



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

STRI Code of Conduct

The purpose of this document is to assure visitor safety and security and to promote cordial, respectful interactions between STRI visitors and the local communities in Panama where STRI facilities are based and where our science is conducted.

All STRI staff and visitors are ambassadors, in that each of us represents the Smithsonian, our home institution or university, and the country we are from. Our comportment at all times and locations must be considered in this light. Through our century-long presence in Panama, STRI has established good relationships with the people and government of our host country, and it is essential that we maintain this relationship. STRI operates as a guest of Panama, and common sense dictates that we behave in a courteous manner at all times.

Accordingly, all STRI visitors are expected to conduct themselves as mature and law-abiding members of both STRI and the general community. Behavior or actions that jeopardize the health or safety of the STRI community, or disrupt the research/educational activities and supporting services of the Institute, are subject to review and possible disciplinary action in accordance with STRI procedures and practices, and Panamanian authorities will fully enforce all applicable laws.

STRI staff and visitors are expected to take no actions that impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, process, or function of STRI or any of its visitors, staff members, or the local communities that we interact with. Such actions, include, but are not limited to:

- public intoxication or illegal drug use
- communication that is abusive, offensive, defamatory, threatening, coercive or intimidating
- sexual, racial, or personal harassment, including bullying and discrimination, or disrespect directed at Smithsonian employees, contractors, visitors, and other supervisory authorities
- disrespect to local authorities or members of the community
- loud and disruptive parties at STRI facilities and their surroundings, including events or locations that involve large numbers of the STRI community even if they are not officially-sanctioned by STRI

Disciplinary actions:

STRI visitors and their staff sponsors/advisors each have responsibility to maintain these standards and expectations. STRI visitors who fail to adhere to the established code of conduct may be subject to disciplinary action, including written notification of their home institution or university. It is expected that the STRI Sponsor/Advisor will handle most inappropriate behaviors at the time of the disruption; however, some situations may require STRI disciplinary action, and/or immediate emergency response or intervention.

It is a privilege to be a STRI Scientific Visitor. Severe offenses will result in visitors being directed to leave STRI premises and lose any affiliation or privileges that may exist between them and STRI.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew C. Larsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Matthew C. Larsen, PhD
Director
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute