



# Organization for Tropical Studies

Dear Friend,

Recently, the La Selva Research Station was impacted by a “micro tornado.” Towers, bridges, and trails were damaged. Many of you generously donated to help us recover from that natural event. The forest was also impacted on that day, but it was not damaged – it was changed. The downed trees will allow for new growth and create new habitats. The forest will weather this storm as it has many others.

The La Selva rain forest is an apt metaphor for the current state of OTS. While the organization has been buffeted by strong winds, we will weather the storm. There have been many changes, but like the forest, out of these changes will come new opportunities.

As in nature, OTS’ re-growth will take time. **During this process, we need you more than ever.** We need you to conduct your research, visit our stations, and encourage participation in OTS educational programs. We need your voice and continued involvement.

We also greatly need your financial support. The changes OTS has experienced have impacted our revenue and drained our resources. As Chair of the OTS Board of Directors I am confident in the long-term strength of the organization, but I am concerned about the next few months.

**I am asking each of you to consider making a gift today to help us recover.** Donations can be made by returning the enclosed reply card or by visiting <https://tropicalstudies.org/give/>. Your support is critical for sustaining the organization and is an investment in OTS’ future. We need funding to recruit undergraduate students and to finish repairs to the field stations, but most of all to maintain operations.

A forest is resilient because of the interconnections between plants, animals, soil, and the atmosphere. OTS is resilient because of the interconnections among all of us and without you we cannot remain strong. Your gift of \$50, \$100, or \$1,000 will immediately make a tremendous difference. Thank you for your support and I look forward to sharing with you the new growth both at Le Selva and at OTS!

With my best wishes,

W. John Kress  
Chair, OTS Board of Directors  
Distinguished Scientist, Smithsonian Institution

A photograph of a forest path. A large, light-colored tree trunk lies horizontally across the path, partially obscured by dense green foliage and ferns. In the foreground, a dark wooden sign with yellow text and a yellow arrow pointing to the right is mounted on a metal post. The background shows a dense forest of tall, thin trees under a bright sky.

RECEPCION



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