

## *The Inaugural Conference of the Asian Chapter of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation*

In July 2006, an **Asian Chapter** was established for the **Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation** (ATBC) at its annual conference, in Kunming, China. The Association for Tropical Biology (ATB) was founded in 1963 to promote research and to foster the exchange of ideas among biologists working in tropical environments. Today, most tropical biologists recognize that human interactions in the tropics are a critical element of biological research. This recognition now includes efforts to link together scientists concerned with issues of science, conservation, development, and public policy in the tropics, and to enhance our understanding of human-environment interactions. Thus, in 2002, the membership of ATB overwhelmingly voted to expand its mission and changed its name to the **Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation**.

The purpose of the ATBC and its regional chapters is to develop a much needed **network of biologists** working on biology and conservation in the tropics.

Tropical Asian forests are among the most fabulous treasure-houses of biodiversity in the world, but massive deforestation and other types of degradation are severely endangering these ecosystems. The protection of the priceless surviving forests will depend on effective conservation strategies developed through well-coordinated efforts by biologists, policy makers and forest managers.



### Papers are Invited!

The first conference of the Asian chapter of the **ATBC** will to be held at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai (formerly known as Madras), India from 6-8 March 2007.

Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO World Heritage site which hosts nearly 400 monuments, and which features exquisite rock carvings and ancient temples dating back nearly two millennia to the dynasty of the southern-Indian Pallava King, Narasimha Varman.

The conference will be held at the Temple Bay Hotel, which oversees wave-sculpted temples built on the shores of the Indian Ocean. The venue is about 60 km from Chennai International Airport and 100 km from Pondicherry.

This Conference has a **strong conservation focus** with the central theme:

### *'Averting biodiversity meltdown in the Asian tropics'*

Specific themes will be:

- Botanical gardens for Plant Conservation
- The Western Ghats/Sri Lanka Biodiversity hotspot
- Conservation in Human-Dominated Landscapes
- Endangered Ecosystem Services
- Ecosystem and Species Dynamics
- Findings from a network of Ecological Dynamics plots across Asia

***Dr. Peter Ashton will be the chief guest and will deliver the keynote address***

***Dr. William F. Laurance will deliver the valedictory address***

Please send **Abstracts** not exceeding 300 words, with Titles, Speaker names and institution/affiliations to [atbc\\_asia@yahoo.com](mailto:atbc_asia@yahoo.com) and [atbcasia@gmail.com](mailto:atbcasia@gmail.com)

Please send the symposia proposals to [atbc\\_asia@yahoo.com](mailto:atbc_asia@yahoo.com)

### Registration fees

|                      |             | USD | INR  |
|----------------------|-------------|-----|------|
| Developed countries  | ATBC member | 150 | 6900 |
|                      | Non member  | 200 | 9200 |
| Students*            | ATBC member | 50  | 2300 |
|                      | Non member  | 80  | 3680 |
| Developing countries | ATBC member | 100 | 4600 |
|                      | Non member  | 150 | 6900 |
| Students*            | ATBC member | 40  | 1840 |
|                      | Non member  | 60  | 2760 |

Details on the mode of payment and conference accommodation, field trips are given in the registration form, which can be downloaded on the ATBC website ([www.atbio.org](http://www.atbio.org))

### IMPORTANT DATES

1 October 2006: Registration opens  
15 November 2006: Symposia proposals DUE  
15 December 2006: Abstracts for Oral/poster presentations DUE  
31 December 2006: Last day for early registration  
15 January 2007: Notification of acceptance

Completed registration form can be sent the convenor by post or via email to [atbcasia@gmail.com](mailto:atbcasia@gmail.com) Please write "ATBC Asia Registration" in the subject line of an email submission.

### For more information please contact:

Dr. Priya Davidar [pdavidar@gmail.com](mailto:pdavidar@gmail.com)

Ms. K.Geetha Nayak [nayakk@gmail.com](mailto:nayakk@gmail.com)

### **Best abstracts from students for oral/poster presentations will be given financial aid**

\*\*Students MUST provide proof of student status, e.g. copy of their student identification, with the registration form.

**JOIN ATBC TODAY!!** [www.atbio.org](http://www.atbio.org)

## The Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation

### President

Dr. William F. Laurance  
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

### Past President

Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy  
The H. John Heinz III Center for  
Science, Economics & the Environment

### President Elect

Dr. Miguel Martínez Ramos  
Centro de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas, UNAM

### Executive Director

Dr. W. John Kress  
National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian  
Institution

### Editor, Biotropica

Dr. Robin Chazdon

### Editor Tropinet

Dr. Marilyn D. Loveless

### Treasurer

Dr. Margaret Lowman  
New College of Florida

### Secretary

Dr. Elizabeth Losos  
Organization for Tropical Studies

### Councilors

Dr. Frans Bongers  
Dr. Jin Chen  
Dr. Richard Corlett  
Dr. Priya Davidar  
Dr. Kaoru Kitajima  
Dr. Susan J. Mazer  
Dr. Patricia Morellato  
Dr. Marielos Peña-Claro  
Dr. Mauricio Quesada

### Asian Chapter

Dr. Jin Chen, Chairman  
Dr. Rhett Harrison, Secretary  
Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin, Treasurer

## ATBC-ASIA Conference

### Dr. Priya Davidar

Convenor

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr. Renee Borges  
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India  
Dr. Jin Chen  
Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, China  
Dr. Pierre Couteron  
French Institute of Pondicherry, India  
Dr. Gladwin Joseph  
ATREE, Bangalore, India  
Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin  
Environmental Studies Group, CSD, India  
Dr Jayshree Vencatesan  
Care Earth, Chennai

### SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Rhett Harrison, Chair  
Dr. Richard Corlett  
University of Hongkong, China  
Dr. Ranjit Daniels  
Care Earth, Chennai  
Dr. Julie Denslow  
USDA Forest Service, USA  
Dr. C. V. S. Gunatilleke  
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka  
Dr. William Laurance  
STRI, Panama  
President, ATBC

### CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

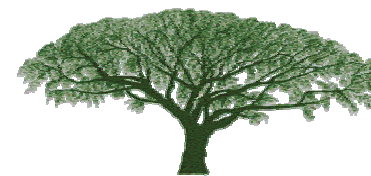
Ms. K. Geetha Nayak, Secretarial Assistant

### Members

Dr. Parthiba Basu  
Mr. Vijay Palavai  
Ms. Aparna Singh

### Co-sponsors

**Wildlife Conservation Society, India**



**The Association  
for Tropical  
Biology and  
Conservation**

## Asian Chapter Conference

*"Averting Biodiversity Meltdown in the  
Asian Tropics"*

sponsored by



**French Institute of Pondicherry India**

**March 6-8<sup>th</sup> 2007**

GRT Temple Bay Hotel  
Mahabalipuram  
Tamilnadu, India

### Contact Details

### Dr. Priya Davidar

Convenor-ATBC Asia Conference  
Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Sciences  
Pondicherry University  
Kalapet, Pondicherry-605014  
India

Email: [pdavidar@gmail.com](mailto:pdavidar@gmail.com)

Telephone: +91-413-2654322/2353759

Fax: +91-413-2339534