

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, December 8 is Mother's Day in Panama and there will be no seminar.

Paleo-Talk

Wednesday, Dec 9, Paleo-Talk speaker will be Paula Mejía, University of Florida

Floristic patterns and climate of tropical latitudes during early diversification of flowering plants

Bambi seminar

Thursday, December 10, Bambi seminar speaker will be Roland Kays, New York State Museum

The Northeast coyote/coydog/coywolf: What is it and how did it get there?

Arrivals

Bettina Engelbrecht, University of Bayreuth, Germany, to continue studies on the regional distribution patterns in tropical forest: direct and indirect consequences of drought periods, in Gamboa.

Jeffrey Wolf, University of California, Los Angeles, to study if resource-use variation amongst species drives variation in species diversity in the 50-ha plot on BCI.

Bill Lewelling, U.S. Geological Survey, to join the Agua Salud Project-Hydrologic Studies.

Departures

Hector Guzman to Boston, Massachusetts, to attend the MMAS-Node Coiba Meeting, then to La Paz, Mexico, to continue whale shark studies.

Jefferson Hall to Berlin, to visit with Helmut Elsenbeer at Postdam University and work on a manuscript for publication.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

December 4, 2009

Conservation Biology special issue

Results from the debate on the future of tropical species

Conservation Biology (December) dedicated a section to publish eight papers resulting from a debate originated at STRI between staff scientists S. Joseph Wright and Hellene Muller-Landau and William F. Laurance (also with James Cook University, in Cairns, Australia). The debate focuses on two opposing views of the tropical extinction crisis. While many scientists claim that as much as 50-75% of all tropical species could vanish by the end of the century, Wright and Muller-Landau used estimates of future population growth and urbanization trends to suggest that increasing forest regeneration would help to buffer species losses in the tropics. The papers, already distributed by the "Science Sendings" by Neal Smith, are listed in the left-hand column on page 4 of this newsletter.

This debate has taken place in scientific journals and several events, including a symposium in Morelia, Mexico in 2007, a workshop and symposium in Panama in 2008, and a public debate in Washington DC, in January, 2009. This special section of *Conservation Biology*, "New Insights into the Tropical Biodiversity Crisis," as well as the related workshop

and symposia, were made possible through the support of SI, the Science Committee of the Smithsonian National Board, and the Frank Levinson Family Foundation with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

El número de diciembre de *Conservation Biology* dedicó una sección para publicar ocho artículos resultado del debate originado en STRI entre los científicos S. Joseph Wright y Hellene Muller-Landau y William F. Laurance (ahora también con James Cook University en Cairns, Australia).

El debate se enfoca en dos puntos de vista opuestos sobre la crisis de la extinción tropical. Mientras que muchos científicos predicen que 50 a 75% de todas las especies tropicales desaparecerán antes del final de siglo, Wright y Muller-Landau utilizaron cálculos sobre el crecimiento futuro de la población y la tendencia a la urbanización para sugerir que un aumento en la regeneración de los bosques podría ayudar a disminuir la pérdida de las especies en los trópicos. Los artículos, que ya han sido



Conservation Biology cover designed by W.F. Laurance

distribuidos en los *Science Sendings* de Neal Smith, aparecen listados en la columna a la izquierda en la página 4 de este boletín.

El debate se ha llevado a cabo a través de revistas científicas y varios eventos incluyendo un simposio en Morelia, México en 2007, un taller y simposio en Panamá en 2008 y un debate público en Washington DC en enero de 2009. La sección especial de *Conservation Biology* "Nuevas ideas sobre la crisis de la biodiversidad tropical" fue publicada gracias al Smithsonian, al Comité Científico de la Junta de Síndicos de SI, y la Fundación de la Familia de Frank Levinson junto con la Fundación de la Comunidad de Silicon Valley, quienes financiaron dicha sección así como los talleres y simposios relacionados al debate.

