



# Structure, dynamics, and biodiversity of secondary forest vegetation in wet tropical forests of Costa Rica

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**Date:** 19 Sept 2005, Monday  
**Time:** 3 - 4 pm  
**Venue:** DBS Conference Room  
**Host:** A/P Sodhi N

## About the Talk

In many tropical areas, secondary forests are increasing in areas while old-growth forests diminish. Detailed studies of tree and seedling dynamics in four young second-growth forests over eight years have revealed large changes in population sizes with conservative change in species richness and species composition. Successional changes in tree density, size distribution, and basal area are driven by high mortality of shade-intolerant species, recruitment of shade-tolerant species and growth forms, and decreasing diameter growth rates.

## About the speaker

Robin Chazdon is a professor at the University of Connecticut whose interests include the ecophysiology and conservation of tropical forests. She has worked in Costa Rica for nearly 30 years, studying the forests at the La Selva field station. Currently her research focuses on the dynamics of secondary forests, with a view to their regrowth and restoration. She has served on editorial boards of several journals and is currently the Managing Editor of BIOTROPICA, the Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation. She has published over 50 scientific peer-reviewed papers and edited two books. She was recognized for her work in 2003, when she received the President's Medal from the British Ecological Society, awarded for "high achievement in the field of ecology".

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