

THE CAIRNS DECLARATION

on

Forest Canopy Research

1st July 2002

The participants in the Forest Canopy Workshop held at Bloomfield Lodge, Cape Tribulation National Park 29th June – 2nd July 2002 comprising researchers, learned advisors and members of the Global Canopy Programme Steering Committee from leading academic institutions, representing the world's foremost scientists engaged in the pioneering field of forest canopy research do this day solemnly make this declaration:

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RECOGNISING the forest canopy is the interface between the biosphere and the atmosphere, is the home to the majority of all terrestrial biodiversity and is one of the least studied habitats on earth,

RECALLING that the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Workplan on Forests, calls on Governments to protect 'endangered habitats including forest canopies' and also to investigate 'the interface between forest components and the atmosphere,'

BELIEVING that forest canopies play a critical role in maintenance of the water balance of the earth; sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere; are a storehouse of genetic resources, and provide environmental services critical to the sustainability of the planet for humankind,

NOTING the findings of the 3rd International Canopy Conference in Cairns, Australia, June 2002, a gathering of 250 of the world's leading scientists studying forest canopies, which highlighted the urgent need to investigate the role of the forest canopy in the maintenance of local and global environmental conditions,

BELIEVING that the major investments canopy access sites available in Central and South America, Asia, Australasia, North America and Europe, now make a global integrated effort to investigate the whole forest ecosystem, from the canopy to the soil, a possibility for the first time,

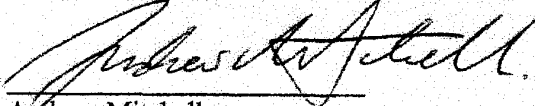
We the undersigned, therefore;

1. **CALL** for the establishment and implementation of the Global Canopy Programme whose objectives are to:
 - 1.1 Undertake critical research to investigate the role of canopy biodiversity in the maintenance of environmental services that forests provide,
 - 1.2 Investigate the impacts of global change and other human disturbance on the interface between forests and the atmosphere,
 - 1.3 Develop new ways of contributing to poverty alleviation by enabling local communities to benefit from access to forest canopy products and services,
 - 1.4 Communicate research results to key stakeholders including policy makers, educators, businesses, and local communities.
2. **OFFER**, through the Global Canopy Programme alliance:
 - 2.1 The world's most comprehensive network of intensive forest canopy access sites, representing significant national and international investments in new technologies to access the whole forest ecosystem;
 - 2.2 A global alliance of individuals and institutions willing and able to collaborate;
 - 2.3 A major programme of prepared high quality research projects;
 - 2.4 An international data-base and communications network designed to receive and communicate results,

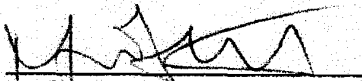
3. **CALL** on Governments to implement their obligations in the Convention on Biological Diversity Workplan on Forests by offering support and encouragement to the Global Canopy Programme,
4. **CALL** on funding agencies and the donor community to offer financial assistance to implement the Global Canopy Programme,
5. **INVITE** scientific institutions to join the Global Canopy Programme to conduct research within its framework.

SIGNED this day 1st July 2002, at Bloomfield Lodge, Cape Tribulation National Park, Australia.

Global Canopy Programme Steering Committee



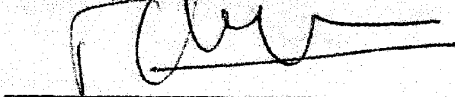
Andrew Mitchell
Director, Global Canopy Programme



Professor Nigel Stork,
Director, Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre



Professor Dieter Anhuf,
University of São Paulo, Brasil



Dr Pierre Charles Dominique,
CNRS and Museum of Natural History, France



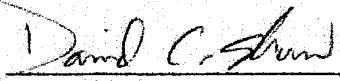
Professor Roger Kitching,
Griffith University, Australia

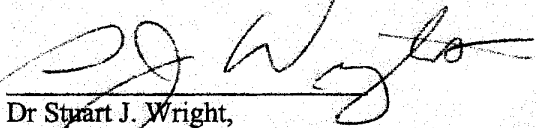


Dr Tohru Nakashizuka,
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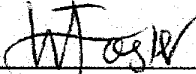


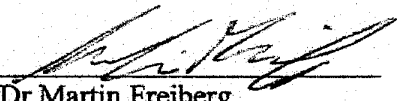
Dr Geoffrey Parker,
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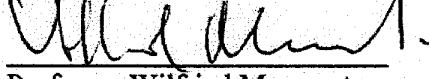

Dr David Shaw,
University of Washington, USA

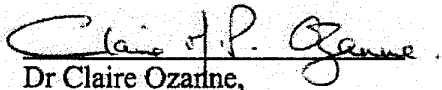

Dr Stuart J. Wright,
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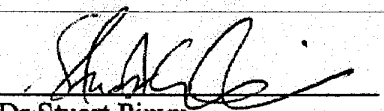
Learned Advisors

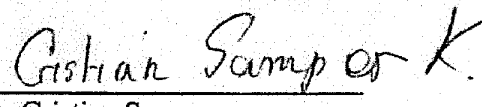

Dr William Foster,
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