital city, San Salvador, as well as providing a major pair of lungs nearby to absorb some of the city's polluted atmosphere.

According to CESTA, the destruction is to make way for the extension of a golf course, which CESTA calls "a genuine environmental crime", especially as the area is meant to be protected against development. Ricardo Navarro, director of CESTA, explained that golf courses are very anti-ecological projects because they destroy the woodland, and use enormous quantities of water and pesticides. He stated that this authorisation reinforced the "low credibility" of the Ministry as "it contributes to the destruction of the woodland in a zone of water retention," and as the course would be "only for rich old people from here and the United States."

The Minister of the Environment, Hugo Barrera, has confirmed that he is a member of the golf club which is building the course. CESTA requested the intervention of the Legislative Assembly.

Sources: www.rebellion.org and www.cesta-sv.org

Trans-Isthmus Canal Competition

In June this year, Duncan Campbell reported for *The Guardian* on Panama's plans to widen and deepen the Panama Canal in the hope and belief that this would enrich the country and solve many of its problems of poverty and under-development. The move is widely touted as essential in order to accommodate the vast increase in trade and in the size of container vessels now transporting goods. The expansion would allow post-Panamax ships – enormous vessels that can carry 10,000 20-foot long containers (or twice as many as Panamax ships which are the largest that can fit through the canal today) – to navigate the waterway. Not everyone is in favour of the plan, however. Critics suggest that the expansion will sink the country into debt and cause untold risks for Panamanian society and its environment.

Panama's plan is at least in part motivated by plans elsewhere in the region to develop alternative trade routes across the isthmus. In October, also in *The Guardian*, John Vidal reported on the Nicaraguan government's plans to construct a \$20 billion rival to the Panama Canal. Again, the proposed waterway would allow the largest tankers and container ships to cross between the two oceans. The plan is expected to take ten years to realise and would involve the construction of a series of giant locks on the Río San Juan. Again, however, there are fears, expressed especially by environmentalists, that the project could be ecologically disastrous, destroying large areas of forest, and beneficial only in terms of the short-term employment it might offer during the construction phase.

Both proposals would require massive capital investment and there is currently considerable doubt that such initial investment would be forthcoming in either case. Watch this space.

Sources: Duncan Campbell, 'Panama hopes to sail into 'first world' by enlarging its waterway', *The Guardian*, London, 13.6.06.

John Vidal '20bn and 10 years to build – a giant rival for Panama Canal', *The Guardian*, London, 4.10.06.
Mesoamerica, 'Official Proposal for Canal Expansion Announced', ICAS, San José, May 2006.

DATES FOR ENCA MEETINGS, 2007 – at 129 Seven Sisters Rd., London N7 7QG, 1 -5 pm
All Sundays – 18th February 2007; 10th June 2007; 14th October 2007

ENCA Newsletter, Oct. 2006, p.11

Deforesting Honduras – Central American court orders bodyguard for priest

Further to (not as a result of) the main article in the last edition of the ENCA Newsletter, Padre Andres Tamayo of the Olancho Environmental Movement (MAO) now has a permanent, round-the-clock bodyguard of Honduran soldiers, by order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. His outspoken denunciation of those responsible for illegal logging in the department of Olancho in Honduras has earned him too many death threats for the court and the government to ignore.



Padre Andres Tamayo

Those who want more on this story should see ENCA Newsletter no. 40, along with the Environmental Investigation Agency report on illegal logging in Honduras at www.eia-international.org Regular bulletins exposing the illegal trade and the corruption associated with it can be found on the MAO's website at www.maoambiente.org

ENCA steps into the new world with its website

The ENCA website – www.enca.org.uk – has been largely unadvertised until now on account of its slow development, but it is becoming an increasingly useful repository for articles from older editions of the ENCA Newsletter. We can now put whole editions of it onto the website and send links to the online newsletter. If anybody would like to receive their newsletter in this way, thereby saving printing costs and postage and arguably paper, could you please notify Martin Mowforth at mmowforth@plymouth.ac.uk ? We will then ensure that you receive the electronic version rather than the hard copy.

ENCA tour of Honduras postponed

The ENCA Environmental Study Tour of Honduras planned for January 2007 has now been re-scheduled to take place from *Sunday 29th July 2007* to *Wednesday 15th August 2007*. The postponement is due to the low number of committed participants for the January date. We are hopeful that commitment for the new dates will be much greater and have begun to re-advertise the event with the new dates.

Details of the tour are given on the ENCA website at www.enca.org.uk and anyone interested in joining the tour group should contact Martin Mowforth, 51 West Street, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8JZ; Tel 01822 617504; Email: mmowforth@plymouth.ac.uk for further details.

Apologies – to Milton Flores and Elías Sánchez because in ENCA Newsletter no. 40 we declared that Honduran NGO CIDICCO's "... Director Milton Flores has developed the notion of *La Finca Humana* ..." The concept was first developed by Elías Sánchez and has been adopted and put into practice by CIDICCO.

ENCA Contacts:

Chair:	Nick Rau	0208 809 4451	hhnrau@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary:	Sheila Amoo-Gottfried	0208 769 0492	sheila.amoo-gottfried@virgin.net
Treasurer:	Janet Bye	01473 254695	janet.bye@btopenworld.com
Postal address:	ENCA, c/o NSC, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 7QG (Tel. 0207 272 9619)		

NEWSLETTER PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER BY NEWARK DESIGNER PRINT

ENCA Newsletter, Oct. 2006, p.12