



Intact Forests in the 21st Century Conference

18 – 20 June 2018

University of Oxford, UK



The meeting is hosted by the University of Oxford in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). It is kindly supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Aim of the meeting

The three days of this international meeting taking place in Oxford will examine the extent and condition of intact forests, ongoing threats, and policy actions for their preservation and restoration. It will bring together researchers and practitioners attempting to define and map “intact forests”, those assessing the threats acting on these areas and the societal values derived from them, as well as those able to speak to the effectiveness of current efforts to maintain these values. An intended outcome of this meeting will be a declaration for participants to sign, identifying promising areas for further action to maintain current levels of intactness and the additional research needed to support that goal.

Scope of the meeting

The working definition of “intact forest” for the purposes of this conference is ‘forest free of significant anthropogenic degradation’ where anthropogenic degradation includes all human activities known to cause physical changes in a forest (including faunal changes) that lead to declines of ecological function. However, we appreciate the implementation of this definition across regions and ecotones will vary, and we intend this meeting to contribute to the development of an inclusive framework for achieving that.

All forest ecosystems are considered – tropical, temperate, boreal. The conference is not limited to systems with no trace of human influence – indeed it is commonly stated that such places no longer exist and in many cases have not existed in the recent past. The definition above is expected to stimulate scientific and policy debate around questions such as:

- How can forest intactness and degradation be quantified? What constitutes *significant* degradation in this context, and how does that vary between different functions of a forest? On what scale is this occurring?
- What are effective responses by various sectors of society to avoid declines in intact forest and what role does national and global policy play?

The conference will have two main technical sections, each approx. 1.5 days and spread over 4 sessions:

Section 1 - The geography of intactness – definitions, metrics, mapping, threats and values

Section 2 - Management options and policy interventions

Each session will comprise a combination of formal presentations by prominent scientists and practitioners as well as a carousel round of 3-4 five minute presentations to allow for a broader range of perspectives to be represented, followed by ample plenary discussion.

Additional sessions will be devoted to introductory presentations, to discussion of a proposed ‘Intact Forests Declaration’ which delegates will be invited to sign as well as a closing synthesis.

Session 1 – Introduction

Framing the Conference
Introduction to Draft Declaration

Sessions 2-5 – Definitions, values, mapping, threats and trends

Aims: *We recognise this is an active area of development without a unified set of conceptual frameworks nor affordable/reliable methods for their identification. We are agnostic as to the “best” approach that will be applicable in all forest contexts; however, we hope these sessions can push the debate towards developing a framework that does a better job of accommodating the current range of perspectives.*

Session headings

- 2 - Defining Intactness
- 3 - Measuring Intactness
- 4 - Changing Geography of Intactness
- 5 - Values Derived from Intactness

Sessions 6-8 – Management options and policy interventions to maintain intactness

Aims: *We envision these sessions as an opportunity to critically discuss the range of international, national and regional efforts to manage and maintain intact forests, including their current effectiveness, limitations and potential applicability at different geographic scales. We are hoping for a debate around more innovative ways to allow for multiple uses of these landscapes while also maintaining the values that accompany forest intactness.*

Session headings

- 6 – Maintaining Important Values in Logged Forest
- 7 - International Policies and Financial Instruments to Incentivise Intactness
- 8 - Effectiveness of Protection for Maintaining Intactness

Session 9 – Synthesis and Forest Declaration

Day 1

Monday 18 June 2018

Registration 0800 - 0900

09:00 – 10:30

Session 1 – Introduction

Overview of Forests and Framing of the Conference - Yadvinder Malhi, University of Oxford
Introduction to Draft Forest Declaration – Frances Seymour, World Resources Institute

Session 2 & 3 – Defining & Measuring Intactness

“Why does the world need to care about intactness?” – James Watson, University of Queensland
“Methods and Approaches for Measuring Intactness” – Tom Evans, Wildlife Conservation Society

Panel Discussion – Yadvinder Malhi, Frances Seymour, James Watson and Tom Evans

Coffee Break [10:30-11:00]

11:00 – 12:30

Session 3 – Measuring Intactness

“Where the forest wildlands are and why we should protect them?” –
Peter Potapov, University of Maryland
“A rapid and flexible tool for measuring forest intactness globally” –
Hedley Grantham, Wildlife Conservation Society

Carousel talks (5 minutes each):

“HCV and HSC as planning Tools” – Ellen Watson, High Conservation Value Network
“Mainstreaming IFL Loss Reporting” – Leo Bottrill, MapHubs
“hcvf.ru - A tool for flagging HCV sites” – Nikolay Shmatkov, WWF-Russia
“Global Forest Watch Tools” – Rod Taylor, World Resources Institute

