



FIRE: Recovery and Resilience

Wildfires bringing destruction and devastation, burning rainforests and out of control conflagrations—the issue of fire in our natural environment has reached prominence in the public arena.

Less well known are the important roles researchers and our museums play once the smoke has cleared and the flames have died down. Our speakers are involved in exciting collaborations, helping determine the immediate and longer-term impacts of fires on ecosystems, and their ability to recover against the pressures of a changing climate.

We also consider cultural burning practices and benefits of fire on landscape resilience.



PROGRAM

Opening



[Barry Hunter](#), Project Manager, Djabugay Aboriginal Corporations. Barry will talk on cultural land management and burning practices, and the benefits of fire on ecosystem resilience.

Session 1 Rainforests under threat



[Steve Paton](#), Director of Physical Monitoring, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). Steve will present an overview of STRI's programs and capabilities to monitor the threats of climate change in tropical environments.



[Melinda Laidlaw](#), Principal Conservation Officer, Threatened Species Operations, Department of Environment and Science. Melinda will discuss Australia's ancient Gondwanan cloud forests, which have long been considered resistant to all but the worst bushfires due to their ever-moist microclimates. Long-term studies of

ecosystem change and bushfire recovery, along with updated climate change projections suggest that the capacity for these forests to exclude fire under future climate change is at risk.

Session 2 Monitoring ecosystems resilience



[Alan Tepley](#), a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI). Alan's research focuses on fire and other disturbances, with particular emphasis on the responses and ecological feedbacks to altered disturbance regimes in the context of global change.



[Michael Rix](#), Principal Curator of Arachnology, Queensland Museum. Michael will discuss the impacts of fire on ecologically specialised and rainforest-dependent spiders, and how museum collections and habitat-based modelling approaches can help inform post-fire assessments of threatened invertebrates

Panel Q&A



This your chance to pose questions to our speakers, with the session moderated by [Pamela Hudson Veenbaas](#), Program Manager of the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships.

This event is part of a series to commemorate 20 years of the [Queensland – Smithsonian Fellowships](#).

For more information about this event, please contact us: qldscience@qld.gov.au