New book by Heckadon, Ibáñez, and Condit

La Cuenca del Canal: deforestación, urbanización y contaminación (The Panama Canal Watershed: deforestation, urbanization and contamination), published in 1999 by Stanley Heckadon Moreno, Roberto Ibáñez and Richard Condit, is the executive summary of a three-year study (1996-1999) on the state of forest cover, hydrology and soils, vertebrate and human populations in the Canal watershed. This well illustrated 120-pages book sells at STRI Mini-Bookstore for $10.

From the Office of Physical Plants: ongoing projects

In December 1999, STRI’s Office of Physical Plants completed construction and installation of a back-up generator shed in Bocas. Connection to a new electrical service is scheduled for early March. Also in Bocas, OPP is installing a pre-fabricated 4-room dormitory building with dining and kitchen facilities, to be completed in April. Design for new laboratories and docking facilities are scheduled to start in the near future.

At Naos Laboratories, we are upgrading the seawater system with pumps and pipes above the ground, for easier maintenance. OPP is negotiating a change order for a complete repair and renovation of the saltwater pavilion structure and drainage system. Also at Naos, we contracted Fundaciones S.A. to complete the pier (floating breakwater, floating dock and gangway). At Tivoli, STRI’s OPP recently completed the renovation of the basement offices currently occupied by the Office of Information Technology’s staff. We are planning the construction of a new administration building for STRI to replace the Tivoli building, in 5 years.

In Gamboa, we are negotiating with Fundaciones, S.A., to construct a dock/pier. We completed exterior cleaning of the Gamboa School last month and will start with building 183 next week. On BCI, construction contractor Dennis Allen scheduled the completion of two growing houses in the old clearing, by the end of February. The renovation of BCI’s old library building (herbarium) was completed in January. We expect to start construction of a new sewage treatment on BCI, and a new dormitory building for researchers and workers, by the end of March.

Fernando Pascal, Engineer, Office of Physical Plants
As a result of the transition and other organizational changes at STRI, the following reassignments of responsibilities have been made:

### mónica alvarado
Formerly transition coordinator, Alvarado will be responsible for public in formation. Her job will be to coordinate activities that disseminate information related to STRI’s mission to increase public awareness of our programs. Monica will serve as initial contact for the media, and will write releases on STRI projects, important visits and events to the local press and internal media. She will join the staff of the Office of Education, but will work closely with staff scientists and other administrative units at STRI. She will move to the Tupper Center this coming month, and her extension is 8023.

### edith salgado
She will continue to serve as STRI’s protocol officer responsible for organizing all STRI special events and visits. Edith coordinates and provides support to special events that serve to carry out STRI goals. She also provides administrative support to the Office of External Affairs, and can be contacted at ext. 8161.

### xenia guerra
Was appointed office manager for scientific support services. Xenia will continue to work 1/3 of her time as scientific assistant to Anthony Coates, but will spend the rest of her time carrying out her new duties under Harry Barnes. In addition to providing day-to-day administrative support for scientific support, her responsibilities will include: the research associates program; the fee program, the administration of the TropiFace project, the research and equipment pool and our animal care and use committee. She can be reached at ext. 8030.

### luis turner
Formerly purchasing agent, Turner is now the acting manager of the procurement department. He is responsible for the overall functioning of this department.

### maria leone
Previously assistant manager, is currently acting manager of the Visitor Services Office. Changes in the responsibilities of staff in this office will be taking place during the coming months when a new office clerk is hired.

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**STRI news**

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**Departures**

Allen Herre, Feb 6-9, to Miami, FL, to attend the Cocoa Conference.

Héctor Guzmán, Feb 10 - 22, to Costa Rica, to continue research on coral reefs.

**Urgencia:** Rufino González, uno de nuestros compañeros, perdió todas sus pertenencias durante un incendio accidental en Las Payas. Su esposa y tres hijas (de 6, 8 y 10 años) están a salvo. Pedimos a todos la solidaridad para este compañero durante esta necesidad. Aquellos que deseen compartir con Rufino González cualquier donación en efectivo, artículos personales y utensilios domésticos, se les agradecerá dejen su donación con Oris Acevedo en BCI, la Oficina de Recursos Humanos en Tivoli, y la oficina de Milton García en Tupper, no. 526, ext. 2318...