

## Summary:

- 1) New TEG post-graduate representative – meet Sarah Dale
- 2) BES web page relaunched – get your experience included!
- 3) Centre for Tropical Forest Science – Management posts available
- 4) Field skills training opportunity – are you interested?
- 5) Research highlights from BES journals and TEG members

William  
-----**1) NEW TEG POST-GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE**

After careful consideration of a number of excellent candidates the TEG committee is pleased to announce that Sarah Dale as our new Post-graduate representative. Sarah will be an active member of the TEG committee and involved with post-graduate events within the group and the wider BES. Many thanks to all those who applied we hope you will all become active members of the group.

**Sarah Dale**

I have recently started a PhD at Lancaster University and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama. The aim of this project is to explore the factors which regulate soil carbon dynamics in tropical forests, in the context of shifts in tree species diversity. This information will be used to determine the consequences of changes in tree species diversity, due to climate change and selective logging, for ecosystem carbon storage.

I have a masters in Environmental Modeling and Forecasting in which I developed a keen interest in data presentation and in particular, Geographical Information Systems. For the past year I have been putting these skills into practice to support Environmental Impact Assessments for DEFRA.

I am very pleased to get the chance to become more involved with Tropical Ecology Group, and I look forward to meeting everyone at the next Early Career Researcher Meeting!

*Sarah Dale*

Soil & Ecosystem Ecology Group  
Lancaster Environment Centre  
Lancaster University

**2) BES WEB SITE RELAUNCH – TESTIMONIALS REQUIRED!**

The BES is about to re-launch its web site and they are looking for 'sound bites' to use to illustrate the work of the society. These can relate to any aspect of involvement with the BES, should be no longer than a couple of lines (15-20 words) and be accompanied by a photo of

yourself. It would be great to get some testimonials regarding the TEG and related grant successes or publications.

Please send these direct to Richard English (communications officer, [richard@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:richard@britishecologicalsociety.org)) and cc to me ([w.d.gosling@open.ac.uk](mailto:w.d.gosling@open.ac.uk)).

### 3) CTFS PROJECT MANAGER FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Center for Tropical Forest Science seeks a project manager for implementation of a fifty hectare forest dynamics plots in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The successful applicant is expected to coordinate the surveying, tagging, mapping and identification of woody plants by local counterparts at the Binatang Research Center (<http://www.entu.cas.cz/png/parataxoweb.htm>) and the PNG Forest Research Institute, as well as supervising various protocols for long-term monitoring of insect populations and insect-plant interactions within the plot. The start date for the position is May 2009 and applicant is expected to spend a minimum of 12 months in PNG under challenging field conditions. Background in surveying, forest ecology, plant taxonomy, entomology, database management, and/or international experience in a rural setting is preferred. The position may be suitable for current or prospective PhD students interested in rainforest plots. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, a statement of career goals, and contact information for three character references to Dr. George Weiblen at the University of Minnesota ([gweiblen@umn.edu](mailto:gweiblen@umn.edu)). Consideration of applications will begin February 28th, 2009.

### 4) FIELD SKILLS TRAINING – ARE YOU INTERESTED?

I have recently been contacted by Field Skills Expedition Services who are interested in organising a training event for the group. This could either be run in conjunction with an existing meeting or as a stand alone event. As a first pass I would like to know how many people would be interested in such an event. If there are sufficient people interested I can put in motion the process of getting BES support and organising a date.

Information on the company:

*Fieldskills is a specialist training company offering support and training to fieldworkers, expeditioners and adventure travellers. We run regular open training courses around the country in expedition safety and fieldwork planning. We also offer specialist courses focussed on specific environments such as tropical forest safety, desert safety, savannah safety and mountain safety. We also provide nationally recognised first aid training with an emphasis on working in remote field locations.*

*As well as our open courses we specialise in developing bespoke courses and run courses at a range of major Universities around the country.*

*For further details, dates of our open courses or to find out about setting up a bespoke course for your organisation see our website [www.fieldskills.com](http://www.fieldskills.com) or contact Dominic Hall on 0845 293 7296.*

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PDFs of publications at <http://www.entu.cas.cz/png/ptcpubl.htm>

## 5) HIGHLIGHTS FROM: BES JOURNALS AND TEG MEMBERS

a) Marshall, A. J., Ancrenaz, M., Brearley, F. Q. et al. (2009) ***The effects of forest phenology and floristics on populations of Bornean and Sumatran orangutans: are Sumatran forests better orangutan habitat than Bornean forests?*** *Orangutans: Geographic Variation in Behavioural Ecology and Conservation* (eds. S. A. Wich et al.), pp. 97-117. Oxford University Press, UK.

b) ***Journal of Animal Ecology***. Volume 78, Issue 2, 2009.  
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122189437/issue>

Pages: 315-327

Beta diversity along environmental gradients: implications of habitat specialization in tropical montane landscapes Jill E. Jankowski, Anna L. Ciecka, Nola Y. Meyer, Kerry N. Rabenold  
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121529660/abstract>

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

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