New publications

Boehm, Stefan and Kalko, Elisabeth K.V. 2009. "Patterns of resource use in an assemblage of birds in the canopy of a temperate alluvial forest." *Journal of Ornithology* 150(4): 799-814.

Dattilo, Wesley F.C., Izzo, Thiago J., Inouye, Brian D., Vasconcelos, Heraldo L., and Bruna, Emilio M. 2009.

"Recognition of host plant volatiles by *Pheidole minutula* Mayr (Myrmicinae), an Amazonian ant-plant specialist." *Biotropica* 41(5): 642-646.

Drexler, Jan Felix, Corman, Victor Max, Gloza-Rausch, Florian, Seebens, Antje, Annan, Augustina, Ipsen, Anne, Kruppa, Thomas, Mueller, Marcel A., Kalko, Elisabeth K.V., Adu-Sarkodie, Yaw, Oppong, Samuel, and Drosten, Christian. 2009. "Henipavirus RNA in African bats." *PLoS ONE* 4(7): e6367.

Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley. 2009. "Alexander Wetmore y Armagedón Hartmann en Coiba y Coibita, 1956." "Épocas" Tercera Era (Supplement to *El Panamá América*) 24(11): 2-3.

Galvez, Dumas, Kranstauber, Bart, Kays, Roland W., and Jansen, Patrick A. 2009. "Scatter hoarding by the Central American agouti: a test of optimal cache spacing theory." *Animal Behaviour* 78(6): 1327-1333.

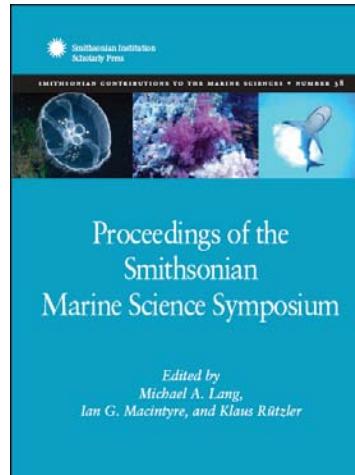
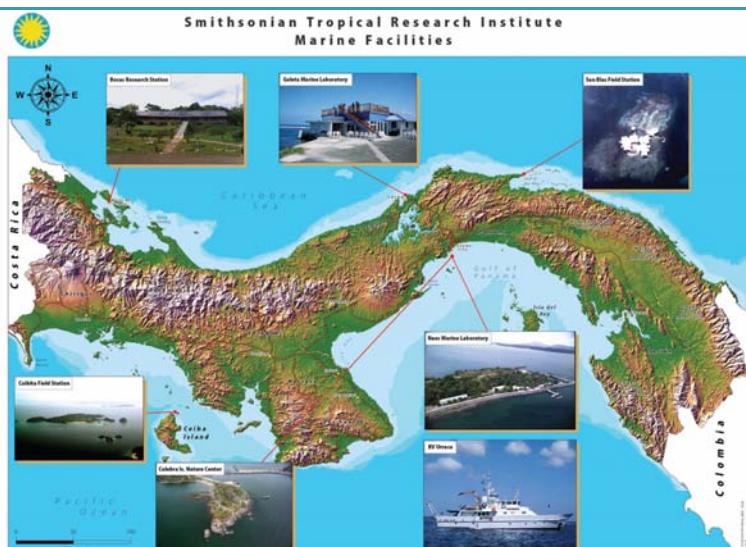
Kalko, Elisabeth K.V. and Ayasse, M. . 2009. "Study and analysis of odor involved in the behavioral ecology of bats." In Kunz, Thomas H. and Parsons, Stuart (Eds.), *Ecological and behavioral methods for the study of bats*, 2nd ed. Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

STRI in new Marine Proceedings

The *Proceedings of the Smithsonian Marine Science Symposium*, held in 2007, was recently published online as number 38 (2009) of the *Smithsonian Contributions to the Marine Sciences*. It includes the findings from 39 papers on topics of marine biodiversity, evolution, biogeography, invasive species, conservation, and forces of ecological change in marine systems in 39 papers. STRI contributions are listed in the right-hand column of this page.

