

Dr. Yves Basset
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Balboa, Ancon
Panama City
Republic of Panama

Paris, 25 November 2005

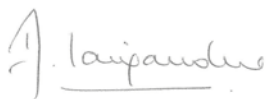
Dear Dr. Basset,

On behalf of the Scientific Committee of DIVERSITAS, I would like to support your proposal entitled IBISCA: Programme 2006-2010: Towards a Census of Rainforest Life. The project will document the extremely rich biodiversity of an under researched habitat, the tropical forest. The interdisciplinary approach which is proposed, consisting in bringing together a number of disciplines within the natural sciences (taxonomists, para taxonomists, ecologists, etc.) is one that is promoted by DIVERSITAS, and, in particular, by its bioDISCOVERY core project.

The IBISCA project will thus not only provide a much needed documentation on the biotic and genetic diversity of this tropical habitat, but also provide insights on some key functional aspects, such as pollination or decomposition processes. It will also provide information needed for the establishment of monitoring schemes for biodiversity, which are currently under discussion and planning at the international level (cf. GEOSS, the Global Environmental Observing System of Systems).

The DIVERSITAS Scientific Committee and the DIVERSITAS community wish you much success with this proposal.

Sincerely,



Anne Larigauderie
Executive Director
DIVERSITAS