**European Conference of Tropical Ecology, Spring 2019**

**“Connecting Tropical Ecology to Secure the Future of Tropical Ecosystems”**

**Call for Potential Host Venue**

Joint meeting of the British Ecological Society Tropical Ecology Group, the Society for Tropical Ecology and the European Group of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation

We are planning to host the European Conference of Tropical Ecology in the UK in April 2019, jointly supported by the British Ecological Society Tropical Ecology Group (BES-TEG), the European Society for Tropical Ecology (GTOE) and the European Group of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC). We are embarking on an open solicitation process to find an appropriate venue

We are inviting potential local organisers and institutions to submit a short (< 2 pages) bid to host the meeting by **Friday 3rd November 2017** (plus a short e-mail confirming intention to submit a bid by **Wednesday 4th October 2017** submitted to **tropical@britishecologicalsociety.org**), with the view that local organisers would work together with a steering committee of representatives from the societies. The local host would be responsible for local logistics and meeting organization (with professional events support from the BES and/or GTOE where needed), and would work with the steering committee on scientific content.

In the last three years the European Conference for Tropical Ecology has been held in Zurich (2015), Göttingen (2016) and Brussels (2017), and in 2018 will be held in Paris. Recent meetings have hosted around 350 delegates from across Europe and beyond, and we would anticipate the UK meeting to attract up to 500 delegates, in particular because of the large tropical forest research community in the UK. In particular, the event provides a natural hub for early career scientists from tropical countries and Europe who focus on tropical ecology. In a time of uncertainty in the UK’s scientific arrangements within Europe, it is an important opportunity to demonstrate the value of pan-European collaboration in tropical ecological and conservation research and activities.

Your bid to be a host venue should include an outline case of why your particular venue would be suitable and we suggest you include the following information:

- Brief description of facilities for attendance of up to 500 delegates (meeting rooms including plenaries and parallel sessions, overnight accommodation possibilities - you should confirm availability of facilities for your proposed dates)

- An indicative overview budget (including likely delegate registration cost). A detailed budget breakdown is not required at this stage.

- Proposal for structure of local organising team

We envisage the meeting will be 3 to 4 days long, including workshops, plenary and parallel sessions and possibly excursions. The scientific themes of the meeting will be determined through open competition for thematic sessions. Thematic proposals from teams representing diversity in terms of gender, country of origin and perhaps ecosystem and discipline will particularly be encouraged.

A key aspect of the meeting will be to strengthen and foster collaborations across Europe and beyond, and create an inclusive environment encouraging diversity amongst delegates. We propose to do this through attracting inspirational, interactive workshops which will be selected through open competition and/or workshops planned by the organising committee.

**Scientific Steering Committee** (to be expanded to include local hosts and early career representatives)

Lindsay Banin, BES-TEG

Pierre-Michel Forget, GTOE

Pia Parolin GTOE

Chris Kettle GTOE

Yadvinder Malhi, ATBC

Emma Sayer, BES

We hope that you are inspired to join us in this exciting event and look forward to hearing from you.