

SEMINAR

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Hosted by Assoc Prof Roman Carrasco

Conservation Policy and Planning in Complex Globally Connected Landscapes

By Jonathan Rhodes

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About the Speaker

Jonathan's research aims to identifying policy and planning solutions to global, regional, and national biodiversity conservation and sustainability challenges. He tackles these problems using spatial models and decision/policy analysis and draws on expertise in ecology, mathematics, economics, and the social sciences. Jonathan is particularly interested in research that informs real decision making to achieve environmental, social, and economic outcomes and has impact. His work has made major contributions to our understanding of the effect of landscape change and climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services and the policy responses required, including protected area planning, incentives for private land conservation, and biodiversity offsets.

Many of us live in dynamic spatially-complex landscapes where environmental outcomes arise from interactions between people and the environment. These interactions drive patterns of land-use change, the distribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and ultimately the effectiveness of policy and planning interventions. Landscape-scale environmental and social outcomes are also driven by global-scale processes such as international trade and global policy coordination. In this seminar I will discuss our work on better understanding how the complex spatial structure and dynamics of landscapes drive biodiversity and ecosystem service outcomes and policy effectiveness. I will also discuss the importance of considering these landscapes within a globally connected world and the need for a more holistic multi-scaled approach to conservation and environmental policy evaluation.