

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, September 15, 4pm seminar speaker will be Nancy Moran, University of Arizona
Genomics and evolution of bacterial symbiosis in insects

Bambi seminars

Thursday, September 17, Bambi seminar speaker will be Nancy Moran, University of Arizona

Defensive symbionts and horizontal transfer of ecologically important traits in insects

Friday, September 18, Bambi seminar speaker will be Owen Lewis, University of Oxford
Tropical insect herbivores: network approaches for studying specificity, diversity and dynamics

Congratulations

To Security manager Alejandro Arze, who received his master's degree in International Relations with emphasis in International Negotiations, with honors, from the University of Panama, with the thesis "La protección internacional de los bienes culturales y su vigencia dentro del Derecho interno panameño [The international protection of cultural assets and its relevance in Panamanian internal Law]."

Arrivals

Chris Jiggins, University of Cambridge, UK, to study the genetics and behavioral basis of speciation in *Heliconius* butterflies, in Gamboa.

Jarrold Scott, University of Wisconsin, Madison, to study microbial community assembly in the refuse dumps of the leaf-cutter ant, *Atta colombica*, at Naos, Gamboa and Tupper.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

September 11, 2009

Bill and Susan Laurance, to Australia

William F. Laurance, one of the Smithsonian's most productive and high-profile scientists, will be leaving STRI in October to take up a new position as the James Cook Distinguished Research professor at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia. His wife Susan Laurance, postdoctoral researcher and former Mellon Postdoctoral fellow at STRI, will hold a tenured position as senior lecturer at James Cook. Susan was born in Australia.

"My time at STRI has been wonderful," said Laurance. "I'm deeply ambivalent about leaving, but James Cook is offering me a fantastic research chair and a distinguished post for my wife, Susan. It's just too good a package for us to turn down."

Together, the Laurance's have published an average of twenty five articles a year since they joined STRI in 2000, including papers in top-flight journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, and *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. Laurance has been widely recognized for his world-leading studies of habitat fragmentation and threats to tropical forests, especially in the Amazon and central Africa.



In addition to his research, Laurance has played a very active role in forest conservation. He's given hundreds of media interviews since coming to STRI and played a key role as former president of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation in making that organization a force in tropical conservation.

Laurance has also been a leader in promoting environmental education, especially for decision-makers in Latin America and Southeast Asia. He initiated and co-directed a major program to train Panamanian environmental decision-makers, and also co-manages the Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative, a \$5 million venture by Yale University and STRI that is training environmental decision-makers in Latin America and Southeast Asia.

Laurance has received a number of awards during his time at STRI, including the Bolford Award for Conservation Science from Stanford University, Outstanding Scientist in the History of the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project, and shared the BBVA Frontiers in Ecology and Conservation Biology Award and cash prize of 400,000 euros with long-time collaborator Tom Lovejoy.

The Laurance's will remain as research associates at STRI in order to continue playing key roles in the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragments Project in Brazil, which is run cooperatively by STRI and Brazil's National Institute for Amazonian Research.

"We'll miss our many friends in Panama, and hope to return reasonably often," said Laurance. "If it were just up to

More arrivals

Joris Buis, Wageningen University & Research Centre, Netherlands, to study rodents as conditional mutualists of trees: When are agoutis effective seed dispersers?, on BCI.

Tamara Karp and Aidan Vey, Wageningen University & Research Centre, Netherlands, to study poachers, seed dispersal and seed predation in two palm species, on BCI.

David Kline and Pim Bongaerts, University of Queensland, Australia, to explore the future of Caribbean reefs, on Bocas del Toro.

David Vega, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá, to teach a field course on hydrology, in Gamboa.

Kleveer Espino, Billy Ubillus Bonini, and Kleveer Espino, Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá, to participate in a field course on hydrology, in Gamboa.

Departures

Steve Paton to Woods Hole, MA, to attend a workshop on Bioinformatics to be held at the Marine Biological Laboratory.

D. Ross Robertson, to New York – Baltimore, to photograph fishes in the National Aquaria in Baltimore and DC and identify fishes at the American Museum of Natural History in NY.

John Christy, to Tokyo, Japan, to lecture in two symposia at a joint meeting of the Crustacean Society and the Carcinological Society at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology.

me, I probably would have stayed at STRI for the rest of my career, but my wife is an Australian and is ecstatic about returning to her homeland." Laurance quips, "Don't marry an Aussie if you don't want to live in Australia— they have very strong homing instincts!"