Edited by Michael A. Lang, Ian G. Macintyre and Klaus Rutzler, and with a foreword by Ira Rubinoff, the 529-page volume represents the first major dissemination of marine research results since the Smithsonian Marine Science Network was established. It can be downloaded from: http://www.sil.si.edu/smithsoniancontributions/MarineScience/s/sc_RecordSingle.cfm?filename=SCMS-0038

Las Memorias del Smithsonian Marine Science Symposium, llevado a cabo en 2007 se publicaron recientemente como el número 38 (2009) de *Smithsonian Contributions to the Marine Sciences*. Incluye descubrimientos sobre tópicos



In the Proceedings

Rubinoff, Ira. "Introduction." Page ix.

Robertson, D. Ross, Christy, John H., Collin, Rachel, Cooke, Richard G., D'Croz, Luis, Kaufmann, Karl W., Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley, Mate T., Juan L., O'Dea, Aaron, and Torchin, Mark E. "The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute: Marine research, education, and conservation in Panama": Pages 73-93.

Baeza, Juan Antonio. "Protandric simultaneous hermaphroditism is a conserved trait in *Lysmata* (Caridea: Lysmatidae): implications for the evolution of hermaphroditism in the genus." Pages 95-110.

Li, Carter and Collin, Rachel. "Imposex in one of the world's busiest shipping zones." Pages 189-196.

Robertson, D. Ross. "Shorefishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific Online Information System." Pages 198-208.

Sponer, Renate and Lessios, Harilaos A. "Mitochondrial phylogeography of the intertidal isopod *Excirolana brasiliensis* on the two sides of the Isthmus of Panama." Pages 219-228.

Ruiz, Gregory M., Torchin, Mark E., and Grant, Katherine. Pages 291-300.

Collin, Rachel, D'Croz, Luis, Gondola, Plinio, and Del Rosario Loaiza, Jose. "Climate and hydrological factors affecting variation in chlorophyll concentration and water clarity in the Bahia Almirante, Panama." Pages 323-334.

D'Croz, Luis and O'Dea, Aaron. "Nutrient and chlorophyll dynamics in Pacific Central America (Panama)." Pages 335-344.

More publications

Sanchez-Azofeifa, G. Arturo, Castro, Karen, Wright, S. Joseph, Gamon, John, Kalacska, Margaret, Rivard, Benoit, Schnitzer, Stefan A., and Feng, Ji Lu. 2009.

"Differences in leaf traits, leaf internal structure, and spectral reflectance between two communities of lianas and trees: Implications for remote sensing in tropical environments." *Remote Sensing of Environment* 113(10): 2076-2088.

Surlykke, Annemarie and Kalko, Elisabeth K.V. 2008. "Echolocating bats cry out loud to detect their prey." *PLoS ONE* 3(4): e2036.

Venter, Oscar, Laurance, William F., Iwamura, Takuya, Wilson, Kerrie A., Fuller, Richard A., and Possingham, Hugh P. 2009. "Harnessing carbon payments to protect biodiversity." *Science* 326(5958): 1368.

STRI in the news

"The much-maligned sloth" by Virginia Prescott. 2009. New Hampshire Public Radio Word of Mouth: November 30.

"John Kress, un discípulo de Darwin pasa por Panamá" by Caitlin Hammer. 2009. *K en Tu Vida*: número 27: 56-61.

"Reserva de rica biodiversidad" by Aleida Samaniego C. 2009. *La Prensa*: 2B, November 30.

"Crecen activos ecológicos" by Marlene Testa. 2009. *La Estrella*: 11C, December 2.

