

Society for Tropical Ecology - *gtö*



The members of the Society for Tropical Ecology (*gtö*) have elected a new board at the general meeting in Paris on 28. March 2018. We welcome all new board members and thank for their willingness to get actively involved in the society! We are also happy to announce the **re-launch of our journal *Ecotropica***. Starting from May 1st, 2018 you can submit your manuscripts under <http://www.ecotropica.eu>. See below for more information.

Finally, please save the date for the **upcoming European conference for Tropical Ecology in Edinburgh: 08.-11.April 2019!**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PIERRE-MICHEL FORGET, President



BIOSKETCH. Tropical Forest Ecologist, Professor of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Brunoy, Adjunct Director of the CNRS Research Unit MECADEV CNRS-MNHN. PhD University of Paris VI (1988). Fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, BCI, Panama (1989-1990). Editorial Board of Journal of Tropical Ecology (1999-present) and Tropical Conservation Science (2008+). Vice-president Society for Tropical Ecology-*gtö* (2015-2017) Professional Societies: Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (1988+), Society for Tropical Ecology- *gtö* (2004+). ATBC Councillor (2003), Past-president (2008), *gtö* Vice-president (2015-2017). Research Interests: Ecology and conservation of tropical forest, seed fate, fruit seasonality and consumption by frugivores and granivores, impact of anthropogenic disturbances

on forest diversity and tree recruitment, harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and sustainable use of forest diversity. Current research sites of interest: Guyane, Nigeria, Malaysia.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: During the 2011 meeting in Frankfurt, together with the late Eli Kalko, vice-president, and other executive board members, we were dreaming of the day the Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie (*gtö*) will become european, albeit international. It became true in 2015 in Zurich. After I've been elected vice-President of the Society of Tropical Ecology, my interest has been to promote partnerships and exchanges among scientists and students, first by co-organizing the annual meeting of the ATBC in Montpellier attended by many members of our society, and then chairing the 3rd European Conference of Tropical Ecology, this year in Paris. As a President, if elected, my goal will be continuing to help developing the Society for Tropical Ecology, in close collaboration with the executive and the scientific advisory boards, and to promote cooperation between scholars, researchers, environmentalists, and resource managers in an effort to improve education, research, forest conservation and human development in the tropics. I am enormously enthusiastic about the Society of Tropical Ecology and its potential to have a positive impact on the fate of biodiversity, as well as management and preservation of tropical ecosystems as a whole, for people good health and well-being, at both local and global scales.

NINA FARWIG, Vice-President



BIOSKETCH. Chair of Conservation Ecology, University of Marburg. PhD (2005) University of Mainz. Research interests: Biodiversity management, functional biodiversity research, community ecology, conservation, invasion biology, landscape ecology. Since 2012 Secretary General of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö); earlier speaker and member of the advisory board of gtö and (2010-2012) councilor of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC).

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I am interested in the role of biodiversity for ecosystem functionality and thus in patterns, processes and dynamics of species, communities, interactions and ecosystems across natural and human-shaped landscapes. My research focuses on biotic interactions, interaction networks as well as the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in the face of human activities. In my studies I combine fundamental research questions with applied conservation issues to develop strategies that assure both sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation. I am currently the Secretary General of gtö and stand for election as a Vice President of gtö. My goal is to increase the visibility and attractiveness of gtö as a society so that it becomes the “go-to-place” for tropical ecologists in Europe as well as to enhance the international exchange between ecological Societies.

VOJTECH NOVOTNY, Vice-President



BIOSKETCH. I have a PhD in Ecology from the Czech Academy of Sciences. In the Czech Republic, I am directing the Centre for Tropical Biology, a research consortium of three institutions (the Czech Academy of Sciences, the University of South Bohemia, and the Charles University), active throughout the tropics. In Papua New Guinea, I co-founded and have been directing the New Guinea Binatang Research Center, a research organization active also in rainforest conservation and training of postgraduate students. I am a member of the Advisory Board of gtö and served as a councilor of ATBC.

