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**From:** "Ishwaran, Natarajan" <N.Ishwaran@unesco.org>

**To:** <Maurice.Leponce@naturalsciences.be>, <bassety@si.edu>

**CC:** "olivier pascal" <ol.pascal@freesurf.fr>, "Arico, Salvatore" <.....>

**Subject:** IBISCA - Canopy Biodiversity Research Project [All headers](#) [All attachments](#)

Dear Dr. Leponce

I have come to know of the IBISCA Programme through my discussions with Dr. Olivier pascal, and I am particularly attracted to your work on the theme: "Towards a Census of Tropical Forest Life (CTRL)". IBISCA's efforts to census biodiversity of tropical forests, particularly using innovative technological approaches to access tropical forest canopies, is quite innovative and interesting to the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences (SC/EES) in UNESCO where I serve as the Director. Under this Division's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, UNESCO has established a World Network of Biosphere Reserves that now includes 482 sites in 102 countries. Many of these sites are in tropical forests and we would be keen to co-operate with you in order to explore the feasibility that you could target a selected number of Biosphere Reserves in tropical less developed nations as pilot sites for your studies. SC/EES will be ready to co-operate with you in terms of identifying potential countries and sites to undertake census of tropical forest life and also link IBISCA's efforts to the work of global agendas such as the work programmes of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant to tropical forests and protected areas.

I wish you all success in your efforts to raise funds and other in-kind support to build a network organizations that could co-operate on the IBISCA Programme and in particular the CTRL project and look forward to collaborating with you in the future.

Dr. Natarajan Ishwaran

Director

Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences

UNESCO, Paris