

Poster# 75

Next-Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE)–Tropics Overview

Jeffrey Chambers¹, Deb Agarwal¹, Stuart Davies², Rosie Fisher³, Niro Higuchi⁴, Michael Keller⁵, Charlie Koven¹, Lara Kueppers¹, Ruby Leung⁶, Nate McDowell⁷, Rich Norby⁸, and Alistair Rogers⁹

¹ Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

² Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

³ National Center for Atmospheric Research

⁴ Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (Brasil)

⁵ US Forest Service

⁶ Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

⁷ Los Alamos National Laboratory

⁸ Oak Ridge National Laboratory

⁹ Brookhaven National Laboratory

Contact: Jeffery Chambers [jchambers@lbl.gov]

Tropical forests cycle more CO₂ and water than any other biome, and are critical to Earth's energy balance. Yet processes controlling tropical forest carbon cycling are not well established, and large uncertainties in observational estimates and Earth system model (ESM) projections of net carbon fluxes remain unresolved, contributing significant uncertainty to climate projections. Next Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE)–Tropics is a ten-year, pantropical, collaborative research project aimed at improving Earth system model representation of tropical forest ecosystem responses to global changes. The overarching goal of NGEE–Tropics is to determine how tropical forest carbon balance and climate system feedbacks will respond to changing environmental drivers over the 21st Century.

To accomplish this goal, NGEE–Tropics will develop a transformational, process-rich model framework where the evolution and feedbacks of tropical forests to a changing climate are modeled at the scale of a next generation ESM grid cell. Research in Phase 1 will develop improved understanding and model representation of key tropical forest processes including: responses to changing temperature, precipitation, and atmospheric CO₂; disturbance and land-use change; and heterogeneity in belowground processes. Model development and measurement activities will be integrated at pilot study field sites. A data synthesis and management framework will be developed to build and provide data products via a community portal. Phase 1 will provide a foundation for research on pantropical forest interactions with climate for NGEE–Tropics Phases 2 and 3.