We wish them tremendous success and happiness in their move Down Under.

William F. Laurance, uno de los científicos más productivos y destacados del Smithsonian dejará STRI en octubre para aceptar una nueva posición de Profesor Investigador Distinguido de James Cook University in Cairns, Australia. Su esposa, Susan Laurance, investigadora postdoctoral y ex-becaria postdoctoral Mellon en STRI, fungirá como Conferencista Senior en James Cook. Susan nació en Australia.

"El tiempo que he pasado en STRI ha sido fantástico" comenta Laurance. "Mis sentimientos están profundamente divididos en cuanto a irme, pero James Cook me ha ofrecido un trabajo fantástico y una posición distinguida a mi esposa, Susan. Es simplemente un paquete demasiado bueno para rechazarlo."

Juntos, los Laurance han publicado un promedio de 25

artículos por año desde 2000, cuando se unieron a STRI, incluyendo publicaciones en revista de gran impacto como *Science*, *Nature*, and *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. A Laurance se le reconoce ampliamente por sus estudios de liderazgo mundial sobre la fragmentación y las amenazas de los bosques tropicales, especialmente en el Amazonas y África Central.

Además de sus investigaciones, Laurance ha jugado un papel muy activo en la conservación de los bosques. Ha ofrecido cientos de entrevistas a los medios desde que llegó a STRI y jugó un papel clave como presidente de la Asociación de Biología Tropical y Conservación, convirtiendo a la organización en una fuerza en conservación tropical.

Laurance también ha sido líder en la promoción de la educación ambiental para tomadores de decisiones en América Latina y el sureste de Asia. Inició y participó en la administración de un programa gran importancia para administradores panameños. También co-administró la Iniciativa para la Capacitación de Liderazgo Ambiental (ELTI), un esfuerzo de \$5 millones entre Yale University y STRI que está capacitando a tomadores de decisiones en América Latina y el sureste de Asia.

Marine videos: protected areas and Culebra

On Sunday, September 13, at 12 noon, the TV Channel 11 will air two marine videos sponsored by Panama's Authority for the Environment (ANAM), one on protected areas by MarViva, and a second on Punta Culebra by Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá. MarViva will also broadcast news on the inauguration of its new facilities. The program will also air on Tuesday, September 15, at 4pm

El domingo, 13 de septiembre a las 12m, Canal de TV 11 transmitirá dos videos marinos presentados por ANAM sobre áreas protegidas, por MarViva, y otro sobre Punta Culebra, de la Fundación Smithsonian de Panamá. MarViva también transmitirá noticias sobre sus nuevas instalaciones. El programa se volverá a transmitir el martes 15 de septiembre a las 4pm.

Laurance ha recibido un gran número de distinciones durante su estadía en STRI, incluyendo el Premio Bolford para la Ciencia de la Conservación de la Universidad de Stanford, el Mejor Científico en la historia del Proyecto de Dinámica Biológica de Fragmentos de Bosques (BDFFP), y compartió un Premio Fundación BBVA Fronteras del Conocimiento y la Cultura que incluyó 400,000 euros con su colaborador de muchos años, Tom Lovejoy.

Los Laurance mantendrán una afiliación con STRI como investigadores asociados, para continuar jugando papeles clave en BDFFP, que se maneja en conjunto entre STRI y el Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones en el Amazonas de Brasil.

"Extrañaremos a nuestros muchos amigos en Panamá y esperamos regresar relativamente pronto. Si hubiera sido por mí probablemente me hubiera quedado en STRI durante el resto de mi carrera, pero mi esposa es una australiana y está feliz de volver a su tierra. A Laurance se le salió decir "No se casen con un "Aussie" si no quieren vivir en Australia— están fuertemente arraigados a su tierra."

Les deseamos un tremendo éxito y felicidad en su mudanza hacia el "Down Under."