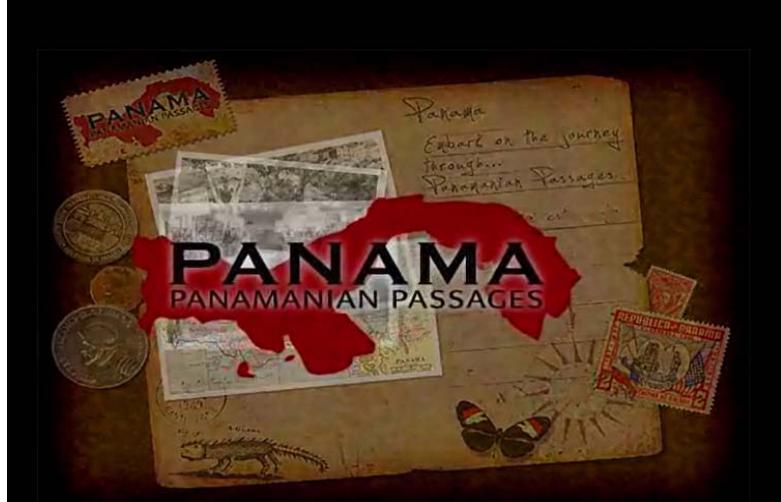
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Latino Center launches Panamanian Passages

The Smithsonian Latino Center announced the launching of the "Panamanian Passages" exhibit's web page, part of the series "Panama at the Smithsonian" a celebration that began this year and will end in 2010, highlighting Panama's social and natural history, political and cultural development and how scientific discoveries have impacted the United States especially the Smithsonian Institution.

"Panamanian Passages" offers glimpses at some of the most important events in the history of Panama from the rise of the isthmus to the present."

Embark on a journey through Panama's past and future with the Interactive Traveler's Journal...click on:



http://latino.si.edu/SLC_Panama/

especialmente a la Institución Smithsonian.

"Pasajes Panameños" ofrece vistazos sobre algunos de los eventos más importantes en la historia de Panamá desde el surgimiento del istmo hasta el presente.

Haga un viaje ... Embárquese en un viaje por el pasado y el futuro de Panamá con el Diario de Viaje interactivo... haga...click en:

http://latino.si.edu/SLC_Panama/

Novel carbon-trading scheme could stop large-scale extinctions

Researchers advocate a biodiversity-focused strategy

A new strategy for saving tropical forest species was published in the leading journal *Science* (December 3) on the eve of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark, by a team of researchers, including William Laurance, senior staff scientist at STRI and distinguished professor at James Cook University. The authors state that wealthy countries should adopt a carbon-payment system that explicitly incorporates biodiversity values.

"If we're smart we could combat global warming while

saving some of the most endangered wildlife on Earth," said Laurance. "Billions of dollars will be spent on forest-carbon initiatives in the next decade, and this could translate into huge benefits for vanishing species if we focus some of the spending in places where tropical biodiversity is most imperiled."

Destruction of tropical forests causes about 20 percent of human-caused carbon emissions. In strategies to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, carbon-producing nations pay tropical countries to keep some of their land in forest. The authors, mostly

researchers working with Hugh Possingham, director of the Ecology Centre at the University of Queensland, evaluated several carbon-based credit scenarios.

"Dollar for dollar, a carbon-focused approach contributes little to slowing biodiversity loss and will save far fewer species than a biodiversity-focused strategy that targets the most imperiled forests," said lead author Oscar Venter, doctoral candidate at the University of Queensland.

A biodiversity-based system would change where carbon funds are spent, resulting in less money for areas like the Amazon where relatively few

Conservation Biology

Laurance, William F. and Wright, S. Joseph. 2009. "Introduction." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1382-1385.

Asner, Gregory P., Rudel, Thomas K., Aide, Thomas Mitchell, Defries, Ruth, and Emerson, Ruth. 2009. "A contemporary assessment of change in humid tropical forests." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1386-1395.

Rudel, Thomas K., Defries, Ruth, Asner, Gregory P., and Laurance, William F. 2009. "Changing drivers of deforestation and new opportunities for conservation." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1396-1405.

