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Editorial

Research challenges and the socio-ecological basis of tropical conservation

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The current issue of Tropical Conservation Science includes 17 articles. Of these, 11 are Research Articles, five are Short Communications, and one is an Opinion Article.

These papers offer studies in Angola, Brazil, Sumatra, Argentina, Malaysia, Mexico, Colombia, Tanzania and China. They cover research on the impacts of shifting agriculture on woodlands in Angola; sustainable use of the Licuri palm and macaw conservation in Brazil; habitat restoration and avian colonization in Brazil; land-use constraints on orangutan survival in Borneo and Sumatra; ecological corridors and avian diversity in the Atlantic forest of Argentina; monitoring carnivore populations using scent-baited traps in Malaysia; temperature tolerance of the endangered Mexican Mayflower orchid; movement strategies of translocated Sub-Andean birds in a modified landscape in Colombia; threatened plants and local carbon storage in tropical dry forests in Mexico; mitigating the impact of roads through national parks in Tanzania; diversity of ants in a tropical anthropogenic landscape in Mexico; clear-cutting and plant species diversity in a subtropical evergreen-deciduous broadleaved mixed forest in central China; planning and reducing cattle supply chains in Brazil, decentralized environmental governance of wildlife management areas in Tanzania; wild birds in illegal trade in Brazilian Amazonia; global assessment of Red List data for the Cycadales; and analysis of white-tailed deer habitat relationships with spatially autocorrelated data in central Mexico.

In short, the articles in this issue provide a view of the broad geographic and thematic base of conservation research in the tropics. They also exemplify the challenges to conservation scientists investigating local, regional, and global conservation problems, where different technologies and approaches are used: mapping wildlife trade, evaluating the impact of roads on wildlife, applying animal and plant restoration strategies and technologies, assessing global conservation trends for specific organisms, evaluating supply chains, and researching sustainable land management initiatives, among others. All these studies have as a common denominator the socio-ecological basis of tropical conservation.

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