



Transdisciplinarity in biodiversity research – challenges, pitfalls and perspectives

Dr. Veronika Fuest (Office of Good Scientific Practice, University of Göttingen)

Transdisciplinary cooperation has been demanded in the framework of long-term research funding also in relation to biodiversity research. In the framework of ‘sustainability science’ research has been expected to serve public interests beyond academic interests. Based on a BMBF-funded evaluation study and additional research, findings on the outcomes of a range of completed research projects in Germany and Africa are presented. These cases suggest that programmes, project designs, cooperation between stakeholders, available resources and institutional frameworks have not always matched. Some conclusions and recommendations for future programmes and projects are presented with a view to facilitating effective transdisciplinary engagement.

Veronika Fuest is a social anthropologist and consultant with a research background in West Africa and with experience in a variety of collaborative research projects, with engagements as senior researcher, scientific coordinator and research advisor. Recently her research has focussed on the science sector.

19.05.2015 (Tuesday!)



Andes to Amazon: an entwined geological and biological history

mw. dr. M. Carina Hoorn (Amsterdam Univ., Inst. for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Dynamics)

The geography of northern South America took its modern shape following plate tectonic adjustments that culminated with the formation of the Isthmus of Panama and the rise of the Eastern Cordillera (Andes). In this talk I will discuss the effects that this process had on Amazonia and how biological change followed these geological processes. I will also mention the latest developments, and future research in the region. If time permits we also will discuss analogue systems around the world.

Carina Hoorn is geologist/paleoecologist and researcher at the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED) of the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands). Her main topic of interest is the natural history of the Amazon region and its seaward extension, the Amazon Fan. She is also interested in the relation between mountain uplift, climate, and plant evolution on global scale.

18.06.2015



Dealing with temperature variation: Thermal adaptation in butterflies
Institute & Museum)

Prof. Dr. Klaus Fischer (Greifswald University, Zoological Institute and Museum)

Anthropogenic climate change is considered a major threat to biodiversity, although all organisms possess mechanisms to deal with environmental variation. Due to the concomitant plastic and genetic capacities, predicting the responses of individual species to climate change is challenging. In my talk I will highlight a few issues which may complicate predictions, including effects of heat waves, indirect thermal effects, and the interference between inbreeding and stress resistance.

Klaus Fischer is professor of Animal Ecology at the University of Greifswald and executive director of the Zoological Institute and Museum. He is interested in life-history evolution, in particular thermal adaptation and temperature stress resistance.

16.07.2015



Thursdays @ 11 AM in Wallace (GVS)