

**SYMPOSIUM 41: CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT IN
TROPICAL ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION: HOW CAN WE MAKE TROPICAL CONSERVATION
RESEARCH AND PRACTICE MORE EFFECTIVE?**

Bonito, 20th June 2012 (Wednesday)

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Biodiversity conservation in tropical countries has been going on for decades, with millions of dollars coming from western countries to support conservation initiatives. Most of these activities are initiated by international organizations, and often are managed by individuals from foreign countries. Recent research suggests that while protected areas have succeeded at slowing tropical deforestation rates, biodiversity loss continues despite these efforts. Although many international conservation organizations have the stated mandate or mission to build local capacity for biodiversity conservation, many tropical countries still rely primarily on expertise from abroad to initiate and manage biodiversity conservation projects and initiatives. Furthermore, relatively few conservation research publications are first authored by individuals from tropical countries, and few projects are initiated by local individuals or organizations. Why is this situation persisting after so many years? Would tropical conservation be more effective and sustainable if capacity were greater in these countries? What is capacity building actually? This symposium brings together individuals involved in various aspects of capacity building and empowerment for the goal of enhancing conservation in tropical ecosystems. Presentations in this symposium will explore the meaning of capacity building and empowerment, implementation approaches and methods, case studies, and evaluation. There will be time allotted following presentations for a discussion among presenters and audience members in a panel format to explore the ideas raised in the presentation, and to come to some consensus about the role and implementation of capacity building efforts.

TALKS (Karuha Room, 09h00-10h30)

- 09h00-09h15 (S41.OC.01) **Why do we need more emphasis on capacity building for effective biodiversity conservation? A call to action.** *Beth A. Kaplin*
- 09h15-09h30 (S41.OC.02) **Strengthening training for biodiversity conservation through partnerships of educators and practitioners.** *Adriana Bravo*
- 09h30-09h45 (S41.OC.03) **Fostering human wellbeing to effectively conserve biodiversity**
Kayla Cranston
- 09h45-10h00 (S41.OC.04) **Building capacity from the ground up: a place-based collaborative conservation case study from Indonesia.** *Jessica Parker*
- 10h00-10h15 (S41.OC.05) **The Tropical Conservation & Development Program: an innovative training platform to address multi-scalar and multi-disciplinary challenges of conservation and development in the Tropics.** *Patricia Sampaio*
- 10h15-10h30 (S41.OC.06) **Documenting 50 Years of tropical biology through the eyes of OTS and ATBC.** *Elizabeth Losos*