PERSONAL STATEMENT I am a tropical biologist interested in the ecology of rainforests, particularly their food webs. My research, increasingly using field-based experiments, focuses on ecological mechanisms of species coexistence of rainforest plants and animals and on ecological drivers of biodiversity along succession, latitudinal and altitudinal gradients in forest ecosystems. I am also interested in the development of ecological research capacity, from paraecologists to postgraduate students, in tropical countries and in the conservation of tropical forests, particularly with indigenous communities. For the past 20 years I have been dividing my time equally between Europe and Papua New Guinea. As a Vice-President I would focus on publishing, conferences, and public outreach in order to establish gtö as a platform for wide ranging, and hopefully inspiring, discussion of scientific, conservation and science policy issues, particularly facilitating interaction and understanding between extra-tropical and equatorial scientists.

UTE RADESPIEL, Secretary General



BIOSKETCH. Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Zoology, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, Germany. Since I started working on Malagasy lemurs in 1995, I aim to understand the factors that drive the evolution of their social structures, demographic history, ecology, distribution, and the long-term survival of populations. My research activities are settled on different spatial scales ranging from the level of individuals up to entire species distributions, e.g. to clarify the taxonomic status of cryptic species and to understand their underlying radiation. Many of the nocturnal lemurs have extremely small geographic ranges. These

species and their ecosystems are highly threatened by ongoing habitat fragmentation and other disturbances. The understanding of the species-specific habitat requirements, the influence of habitat fragmentation on the genetic diversity, genetic structure and parasite load of populations, and therefore the evaluation of their viability are of major conservation concern and form another important component of my work.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I joined the gtö Advisory Board in 2015, and I hereby express my interest to continue my service to the Society. I feel that there is the continuous need for expertise regarding the ecological and evolutionary peculiarities of the mini-continent Madagascar and regarding the primatological perspective in the discipline of tropical ecology. There are many important future research avenues in this field – most of them requiring interdisciplinary collaborations and scientific exchange. The annual meetings of the gtö provide an ideal networking platform for this purpose.

HOLGER KURZ, Treasurer



BIOSKETCH. Plant taxonomist and pollination ecologist by education. PhD 1983, University of Hamburg at Prof. Kubitzki. Research interests: Pollination biology, taxonomy of Neotropical Lauraceae, plant-animal interactions. Research 1973 in Peru (collection of Membracidae), long-term at INPA, Manaus 1979/80 (Pollination of lauraceous trees in the canopy), 1990 in Guatemala (ground proofing of vegetational satellite data in the lowland forest of Petén) for KfW. Since 1981 freelance expert for conservation in Germany, besides thirty years (1978-2007) of lectureship at University of Hamburg and about 70 excursions for botanists and pharmacists in Europe and South America. Since 1989 member of gtö, since 2010 member of ATBC, since 2009 member of BBN (Federal Association for professionals in Nature Conservation).

PERSONAL STATEMENT. Being 21 I visited the tropical rain forest for the first time and became interested in tropical ecology. Alongside my interest in taxonomy I tried to relate the diversification of Lauraceae with their pollination system. I became a gtö member in 1989. In 2005 I was elected as gtö's treasurer. Having an own office as freelance expert since 1981, I familiarized with balance sheets and taxes. Being treasurer is my way to support the tropical ecology.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

MELANIE DAMMHAHN



I am a behavioural and animal ecologist with research interests at the interface between ecology, behaviour and evolution. Primarily, I am interested in drivers and limits of within-species variation in behaviour, life-history and ecophysiology and their consequences for ecological interactions within and between species. My studies are on a wide range of mammalian taxa, such as rodents, lemurs, insectivores, bats and carnivores. In my research, I combine detailed long-term studies of individuals, populations and communities in the field with experimental manipulations under natural, semi-natural, and laboratory conditions, laboratory analyses and ecological modelling. I have ongoing projects in Germany, France, Canada and Madagascar. Currently, I am interim

professor for animal ecology at the University of Greifswald and associated researcher at the University of Potsdam. I have been active member of the gto since 2005 and have been actively teaching for the Tropical Ecological Association (TBA) since 2004.

