

PAN-AMAZONIA project Bulletin

March 06

NEWS

Congratulations to Yadvinder Malhi. Yadvinder had a new baby on January the 5th: a little girl called Kaya Barbara Malhi.

Congratulations to Liana Anderson. Liana has been accepted for reading her PhD at OUCE – Oxford University Centre for the Environment.

Welcome to Juliana Stropp (“IPA” fellow Utrecht) Juliana has arrived in Oxford on January 21st and she will be there until end of May. Thereafter she will continue her fellowship work in Utrecht.

RAINFOR UK Meeting

The next meeting of RAINFOR UK will be held at Oxford on June 1-2 2006. All are welcome to attend.

Amazon drought urgency grant

A team of Panamazonia researchers led by Oliver Phillips have been awarded an Urgency Grant from the Natural Environment Research Council to investigate the extent and impacts of the Amazon drought of 2005. This work is combining field trips to RAINFOR sites in Peru, Colombia and Venezuela, with analysis of satellite and climate data. The project lasts for all of 2006, with intensive fieldwork in the period February-April 2006

Tropical Biomes in Transition

A large consortium led by Jon Lloyd has one a NERC consortium grant (“TROBIT: Tropical Biomes in Transition”) to investigate forest-savannah transitions worldwide. This will involve transect studies in Brazil, Bolivia and Venezuela, as well as in Africa and Australia.

Workshop 2006

As part of the PAN-AMAZONIA project we are preparing for the *second integrated training workshops* in trans-Amazon environmental science. It will be a seven-day workshop, with a one-day break in the middle of the period. These workshops will focus the scientific analysis of results collected in current Pan-Amazonian projects, with a particular focus on analysis, statistics, cross-comparison between

projects, and the preparation of manuscripts for publication in international journals.

The confirmed dates for the PAN-AMAZONIA 2006 workshop are:

*Travelling Saturday/ Sunday (1st & 2nd July)
Welcome “cocktail” – Sunday 2nd July at 19h.
Workshop starts – Monday: 3rd July
Free day 6th July
Workshop finishes: Sunday: 9th July*

Local: Santa Cruz - Bolivia

Manuals Pan-Amazonia

We have six manuals ready. They are already translated into Portuguese and Spanish and they are available on the Pan-Amazonia website.

- 1 Tree measurement manual
- 2 Tree height manual
- 3 Wood density manual
- 4 Mode of death manual
- 5 Leaf sampling strategies manual
- 6 Roots manual

If you would like to collaborate with any other manual, you are more than welcome. Just send us an e-mail.

“IPA” Space

Read the very interesting annual report of our IPA fellow “Luis Suarez”.

Certainly 2005 was a very good year for our Peruvian student Luis Suarez. He started the year attending the famous European Research Course on Atmospheres ERCA2005 in Grenoble, France; under auspices of the National Centre of Scientific Research CNRS and the University Joseph Fourier. In there, he was able to meet Dr. Paul Crutzen, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1995, and Dr. Richard Betts. Listening to their lectures he could

increase his knowledge about the state of art of research in chemistry of the tropical atmosphere and atmosphere-biosphere interactions, respectively.

After visiting the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum in Paris, he returned to Peru and immediately started the master's studies programme in Applied Ecology at the La Molina National Agrarian University in Lima, Peru. With special effort and intensive preparation he could make a successful first semester. He also started the preparation of his thesis research named "Effects of prescribed fire in the stability of soil organic carbon in the Peruvian Amazon region" under supervision of Prof. Carlos A. Llerena, member of the scientific steering committee of LBA (Fig. 1). The research work carried on by Luis intends to evaluate the role of the fire in changing the carbon stocks of Amazonian soils through the measurement of soil respiration (CO₂ flux) and organic carbon content along a transect from upper to lower Amazonia: Oxapampa, (Pasco Region) and Satipo, (Junin Region) in Peru; and Brasilia, in Brazil; and also a location in the northern region of Peru at Iquitos (Loreto Region).

