

Regulations for the use of the Paracou Tropical Forest Research Station, French Guiana

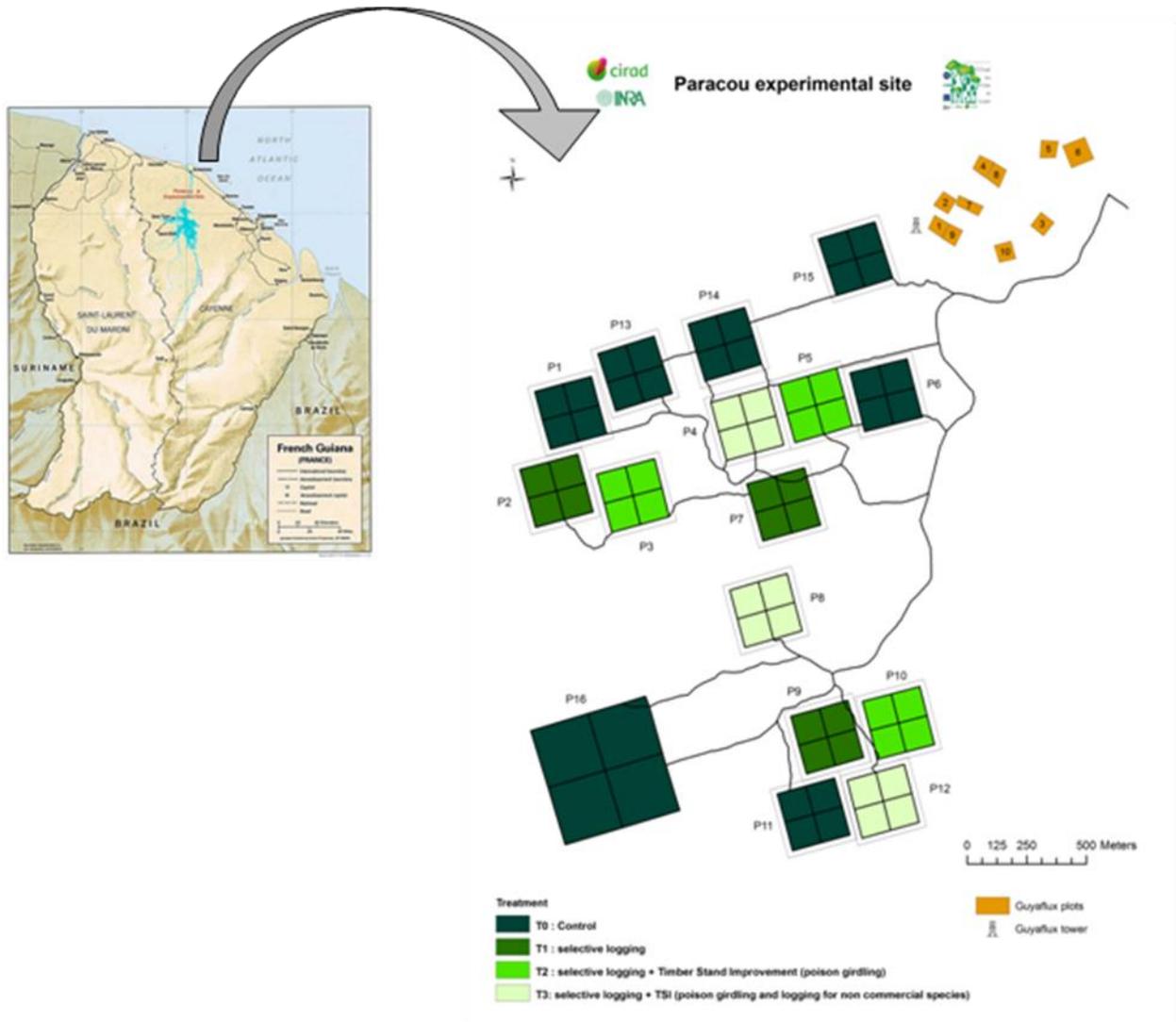


Département Environnements & Sociétés du CIRAD

Site Description

The Paracou Research Station encompasses 5000 ha of tropical rain forest near Sinnamary, French Guiana, and is accessible by paved road. The site includes several types of forest plots, each with unique research objectives.

- **Logging Plots:** Fifteen nine-hectare plots (1 to 15) were established in 1984 to study the impact of different logging treatments on tropical tree population structure. This zone is reserved exclusively for studies investigating the impact of the different logging treatments on forest populations.
- **Primary Forest Plot:** A 25 hectare plot (no. 16) was established in 1991 for studies of undisturbed forest. Researchers whose interests are unrelated to the effects of logging treatments are encouraged to conduct their work in this plot.
- **Clearcut Plot:** a 6.25 ha plot (no. 17) was established in 1989 at a nearby reserve along the road to St. Elie to study the effects of clearcutting on tropical forest dynamics.



Submission of Research Proposals

All new research projects are required to be submitted to CIRAD, the research organization that manages the forest.

Project descriptions must be received at least one month prior to the initiation of any research protocol. Interested parties should use a format similar to that illustrated in Appendix One.

Permission to conduct research at the station will be granted from CIRAD.

Specifically, the proposed research must clearly define the need to use the specified zone of the reserve. In the established plots, the existence of a database on tree identity and position is available. Investigators proposing to conduct research in these plots must indicate why the use of this database is

essential to the objectives of the project; moreover, the proposal must indicate if and how the proposed research will address the effect of the logging treatments in these plots.