New publications

Anderson, Liana O., Malhi, Yadvinder, Ladle, R.J., Aragao, L.E.O.C., Shimabukuro, Y., Phillips, Oliver L., Baker, Timothy R., Costa, A.C.L., Espejo, J.S., Higuchi, N., Laurance, William F., Lopez-Gonzalez, Gabriela, Monteagudo, Abel, Nunez-Vargas, Percy, Peacock, J., Quesada, Carlos Alberto, Almeida, Samuel, and Vasquez, R. 2009. "Influence of landscape heterogeneity on spatial patterns of wood productivity, wood specific density and above ground biomass in Amazonia." *Biogeosciences Discussions* 6(9): 1883-1902.

Boyle, Sarah A., Lourenco, Waldete C., da Silva, Livia R., and Smith, Andrew T. 2009. "Travel and spatial patterns change when *Chiropotes satanas chiropotes* inhabit forest fragments." *International Journal of Primatology* 30(4): 515-531.

Brenes-Arguedas, Tania, Coley, Phyllis D., and Kursar, Thomas A. 2009. "Pests vs. drought as determinants of plant distribution along a tropical rainfall gradient." *Ecology* 90(7): 1751-1761.

Dalling, James W., Pearson, T.R.H., Ballesteros, J., Sanchez, E., and Burslem, D.F.R.P. 2009. "Habitat partitioning among neotropical pioneers: A consequence of differential susceptibility to browsing herbivores?" *Oecologia* 161(2): 361-370.

Dent, Daisy H. and Burslem, David F.R.P. 2009. "Performance trade-offs driven by morphological plasticity contribute to habitat specialization of Bornean tree species." *Biotropica* 41(4): 424-434.

ELTI holds course on Payments-for Ecosystem-Services for indigenous leaders



Important tracts of forests in the Amazon basin are owned and managed by indigenous groups. These forests produce key "ecosystem services", including the sequestration of carbon dioxide, critical for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

In recent years, payments-for-ecosystem-services (PES) initiatives have emerged in tropical regions to compensate those who protect their forests. Traditional forest communities are interested to take part and benefit from these initiatives. Well-designed PES schemes not only help to protect forests, but may also improve the livelihoods of these groups. To date, however, many communities in the Amazon are not well informed about how these schemes might serve as a viable income option for them.

STRI's Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative's team (ELTI) and partner organization Forest Trends sponsored the course "Linking Local Communities to Environmental Markets" in Rio Branco, Brazil, from August 16-20. The course was attended by indigenous people, farm groups and NGOs, and profiles for eight projects that may benefit from PES were developed, now under review.

En la cuenca del Amazonas hay áreas importantes cuyos propietarios son grupos indígenas. Estos bosques

producen "servicios de los ecosistemas", como el secuestro de dióxido de carbono, crítico para mitigar los impactos de los cambios climáticos.

En años recientes, las iniciativas de pago por servicios al ecosistema (PES, por sus siglas en inglés) han surgido en regiones tropicales para compensar a aquellos que protegen sus bosques. Comunidades tradicionales de estos bosques están interesados en beneficiarse de estas iniciativas. Estrategias bien diseñadas de PES no sólo pueden proteger los bosques, sino también mejorar la calidad de vida de estos grupos. Sin embargo, hasta ahora, muchas comunidades en el Amazonas no están bien informadas sobre cómo estas estrategias pueden representar un rendimiento económico para ellos.

El equipo de la Iniciativa para la Capacitación en Liderazgo ambiental (ELTI) de STRI, junto con una organización asociada, Forest Trends, ofrecieron el Curso "Uniendo Comunidades Locales para Mercados Ambientales" en Río Branco, Brasil, del 16 al 20 de agosto. En el curso participaron grupos de granjeros e indígenas así como organizaciones no-gubernamentales, y se desarrollaron ocho proyectos que pueden beneficiarse de PES. Actualmente, éstos se encuentran en revisión.

More publications

Draheim, Hope, Cui, Melissa, and Dick, Christopher W. 2009. "Characterization of 14 microsatellite DNA markers for the tropical forest tree *Virola surinamensis* (Rol.) Warb. (Myristicaceae)." *Molecular Ecology Resources* 9(5): 1386-1388.

Funk, W. Chris, Cannatella, David C., and Ryan, Michael J. 2009. "Genetic divergence is more tightly related to call variation than landscape features in the Amazonian frogs *Physalaemus petersi* and *P. freibergi*." *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 22(9): 1839-1853.

