

Puerto Rico

The island of Puerto Rico, (8900 Km. 2) offers visitors the natural beauty and its Caribbean multicultural heritage. Puerto Rico offers diversity in tropical ecosystem (coastal beaches, coral reefs, mangroves, rainforest). San Juan, capital city, it is recognized for its ancient colonial architecture. The University of Puerto Rico, located in this city, it is also characterized for its tropical vegetation and colonial architecture which interfaces with the modernism that exist today.

(<http://www.puertorico.com>)

University of Puerto Rico Río Piedras Campus

The UPR-Río Piedras, oldest of the university system was founded in 1903. (<http://www.uprrp.edu>). Its enrollment is made of approx. 22,000 students of which 4,000 are graduate students. The University grant degrees in areas such as: Architecture, Communication, Humanities, Education, Law, Natural Sciences, Planification and Social Sciences.

Graduate Program of Biology

The Department of Biology offers graduate studies on Science professor (MS) and Doctorate Philosophy (Ph.D.). The areas of specialization includes: Cellular and Molecular Biology, Development and Genetic; Immunoparasitology and Microbiology, Ecology and Biology of Population, Evolution and Systematic.



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CATEC

Center for Applied Tropical
Ecology and Conservation



University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus



Founded by
National Science Foundation and the
University of Puerto Rico

Mission

CATEC an operative catalyst in the development of Education and Research in ecology at the University of Puerto Rico. Our mission is to provide trainings to undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students; carry out researches in ecology, environmental and biology conservation; improve the infrastructure of research facilities, and contribute with data relevant to public politics and conservation of natural resources on the Island.

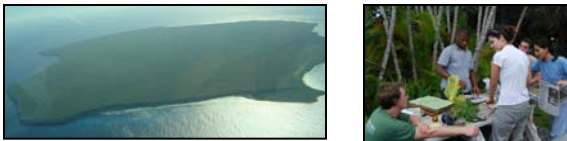


Objectives

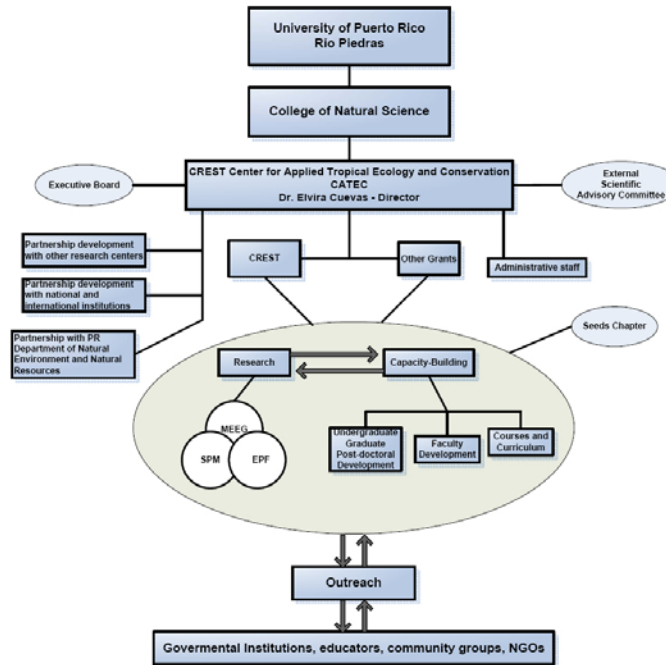
The center helps to consolidate the position of the UPR-RP as leader of the Hispanic scientific community and to increase the number of Hispanic students and professionals ready to perform research work, teaching and administration.

It focuses on the impact of climate change and climate instability in the fauna, flora and the Caribbean ecosystem.

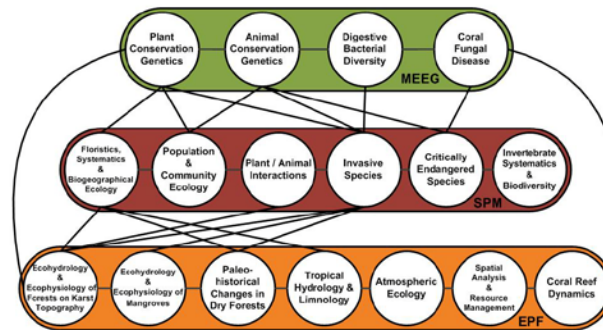
Studies how climate change (past and present) influences biodiversity and ecosystems functions in the Caribbean. In addition, the threat of endangered native species of ecological importance.



Center Organization Chart



Projects Organizational Chart



Research Area

Molecular Ecology, Evolution and Genetic

The area of Molecular Ecology, Evolution and Genetics (MEEG) covers topics on conservation using molecular to understand phylogenetic, the distribution of genetic diversity and species interactions in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.



Species Management and Population:

The area of Species Management and Population (SPM) is centered in the interaction between exotic and native species, and the patterns of diversification and distribution of endangered species and economical importance.



Ecosystem Process and Function:

The area of Ecosystem, Process and Function (EPF) fumbles the question on how terrestrial and aquatic species respond to the instability of climate; by researching the last 6 thousand years and historical and current use on ecosystem structure and ecohydrology of the region in ecosystem functioning.



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