BETTINA ENGELBRECHT



BIOSKETCH. Professor for Plant Ecology at the University of Bayreuth, Germany (2009 to present) and Research Associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama (2003–present). Service: Member of the advisory board of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtoe/STE) (2009 – present), member of the board of the Association for Tropical Ecology and Conservation (since 2015), Vice- director of the Bayreuth Center for Ecological and Environmental Research (2012 – present). Research interests: physiological plant ecology, functional ecology, tropical ecology, community ecology.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. The diversity of tropical forests awes me. My work is explicitly linking plant physiology with population and community ecology to address pending questions about the past, present and future of tropical forests. As a member of the board, I have been and - if elected - will continue working towards making the Society for Tropical Ecology a truly European Society (ESTE), strengthening contacts and complementarity with ATBC and other scientific societies, and improving the participation of young scientists in shaping the Society.

RAFFAEL ERNST

BIOSKETCH. Currently curator and head of the section herpetology at the Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden, 2014 Habilitation (Biodiversity Dynamics & Ecosystem Science) at the Technische Universität Berlin, Fakultät VI, Institute of Ecology; 2006 PhD at the Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology. Research interests: Theory and application of (trait-based) community ecology, community phylogenetics, conservation biology and



taxonomy with a particular focus on amphibians and reptiles and the development of statistical models and standard methods for assessing and monitoring tropical amphibian communities under global change. Since 1996 member of the gtö, since 2009 member of the ATBC, since 2008 member of the International Herpetological Committee (Member of the Constitutional & International and Regional Relations Boards), since 2011 scientific advisory board Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. As a long-time member of gtö and organismal biologist with a keen interest in tropical ecology and conservation who has worked both at universities and non-university research institutes, more precisely natural history museums, I have come to realize that there is still a lack of institutionalized exchange between these institutions. Despite the fact that both seem to converge towards common research goals and therefore would naturally benefit from the complementary expertise they traditionally represent. Phylogenetic data and taxonomic expertise traditionally associated with natural history museums are needed more than ever in answering the pressing questions in both basic and applied ecology and this is reflected in current research trends but is hardly ever mirrored in institutionalized relations between the different scientific communities. Although the gtö traditionally provides a roof for representatives of both communities the links do not seem to be formalized in the current structure of the society. As a member of the gtö advisory board I would see my central role in strengthening the links at this interface e.g. by establishing or contributing to a committee that provides an exchange platform for these interest groups and aims at linking the society and its members to museum based research networks.

SVEN GUENTHER



Sven Günter holds a Diploma Degree in Forestry from the University of Munich, a PhD in tropical silviculture from the University of Göttingen and a professorship qualification in forestry with specialization in restoration of utilization potentials of tropical montane forests from TU Munich. He gained more than 20 years of professional experience in tropical forestry including ten years living in Bolivia, Ecuador and Costa Rica. Bridging the science-policy gap was a cross-cutting theme for his career at different academic, non-governmental and governmental institutions. After several years as local research coordinator for a large interdisciplinary research group in Ecuador he became Co-Director of the “Latin-American Chair of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors” at CATIE, Costa Rica. In cooperation with GIZ, he focused on questions how to integrate conservation and sustainable development in tropical landscapes of Central America. In his current position as head of the section “Forestry Worldwide” at the Thünen-Institute of “International Forestry and Forest Economics” in Hamburg, Germany, he aims at developing science-based solutions for sustainable policies in the field of multipurpose forestry, ecosystem services and livelihoods in tropical forest landscapes. His major motivation for participation in the advisory board of the Society for Tropical Ecology is helping to bridge the gap between solid ecological research and

sustainable management of tropical forest ecosystems and livelihoods of forest dependent people in the tropics.

ECKHARD W. HEYMANN



BIOSKETCH. Primate and behavioural ecologist. Senior scientist at the German Primate Center (DPZ); adjunct professor at University of Göttingen. PhD 1985, University of Giessen. Director of Estación Biológica Qda. Blanco (DPZ's field site in Peruvian Amazonia). Responsibilities: Regional coordinator of the IUCN-SSC Primate Specialist Group for the Neotropics. Associate editor of *Primates*. Memberships: gtö/STE, ATBC, International Primatological Society. Research interests: animal-plant interactions, primate aut- and synecology, interspecific associations.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. Although a primatologist and behavioural ecologist by training, I have always taken a broader perspective and became interested in tropical ecology since my first primate field study in Amazonia in 1985. Therefore, I became a gtö member in 1989. In 1994 I was elected into gtö's Scientific Advisory Board, and have served as co-speaker of this board since 2009. After contributing to the progress in making the society more international, particularly more European, with the 1st European Congress of Tropical Ecology in Göttingen as a milestone, my aim and motivation now is to serve the society as one of the editors of *Ecotropica* and to develop it into a renown and prestigious journal.

