

What Effects, New Roads: Indigenous Agriculture in the Amazon

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The Amuesha of the upper Peruvian Amazon traditionally practice multifaceted swidden agriculture, though arrival of a road in 1984 to the Palcazu valley may have influenced Amuesha agricultural practices. We inventoried useful species in yard gardens, used vegetation ecology measures of field architecture and species composition, and we interviewed Amuesha agriculturalists about cropping practices and subsistence. Field statistics were described with univariate statistical measures, and were compared to previous data with multivariate paired t tests and polar ordination. Results indicate decreased crop diversity, less cultivation of rice, more agroforestry, and more commercial cropping.