



Live session at the IUFRO World Day (Talk)

Economics of biodiversity and protected area - What lies ahead?

*Division 9 - Economics of Biodiversity and Protected Areas -
Unit 9.04.05*

29 September 2021, 09:15 - 10:00 UTC

📍 Perth, Australia (on the IUFRO World Day Map)

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ABSTRACT

IUFRO has established a new unit in 2020 on Economics of Biodiversity and Protected Areas under Division 9. This unit primarily focuses on environmental, social, and economic dimensions of biodiversity and protected areas, including valuation of species and ecosystems, nature-based tourism or ecotourism, and impact evaluation of conservation interventions.

Biodiversity loss is one of the two major environmental challenges faced by the society today, the other being climate change. Efforts to conserve biodiversity through protected area network is continuing but the overall loss of biodiversity is also continuing. Recent works of IPBES and other conservation organizations have argued a need for increased

coverage of protected areas inline of the post-2020 biodiversity framework to achieve transformative change. Dasgupta Review (2021) on Economics of Biodiversity also provide ways to conserve biodiversity while enhancing societal welfare.

UN has also released SEEA - Ecosystem Account (2021) to capture the value of natural capital, including biodiversity into national accounting system. In this talk, we will first introduce our unit and then highlight some of the recent works that closely relate to the aim and objective of the unit. An additional objective of the session is to develop network with likeminded individuals and organizations.

KEYWORDS

- Biodiversity
- Forest Economics
- Human Health and Well-being

PROGRAM

This session is on 'economics of biodiversity and protected areas - what lies ahead?'

The year 2021 has been instrumental in a number of respects when it comes to tackling biodiversity loss and developing some initiatives to account for values of biodiversity and threatened species and ecosystems to mainstream them into economic decisions. This year is marked with the release of The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review and the UN's endorsement of UN SEEA - Ecosystem Accounting. In addition, recently concluded IUCN Congress with a focus on nature-based solutions and "post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework", as well as China hosting the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to Convention of Biological Diversity (Part 1. Online: 11-15 October 2021) to agree on a new set of goals for nature over the next decade are important events of the year. All of these events highlight the importance and values of biodiversity, and also shows urgency of addressing biodiversity loss.

To this end, this session highlights key aspects of some of these initiatives and shares some relevant research findings on values of biodiversity and protected areas. Through this process, the session aims to raise research/development issues that lie ahead in internalising values of biodiversity and protected areas in economic decision making. The session consists of two parts: short presentations from three speakers (about 15 minutes each); and a moderated discussion (question/answer) session for about 15 minutes. The session lasts for about an hour.

Three presentations:

- 1) The Dasgupta review and inclusive wealth by *Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, INDIA*
- 2) Evolving conservation/development agenda and valuation of species/biodiversity by *Dr. Ram Pandit, University of Western Australia, AUSTRALIA*
- 3) Economic value of biodiversity conservation by *Dr. Tafesse Estifanos, University of Vermont, USA*

SPEAKERS



Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda

is a professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay. She has a broad research interest in the field of scenarios and models for biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change, green accounting, and economics of biodiversity. She has served as coordinating and/or lead author in TEEB and IPBES Assessments.



Dr. Ram Pandit

is an Environmental and Resource Economist at the UWA School of Agriculture and Environment, University of Western Australia (UWA). His research focuses on causes and consequences of environmental and conservation policies, valuation of threatened species, and impact of protected areas on local economy. He has worked as an expert in a number of IPBES assessments.



Dr. Tafesse Estifanos

is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resource at the University of Vermont (USA). His research interests include protected areas, biodiversity, ecosystem services, human livelihoods and human wellbeing with expertise in environmental valuation, conservation policy impact evaluation and cost-benefit assessment. He has research experiences in these areas in Ethiopia, Australia, and the USA.

Session related pictures:



Photo caption: Swamp Deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*) in Shukla Phanta National Park in west Nepal (Photo credit: Simone Pandit)



Photo caption: Escarpment of tree heath (*Erica sp.*) at Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia (Photo credit: Tafesse Estifanos)



Photo Caption: Erica Forest at Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia (Photo Credit: Vincent Munier)

Session (Zoom) link:

<https://uwa.zoom.us/j/84632031020?pwd=T0ITZ1o1dHZLcmFnYU5jcWR0bIZrQT09&from=addon>

Password: 563990

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