



# STRINews

OCT 23, 2015



## EL NIÑO: Will there be a drought in Panama next year?

Full story: [www.stri.si.edu/issuu.com/strinewspanama/](http://www.stri.si.edu/issuu.com/strinewspanama/)

AS FEATURED IN  
**TRÓPICOS**

STRI's director of physical monitoring, Steve Paton, checks the meteorological tower at Punta Culebra, Panama. (Photo S. Mattson)

El director de monitoreo físico del Smithsonian, Steve Paton, revisa una torre meteorológica en Punta Culebra, Panamá. (Foto S. Mattson)

### SEMINARS

#### TUPPER SEMINAR

Tue., Oct. 27, 4pm

Brian Gratwicke

STRI

Tupper Auditorium

Research and capacity-building to tackle disease-related amphibian declines in Panama

#### BAMBI SEMINAR

Thur., Oct. 29, 7:15pm

TBA

Barro Colorado Island

TBA

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT STRI?

#### FIELD COURSES and SPECIAL EVENTS

Curso Introducción a las Ciencias Biológicas de campo (Curso de Gigante) 2015

October 30 – November 13

Galeta Station, Gamboa, Tupper and Barro Colorado Island

Contact person: Adriana Bilgray

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS / PROGRAMAS PÚBLICOS

#### VISIT US / VISÍTENOS

Barro Colorado / Isla Barro Colorado

Contact / Contacto: 212-8951

Bocas del Toro Research Station /

Estación de Investigación de Bocas del Toro

Contact / Contacto: 212-8594

Galeta Point Marine Laboratory /

Laboratorio Marino de Punta Galeta

Contact / Contacto: 212-8191

Punta Culebra Nature Center /

Centro Natural de Punta Culebra

Contact / Contacto: 212-8793

GET IN TOUCH!  
WE'D LOVE TO KNOW  
WHAT YOU THINK:

¡CONTÁCTANOS! NOS  
ENCANTARÍA SABER SU OPINIÓN:

[strinews@si.edu](mailto:strinews@si.edu)

[/SmithsonianPanama](https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianPanama) [Stri\\_panama](https://twitter.com/Stri_panama)



Cristián Samper adds his name to the Book of Members, as part of the American Academy's 2015 Induction Ceremony  
Credit: Courtesy of American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Cristián Samper añade su nombre al libro de los miembros, como parte de la ceremonia de nombramiento de la Academia Americana del 2015  
Crédito: Cortesía de la Academia Estadounidense de las Artes y las Ciencias

## CRISTIÁN SAMPER INDUCTED INTO 235TH CLASS OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

For the 235th time, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has inducted its newest class of members. One of the nation's oldest learned societies and independent research centers, the Academy includes among this year's 147 inductees prominent scientists, artists, literary figures, and leaders of academic, business, philanthropic, and cultural institutions from across the United States and internationally.

Dr. Cristián Samper, President and CEO of the Wildlife Conservation Society and former Deputy Director and staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama was among those inducted into this newest class of American Academy members.

Samper is a Colombian-American tropical biologist and an international authority on conservation biology and environmental policy. Since 2012, Samper has served as President and CEO of WCS. Previously, Samper was the Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the world's largest natural history collection, from 2003 to 2012; and served as Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian in 2007 and 2008, the first Latin American to hold the position.

## CRISTIÁN SAMPER, NUEVO MIEMBRO DE LA ACADEMIA ESTADOUNIDENSE DE LAS ARTES Y LAS CIENCIAS

Recientemente la Academia Estadounidense de las Artes y las Ciencias ha celebrado la ceremonia de presentación número 235 de sus nuevos miembros. Una de las sociedades científicas más antiguas del país compuesta por centros de investigación independientes, este año la Academia incluye a 147 nuevos prominentes miembros pertenecientes a la ciencias, las artes, a figuras literarias, y líderes de instituciones académicas, empresariales, filantrópicas y culturales de todos los Estados Unidos e internacionalmente.

Cristián Samper, presidente y director ejecutivo de la Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), y antiguo subdirector y científico en el Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales en Panamá, fue parte del nuevo grupo de miembros de esta prestigiosa Institución.

Samper es un biólogo tropical colombo-estadounidense y una autoridad internacional en biología de la conservación y política ambiental. Desde el 2012, se ha desempeñado como presidente y director ejecutivo del WCS. Del 2003 al 2012, fue Director del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, la mayor colección de historia natural del mundo de la Institución Smithsonian; y se desempeñó como Secretario adjunto del Smithsonian del 2007 al 2008, siendo el primer latinoamericano en ocupar el cargo.



## PANAMA'S PRESIDENT VARELA VISITS COIBA NATIONAL PARK

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela visited STRI's research station at Ranchería Island (Coibita) as part of a tour of the Coiba National Park in Panama's Pacific. Varela visited the area as part of an initiative to promote ecotourism in Panama. Juan Maté, STRI's manager for scientific affairs, guided part of the visit. Here, the group prepares to depart Coibita they are (L-R): Raúl De León, President of the National Assembly; Pedro Heilbron, CEO Copa Holdings, SA; Jorge Motta, Secretary of SENACYT; Juan Maté; Juan Carlos Varela; Mirei Endara Minister of Environment; and Meliton Arrocha, Minister of Commerce and Industry.

## PRESIDENTE VARELA VISITA EL PARQUE NACIONAL DE COIBA

El presidente de Panamá, Juan Carlos Varela visitó la estación de investigación del Smithsonian en Isla Ranchería (Coibita) como parte de un recorrido por el Parque Nacional Coiba, localizado en el Pacífico de Panamá. Varela visitó la zona como parte de una iniciativa para promover el ecoturismo en Panamá. Juan Maté, gerente para asuntos y operaciones científicas del Smithsonian, guió parte de la visita. En esta imagen, el grupo se prepara para partir a Coibita (der. A izq.): Raúl De León, Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional; Pedro Heilbron, Presidente Ejecutivo de Copa Holdings, SA; Jorge Motta, Secretario de SENACYT; Juan Maté; Juan Carlos Varela; Mirei Endara Ministra de Ambiente; y Melitón Arrocha, Ministro de Comercio e Industria.

## ARRIVALS

**Laura Jurgens**  
Temple University  
Biological invasions and interactions between hosts and their parasites in Panama  
**Naos Marine Lab**

**Lauren Linsmayer and Martin Tresguerres**  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
Cellular physiological mechanisms for coral calcification and photosynthesis: extending lab-based models to the field  
**Bocas Del Toro**

**Kecia Kerr**  
University of Alberta  
Comparative and Experimental Studies of Crustacean Morphology and Development: Alpheid shrimp, fiddler crabs, brachyuran crabs  
**Naos Marine Lab and Bocas Del Toro**

**Maria Gei**  
University of Minnesota  
Do Lianas Cause Chronic Disturbance and Alter Successional Trajectories in Tropical Forests?  
**Barro Colorado Island**

**Heinrich Krause**  
University of Düsseldorf  
Ecophysiology of Tropical Plants  
**Tupper**

**Jafits López, Kevin Araúz and Nikelly Guerra**  
Universidad Autónoma de Chiriquí  
**Diosveyra González, Yorlenis Gonzalez, Maikol Guevara, Carmen Mela, Yeniffer Giono, Jandery Bárcenas and Iliana Cisneros**  
Universidad de Panamá  
**Roxana López, Alvin Paz and Abizai Chinchilla**  
Universidad de El Salvador  
**Pablo Muñoz and Fabrizio Protti**  
Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica  
**Sabrina Amador**  
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute  
Curso Introducción a las Ciencias Biológicas de campo (Curso de Gigante) 2015  
**Galeta Station, Gamboa, Tupper and Barro Colorado Island**

**Polly Khater, Erik Bergstrom and Alex Edezhath**  
SI Libraries, Discovery Services Unit  
**Tupper**

## DEPARTURES

**Owen Mcmillan,**  
To Shenzhen, China  
For meetings with researchers at the Beijing Genomics Institute

**Stuart Davies**  
To Santa Fe, NM  
For the NGEE Tropics workshop on forest mortality

**Federico Davis and Andrés Hernández**  
To Colon, Panama  
For the seedling inventory

**Alicia Ibáñez and Rodolfo Flores**  
To Isla Colón, Bocas del Toro  
To participate in a workshop about research on Escudo de Veraguas Island

**Rachel Page**  
To Monterey, California  
To present research and meet with colleagues at the North American Symposium for Bat Research

**Aaron O'Dea**  
To Washington D.C. and to Baltimore To host a workshop at the NMNH and attend the Geological Society of America annual meeting

**Jorge Ceballos**  
To Los Angeles, California  
To attend the workshop and training on fluorescence Dynamic Analysis with Confocal Microscopy at University of California, Irvine

**Ivonne Meuche**  
To Washington, DC  
To mentor the REU Conference



## PUBLICATIONS

Barry, K. E., Schnitzer, S. A., van Breugel, M. and Hall, J. S. 2015. Rapid Liana Colonization along a Secondary Forest Chronosequence. *Biotropica*, doi:10.1111/btp.12259

van, der Heijden, Powers, J. S. and Schnitzer, S. A. 2015. Lianas reduce carbon accumulation and storage in tropical forests. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, doi:10.1073/pnas.1504869112

Bacon, C. D.; Silvestro, D.; Jaramillo, C. A.; Smith, B. T.; Chakrabarty, P.; Antonelli, A. 2015. Reply to Lessios and Marko et al.: Early and progressive migration across the Isthmus of Panama is robust to missing data and biases. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of the United States*. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1515451112

BOCAS RESEARCH STATION INVITES YOU TO THE TALK  
LA ESTACIÓN DE INVESTIGACIÓN TE INVITA A LA CHARLA

# SEAGRASS BEDS

The underwater Serengeti

## LLANURAS MARINAS

El Serengeti subacuático



### Abigail Cannon

Marine Biologist - Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

Bióloga Marina - Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales

October 26  
2015 | 7pm



Place: Cine Café – Second street in front of the municipal palace

26 de october 2015 | 7pm

Lugar: Cine Café – Calle segunda frente al palacio Municipal

Information / Información: 212-8574 | [smithmb@si.edu](mailto:smithmb@si.edu)

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BocasResearchStation



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