

October 22, 2005

Yves Basset, PhD
And Maurice Leponce
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Dear Dr. Basset and Leponce:

I am delighted to learn more about your efforts to extend the very successful IBISCA project to other biota in the future.

Having received support for canopy studies from the ESF in the past (with Andrew Mitchell, for our international canopy studies planning conference in Oxford, U.K., 1999), I believe that this would make an excellent follow-up for the results of that joint NSF/ESF meeting. During that meeting, which brought together an international cadre of canopy scientists, we discussed the importance of developing large-scale, replicable experiments and measurements of canopy biota to understand world biodiversity as well as the function of canopy plants and animals in ecosystem processes. The IBISCA, and the work that you will be carrying out as logical extensions, is exactly what this panel of experts hoped to emerge in the next decade.

As President and co-founder of the International Canopy Network (ICAN), I support your project. The mission of the ICAN, which began in 1994, is to enhance communication among researchers, educators, and conservationists concerned with forest canopies and forest ecosystems. We have an international email bulletin board, publish a quarterly newsletter called "What's Up?", and maintain an active website (www.evergreen.edu/ican). We also have a growing database and set of reprints of scientific citations on forest canopies, with over 5000 entries, all of which are keyworded into searchable categories. We have a roster of canopy scientists, and also sponsor symposia and conferences that involve canopy studies. We would be happy to make all of these resources available to you and your project. For example, we could provide you with space in our quarterly newsletter to report on new findings by your project, just as we provide regular space to the staff at the Global Canopy Programme. This provides continuity of communication among the forest canopy academic community.

Best of luck with your efforts to procure support from the ESF and other sources. Please let me know how I and the International Canopy Network can be of further service to your project.

Sincerely,

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