



BES Tropical Ecology Group

BESTEG exists to promote and facilitate communication and interaction between tropical ecology researchers

Given the broad nature of *Tropical Ecology*, the activities of the TEG must be driven by the interest of members. Therefore, if YOU have any ideas for events or activities please contact us and we will see what can be done to make things happen.

Please send tropical news to us to publicise!

Upcoming Events!

- [ATBC 2011: Tanzania](#)
- [BES Annual Meeting 2011](#)

Contact:

- [website](#)
- [email](#)

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BESTEG News

TEG Early Career Researcher Meeting 26-28 April: Report

Thirty delegates attended the 5th ECRM in Newcastle University, 26-28 April 2011. Excellent talks and posters were presented. Fantastic talks by keynote speakers Professor Selina Stead (who replaced Georgina Mace at the last minute), Professor [Nick Polunin](#), and Dr [Toby Gardner](#). In depth report to come next month!

TEG Early Career Researcher Meeting 2012 will be... where?!

TEG needs YOU! Do you have what it takes to organise next year's ECRM? I think you do! It may sound daunting, but it's easy, and the TEG Committee are here to help. If anyone fancies taking the lead for the next meeting, please get in touch.

TEG Committee Round-Up

There have been a number of changes in the TEG committee recently. Sarah Dale (post-grad rep) stood down to devote more time to her PhD studies in Panama. She has contributed greatly over the last two years, and was especially key during last year's BES Annual Meeting in Leeds. Thank you, Sarah!. TEG welcomes Emma Sayer, Lindsay Banin and Sophie Fauset (post-grad rep).

Emma Sayer I'm an ecosystem ecologist who makes frequent forays into biogeochemistry and molecular ecology. I saw my first tropical forest in 2000 when I went to Belize to do a research project for my MSc and it was love at first sight. Consequently, I spent the next 7 years doing my PhD and 2 postdocs in tropical forest carbon and nutrient cycling with the University of Cambridge and STRI in Panama. Although my current work is based in the UK, I'm keen to stay involved in tropical ecology. I started getting involved in TEG when I returned to the UK last year and I'm really pleased to be part of such an active, sociable and dynamic special interest group.



Emma



Sophie



Lindsay

Lindsay Banin I am a plant ecologist with broad-ranging interests including spatial patterns in forest structure, plant-soil interactions, distribution of floristic and functional plant assemblages and their effects on ecosystem processes. In 2010 I completed my PhD at the University of Leeds, studying continental differences in tropical forest structure and function, and am now working at the University of Ulster examining the effects of invasive plants species on ecosystem processes. Having been involved in organising the first BES-TEG meeting in 2006, I am looking forward to getting more involved in the Specialist Group and seeing it evolve.

Sophie Fauset I am currently in the third year of studying for my PhD at the School of Geography, University of Leeds. My research interests in the field of tropical ecology are centred on forest structure, biomass and composition, and potential threats to the diversity and functioning of this globally important ecosystem. My PhD project makes use of an extensive permanent sample plot network across the forest reserves of Ghana, West Africa, to investigate temporal shifts in structure and composition. Specific questions are focused on i) the impacts of long term precipitation changes on species composition, ii) the effects of fire on forest structure, dynamics and biomass and iii) whether lianas are increasing in abundance in Ghanaian forests (as has been shown in the Neotropics), the drivers of liana distribution and their impacts on host trees.

BES Annual Meeting 2011, Abstract submission OPEN!

Abstract Submission for the BES Annual Meeting 2011 in Sheffield, 12-14 September, is now [open!](#)

Be part of the largest scientific ecological meeting in Europe - submit your talk or poster now.

The BES Annual Meeting is an excellent way to promote your science to a large representation of the ecological

community; it also provides an unparalleled opportunity to network with hundreds of people in a friendly, informal environment.

Booking will soon be open, so make sure you take advantage of the generous Earlybird discounts we offer to our members.

The Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2011

This exciting new competition aims to find the next generation of undiscovered science writing talent.

We are looking for short articles that address any area of science and would be suitable for publication in the 'Guardian' or the 'Observer' in print and online. You must demonstrate that you have thought about and understood your audience and can bring a scientific idea to life. The deadline for entries is 20 May 2011.

The judges are looking for originality, bright ideas and a distinctive writing style. Your 800-word article should show a passion for science and encourage the general public to consider, question and debate the key issues in science and society.

