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100 years of science in Panama



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

STRI news

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October 14, 2011

Naos seminar

Monday, October 17 at 1pm,
Lisa Belden, Virginia Tech will
present a seminar at Naos
Conference room

**Community ecology and
disease dynamics in
amphibian populations**

Gamboa seminar

Monday, October 17 at
4:30pm, Gamboa seminar
speaker will be Tonia Hsieh,
Temple University

**A tale about tails: Arboreal
locomotor stability in green
anole lizards**

CTFS/SIGEO talk

Tuesday, October 18 at
10:30am, CTFS/SIGEO talk
speaker will be Matteo Detto,
University of California at
Berkeley

TBA

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, October 18, 4pm
Tupper seminar speaker will
be Jessica Stapley, STRI
**Bridging the gap between
genotypes and
phenotypes in reptiles**

**Safety number:
212-8211**

STRI's participation in the UNFCCC intersessional meeting

Panama hosted the largest
international gathering of
climate change experts during
the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change
(UNFCCC) meetings, from
Saturday, October 1st to Friday,
October 7. The UNFCCC is
the broadest environmental
convention with 192 signatory
nations.

The meetings allowed countries
to develop texts that will be
debated at the next Conference
of Parties in December, in
South Africa. Delegates have
been working to replace the
Kyoto Protocol scheduled to

cease in 2012. STRI made good
use of the UNFCCC meetings
in Panama, reaching out to key
stakeholders.

Given the presence of
negotiators on the topic of
Reducing Emissions from
Deforestation and Forest
Degradation (REDD+), STRI
visiting researcher Catherine
Potvin (photo above) from
McGill University, and Chris
Meyer from the Environmental
Defense Fund, organized a field
trip for delegates from nine
countries and the European
Union. The group visited a
REDD+ project in the
indigenous community of
Ipeti-Embera (see photo below)
and a private sector
agroforestry project with small
landowners. These efforts are
supported by STRI, which pays
for the carbon sequestered to
partially offset its own
emissions.

STRI offered information to
the participants from a booth
and held a side-event at the
UNFCCC meeting on October
5 that focused on the issues of
carbon, rights and governance.
It featured presentations by
Potvin and Marc Pallemærst,
from the University of



Photo: Gian Montufar

Amsterdam, and a video made
by Javier Mateo (photo on page
2), STRI's Environmental
Leadership Training Initiative
(ELTI) and Jorge Ventocilla,
STRI communication associate.
The video covers ELTI's
training efforts on REDD+ for
indigenous peoples and rural
farmers, the constitution of the
Consultive Council on Conflict
Resolution and REDD+ and
the Ipeti-Emberá case.

Later that week, eleven
REDD+ negotiators from nine
countries and the European
Union joined STRI staff
scientist Helene Muller-Landau,
Potvin and María del Carmen
Ruiz-Jaen for a visit to BCI
(photo on page 2). After a
presentation from Oris
Acevedo, the negotiators visited
the permanent plot. This



Photo: Richard Schooley

Bambi seminar

Thursday, October 20, Bambi seminar speaker will be Catalina Pimiento, University of Florida and CTPA, STRI **Giant shark babies from Panama**

Arrivals

Judith Riedel, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, to study sustainable agroforestry for carbon sequestration to improve small farmers' livelihoods in the tropics, at Tupper.

Mingzi Xu, University of Oklahoma, to study UV reflective wing patch as an honest signal of quality in resolution of territorial contests of the tree hole Odonate *Megaloprepus caerulatus*, on BCI.

Jay Falk, Austin, Texas, to work as volunteer in predator foraging behavior with Patricia Jones, in Gamboa.

Christina Simbakanin, University of Victoria, Canada, to study Bocas del Toro biodiversity, at Bocas.

Jennifer Dijkstra, University of New Hampshire, to study Bocas del Toro biodiversity, at Bocas and Naos.

Juan David Beltran Parra, Universidad de Los Andes, to study anatomic, morphologic and physiological changes during the ontogeny of the Tilandsioideae subfamily, on BCI.

Emily Dangremond, University of California, Berkeley, to study range limits of a rare mangrove species, at Bocas del Toro.

