

## Tupper 4pm seminar

Tue, Apr 25, 4pm seminar speaker will be Lourens Poorter  
**Functional traits and the coexistence of tropical tree species**

## Bambi seminar

For information on the next Bambi, please check your GroupWise or e-mail Bambi

## Arrived last week

Kenneth James Feeley, Harvard University, to work with Stuart Davies at Tupper.

Mark Bulmer, Northeastern University, to study parasites, pathogens and the breeding strategies of social insects, on BCI and Gamboa.

Sean Sloan, NEO student from McGill University, to study the peasant colonization and agricultural intensification in the Bayano Region of Panama, at Tupper.

Jennifer Ro and Joe Williams, Ohio State University, to study the life history physiology nexus constraints on the evolutionary diversifications of avian life histories, in Gamboa.

Ana Maria Jimenez, Universidad de Panama, to study the life history physiology nexus constraints on the evolutionary diversifications of avian life histories, in Gamboa.

Laura Vonk, University of Groningen, to study poachers, seed dispersal and seed predation in two palm species, on BCI.

**Safety number: 212-8211**



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

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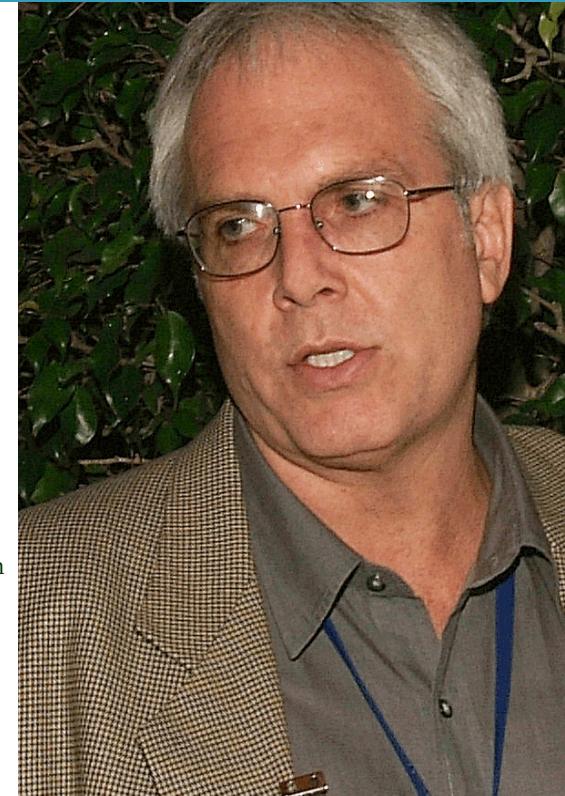
## Breathing a little easier: developing countries may save tropical rainforests

In an article published by *New Scientist* (April 12) STRI's William F. Laurance argues that a new initiative by developing nations offers great promise to help reduce forest destruction. The proposal, led by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica "involves selling or renting rainforests to help protect the billions of tons of carbon they store, thereby slowing the rapid buildup of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere." It allows industrial nations to earn 'carbon credits' that would count toward their agreed emissions target under the Kyoto Protocol.

"... a win-win situation... the forests win, the atmosphere wins, the international community wins, and developing nations struggling to overcome poverty win." Earlier efforts to establish rainforest-carbon trading under Kyoto were defeated in part because developing countries feared that long-term, binding commitments to protect their forests might reduce future development options.

Implementing the proposal will not be easy, "but a key point is

that, if a viable rainforest-carbon trading mechanism is established, the perverse economic logic that currently drives rapid forest destruction could be profoundly altered. That would make us all breath a little easier" says Laurance.



In addition to his article in *New Scientist*, Laurance provides a more in-depth explanation of rainforest-carbon trading in the May issue of *Tropinet*, a newsletter that is distributed to 8000 tropical biologists worldwide. Copies of both articles are available upon request at [calderom@si.edu](mailto:calderom@si.edu).

*Taken from EurekAlert!*

En un artículo publicado por *New Scientist* (12 de abril), el científico de STRI, William F. Laurance argumenta que la nueva iniciativa de países en vías de desarrollo ofrece una gran promesa para reducir la destrucción de los bosques. La

propuesta, liderada por Papua New Guinea y Costa Rica "conlleva la venta o alquiler de bosques tropicales para ayudar a proteger los billones de carbono que almacenan, para aminorar la rápida producción de dióxido de carbono y otros gases de invernadero en la atmósfera." Permite que las naciones industrializadas puedan ganar créditos de carbono que contaría para la meta de emisiones convenida bajo el Protocolo de Kyoto.