Chazdon, Robin L., Peres, Carlos A., Dent, Daisy H., Shell, Douglas, Lugo, Ariel E., Lamb, David, Stork, Nigel E., and Miller, Scott E. 2009. "The potential for species conservation in tropical secondary forests." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1406-1417.

Wright, S. Joseph, Muller-Landau, Helene C., and Schipper, Jan. 2009. "The future of tropical species on a warmer planet." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1418-1426.

Laurance, William F. and Useche, Diana C. 2009. "Environmental synergisms and extinctions of tropical species." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1427-1437.

Stork, Nigel E., Coddington, Jonathan A., Colwell, Robert K., Chazdon, Robin L., Dick, Christopher W., Peres, Carlos A., Sloan, Sean, and Willis, Kathy. 2009. "Vulnerability and resilience of tropical forest species to land-use change." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1438-1447.

Brooks, Thomas M., Wright, S. Joseph, and Sheil, Douglas. 2009. "Evaluating the success of conservation actions in safeguarding tropical forest biodiversity." *Conservation Biology* 23(6): 1448-1457.



MA Guerra, 2006

species are endangered because considerable forest remains. Spending to stem biodiversity loss would favor high-biodiversity nations in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean, where most forests have already vanished.

The team's findings are expected to draw attention at the forthcoming climate negotiations, where international leaders hope to hammer out a final strategy for combating global warming.

By Beth King

La revista líder *Science* publicó una nueva estrategia para salvar las especies del bosque tropical en el número del 3 de diciembre, a pocos días de la Convención marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático en Copenhague, Dinamarca, por un equipo de investigadores incluyendo a William F. Laurance, científico de STRI y profesor distinguido de la Universidad James Cook. Los autores aseguran que los países ricos deben adoptar un sistema de pagos por carbono que incorpore de forma explícita los valores de la biodiversidad.

"Si somos lo suficientemente inteligentes podemos combatir el calentamiento global al mismo tiempo que salvamos las especies silvestres que están en mayor peligro de extinción sobre la tierra," comentó Laurance. En la próxima década se gastarán billones de dólares en iniciativas de bosques-carbono, y esto se pudiera convertir en grandes beneficios para las especies que están desapareciendo si enfocamos parte de esa inversión en lugares donde la biodiversidad tropical se encuentra en mayor peligro."

Cerca del 20% de los bosques tropicales que desaparecen es debido a las emisiones de carbono producidas por los seres humanos. En las estrategias para reducir las emisiones de carbono debido a la deforestación y degradación de los bosques, las naciones que producen el carbono pagan a los países tropicales por mantener parte de su territorio para bosques. Los autores, la mayoría investigadores que trabajan con Hugh Possingham, director del Centro Ecológico en la Universidad de Queensland, evaluaron varios escenarios basados en los créditos de carbono.

"Dólar por dólar, un método enfocado en el carbono, contribuye poco a desacelerar la pérdida de la biodiversidad y salvaría muchas menos especies que una estrategia enfocada en la biodiversidad cuyo objetivo sean los bosques en mayor peligro," aseguró el autor principal Oscar Venter, candidato a doctorado en la Universidad de Queensland.

Un sistema basado en la biodiversidad podría cambiar el lugar donde se usan los fondos de carbono, lo que resultaría en menos dinero en áreas como el Amazonas, donde hay relativamente menos especies en peligro debido a la cantidad de bosque que hay todavía. Gastar para evitar la pérdida de biodiversidad favorecería una alta biodiversidad en naciones en el sureste de Asia y en el Océano Índico, donde la mayoría de los bosques ya han desaparecido.

Se espera que los resultados encontrados por el equipo de científicos llame la atención en las negociaciones climáticas venideras, donde los líderes internacionales esperan dar en el clavo con una estrategia final para combatir el calentamiento global.