Kelly Andersen, University of Georgia, to work on redefining nutrient limitation in lowland tropical forests, on BCI.

spawned discussions about the challenges of measuring carbon in the tropics, which were enriched by seeing firsthand the diversity of form and the challenges that measuring trees entails.

Panamá celebró la reunión más extensa de expertos en cambio climático, durante el Congreso de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (UNFCCC, por sus siglas en inglés), del sábado 1ro de octubre al viernes 7 de octubre. La UNFCCC es la convención ambiental más amplia, con la participación de 192 países asociados.



Photo: Pamela Belding

Las reuniones permitieron que los países desarrollaran textos que serán discutidos en la próxima conferencia de las partes en diciembre, en Suráfrica. Los delegados han estado trabajando para reemplazar el Protocolo de Kyoto que está programado para terminar en 2012. STRI aprovechó las reuniones de UNFCCC en Panamá para conectarse con actores clave.

Dada la presencia de los negociadores en tópicos relacionados con la Reducción de Emisiones de Carbono por Deforestación y Degradación de Bosques (REDD+),

Catherine Potvin, académica visitante en STRI de la Universidad de McGill y Chris Meyer, del Fondo de Defensa Ambiental, organizaron una visita al campo para delegados de nueve países y de la Unión Europea. El grupo visitó un proyecto de REDD+ en la comunidad indígena de Ipetí-Emberá y un proyecto de agroforestería del sector privado de pequeños terratenientes. Estos esfuerzos que apoya STRI, pagan por el carbono sequestrado para compensar parcialmente sus propias emisiones.

STRI también ofreció información a los participantes con un quiosco (foto a la izquierda) y celebró un evento paralelo a las reuniones de UNFCCC el 5 de octubre, enfocado en asuntos de carbono, derechos y gobernabilidad. El evento contó con presentaciones de Potvin y Marc Pallemarst, de la Universidad de Amsterdam, y un video producido por Javier Mateo (foto a la derecha), de la Iniciativa de Capacitación para Liderazgo Ambiental (ELTI) y Jorge Ventocilla, comunicador asociado a STRI. El video cubre los esfuerzos de capacitación sobre REDD+ para pueblos indígenas y campesinos, la constitución del Consejo Consultivo sobre Resolución de Conflictos y REDD+, y el caso de Ipetí-Emberá. El evento cerró con una sesión de preguntas y respuestas que



Photo: Gian Montufar

<http://environment.yale.edu/elti/en/media/elti-videos/>

fomentó discusiones animadas entre los participantes.

Al final de la semana, once negociadores de REDD+ de nueve países y la Unión Europea se unieron a la científica de STRI, Helene Muller-Landau, Potvin y María del Carmen Ruiz-Jaen para visitar Barro Colorado. Luego de una presentación introductoria de Oris Acevedo, los negociadores visitaron la parcela permanente del CTFS-SIGEO. Hubo discusiones sobre los retos de medir el carbono en los trópicos, las que se enriquecieron al observar de primera mano la diversidad de formas y los retos que presenta medir los árboles.



Courtesy: Javier Mateo

More arrivals

Jennifer Jones, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, to participate as instructor in the 2011 Duke University Experimental Tropical Marine Biology field course, at Bocas.

Tonia Hsieh, Temple University, to study adaptive evolution and regeneration in Panamanian anole lizards, in Gamboa.

Departures

Rachel Collin to Washington DC, to attend the Marine Geo meeting.

John Christy to Singapore, to give two lectures in the course "Current Topics in Animal Behavior" at the National Institute of Education, and to conduct collaborative research at Palau Hantu and Pasir Ris Nature Area.

Eldredge Bermingham to Cambridge, to discuss matters regarding the CTFS/SIGEO program, followed by a trip to New York, to meet with donors. Then to Montreal, to meet with colleagues of the Neotropical Environmental Option (NEO) at McGill University.

Mary Jane West-Eberhard, to Washington Dc, to attend meetings of the Committee on Human Rights at the National Academy of Science.

Owen McMillan to Cambridge, to meet with colleagues at Harvard, followed by a trip to Vermont to discuss a potential donation in Bocas del Toro. Then to Montreal, to discuss the future of the STRI-McGill NEO program.