"...una situación de ganancia para todos...los bosques ganan, la atmósfera gana, la comunidad internacional gana, y las

## More arrivals

Jose Palacios, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica and Evelin Taubitz from the University of Rostock, to study boat traffic and potential negative effects on the behavior and acoustics of bottlenose dolphins in Bocas del Toro.

Jenny Acevedo, University of Puerto Rico, to study the introgression and speciation in *Heliconius* butterflies, at different STRI stations.

James Dalling and Elena Lobo, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, to study the diversity, distribution and demographic effects of seed-associated fungi in Neotropical *Cecropia*, on BCI.

## Departures

Todd Capson to San Diego, California, on a sabbatical year.

Director Ira Rubinoff, to Washington DC on official business at SI, and New York and Boston on fund raising activities.

## Job opportunities

STRI seeks a development officer to work at DC and a research technician for the Neurology Labs. Learn more about STRI's job opportunities in:

<http://www.stri.org/>

## STRI in the news

The leader in ten questions. 2006. *The Times and the Sunday Times* April 3.

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,8210-2115447,0.html>

naciones en vías de desarrollo que luchan para erradicar la pobreza ganan." Los esfuerzos anteriores para establecer intercambios de carbono por bosques tropicales bajo Kyoto fracasaron en parte debido a que las naciones en desarrollo temían que los compromisos adquiridos a largo plazo de proteger los bosques pudieran reducir sus opciones futuras de desarrollo.

La puesta en marcha de la propuesta no será fácil, "pero el punto clave es que si se establece un mecanismo de intercambio de carbono por

bosques, la errada lógica económica que lleva a la rápida destrucción de los bosques, se vería alterada profundamente. "Esto nos haría a todos respirar mejor" afirma Laurance.

Además de su artículo en *New Scientist*, Laurance ofrece una explicación más a fondo sobre el intercambio de carbono por bosques en el número de mayo de *Tropinet*, un boletín que se distribuye a 8000 biólogos tropicales alrededor del mundo. Puede pedir ambos artículos a: [calderom@si.edu](mailto:calderom@si.edu)

## Nature, science and learning

Fifty three docents from Bocas del Toro, the Gulf of Panama and Las Perlas Archipelago participated in the five-day training workshop "Dynamic link between nature science and learning" from April 3-7. The workshop, organized by STRI's Héctor Guzmán and Lidia de Valencia, was financed by the International Community Foundation and held in coordination with Panama's Ministry of Education.

The aims of the workshop were to provide information resulting from STRI research through interactive methodology, and develop didactic material that promotes the use of the scientific method.

On Monday, April 3, Guzman opened the workshop with the talk "Panamanian coral reefs: fragile insular systems and the development of tourism in coastal zones.

Cincuenta y tres docentes de Bocas del Toro, el Golfo de Panamá y el Archipiélago de Las Perlas participaron en un taller de entrenamiento de cinco días "Enlace dinámico



entre la naturaleza, la ciencia y el aprendizaje" del 3 al 7 de abril. El taller, organizado por Héctor Guzmán y Lidia de Valencia, de STRI, fue financiado por International Community Foundation y celebrado en coordinación con el Ministerio de Educación de Panamá.

Los objetivos del taller fueron suministrar información resultado de las investigaciones de STRI a través de metodologías interactivas, y desarrollar material didáctico que promueva el uso del método científico.

El lunes 3 de abril, Guzmán dio inicio al taller con la charla "Arrecifes coralinos de Panamá: sistemas insulares frágiles y el desarrollo del turismo en zonas costeras.

## STRI in the news

Developing nations help tropical forests. 2006. *United Press International*

<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060412-032248-2388r>

Carbon trading could save rainforests. 2006. *Mongabay.com*  
<http://news.mongabay.com/2006/0412-stri.html>

"Developing nations help tropical forests." 2006. *Physorg.com: Science, Technology, Physics, Space News* April 13.  
<http://www.physorg.com/news64077206.html>

"Rainforest education site goes online; resources for students, teachers, and journalists." 2006.

*Mongabay.com* April 12.  
<http://news.mongabay.com/2006/0412-release.html>

## New publications

Fedy, Bradley C., and Stutchbury, Bridget J.M. 2006. "Testosterone does not increase in response to conspecific challenges in the Whittle-bellied antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*), a resident tropical passerine." *The Auk* 123(1): 61-66.

Klose, Stefan M., Smith, Carolynn L., Denzel, Andrea J., and Kalko, Elisabeth K.V. 2006. "Reproduction elevates the corticosterone stress response in common fruit bats." *Journal of Comparative Physiology A* 192: 341–350. Lampert, Kathrin P., Bernal, Ximena E., Rand, A. Stanley, Mueller, Ulrich G., and Ryan, Michael J. 2006. "No evidence for female mate choice based on genetic similarity in the túngara frog *Physalaemus pustulosus*." *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 59(6): 796-804.



