

Canal Zone Biological Area

1922-1947

The Canal Zone Biological Area (CZBA) was a research facility on Barro Colorado Island in Panama that studied tropical biology and the flora and fauna of tropical America. The CZBA was originally established by Congress in 1923 as the Barro Colorado Island Laboratory and was created to administer Barro Colorado Island in Gatun Lake, Panama and other tropical areas which may be designated as permanent primeval sites for biological and other research. Board members came from the National Academy of Sciences, Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Secretaries of War, Interior, and Agriculture, Harvard University, and the U.S. National Museum. In 1946, administration was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution and renamed the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI).

The collection is about 1.5 linear feet. The Smithsonian's collection on the Canal Zone Biological Area can be [found here](#).

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ADMINISTRATION

INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATIONS INDIVIDUALS

- Institute for Research in Tropical America: Barro Colorado Biological Laboratory: 1940
 - Beginning of Program: 1922-1923
 - Biological Laboratory
 - Annual Reports: 1925-1939
 - Designation as Federal Reserve: Proposed: 1939
 - Requests for Support: 1925-1929
 - General: 1923-1939

DIVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NRC)

BIOLOGY & AGRICULTURE

- Committee on Barro Colorado Biological Laboratory (Canal Zone): 1938-1939

GOVERNMENT

AGENCIES & DEPARTMENTS

- Canal Zone Biological Area (CZBA)
 - Annual Reports: 1940-1945
 - Congressional Appropriations: 1940-1942
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 - Directors
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 - Office of Scientific Research & Development (OSRD) Tropical Deterioration Studies: 1944-1946
 - Tropical Biology Information for War Department: 1942-1944

- Request for Funds: Tropical Plant Research Foundation: 1942-1943
 - Resident Manager: 1940-1945
 - Table Subscriptions: 1941-1945
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- Smithsonian Institution: Canal Zone Biological Area: 1947

CONGRESS

- Committees
 - Appropriations: Subcommittee on Independent Offices: Hearings: Canal Zone Biological Area: 1940-1941
 - Merchant Marine & Fisheries: Hearings: Creation of Canal Zone Biological Area: 1940