Ingrid Payne joins STRI

Ingrid Payne (in the photo) was selected to fill the position of Visitor's Office manager effective September 26. She holds a bachelor's degree in Administration in International Relations from Florida International University and a second B.A. in International Business and Management from the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Prior to joining STRI's visitors office, Payne served as operations manager for Global Alliance for TB Drug Development in New York and South Africa, a biotech that develops new regimens for Tuberculosis and HIV co-infected patients. Initially, she managed Human Resources, events and then clinical trial operations in various countries. Prior to TB Alliance, Payne worked as the project manager for the Barber Group, a Marketing and Branding firm in New York, and was the Marketing and Events Coordinator for the New York Stock Exchange.

Payne has over 15 years experience in customer service in the Hospitality and Food industry. She is a native Panamanian who enjoys traveling, loves photography and is an avid reader. She is very happy to be back in her home country and form a part of STRI's team.

Ingrid Payne (en la foto) fue seleccionada para llenar la posición de gerente de la Oficina de Visitantes de STRI, a partir del 26 de octubre. Tiene una licenciatura en Administración con especialización en Relaciones Internacionales de la Universidad Internacional de



Florida, y una segunda licenciatura en Negocios Internacionales y Administración de la Universidad de Zagreb, en Croacia.

Antes de unirse a la Oficina de Visitantes de STRI, Payne fungía como gerente de operaciones de la Alianza Mundial para el Desarrollo de Fármacos para el Tratamiento de la Tuberculosis en Nueva York y Africa del Sur, una compañía que desarrolla nuevos medicamentos para pacientes co-infectados con tuberculosis y VIH. Inicialmente trabajó dirigiendo recursos humanos, eventos y experimentación clínica en varios países. Antes de la Alianza TB, Payne trabajó como gerente de proyectos para Barber Group, una firma de mercadeo y marcas en Nueva York, y fue coordinadora de mercadeo y eventos en la bolsa de valores de Nueva York.

Payne tiene más de 15 años de experiencia en servicio al cliente en la industria de Hotelería. Nació en Panamá, y disfruta de la lectura y la fotografía. Se siente feliz de estar de nuevo en Panamá y pertenecer al equipo de STRI.

New publications

Haller, Benjamin C., De Leon, Luis F., Rolshausen, Gregor, Gotanda, Kiyoko M., and Hendry, Andrew P. 2011. "Magic traits: distinguishing the important from the trivial." *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* doi:10.1016/j.tree.2011.09.005

Lessios, Harilaos A., Lockhart, S., Collin, Rachel, Sotil, G., Sanchez-Jerez, P., Zigler, Kirk S., Perez, A.F., Garrido, Mateo J., Geyer, Laura B., Bernardi, Giacomo, Vacquier, V.D., Haroun, Ricardo J., and Kessing, Bailey D. 2011. "Phylogeography and bindin evolution in *Arbacia*, a sea urchin genus with an unusual distribution." *Molecular Ecology* doi:10.1111/j.1365-294X.2011.05303.x

Puebla, Oscar, Bermingham, Eldredge, and Guichard, Frederic. 2011. "Pairing dynamics and the origin of species." *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* doi:10.1098/rspb.2011.1549

Santiago, Louis S., Wright, S. Joseph, Harms, Kyle E., Yavitt, Joseph B., Korine, Carmi, Garcia, Milton N., and Turner, Benjamin L. 2011. "Tropical tree seedling growth responses to nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium addition." *Journal of Ecology* doi:10.1111/j.1365-2745.2011.01904.x

Visser, Marco D., Muller-Landau, Helene C., Wright, S. Joseph, Rutten, Gemma, and Jansen, Patrick A. 2011. "Tri-trophic interactions affect density dependence of seed fate in a tropical forest palm." *Ecology Letters* 14(11): 1093-1100.

Walker, Thomas N., and Hughes, William O.H. 2011. "Arboreality and the evolution of disease resistance in ants." *Ecological Entomology* 36(5): 588-595.

Conversaciones en el Smithsonian

Ciclo de Conferencias Centenario




Plantas, Stress y Cambio Climático

Dr. Klaus Winter

26 de octubre de 2011 | 5:30 p.m.

**Auditorio del Centro Earl Tupper
Instituto Smithsonian
de Investigaciones Tropicales
Entrada Libre**

Información: 212-8111, 212-8000 ext. 0
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stri.si.edu/english/webcast/index.php

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