

TEAM Network



Current Network Sites



Future Global Network



Tropical Ecology, Assessment and Monitoring (TEAM) Initiative
www.teaminitiative.org
team@conservation.org



TEAM Initiative
Conservation International
1919 M Street NW, Suite 500
Washington DC, 20036
202-912-1000
202-912-1030 (fax)

Tropical Ecology, Assessment and Monitoring
TEAM Initiative

Monitoring Biodiversity Through Field Stations

Our Mission...

“To **MONITOR** long-term trends in **BIODIVERSITY** through a **NETWORK** of tropical **FIELD STATIONS**, providing an early **WARNING SYSTEM** on the status of biodiversity that can **EFFECTIVELY** guide conservation action”



Despite decades of conservation action, until now, there has been no comprehensive effort underway to systematically track large-scale changes in biological diversity in tropical forest ecosystems. Consequently, the conservation community has been significantly handicapped in its ability to identify, design, and implement successful interventions.

In order to understand the intrinsic dynamics and diversity of tropical forests worldwide and to build effective conservation programs, scientists and conservationists must be armed with current data that have been collected over time using standardized scientific methods. With this information in hand, researchers and planners can distinguish the effects of human disturbance from the natural ebb and flow of biological processes, and design conservation actions to address the most urgent and real conservation needs.

The Tropical Ecology, Assessment, and Monitoring (TEAM) Initiative, created by CI's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS), is now positioned to become a catalyst for achieving conservation goals worldwide. In partnership with the international scientific community, TEAM will establish a network of approximately 50 field stations worldwide.

The TEAM Network will provide the conservation and scientific communities with the first standardized set of data on biodiversity collected at key sites across tropical forest ecosystems, effectively becoming the first global-level system to track the behavior of biodiversity over time. Because of its global

coverage, integrated sampling design, and the quality of the data that will be collected through standardized scientific methods, the TEAM effort will become one of the most important research endeavors ever conducted on the ecology of tropical forest ecosystems.

The objectives of the TEAM network are to quantify and forecast changes in biodiversity at multiple levels of organization, from species, to communities and ecosystems, including the abundance or biomass of species, species diversity (both richness and evenness components), the extent and condition of habitats, as well as the rate and delivery of benefits (ecosystem services) to people.

TEAM Advantages:

Institutions that participate in the TEAM Initiative will receive funding to collect data that will contribute to understanding and forecasting changes in biodiversity in tropical forests at local, regional and global scales. Such large-scale understanding is beyond the scope of any single investigator or institution and can only come through a program of long-term collaboration. TEAM network sites will serve as central locations for training and capacity building to enhance local conservation efforts. In addition, staff at TEAM sites will be eligible for support to participate in regional and international workshops on biodiversity monitoring and conservation planning. All TEAM sites will be eligible to apply for block grants to enhance infrastructure at field stations or for additional research that complements TEAM monitoring activities.

Joining the TEAM Initiative:

Field stations interested in participating in the TEAM Network must submit a proposal in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) that outlines criteria for becoming part of the TEAM network of field stations. These criteria range from specifics about the station's scientific and educational capabilities to broader parameters such as the conservation status and ecological importance of the site. A panel of experts will review each proposal and select stations to become part of the TEAM Network on a competitive basis.

To receive more information about the TEAM Initiative or how to apply to the TEAM Network, please see the TEAM Initiative website at <http://www.teaminitiative.org> or email TEAM@conservation.org.

TEAM Network Member Obligations and Responsibilities:

Field stations that are part of the TEAM Network agree to use the TEAM Network standardized protocols for collecting, assessing, and monitoring biodiversity and to make TEAM Network data accessible on the web using the TEAM database currently in development. To maximize the utility of TEAM data for

change detection and for informing the development of sound conservation strategies, rapid dissemination of TEAM data to the global scientific and conservation communities is crucial. Thus, participants in the TEAM Initiative are committed to making TEAM data a community resource and to uploading Network data in a timely manner.

Current TEAM Network sites:

- Caxiuana TEAM Site, *Brazil*
- Volcán Barva TEAM Site, *Costa Rica*
- Manaus TEAM Site, *Brazil*
- Rio Doce TEAM Site, *Brazil*
- Central Suriname Nature Reserve TEAM Site, *Suriname*

TEAM Initiative Staff:

Sandy Andelman, Ph. D., Senior Director
Jorge Ahumada, Ph. D., Technical Director
Scott Brandes, Ph.D., Research Scientist
Lorena Garcia-Bustos, Office Administrator
Jenny Hewson, Remote Sensing Specialist
Caroline Kuebler, Program Manager
James Sanderson, Ph.D., Research Scientist
Elizabeth Stajka, Finance and Grants Manager



Photography: Cover: Piotr Naskrecki, Back Cover: A. Bailey, Inside Center Panel (from left) Piotr Naskrecki, Piotr Naskrecki, C. Farneti, A. Bailey, A. Bailey, Piotr Naskrecki, C. Farneti, C. Kuebler, A. Bailey, CI Image, A. Bailey, R. Mittermeir, Piotr Naskrecki
Right fold Panel: Maps by Marc Denil CI GIS Lab
Design/Production: Lorena Garcia-Bustos