

Faculté des Sciences

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Brussels, 14 October 2005

To whom it may concern

This is to certify that the Department of Organism Biology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, strongly supports the IBISCA project "Towards a Census of Rainforest Life" for 2007-2011.

This programme represents a very significant international collaborative effort to improve our knowledge of the biodiversity patterns occurring in tropical rainforests and of the underlying processes that control them, with a major focus on the extremely species-rich arthropods. Given the level of damage suffered by tropical forests around the world nowadays, we are more than ever in need of large data sets describing what is living in healthy forests to figure out what is going to be lost and how these ecosystems respond under human pressures. Of particular importance is to discover the processes controlling the organization of biodiversity in space and time because the consequences of human perturbations can be quite distinct if the composition of species assemblages is driven more by chance or by coadaptation among species. Only intensive surveys of many taxonomic groups in the same locations, as proposed by the IBISCA project, will permit to gain substantial insights in this topic.

The Université Libre de Bruxelles can provide research facilities and staff expertise for field sampling work, taxonomic identification, data analysis as well as ecosystem modeling.



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