

RAINFOR News

RAINFOR People

Gabriela Lopez-Gonzalez
University of Leeds
United Kingdom



Gabriela has been working at the University of Leeds as part of the RAINFOR team since 2005. She coordinated the implementation of the Forest Plots database, which holds all RAINFOR plots and is accessible securely online.

Originally from Mexico, she did her PhD at the University of Sheffield and has settled happily in Yorkshire. She says she now even enjoys the English weather!

Gabriela has been working on the development of the query library which allows users to view and download information on the dynamics, biomass and productivity of their plots. If you have any comments or suggestions about the database, please do not hesitate to contact her.



It has been a few months since our last Newsletter and we have lots of interesting news to share with you!

- We are pleased to announce that RAINFOR has a new Project Administrator, who joined the team in October: Joana Ricardo. Joana is Portuguese and has been working for the University of Leeds since 2005. She moved to Leeds to do an MA in Applied Translation Studies and has loved the city and its people so much, she considers Leeds her second home!
- Forest Plots - The plot data from the Venezuela and Peru field campaigns, carried out in 2009, is now publically available! *For more information about forest plots and how to request an account, please visit www.forestplots.net*
- Read up on the field campaigns that RAINFOR people have been involved in across Amazonia, on the RAINFOR website. Information available in English, Spanish and Portuguese:
http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/projects/rainfor/pages/campaigns_eng.html



AMAZONICA PROGRESS

- **AMAZONICA- Contribution from John Grace, University of Edinburgh**
AMAZONICA will soon establish two sets of flux measurements in S. America, one in Brazil at the *Ilha do Bananal*, the largest fluvial island in the world, 350 km long and 55 km wide; the second at Tambopata, Peru, where colleagues from Leeds and Oxford have already been working on biomass inventories and biogeochemistry for some time. The challenges posed at the two sites are rather different: at Bananal, colleagues from Edinburgh will work with Humberto da Rocha and colleagues of the University of São Paulo, to establish the first measurements of methane flux over flooded forest. At Tambopata, a 55 meter permanent tower will be built, for CO₂ and methane flux measurements, whilst also measuring the losses of carbon via drainage channels. This is not a 'flooded forest' but 'distinctly damp', and it is on more fertile soil than other towers in the Amazon basin. It is also the first permanent flux tower in Peru.



RAINFOR News



- **AMAZONICA-** (cont.) This installation is enthusiastically supported by Max Gunther the Principal of the Explorers' Inn, the ecotourism site, who commented: *This is the answer to one of my oldest dreams for the lodge, which goes back to the time when Oliver Phillips, as one of the first ones to enjoy the facilities of our Resident Naturalist Programme, started up the investigations that today result in your wish to install this tower. This is a dream, which I unfortunately haven't been able to fulfil in the past due to economic restraints.* We are of course looking forward to seeing the completed structure and working with Peruvian colleagues. After over a year of planning, acquiring and testing sensors, 2010 will be the year of methane flux data.



- **Aircraft based Greenhouse Gas Measurement Program (Workpackage 1) Luciana Gatti, Manuel Gloor, John Miller**

After a long process of transferring money and buying, importing, preparing and testing all instruments we are excited that we can now start the aircraft based greenhouse gas measurement program over the Amazon basin, this December and January. Specifically we will start the aircraft based measurements at Tabatinga (AM) and Rio Branco (AC) where the profile heights will be 14000 feet above ground and Rondonopolis (MT) near Cuiaba with profile height of 14000 feet during the wet season and 28000 feet during the dry season. Similarly we will start ground based sampling at Salinópolis (PA), Kourou (French Guiana) and Cuzco (Peru). These data will provide a more complete characterisation of greenhouse gas fluxes in and out of the lower troposphere above the basin and its controls over the coming years.

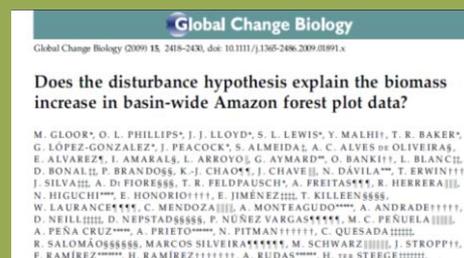


Latest publications

Gloor M. et al.; 2009; **Does the disturbance hypothesis explain the biomass increase in basin-wide Amazon forest plot data?** Global Change Biology 15: 2418-2430

Contact us for a pdf copy of this article or visit: <http://www.rainfor.org>

- Other publications for 2009 can also be downloaded from the RAINFOR website.



RAINFOR papers in discussion

Biogeosciences

An Interactive Open Access Journal of the European Geosciences Union

We encourage our partners and collaborators to visit [Biogeosciences](http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/special_issue34.html) to participate in the interactive discussion following this link:

http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/special_issue34.html

If you have any feedback, comments or ideas for the next Newsletter, please email j.l.s.ricardo@leeds.ac.uk