Possible areas of science include: medicine, neurology, science education, biomedical science, ageing, nutrition, physics, engineering, chemistry, biology, the body, sports sciences, space, genetics, climate change, evolution, energy, infectious diseases, medical humanities, medical history and ethics

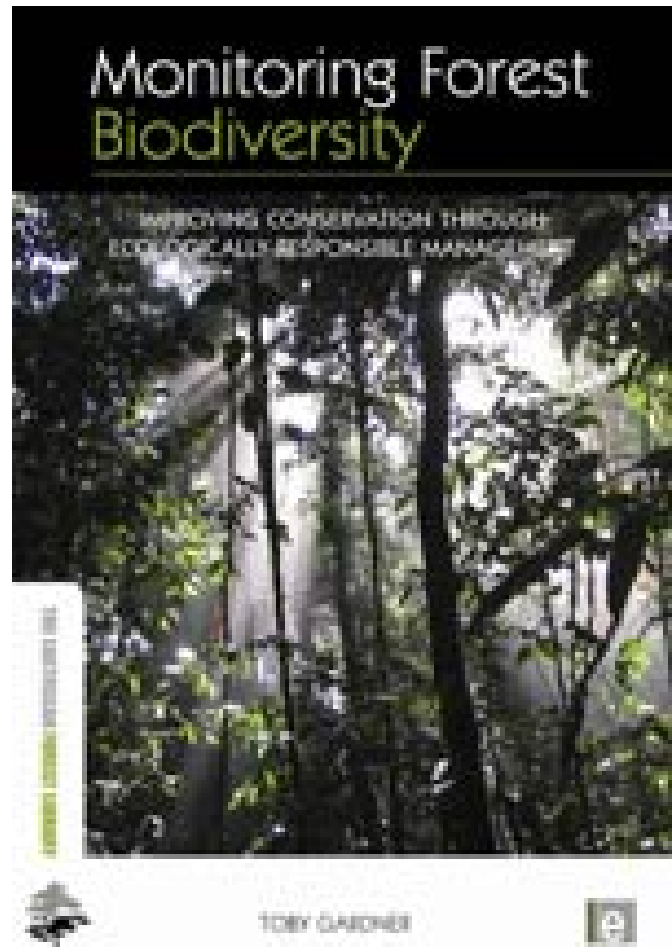
More details [here](#) and [here](#).

JOB: WCS Marine Director, Papua New Guinea

The Wildlife Conservation Society is looking for a Marine Director for PNG. Details [here](#).

JOB: WCS Congo Basin Coast Program Manager

Details [here](#).



BOOK: Monitoring Forest Biodiversity

Monitoring Forest Biodiversity: improving conservation through ecologically responsible management, by Toby Gardner.

The fate of much of the world's terrestrial biodiversity depends upon our ability to improve the management of forest ecosystems that have already been substantially modified by humans. Monitoring is an essential ingredient in meeting this challenge, allowing us to measure the impact of different human activities on biodiversity and identify more responsible ways of managing the environment. Nevertheless many biodiversity monitoring programs are criticised as being little more than tick the box compliance exercises that waste precious resources and erode the credibility of science in the eyes of decision makers and conservation investors. The purpose of this book is to examine the factors that make biodiversity monitoring programs fail or succeed.

The first two sections lay out the context and importance of biodiversity monitoring, and shed light on some of

the key challenges that have confounded many efforts to date. The third and main section presents an operational framework for developing monitoring programs that have the potential to make a meaningful contribution to forest management. Discussion covers the scoping, design and implementation stages of a forest biodiversity monitoring program, including defining the purpose, goals and objectives of monitoring, indicator selection, and the process of data collection, analysis and interpretation.

Underpinning the book is the belief that biodiversity monitoring should be viewed not as a stand-alone exercise in surveillance but rather as an explicit mechanism for learning about how to improve opportunities for conservation. To be successful in this task, monitoring needs to be grounded in clear goals and objectives, effective in generating reliable assessments of changes in biodiversity and realistic in light of real-world financial, logistical and social constraints.

More details [here](#).



'LEAFsnap' Plant ID app

The Smithsonian Institution, Columbia University and the University of Maryland have pooled their expertise to create the world's first plant identification mobile app using visual search—Leafsnap. This electronic field guide allows users to identify tree species simply by taking a photograph of the tree's leaves. In addition to the species name, Leafsnap provides high-resolution photographs and information about the tree's flowers, fruit, seeds and bark—giving the user a comprehensive understanding of the species. [More](#).