

DT600 Aids Rainforest Research

Datataker data loggers have been put to the test in one of the most demanding environments – the Pacific Cloud Forest in Colombia. Dr Mark Mulligan of The Department of Geography, King's College London, has specified three *DT600* loggers to investigate the Hydrology, Ecology and regional Biodiversity of the area – with the aim of assessing the potential impact of deforestation.

In conditions of extreme humidity, the data loggers are providing a reliable and durable means of recording meteorological data for an environmental programme called HERB project. With support from the Colombian Ministry of Environment, the project is currently investigating a means for rapid assessment of the sensitivity of tropical mountainous areas to land use and climatic change. The insight gained, through the logged data, is expected to assist in the delineation of conservation areas.

The data loggers' ability to be remotely programmed is a major advantage for the college, especially as the humidity of the region prevents the use of sensitive equipment such as computers for downloading data. The *DT600s* are also available with watertight enclosures and feature an internal battery making them ideal for data logging in remote areas of the rain forest.

As the *DT600s* can be configured with a variety of sensors, Dr Mulligan is able to record a wide range of meteorological parameters – such as rainfall, temperature, sunlight and UV radiation.

The amount of water that runs off the surface of the soil, causing erosion, is recorded – as well as specific data on river flow. A major factor in the assessment of the rain forest's hydrology will be the data acquired on the amount of cloud intercepted by vegetation, as it reaches ground level. By using the *DT600s*, the college will be able to establish exactly how much additional water is produced through this source.

According to Dr Mulligan, the HERB Project aims to establish a relationship between these environmental factors and the distribution of biodiversity. Ultimately, the college aims to understand where the most species will be located in large virgin areas of the forest.

Commenting upon the *dataTaker* data loggers' performance, Dr Mulligan said: "I am very impressed with the way the data loggers have stood up to extreme conditions. The data will be a major breakthrough, as there is very little information on the environment in these areas."

[If you need more detail on this application please contact joyce.reid@datataker.com.au](mailto:joyce.reid@datataker.com.au)

**Datataker Pty Ltd - 7 Seismic Court Rowville Victoria 3178 Australia
Tel: 03 9764 8600 +61 3 9764 8600 Fax: 03 9764 8997 +61 3 9764 8997
E-mail: sales@datataker.com.au Web: www.datataker.com**