



## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Annual Conference on the  
<Status and Future of Tropical Biodiversity>  
February 21-24, 2011, Goethe University, Frankfurt  
Please reserve these dates in your agenda.

### Local Organizers

Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch,  
President of the Society for Tropical  
Ecology (gtö)

Prof. Dr. Bruno Streit,  
Goethe University of Frankfurt

Contact conference office:  
[www.gtoe-conference.de/](http://www.gtoe-conference.de/)  
[www.gtoe.de](http://www.gtoe.de)

Frankfurt, June 18, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

In 2011, Goethe University in Frankfurt will host the **Annual Conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology** (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie, **gtö**), focusing on the **Status and Future of Tropical Biodiversity**. The conference will run from February 21 to 24, 2011 in Frankfurt, Germany.

The conference aims to maximize interactions among scientists of all disciplines and backgrounds who are interested in tropical biodiversity.

Accelerating destruction and modification of ecosystems poses an ever increasing threat to highly diverse tropical regions. These mounting threats to tropical biodiversity require conservation managers to make urgent decisions. It is therefore a great challenge in ecological research to document the current status of tropical biodiversity and to predict future scenarios for sustainable management. Comprehensive knowledge in these fields forms the basis for halting biodiversity loss in tropical ecosystems, and for mitigating impacts of global change on the biosphere. The annual conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö), to be held in collaboration with the Goethe University in Frankfurt, will provide an interdisciplinary platform for intensive discussion, particularly on the following topics:

- **Status of tropical biodiversity**
- **Biotic and abiotic interactions in changing ecosystems**
- **Projections and scenarios for the future**

Further topics may follow.

## Call for sessions

The organizing committee encourages all members of gtö and scientists interested in tropical ecology research to organize and chair **sessions for presentations or workshops**.

Proposals for sessions will be accepted **until July 15, 2010**. We welcome proposals addressing the above-mentioned topics as well as all other topics relevant to tropical ecology.

### Proposals should include the following information:

1. A session title
2. The goal of the session (half DIN-A4 page)
3. Names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of chairs (up to two chairs per session)
4. A list of potential speakers and presentation titles

If you would like to chair a session, please send a request by email to: [info@gtoe-conference.de](mailto:info@gtoe-conference.de)

The language of the conference and manuscripts will be English.

## Procedure

For all sessions, researchers and students interested in tropical ecology will be welcome to submit oral and/or poster presentations. Over the following weeks, session themes and chairs will be selected by the scientific committee. The call for presentations will then follow. Speakers will be selected by the session chairs, in collaboration with the scientific committee. Attendees not giving an oral presentation will have the opportunity to present their research in form of a poster presentation. Efforts should be made to be specific and to avoid presenting overviews, summaries, or material that is already widely known. The goal of the conference is to stimulate new ideas by presenting new information.

## Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers at the conference will include: Michael Bruford from Cardiff University, Wales, Konrad Fiedler from the University of Vienna, Austria, Anne Magurran from the University of St Andrews, Scotland, Meike Piepenbring from Frankfurt University, Germany, Miguel Vences from the TU Braunschweig, Germany, and the public talk will be held by Walter Jetz from Yale University (in German).

## More information to follow at a later date

This brief note intends to provide you with the conference date and venue for your planning purposes. More detailed information (including materials concerning the submission of talks and posters, and registration information, etc) will follow in the coming weeks.

We are looking forward to arranging a stimulating conference and hope that you will be able to participate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our conference office at: [info@gtöe-conference.de](mailto:info@gtöe-conference.de). Please refer to the conference website for further information: [www.gtöe-conference.de](http://www.gtöe-conference.de).

We look forward to welcoming you to Frankfurt!  
Please forward this email to interested colleagues/students etc.

With kind regards,



Professor Dr Manfred Niekisch,  
President of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö)

---

## The Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö)

The Society for Tropical Ecology (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie, gtö), founded in 1987, is Europe's largest scientific association in the field of tropical ecology. It aims to enhance the understanding of the biodiversity and function of tropical ecosystems, and to drive decision making and management at all levels. The society also aims to promote the conservation and rehabilitation of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems through research and its application. It is with these missions in mind that gtö, in collaboration with the Goethe University of Frankfurt, has organized its 2011 conference focussing on the status and future of tropical biodiversity.