Because of the interest by local institutions about his research he could participate in supporting with technical aspects about forest fires and its effects on climate and terrestrial ecosystems. In coordination with Dr. Alberto Setzer of the National Institute of Space Research INPE from Brazil, he published a Sunday special report on a national newspaper (Figure 2). This publication aims to call the attention of public and policy makers for preparing and defining the national plan for forest fires prevention in Peru. It is also expected that the results of his thesis could provide information to be included in the national inventory of greenhouse gases.

Also, as part of the preparation of the experimental aspects of his research work, he prepared a proposal and participated in the national contest of research proposals PROCYT 2005 organized by the National Council of Science and Technology of Peru (CONCYTEC). His proposal presented by the research group, which includes the National University of the Center of Peru (UNCP) and the NGO Research Institute for Technology Development (ININDETEC), was considered one of the best, and received additional funding to provide basic information for local policy makers about the fire effects on soils and also to increase the knowledge about the role of Amazon basin in the terrestrial global system: source or sink of greenhouse gases GHG? Also one important component of the proposal is to increase

research capabilities and institutional resources for having a more active participation in studies about atmosphere – biosphere interactions mainly oriented to Amazon basin.

On October, he met with PANAMAZONIA principal investigator Dr. Oliver Phillips during the international symposium "Biodiversity and Conservation in the regional development of Madre de Dios". In November, he was notified that he had obtained a grant for presenting his poster "Transboundary air pollution in Amazonia of Peru" in the important First Scientific meeting of i-LEAPS: interactive Land Ecosystem-Atmosphere Processes, on January 2006 in Boulder, Colorado, USA. At i-LEAPS Luis will try to obtain more insights about carbon cycle for the experimental procedure of his thesis research and he will also take advantage of the occasion to coordinate with his PANAMAZONIA supervisor, Dr. Bart Kruijt from ALTERRA, The Netherlands. By the way, this year Luis also got married with Yessica Bendezu. So, 2005 will be a year hard to forget for him.



Photo 1: Luis Suarez and Dr. Carlos Llerena



Figure 2: Sunday special report on a national newspaper

Learn a bit more about Eliana Jimenez and her work:

Eliana (fig. 3) participated in the RAINFOR Expedition in Colombia in February of 2004 and in the establishing of the Net Primary Production Experiment in the Amacayacu Natural National Park. Since September of 2005 she has been working with a NPP Experiment near Leticia, also helping other students and others experiments in the Colombian Amazon.

At the moment, she has nearly finished her one-and-a-half year fieldwork program which will form the basis of her Masters in Amazon Studies at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Amazonia (Leticia, Colombian Amazon). She is currently working in two sites: two permanent plots in the Amacayacu Natural National Park (mainly clay soils) and one plot established in white sands called Varillal (Zafire Biological Station). She is collecting and analysing data of stem growth, taking hemiphotos for leaf area index determinations, measuring soil respiration and rates of fine root production, collecting weather data, and also helping with the litterfall work. For her Masters project she is working mostly with the fine root production data: the title of her Master project is: "Estimation of the fine root production in two terra firme forests with contrasting soils in the Colombian Amazon". The main research questions of her project are: Which is the fine root production rate during a year in these two contrasting types of terra firme forests and, how is the production in these two sites in comparison with others places in the Amazon basin?

Eliana visited the University of Leeds during July and August of 2005, analysing her data under the supervision of Prof. Lloyd and sharing experiences with others researchers and students from different countries. She made a presentation about her project in the RAINFOR Meeting in Leeds.

She is currently preparing the next expeditions for the field after which she will return to Leeds, first writing up her Masters thesis, after which she will write up all data from the experiment for a journal such as *Plant and Soil* or similar.

Eliana has received several "in house" supervisory visits in Colombia from senior EU scientists, Yadvinder Malhi in November 2004 and Jon Lloyd in May 2005, and Oliver Phillips on two occasions.



Fig. 3 Eliana Jimenez

together to prepare the Second annual report to the European Commission.

Thank you to everyone.

If there is anything you would like posted in future Bulletins, please contact :

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Administrative Issues

During December, January and February Pan-Amazonia partner and IPA fellows worked