Guidelines for the use of the site

1. New projects must not interfere with research in progress.
2. All destructive manipulations are forbidden in the established plots (1-17), and in a 100m zone around the perimeter of these plots. Included in this definition are the sampling of individuals or tissue, the cutting of trees, and the removal of vegetation, litter, or soil.
3. The use of climbing spikes for canopy access is prohibited in the established plots (1-17).
4. All tagging of plants or animals, and all sampling techniques (including removal or translocation of seeds, seedlings, or tissue), must be clearly defined in the research description to be approved. The position and identification of all marks and tags must be indicated, and all material must be removed from the site upon completion of the study. The maintenance of any field material in the absence of the investigator must be approved by CIRAD. If any material is left in place without indication or permission, it will be removed by CIRAD, and the cost of removal will be billed to the person responsible.
5. All sampling of animal tissue or individuals using firearms or other means is prohibited within the established plots.
6. All sampling of plant tissue using firearms is prohibited within the established plots. Exceptions will be granted, with written permission, if the sampling design will clearly aid in the botanical determination of individuals in the database.
7. The introduction of foreign species or genotypes to the reserve is prohibited. Exceptions will be granted for temporary projects, with written permission from Cirad.

All researchers whose projects are granted approval must agree to the following:

- To provide the local site manager with a written description of areas to be used in the project, including maps illustrating locations of plots or transects and detailed descriptions of any field markings.
- To provide the local site manager with written updates regarding the status of the project.
- To provide upon completion of a project the references and locations of any samples collected during the study.
- To provide within three months of departure a report detailing the activities at the site.
- To acknowledge in all publications resulting from work conducted at the site "Paracou reserve, managed by CIRAD. To provide three copies of these publications to the Silvolab library.
- To present during each field mission to French Guiana a seminar on the work being conducted at the site, and its context in the researcher's home laboratory.

Description of Site Facilities

- A register detailing all research in progress at the site, as well as studies previously completed, is available both in the office of CIRAD in Kourou and in the site manager's office at Paracou. Included in each entry are a project description, maps illustrating the location of any plots or transects, and descriptions of any markings in the field.
- For the established plots (1-16), a database exists for the positions, species identity, and diameter of all trees. In addition, the database contains detailed information of tree regeneration in subplots. Use of the database is possible only with permission from Cirad and upon presentation of justification of its use in the project.
- Field assistants, with expertise in the identification of local fauna and flora, as well as experimental material construction, are available for hire at the site.
- Accommodation on-site is available in open-air shelters (carbets). Living facilities including cold water showers, lighting, and 220V solar electricity are available. Kitchen facilities include a gas stove and a gas refrigerator. Lodging fees are indicated in Appendix Three.

Appendix 1

Format for Research Proposals

Send one copy to the following addresses:

Bruno HERAULT (bruno.herault@ecofog.gf) AND Aurélie DOURDAIN (aurelie.dourdain@cirad.fr) CIRAD
BP 701, 97387 Kourou Cedex FRANCE

Name, Organization, and Address of Principal Investigators

Title

Research Objectives

Summary of Methods

Location of Study Areas (attach a map)

Duration of Study

Field Materials to be Used

Samples to be Collected

Detailed Methodology

Indicate clearly the protocol to be applied to achieve each research objective.

Date:

Name :

Signature:

Appendix 2

Conditions of use for the Paracou Research Station

We recommend that reservations are to be made in advance. Please contact Bruno HERAULT (bruno.herault@ecofog.gf) AND Aurélie DOURDAIN (Aurelie.Dourdain@ecofog.gf) for reservations.

Before coming to Paracou Research Station, you must contact Aurélie Dourdain (Aurelie.Dourdain@ecofog.gf phone : 05 94 32 92 73), who will explain the security rules.

We ask all users to respect the following :

1. Non -regular users (even if with regular users) must sign the « Charte of Paracou » and must understand the security rules.
2. Regular user who don't have a key to enter the station, must ask to Aurélie Dourdain, and return them at the end of the mission.
3. Before departure, regular users must fill in the electronic calendar with dates and objectives of study.
4. When arriving and leaving Paracou, all users must fill in the visitor book (*located in the main carbet, called "kitchen carbet"*), the following information: *names of ALL users, visited plots, hours of departure and specify any specific problems.*
5. If the user is the last one to leave the station, he must close the gate.
6. Visitors must be in a group at least 3 people when in the field.
7. The possession and use of guns on site is strictly forbidden.
8. The users will have access to a box containing a satellite phone and a first aid kit. Important numbers to call in case of emergency are indicated. This is located in the house of **Lindon Yansen**.
9. Of utmost importance: if you have already suffered from allergic reactions of any sort, you must inform Aurélie Dourdain on arrival.
10. A reminder: security on site is under the direction of **Mr Jean-Marc Thévenin**, but is a responsibility of all.

Appendix 3

Accommodation Rates for Paracou Research Station

In order to maintain the living facilities (solar panels), researchers in residence are requested to contribute based on the following rates.

Price : 10€ / people / night

Expenses are to be paid by check payable to CIRAD or by cash. Payment can be made to Karine Moreau, Cirad, Campus Agronomique de Kourou, BP 701, 97 387 Kourou.

Phone : 05 94 32 92 73