JÜRGEN HOMEIER



BIOSKETCH. Tropical forest ecologist at the Department of Plant Ecology, University of Göttingen. PhD 2004, University of Bielefeld. I am studying tropical plant species composition, forest structure and forest dynamics along environmental gradients. I am interested in relationships between species richness, functional diversity and performance of tropical forest trees. With long-term monitoring and manipulation experiments I try to understand the effects of global change on forest dynamics and productivity.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I am member of the gtö scientific advisory board since 2006 and was one co-organizer of the conference in Göttingen 2016. The motivation for me to become again a member of the scientific advisory board is to further strengthen the active role of the gtö as the European stakeholder in tropical ecology, and to contribute with gtö to the dissemination of knowledge on tropical ecology to the public promoting the conservation of tropical biodiversity.

ALICE HUGHES

BIOSKETCH. I am an Associate Professor and lead the Landscape Ecology group at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences. I have worked extensively across the Tropics, and previously held positions in Thailand, Australia, Costa Rica, and the UK before moving to China. I also hold Honorary positions at the Universities of Bangor and Groningen and a position at the China



Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, and am a “key person” for Alert-Conservation. I am currently Chair of the ATBC’s Asia-Pacific Chapter and a member of the ATBC Council. In addition I hold board positions for the Asian section for the Society of Conservation Biology, the International Network of Next generation ecologists, and the European Tropical Ecology Society, and a number of others. I am also leader of the Young professionals network for the IUCN’s commission on ecosystem management, and a Steering committee member for Coalition Wild. In addition I am an editor

for various journals. My work focuses on patterns of biodiversity and drivers of biodiversity change, at various spatiotemporal scales in order to develop pro-active management strategies that aim to mitigate the impacts of human activities on biodiversity. My research spans from biogeographic research to conservation prioritization and management, with a special focus on critical ecosystems including forest and karst. All our work seeks to better understand natural systems, and to use that information to develop priorities for conservation and management, this also includes the development of tools such as using bat bioacoustics to rapidly inventory diversity and develop standard methods for surveys to mitigate the impact of development on biodiversity.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I was elected at the gtö Meeting in Zurich with an aim to help internationalise the board. Since this point I have been involved in organizing symposia with a wide selection of non-European based tropical ecologists on a variety of themes. In addition last year saw the first training workshops within a GTOE conference, and I lead a very full session on spatial ecology for half a day. Currently I think I am one of the few board members, though European to be entirely based within the Tropics and outside Europe, and I feel that this provides the capacity to better engage with tropical ecologists based outside Europe which may be able to contribute to our meetings and build stronger linkages. I also hold a number of board positions for other Tropical ecology groups, and I think exploring the opportunity for more collaborative links and syntheses between the different societies, and how we may also use DFG to help support more upcoming researchers from tropical areas. As a continuing member of the Scientific committee I would endeavor to help build more training into our future meetings as we did successfully in Brussels and to strengthen our linkages with other societies, and engage more with non-Europe based researchers, and particularly younger researchers based in the tropics.

PATRICK JANSEN



BIOSKETCH. Community ecologist. Associate professor at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama. PhD 2003, Wageningen University. Research interests: Plant-animal interactions, hunting impacts, disease ecology, camera trapping, conservation. Coordinating the ForestGEO Vertebrate Program for the Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS). Member of NECOV-NERN (Netherlands), BES (UK), ATBC, and of course gtö.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. When I was a biology student in Wageningen, I

saw a TV show in which biologists explored the canopy of a tropical rainforest from a brightly coloured raft – carried by a zeppelin – that sat on top of the trees. One year later, in 1990, I sat in that very same canopy – in the Nouragues field station in French Guiana – to study birds feeding on fruits and dispersing the seeds. Since then, everything has revolved around animals in forests. I did my PhD in French Guiana on seed dispersal by rodents, postdocs in Panama on the roles of mammals in tree recruitment, and am now working on vertebrate communities and cascade effects of wildlife extirpation, both in the Netherlands and with the Smithsonian and its global network of forest plots. I have a decent network, a fair chunk of creativity and enthusiasm, and political experience. I would like to continue using these to help develop GTÖ into a society for all European tropical ecologists.

CHRIS KETTLE



An ecologist and geneticist, Christopher Kettle specializes in tropical forest trees, their reproductive ecology and the importance of forest genetic resources for resilient landscapes. Since August 2017, Christopher is leading Bioversity International's cross-cutting research team working on conservation and sustainable use of socio-economically and ecologically important trees and their genetic diversity. He holds a joint appointment and is also Group Leader in Applied Molecular Ecology, in the Department of Environmental System Science, ETH Zurich, Switzerland. He leads research programmes across Southeast Asia, Latin America and Africa and the Safeguarding Forest Genetic Resources Cluster of CGIAR's Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry.

Prior to joining Bioversity International, Christopher was a Senior Lecturer at the ETH Zurich, (2007 – present), and supervised ten PhD students mostly on tropical forest genetics. He taught Tropical Rainforest Ecology and led an MSc on Resilience of Ecological Systems. Prior to that he was a Natural Environment Research Council Postdoc at the University of Aberdeen, UK.

SARAH LUKE



BIOSKETCH. I am a postdoc based at the University of Cambridge, UK. I am interested in the effects of habitat change in the tropics on biodiversity and ecosystem functions, and development of possible strategies for conservation. My work so far has been largely based in Southeast Asia, where I have studied the impacts of selective logging and oil palm plantations on insect communities. My current research focuses on strategies for striking a balance between production and conservation in oil palm-dominated landscapes, and involves projects that are testing the value of understory vegetation, riparian buffer strips, and different methods for riparian restoration.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I think that the Society for Tropical Ecology provides an important forum for a wide range of tropical ecologists, including those from multiple countries and different career stages, to meet and discuss ideas. I have attended the European Conference of Tropical Ecology for the last four years and have really enjoyed the mix of talks, and meeting so many other tropical ecologists. I have particularly appreciated the support and encouragement that the conference gives to student members.

With this in mind, I would like to run for election as a Society Advisory Board member to do what I can to help support the continued work of the Society and the running of the annual conferences.

EIKE LENA NEUSCHULZ



BIOSKETCH. Ecologist working on the interactions between plants and animals; PostDoc (2011 - now) at the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre Frankfurt, Germany. PhD (2011) Philipps-Universität Marburg. Research interests: patterns of biodiversity and ecosystem functions across elevational gradients in temperate and tropical systems, experimental community ecology, understanding the mechanisms of ecosystem functioning. Member of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) since 2009. Currently, co-speaker of the scientific advisory board.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I joined the scientific advisory board of the gtö in 2012. I consider increasing the attractiveness of the gtö to young members as a very important issue that should be addressed by the advisory board. I am involved in the communication between the advisory board and the members of gtö, for instance by being the editor of the gtö newsletter.

PABLO OROZCO-TERWENGEL



BIOSKETCH. I graduated with a Bachelor degree with honours from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (graduated in 2003; Bogota, Colombia), having carried out for my final year project the first comprehensive analysis of the genetic variation in Andean Bears across their range from Venezuela to Bolivia. My interest in evolutionary biology, ecology and genetics led me to do a Master in Sciences at the Universiteit van Amsterdam (graduated in 2005; The Netherlands), where I worked on conservation genetics of Madagascan amphibian and reptilians. For my doctoral studies I joined the Veterinärmedizinische Universität in Vienna (graduated in 2011; Austria) where I used *Drosophila*

