

Happy New Year!

Summary:

- 1) \*\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> BES-TEG early career researcher meeting\*\*\*  
– 3<sup>RD</sup> CALL FOR ABSTRACTS –
- 2) TEG post-graduate representative – DEADLINE 16 January
- 3) Research Assistant (Leeds) – Ecosystem services in the Peruvian Amazon
- 4) PhD studentship (Leeds) – Tropical forest history Ghana
- 5) Earthwatch expeditions open day – 24 January
- 6) Research highlights from BES journals and TEG members

William  
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- 1) \*\*\*3<sup>RD</sup> BES-TEG EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER MEETING\*\*\*  
- 3<sup>RD</sup> CALL FOR ABSTRACTS -

**CONFIRMED:**

\*\*Lloyd Peck – NERC Biodiversity theme leader will be speaking\*\*  
\*\*\*50% discount for students – limited availability, contact organizers!\*\*\*

*Plenary Speakers:*

**Robin Chazdon** (University of Connecticut)  
**Charles Sheppard** (University of Warwick)

**Manchester Metropolitan University**

30th & 31st March 2009

Registration: £60 before 31st Jan 2009; £70 after this date  
(En suite B & B accommodation available for £39.50)

**Abstract closing date 31st January 2009**

CONTACT: Francis Brearley (f.q.brearley@mmu.ac.uk) or  
Jenny Rowntree (jennifer.rowntree@manchester.ac.uk)

Flier attached (3<sup>rd</sup> ECRM\_Manchester\_2<sup>nd</sup> Circircular.pdf)

**2) TEG POST-GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE - VACANCY**

This position provides the opportunity for a graduate student to actively engage with the group, gain experience of administering funds, organise activities and develop the role as they see fit!

Taking on this role will help to build your CV and expand your academic network.  
ENTHUSIASM FOR TROPICAL RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL but no prior experience necessary!

If you are interested contact: William Gosling ([w.d.gosling@open.ac.uk](mailto:w.d.gosling@open.ac.uk)).

### **3) RESEARCH ASSISTANT, SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

Project: **Capacity building for carbon- and biodiversity-based payments for ecosystem services in the Peruvian Amazon**

You will work on a new project funded under the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) research programme that is jointly funded by NERC, ESRC and DfID. By bringing together researchers, NGOs and Peruvian government institutions working in the field, the project aims to identify the research needs for the development of projects that can obtain payments for ecosystem services in the Peruvian Amazon and in other tropical forest regions.

Closing date: **16 January 2009**

**SEE ATTACHED FILE FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

01\_09\_TEG e-bulletin 16-LeedsRAadvert.pdf

Information about the School of Geography can be found at <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/>. Informal enquiries should be addressed to Dr Tim Baker email [t.r.baker@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:t.r.baker@leeds.ac.uk), tel +44 (0)113 343 8352

### **4) FUNDED PHD STUDENTSHIP, SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

Project: **Four thousand years of tropical forest history at Lake Bosumtwi, Ghana**

This project will use pollen analysis to construct the most detailed record yet of vegetation change in West Africa during the last four thousand years, which will help to answer fundamental questions about current ecological dynamics of tropical rain forests. We are interested in the extent to which tropical forest has been affected by disturbances of climatic or human origin during this interval because this disturbance history could be important in determining current trends of forest development. For example, increasing forest biomass is a trend common to tropical forests in Africa and South America; this could be the result of fertilisation by anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions, or past large scale forest disturbances from which the forests are still recovering. Understanding the cause of this trend is essential to making predictions about how these forests and their carbon storage capacity will change under different scenarios of future climate change.

**SEE ATTACHED FILE FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

01\_09\_TEG e-bulletin 16-LeedsPhDadvert.pdf

For further information please contact [k.roucoux@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:k.roucoux@leeds.ac.uk) and visit [www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduate/](http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/postgraduate/) for details of the application procedure and funding opportunities.

### **5) EARTHWATCH EXPEDITIONS OPEN DAY**

The environmental charity Earthwatch are hosting the first of their Expedition Open Days for 2009 in their Oxford Office, [Mayfield House, 256 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DE](#), from 10.00am -1.30pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

This is your opportunity to meet the Earthwatch team - get the lowdown on what they do, why they need you and what to expect from the Earthwatch volunteering experience on environmental research projects in the field.

Free to all, but by ticket only – light refreshments and a sandwich lunch will be provided on the day.

For tickets and more information contact their Events Department on (01865) 318856; [events@earthwatch.org.uk](mailto:events@earthwatch.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/open-days-09>

## **6) HIGHLIGHTS FROM: BES JOURNALS AND TEG MEMBERS**

### **a) Science**

Colwell RK, Brehm G, Cardelús C, Gilman AC, Longino JT (2008) Global warming, elevational range shifts, and lowland biotic attrition in the wet tropics. *Science* 322: 258–261

***If I've missed anything or you want YOUR paper featured here just let me know...***

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BES TROPICAL ECOLOGY GROUP  
<http://www.besteg.org>