

## Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center

**Contact: Francisco Dallmeier (dallmeierf@si.edu)**

The Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center houses one of the world's most extensive programs of conservation biology research. Scientific expertise onsite include a broad array of subjects such as ecology and biodiversity monitoring, geographic information systems, genetic diversity and systematics, endangered species science, and reproduction and animal health. The objective of our research programs is to develop long-term, collaborative conservation initiatives that utilize the diverse array of scientific, cultural, and political tools to understand and protect species and their ecosystems. Our Conservation and Research Center Program scientists are also dedicated to promoting international training in conservation leadership.

The site is a 3,200-acre facility located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Front Royal, Virginia. Within CRC there are 2,360 acres of forests and old fields designated in the landuse plan as a 'Natural Studies Area' with experimentation permitted and encouraged. We have mature and early successional forest ages, and riparian and oak forest types. There are three perennial streams within this area, with multiple seasonal streams.

A portion of the property is contiguous with the northern boundary of Shenandoah National Park. The Appalachian Trail runs along the southern boundary of the property. The complex is marked and fenced to prevent trespassers and is closed to the public. A maintained system of road and trails makes all sections of the property accessible.



The facilities and laboratories of the Conservation and Research Center Program are as diverse as its programs. Research facilities include a GIS lab, endocrine and gamete labs, veterinary clinic, radio tracking lab, 14 field stations, and biodiversity monitoring plots, as well as a conference center, dormitories, and education offices. A proposal for a \$15 million educational facility with George Mason will also add to the laboratory and housing facilities onsite. Finally we have a close partnership with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, an ideal location along the Chesapeake Bay for domain two.