melanogaster to learn about genomics and how to identify the footprint of adaptive selection to new environments. Following my graduation, I joined Cardiff University as a post-doctoral research in Mike Bruford's lab, and since 2014 I am a lecturer at Cardiff University. My research group focuses on conservation of wildlife and livestock, using a combination of genetics and genomics to unravel demographic and adaptive processes leading to the patterns of genetic variation observed in populations.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I was born in Colombia, one of the countries with highest biodiversity. Since an early age I have been interested in the natural world, and considering the diversity of my country of origin, I've also been interested in finding out ways to conserve that biodiversity. My work has since an early stage focused in understanding how evolutionary processes have shaped the genetic variation of species throughout the tropics, and aimed at using that knowledge to inform management strategies for conservation in the region. Since the appearance of next generation sequences, I have strived to use that

information to further understand genetic processes leading to local adaptation, as these provide insights on how species may be able to deal with some aspects of climate change.

PIA PAROLIN



BIOSKETCH. Tropical Ecologist and botanist, Agronomy Research Institute INRA, France, and Dept. Biodiversity of Plants / Hamburg University, Germany. Habilitation (2002) Max-Planck-Institute for Evolutionary Biology; PhD (1997) INPA-Max-Planck, Manaus, Brazil. Research Interests: Floodplain ecology, plant ecophysiology, primary production, dispersal, regeneration, use of floodplain forests, conservation. Since 2012 Vice-President of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö); earlier Secretary General and Councilor of gtö. Member of Conservation Committee of Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC).

PERSONAL STATEMENT. Since my first field studies as a student in Brazil in 1986, and many years spent in South America, my research expanded from a focus on understanding the ecology of Amazonian floodplain forests to increasingly broader research projects and comparative studies of systems which suffered natural or anthropogenic impacts. I am currently the Vice-President of gtö and active member of the Conservation Committee (CC) of the ATBC. I want to continue my commitment to gtö, but now as a member of the scientific advisory board. My goal is to increase the strength of gtö as a society that serves as networking basis for tropical ecology in Europe, and to increase information flow between ecologists in Europe and other societies of tropical ecology worldwide.

SIMONE PFEIFFER



BIOSKETCH. I hold a doctoral degree in Ecology from the Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena, Germany. As scientific coordinator at the Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use at the Georg-August-University Göttingen I initiate and coordinate interdisciplinary research and teaching projects in the Tropics and Subtropics. Part of my work is the organization of workshops and conferences engaging scientists, alumni, land owners/users, companies, NGOs, and politicians in interdisciplinary communication.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. I joined the GTÖ scientific advisory board in 2015. My main interest was and is the internationalization of the society. One step towards a stronger involvement of scientists from developing countries was the approval of travel grants for DAAD alumni participating in the society conference in Göttingen in 2016. I would like to continue as an active member of the congress committee aiming at stronger involvement of students and researchers worldwide.

MARCO TSCHAPKA

BIOSKETCH. Associate professor at the Institute of Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, University of Ulm, Germany. PhD 1998, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. Research interests comprise

ecology and behavior of bats and arachnids, animal-plant interactions, and the ecological background of emerging diseases. Member of gtö since 1998, Editor of Ecotropica since 2004.



PERSONAL STATEMENT. My first direct contact with the tropics was in 1991 when I started working on the pollination of bromeliads by nectar-feeding bats. Since that time I am fascinated by the multitude of interactions occurring in the Old and New World tropics. Currently I have projects in Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica, Tanzania and Ghana, mostly related to bat ecology. I prefer working in cooperation with colleagues from tropical countries and organized over the last ten years a mutual student exchange program between the Universidad de Costa Rica and the University of Ulm. In the context of the gtö I see my task in contributing to adapting our journal Ecotropica to the current scientific environment.

RE-LAUNCH OF ECOTROPICA

We are happy to announce the re-launch of our journal Ecotropica! Starting from *May 1st, 2018* you can submit your manuscripts under <http://www.ecotropica.eu> for publication in Ecotropica.

Ecotropica is looking for manuscripts on all topics related to tropical ecology. Papers reflect results of original research (articles, short communications) or review important fields in tropical ecology. A new section - Field station profile - provides the opportunity to present up-to-date information on field research sites.

Your Co-Editors

Eckhard W. Heymann & Marco Tschapka

