

**SYMPOSIUM 26: TROPHIC DOWNGRADING IN TROPICAL
TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS**

Bonito, 21st June 2012 (Thursday)

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Local and global extinction of large vertebrates in terrestrial ecosystems has called the attention to researchers for more than 30 years. Both fragmented and continuous landscapes are suffering from the local extinction of large vertebrates, with special impact on mammals and birds. The extinction of this charismatic megafauna has strong implications for ecosystem functioning but may also translate into global changes, such as carbon storage and the persistence of key ecosystem processes (seed dispersal, predation, herbivory, nutrient cycling, etc). The aim of this Symposium is to convene an international group of experts on the impact of trophic downgrading in terrestrial ecosystems.

TALKS (Karuha Room, 09h00-12h30)

09h00-09h15 (S26.OC.01) **The myriad consequences of defaunation on trophic cascades: beyond islands and fragments.** *Mauro Galetti*

09h15-09h30 (S26.OC.02) **Large-bodied vertebrates stabilize long-term flow of ecosystem services in faunally intact neotropical forests.** *Carlos A. Peres*

09h30-09h45 (S26.OC.03) **Community-level effects of vertebrate defaunation on forest composition and regeneration dynamics across a western Amazonian river basin.** *Varun Swamy*

09h45-10h00 (S26.OC.04) **Human-induced modifications of the frugivore community translate into reduced seed dispersal at the community level in a Neotropical rainforest.** *Olivier Boissier*

10h00-10h15 (S26.OC.05) **Ecological erosion of an Afrotropical forest and potential consequences for tree recruitment and forest biomass.** *John R. Poulsen*

10h15-10h30 (S26.OC.06) **Ecological consequences of the rapid loss of Asian megafauna — Neotropicalization in the 21st century?** *Ahimsa Campos-Arceiz*

Coffee Break

11h00-11h15 (S26.OC.07) **The equalizing effect of frugivory and seed dispersal networks.** *Tomás Carlo-Joglar*

11h15-11h30 (S26.OC.08) **Ricocheting trophic and non-trophic cascade limits lianas and understory insectivorous birds in Central America.** *Nicole Michel*

11h30-11h45 (S26.OC.09) **Thieving rodents as substitute dispersers of megafaunal seeds.** *Patrick Jansen*

11h45-12h00 (S26.OC.10) **Cascading effects of defaunation on the recruitment dynamics of a large seeded tree in the Atlantic rainforest.** *Laurence Culot*

12h00-12h15 (S26.OC.11) **Can defaunation affect plant diversity in the Atlantic Forest?** *Gabriela Schmaedecke*

12h15-12h30 (S26.OC.12) **Beetles as physical and biochemical ecosystem engineers: ecological and molecular evidence of trophic upgrading in a tropical arthropod community.** *Mauricio Quesada*

POSTERS

S26.P.01. **Top-down effects of insects and fungi on tropical forest seedling diversity and composition.** *Owen Lewis*

S26.P.02. **Does the strength of trophic cascades vary with ecosystem size?** *Paula Munhoz de Omena*

S26.P.03. **Ecological determinants of extinction risk: local abundance, niche breadth and dispersal ability as correlates of small mammal responses to forest fragmentation.** *Thais Kubik Martins*

S26.P.04. **Defaunation and trophic cascades on dung beetles in the Atlantic forest.** *Emilie Bovy*