



## The American Cordillera Transect

NEWSLETTER

The American Cordillera Transect for Global Change Research, Newsletter no.6, November 2007

### NEWS FROM THE WORK GROUPS CORFOR, the Cordillera Forest Dynamics Network

The CORFOR Website is now online! <http://www.corfor.com/>

This is only the beginning – please have a look at the site and give Alvaro Duque your feed-back!

Please contact Alvaro for a general feed-back of the site, if you are interested in joining CORFOR, or if you want to add your publication to the documents section.

Dr. Tom Veblen (University of Colorado, USA) has joined CORFOR, bringing with him long-term forest dynamics data from more than 40 plots in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. We will soon enter the metadata for these plots, plus the 145 plots from Oregon and Washington (Dr. Mark Harmon, Oregon State University), into the CORFOR website and database.

CORFOR contacts: Alvaro Duque, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Departamento de Ciencias Forestales,  
T: +574 4309089 mailto: [ajduque@unalmed.edu.co](mailto:ajduque@unalmed.edu.co)

Nathan Stephenson, US Geological Survey, USA. T: +1 (0)559 565 3176 mailto: [nstephenson@usgs.gov](mailto:nstephenson@usgs.gov)

### PROJECTS WE WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT

Importance of the vegetation and the organic layer for the eco-hydrological process in mountainous forest in Panama

We have portrayed this project in Newsletter no.5

([http://www.mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/AmericanCordillera\\_newsletter\\_no5.pdf](http://www.mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/AmericanCordillera_newsletter_no5.pdf))

For an update go to <http://www.cathalac.org/>

### GLORIA – international course

CONDESAN, together with the Paramo Andino Project, the Institute of Ecology of San Andrés University, Conservación Internacional, the National Service of Protected Areas and the National Programme of Climate Change in Bolivia, are preparing an international course of GLORIA methodology.

The aim of this course is to train the participants from Andean Countries in the GLORIA methodology, and to enable them to use this system to monitor global change impacts on biodiversity throughout the Andes.

19-23 November 2007, La Paz and SajamaC. Contact at CONDESAN: Francisco Cuesta,  
mailto:F.Cuesta@cgjar.org coordinator for Instituto de Ecología is Carolina García, mailto:amapoti@yahoo.es

### PUBLICATIONS

A paper of potential interest to the network participants was recently published in Ecology Letters (see <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sekl/pdfs/van%20Mantgem%20&%20Stephenson%202007.pdf> - please copy the link into your browser if it does not work by clicking on it!). The authors, using data from CORFOR sites in California's Sierra Nevada, show that tree mortality rates have increased significantly over the last two decades. The increase in mortality rates has paralleled a temperature-driven increase in an index of drought. Next steps might include determining whether similar trends are found elsewhere in the CORFOR network.

**American Cordillera Transect for Global Change Research <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/category/3/45/67/>**

## EVENTS

### **Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Americas**

25 – 29 February 2008, Smithsonian Tropical Research Center (STRI) in Panama.

Organized by Environment Canada (Adaptation and Research Impacts Division) and Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park, Center for Conservation Education and Sustainability.

The symposium provides a forum for leading scientists to present the results of research and monitoring activities of climate change and forest biodiversity throughout the Americas. The aim is to establish a co-operative science, research and monitoring network of activities that interlink biodiversity conservation and sustainability, policy responses and adaptation to climate change throughout the Americas.

**Training opportunities:** Short courses in biodiversity monitoring plots, climate scenarios and other topics will be available for participants the week of March 2 - 5, 2008.

#### **Contact:**

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Web: <http://www.climatechangeandbiodiversity.ca>

## INTERNAL INFORMATION

### Re-assessing the network

Interviews with network participants spring/summer 2007:

The interviews show that there is a big interest to continue working for and in the framework of the American Cordillera Transect (ACT). Some of the participants expressed their interest in specific projects, but most of them agreed upon the importance of a general communication network in order to share current projects and results, look for funding resources, improve data access, provide information and new contacts. To download the summary please click the following link

[http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/cordillera\\_interviews\\_summary.pdf](http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/cordillera_interviews_summary.pdf)

For more information please contact Claudia Drexler <mailto:drexler@giub.unibe.ch>

The future of the American Cordillera Transect (ACT)?

The interviews made it very clear that there has to be a full-time coordinator based in Latin America to keep up a functioning and efficient communication network (or two part time persons, one from North America and one from South America). This person should also be responsible for supporting thematic transects of global change research sites along the Cordillera. If these groups want to be supported (financially and in terms of communication) by the Cordillera Network they have to follow a certain protocol and show their results in scientific publications.

In order to determine form and funding of the future network MRI has formed an ad-interim Steering Committee of ACT. Its members are Miguel Saravia (CONDESAN, Peru), Fausto Sarmiento (University of Georgia, USA), Ricardo Villalba (IANIGLA, AR). We have also invited Jennifer Lipton (Central Washington University), Pablo Lagos (Instituto Geofísico del Perú), and Christian Huggel (University of Zürich) to join the SC. The next telephone conference of the ad-interim SC is scheduled for 21 November.

## AND...

Please send us any news that you want to be distributed to the participants of the American Cordillera Transect for Global Change Research!

<mailto:mri@giub.unibe.ch>

yours sincerely

Greg Greenwood, Director

Claudia Drexler, Event and Communication Manager

The Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)