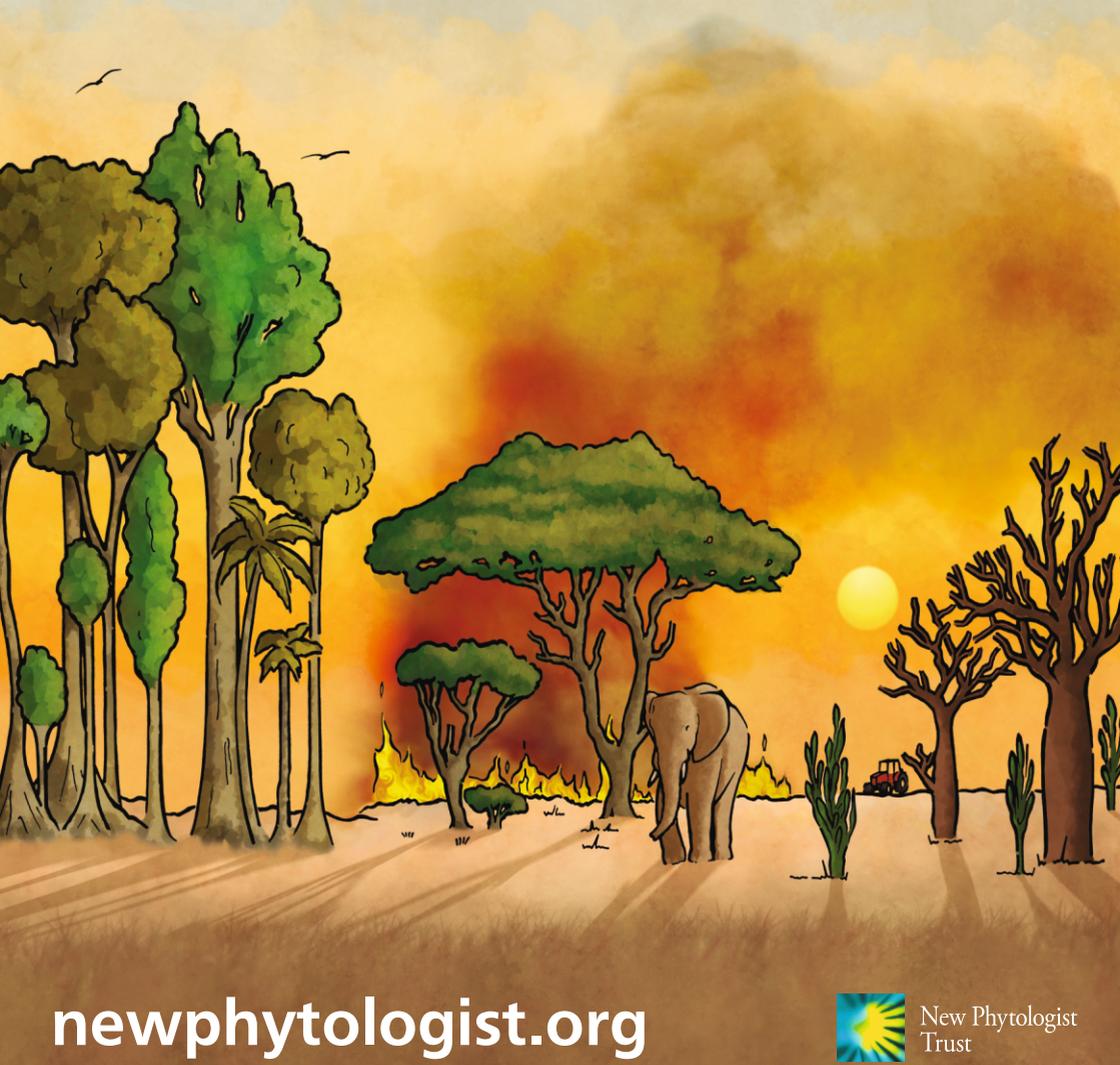


44th New Phytologist Symposium

Determinants of tropical vegetation structure and function

Accra, Ghana | 7–9 August 2019



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Scope

Vast areas of the tropics lie within climates that have the potential to support either savanna or forest. Within this climate envelope, the extent to which vegetation is controlled by soils, fire, and climate has been strongly debated in the literature, but to date there has not been any forum dedicated to what seem to be widely contrasting views.

It is unfortunate that these divergent interpretations have not been reconciled because future trajectories of vegetation change will depend on which of these factors most strongly regulate vegetation. If soils are a predominant factor, vegetation may be resilient to environmental forcings; if water deficit is predominant, woody cover may increase due to increasing water-use efficiency; if fire is predominant, changes may be largely unpredictable and will depend on strengths of vegetation–fire feedbacks and changing anthropogenic ignitions.

By bringing together researchers from across the tropical regions and beyond, we hope the meeting will not only provide new ‘pan-tropical insights’ but also foster future international collaborations amongst plant scientists and ecologists with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise but a single over-arching interest.

Format

The symposium will take place over three days at the Swiss Spirit Hotel and Suites Alisa, Accra, Ghana. The symposium will be organised into sessions by research topics and there will be dedicated time for discussions, posters, selected poster talks and field trips.

Confirmed speakers

- Sally Archibald** University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Michael Bird James Cook University, Australia
Domingos Cardoso Federal University of Bahia, Brazil
Kelly Caylor University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
Darren Crayn Australian Tropical Herbarium, James Cook University, Australia
Giselda Durigan São Paulo Forestry Institute, Brazil
Sandy Harrison University of Reading, UK
William Hoffmann North Carolina State University, USA
Jon Lloyd Imperial College, London, UK
Vincent Logah Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana
Anthony Mills University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
Han Olff University of Groningen, the Netherlands
Imma Oliveras University of Oxford, UK
Benjamin Quesada Universidad del Rosario, Colombia
Carlos Alberto Quesada Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Brazil
Jayashree Ratnam Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India
Carla Staver Yale University, USA
Elmar Veenendaal Wageningen University, the Netherlands

Organising committee

- Jon Lloyd** Imperial College, London, UK
William Hoffmann North Carolina State University, USA
Vincent Logah Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

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The New Phytologist Trust is a non-profit-making organisation dedicated to the promotion of plant science.

Complete details and registration at

newphytologist.org