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Please make checks payable to the ACEER Foundation and mail to:
The ACEER Foundation
P.O. Box 2549
West Chester, PA 19383

THANK YOU!

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NEW AMAZON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER SET TO OPEN

The ACEER, in partnership with the Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) and with full funding from the National Geographic Society, is creating a new education and research center in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest. The site is within the Los Amigos Conservation Concession, approximately 7 hours travel time upriver from Puerto Maldonado, Peru. The Los Amigos watershed is remote, pristine wilderness that acts as a biological corridor connecting Manu National Park and the Tambopata Reserved Zone. An existing research center, CICRA, created by ACA, lies at the very heart of the largest expanse of virgin rainforest in the world and will complement the new ACEER facility.

Plant and animal diversity is extremely high around Los Amigos. The site lies within terra firme forest bordering on floodplain forest. The area contains a great diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, including palm swamps, bamboo, oxbow lakes, and various types of flooded and non-flooded forests. Wildlife is abundant, including endangered animals such as giant otters, harpy eagles, spider monkeys and the big cats such as jaguars. The area contains 13 species of primates. For comparison, all of Costa Rica holds only 4 monkey species. Individual populations of species can be quite robust. Recent field studies have noted individual monkey troops exceeding 200 individuals and peccary groups with more than 1000 individuals.



A satellite image of the pristine Los Amigos watershed in Peru

The site for the new ACEER station would be on a high terrace (30 m. +/-) above the Los Amigos River. The site will be near the CICRA research center; ACEER would have full access to CICRA, and their resident researchers, in support of educational programs. At the present time, there are 70 researchers at CICRA working on short and long-term funded projects through universities and organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund, the Moore Foundation, and Conservation International. The Los Amigos site also offers over 100 km of marked trails in support of the new center. The campus will include double cabins with individual showers/flush toilets; a separate dining facility; staff quarters; a field laboratory; and meeting

rooms. The site will have full power and 24/7 wireless Internet access. Initial capacity will be for educational groups of about 20 individuals. ACA will provide the management and logistical services for the new center. The site is expected to be available by mid-2006 with the first courses and workshops scheduled for shortly thereafter. Under this special partnership agreement with ACA, ACEER will be the sole agent for coordinating educational programs for the international community; ACA will use the site for local training programs, consistent with their own education and research missions.

"This new center in pristine, *terra firme* rainforest will complement ACEER stations at Tambopata and our new cloud forest walkway in the Andes, also in partnership with ACA, and provide students and researchers an unparalleled opportunity to study rainforests and cloudforests," notes ACEER President Dr. Roger Mustalish. In addition to dedicated workshops in the Andes and in the Amazon rainforest, ACEER and ACA will be creating intensive "mega-transect" workshops that will begin in the cloud forest at our joint Wayqechas Cloud Forest Walkway site and travel down the eastern slope of the Andes through seven different ecosystems into the lowland rainforest at Los Amigos.

Follow our progress on our website. Groups interested in booking space at Los Amigos can do so by contacting Marguerite Gould at mgould@wcupa.edu or 610-738-0477.

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P.O. Box 2549

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