## National Assembly's Canal Commission visits BCI

Members of Canal Commission of Panama's National Assembly including its president Tomas Altamirano, deputies Leopoldo Benedetti and Raul Grimaldo and their wives, visited Barro Colorado Island with Elena Lombardo and Celith de Leon from STRI's the Office of External Affairs and Security manager Alejandro Arze.

The group was briefed by Lombardo on research projects and educational programs conducted by STRI on the Isthmus. Oris Acevedo gave a presentation on BCI and its importance to tropical biology, and accompanied the visitors into the forest, and different laboratories including Allen Herre's fungi labs. They were also taken to Frijoles on a boat tour.

These visits, organized by the STRI's Office of External

Affairs, aim to strengthen the relationship with the National Assembly, as part of a collaboration agreement signed by both institutions last year, whereby STRI will offer the scientific information in matters related to legislation concerning the environment and the development of science in Panama.

Miembros de la Comisión del Canal de la Asamblea Nacional de Panamá incluyendo su presidente, Tomás Altamirano, los diputados Leopoldo Benedetti y Raúl Grimaldo y esposas, visitaron la Isla de Barro Colorado con Elena Lombardo y Celideth de León de la Oficina de Asuntos Externos y el director de Seguridad, Alejandro Arze.

Lombardo ofreció palabras de bienvenida al grupo y una introducción sobre las

actividades de investigación y educación que lleva a cabo STRI en el Istmo de Panamá. Oris Acevedo dió una presentación sobre BCI y su importancia en la biología tropical y acompañó a los visitantes en una gira por el bosque y los laboratorios, incluyendo los laboratorios de hongos de Allen Herre. También se les llevó hasta Frijoles en una gira en bote.

Estas visitas, organizadas por la Oficina de Asuntos Externos de STRI, tienen como objetivo estrechar las relaciones con la Asamblea Nacional, como parte de un convenio de colaboración firmado entre ambas instituciones, mediante el cual STRI brindará información científica en asuntos relaciones con la legislación en áreas del ambiente y el desarrollo de la ciencia en Panamá.

## STRI videos: [www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

In a joint effort by STRI's Public Information Office and the Office of Information Technology, videos featuring STRI activities are being produced and stored in our website: [www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org). If you look for the banner "STRI videos", you will find "K-nes y algo más: Culebra, BCI and Galeta", "Tras la pista: ICBG"

## STRI Videos Watch them online

and "Selva entre dos mares: book presentation". To come soon: "Océanos en peligro" by Jeremy Jackson.

En un esfuerzo conjunto entre las Oficinas de Divulgación e Informática, los videos que muestran las actividades de STRI se están produciendo y



almacenando en nuestro sitio de web, [www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org). Bajo "STRI videos" encontrará "K-nes y algo más: Culebra, BCI y Galeta" "Tras la pista: ICBG" y "Selva entre dos mares: presentación de un libro. Pronto: "Océanos en peligro" por Jeremy Jackson.

## More publications

Laurance, William F. 2006. "The value of trees." *New Scientist* (April 14). Online.

Mora, Camilo, and Maya, Maria F. 2006. "Effect of the rate of temperature increase of the dynamic method on the heat tolerance of fishes." *Journal of Thermal Biology* 31(4): 337-341.

Oberson, Astrid, Bunemann, Else K., Friesen, Dennis K., Rao, Idupulapati M., Smithson, Paul C., Turner, Benjamin L., and Frossard, Emmanuel. 2006. "Improving phosphorus fertility in tropical soils through biological interventions." In: Uphoff, Thomas Norman et al. (Eds.), *Biological approaches to sustainable soil systems*: 531-546. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group.

Stein, Adam C., and Uy, J. Albert C. 2006. "Plumage brightness predicts male mating success in the lekking golden-collared manakin, *Manacus vitellinus*." *Behavioral Ecology* 17(1): 41-47.

Turner, Benjamin L., Frossard, Emmanuel, and Oberson, Astrid. 2006. "Enhancing phosphorus availability in low-fertility soils." In: Uphoff, Norman Thomas et al. (Eds.), *Biological approaches to sustainable soil systems*: 191-205. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group.

Turner, Benjamin L., Newman, Susan, and Newman, Yana M. 2006. "Organic phosphorus sequestration in subtropical treatment wetlands." *Environmental Science and Technology* 40(3): 727-733.