



Case Study: Ecolab

The Ecosystems Lab (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford), uses Skye Instruments Automatic Weather Stations to monitor the weather at several tropical sites where they study the ecological dynamics of tropical vegetation. They have MiniMet stations installed in Brazil, Peru, Ghana, Gabon, among others.

The latest purchase was installed in the Conservation Unit Serra das Araras. This Conservation Unit contains vegetation from the three major Brazilian biomes: Pantanal (wetlands), Amazon, and Cerrado. Brazilian and UK researchers are monitoring the responses of vegetation to climate change, and for that they need detailed long-term information of the climate variables, such as temperature, relative humidity and rainfall. Ecological



responses to climate variability are very sensitive of the local weather conditions, and therefore local information is needed. The reliability of MiniMet and their autonomy with mini solar panels make them the perfect tool to be set up in remote areas without access to power like Serra das Araras.

Research outcomes associated to the use of MiniMet by the EcosystemsLab provide shifts in the carbon cycle of tropical vegetation due to the increase in mean annual temperatures and rainfall seasonality throughout the tropics.

More information about the work carried out by the Environmental Change Institute can be found on their website here:

<http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/ecosystems/ecolab/>



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