

SHORT-TERM VISIT SUMMARY REPORT

Conservation in context: combining biogeography and species traits to mechanistically model population spread under climate change

June 9-11, 2014

During our short term visit, our group focused on how to best predict species responses to changes in climate. To address this urgent conservation concern on the interface of ecology and mathematics, our group thoroughly reviewed the cutting edge literature of both dispersal biology and species distribution modeling. We found that while these two fields have much to offer one another, they only rarely overlap. Our group developed a new framework to model species spread and to project species distribution in future climates. We suggest that by utilizing the most informative aspects of each field, we can better understand current species distributions, and in turn better project future species distributions.