

A Unique Panel Data Set Just Released:
A Rural Indigenous Population in the Bolivian Amazon
Integrating to the National and International Market Economy

The Tsimane' Amazonian Panel Study (TAPS) has just released a unique annual panel data set 2002-2006 (inclusive) that follows a native Amazonian horticultural and foraging society experiencing rapid integration to the rest of the world. The study of those changes through panel observations can yield very valuable information about how processes such as globalization, market exposure, or trade opening affect cultural (identity, local ecological knowledge), economic (income, consumption), psychological (happiness), and biological (health, nutrition, growth) dimensions of well-being.

Funded largely by the program of Cultural Anthropology of the National Science Foundation, the panel study has been tracking about 1,500 native Amazonians in about 250 households of 13 villages along the Maniqui River, Department of Beni, Bolivia, and has introduced agricultural development projects. TAPS surveys take place every year during June-August. The first five-years of data, 2002-2006 (inclusive), are now available to the public in STATA.

TAPS has been receiving widespread attention and was recently featured in *The Economist* and a BBC report. Research from TAPS has appeared in journals in human biology, anthropology, history, psychology, and development economics. To date, the TAPS data have been mainly used in cross-sectional analysis, but the data is now ready for use as a panel.

To request access to the 2002-2006 panel data set and its documentation, go to the following web site at (<http://people.brandeis.edu/~rgodoy/research/pgs/panel.html>) or contact Ricardo Godoy (781-736-2784, rgodoy@brandeis.edu).