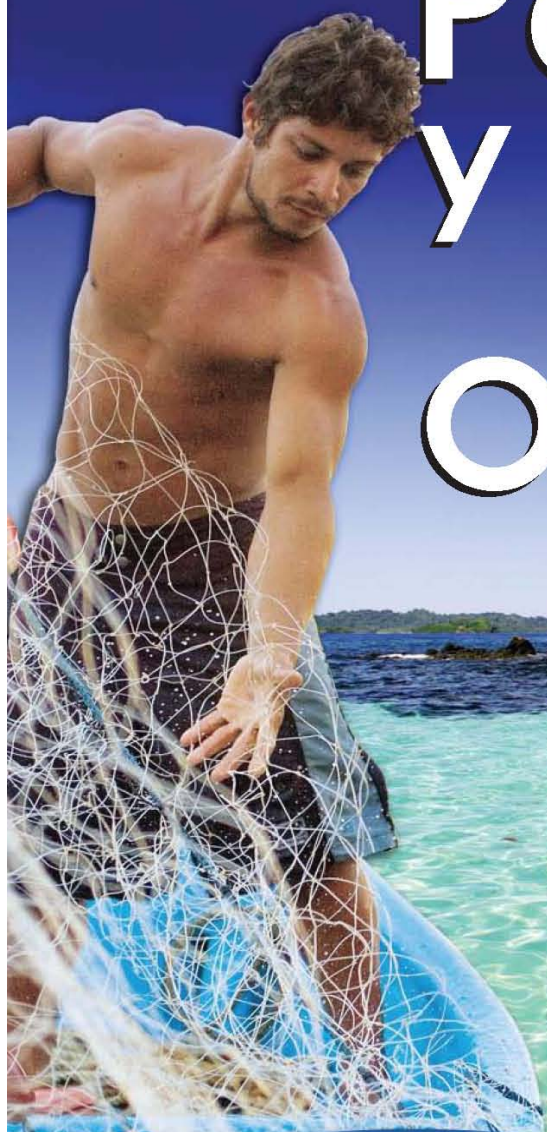
Gray, Heather M., Summers, Kyle, and Ibanez D., Roberto 2009. "Kin discrimination in cannibalistic tadpoles of the green poison frog, *Dendrobates auratus* (Anura, Dendrobatidae)." *Phyllomedusa* 8(1): 41-50.

Paquette, Alain, Hawryshyn, Jessica, Senikas, Alexandra Vyta, and Potvin, Catherine. 2009. "Enrichment planting in secondary forests: A promising clean development mechanism to increase terrestrial carbon sinks." *Ecology and Society* 14(1): 31-31.

Roubik, David Ward and Villanueva-Gutierrez, Rogel. 2009. "Invasive Africanized honey bee impact on native solitary bees: A pollen resource and trap nest analysis." *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 98(1): 152-160.

Zimmermann, Yvonne, Roubik, David Ward, Quezada-Euan, J. Javier G., Paxton, R.J., and Eltz, Thomas. 2009. "Single mating in orchid bees (Euglossa, Apinae): Implications for mate choice and social evolution." *Insectes Sociaux* 56(3): 241-249.

Panamá y el Futuro de sus Océanos



septiembre, Mes de los Océanos

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|---------|--------------|---|
| 15 - 17 | 10 am | I Feria Nacional de Cambio Climático y Desertificación - Biblioteca Simón Bolívar de la Universidad de Panamá |
| 18 | 9 am | III Concurso de Esculturas en Arena-Playa Veracruz |
| 20 | 8:30 am | XVIII Limpieza Nacional de Playas y Costas |
| 23 - 25 | 5 pm | Exposición de Fotografías Áreas Marinas Protegidas, futuro para la vida." |
| 25 | 9 am - 12 m | Foro Panamá y El Futuro de sus Océanos – Auditorium Earl Tupper del Instituto Smithsonian |
| 27 | 10 am - 6 pm | IV versión del Día Familiar por los Océanos-Centro |

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| | | Natural de Punta Culebra del Instituto Smithsonian en la Calzada de Amador. |
| 27 | 9 am | Limpieza Submarina en Cacique, Portobelo provincia de Colón |
| 28 - 30 | 5 pm | Exposición Fotográfica "Áreas Marinas Protegidas, futuro para la vida. –Centro Regional Universitario Santiago de Veraguas |
| 4 de octubre | 7am | Triatlón de Sherman en la Provincia de Colón |