Plenary Discussion

Lunch [12:30-13:30]

13:30 – 15:00

Session 4 – Changing Geography of Intactness

“Canada’s Intact Forest Landscapes: Threats and Opportunities” –
Jeff Wells, Boreal Songbird Initiative
“Where are Europe’s last primary forests?” –
Miroslav Svoboda, Czech University of Life Sciences
“Global patterns of forest fragmentation” –
Franziska Taubert, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH
“Assessing the extent of extractive industries over intact forest landscapes (IFL) within the three major tropical WWF priority ecoregions” –
Susanne Schmitt, WWF-UK

Plenary Discussion

Coffee Break [15:00-15:30]

15:30 – 17:00

Session 4 – Historical and Future Perspectives on Intactness

“How to quantify forest intactness using the palaeoecological framework?” –

Sandra Nogué, University of Southampton

“Impact of climate change and human land use upon southern Amazonian transitional forests over the past 6,000 years” –

Francis E. Mayle, University of Reading

“Lessons from the past: What can we learn from vegetation simulations of mid-Holocene tropical South America?” –

Richard Smith, University of Reading

“What can we learn about natural disturbances from the remaining temperate primary forests in Europe?”–

Miroslav Svoboda, Czech University of Life Sciences

“Forest-forming tree species diversity and distribution over Siberia under climate change in XXI century” –

E.I. Parfenova, Forest Institute of FRC KSC SB RAS

Plenary Discussion

17:00 End of Day 1

17:30 Wine reception, Magdalen College Lawn

18:30 Evening buffet at Magdalen College Kitchen Bar (ticket holders only)

Day 2

Tuesday 19 June 2018

09:00 – 10:30

Session 5 – Values Derived from Intactness (Biodiversity)

“The role of animals in intact tropical forests” –

Anand Osuri, Columbia University

“Quantifying defaunation impacts on natural forest regeneration globally” –

Charlie Gardner, University of Kent

“The importance of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) for bird conservation” –

Paul F. Donald, BirdLife International

“Accelerated Selective Logging and Associated Anthropogenic Disturbance in Intact Forest Landscapes” –

David Morgan, Lincoln Park Zoo

Carousel talks (5 minutes each):

“Links between defaunation of hunted terrestrial vertebrates, carbon storage and sequestration: a systematic map”–

Noëlle Kümpel, BirdLife International and Zoological Society of London

“The conservation status of trees and forest intactness” –

Sarah Oldfield, IUCN

Plenary Discussion

Coffee Break [10:30-11:00]

11:00 – 12:30

Session 5 – Values Derived from Intactness (Carbon)

“Tropical intact forests when the air and climate have changed” –

Oliver Phillips, University of Leeds

“Using Lidar to assess forest intactness/degradation” –

David Coomes, University of Cambridge

“The impacts of fragmentation on forest above-ground biomass carbon dynamics” –

Lan Qie, Imperial College London

“Lasting implications of intact forest loss on Earth’s climate” –

Sean Maxwell, University of Queensland

Plenary Discussion

Lunch [12:30-13:30]

13:30 – 15:00

Session 5 – Values Derived from Intactness (Benefits to Local Climates, Natural Fire Regimes and Human Health)

“Impact of intact forests on local and regional climate” –

D. V. Spracklen, University of Leeds

“Changing fire regimes after logging” –

Erika Berenguer, University of Oxford

“TBD” –

Kris Murray, Imperial College London

Plenary Discussion

Introduction to Policy Discussion

Overview of available policy interventions – Frances Seymour, World Resources Institute

Coffee Break [15:00-15:30]

15:30 – 17:30

Session 6 – Maintaining important values in logged forests

“Governance of logging in intact tropical forests” –

Rick Jacobsen, Global Witness

“Causes of degradations and means of protection of intact forest landscapes in Russia” –

A. Ptichnikov, Institute of Geography Russian academy of sciences

Carousel talks (5 minutes each):

“Discourse on sustainable forest management for a green economy transition in Cameroon” –

Joe E. Assoua, University of Buea, Cameroon

“Participatory local land use planning – an option to reconcile competing pressures on “intact forest fragments” on the Western-most fringes of the Congo Basin Forest?” –

James Acworth, Independent Consultant

Plenary Discussion

Discussion of Forest Declaration

17:30 End of Day 2

Day 3

Wednesday 20 June 2018

09:00 – 10:30

Session 7 – International Policies and Financial Instruments

“Intact forests in contexts” –

Paul Jepson, University of Oxford

“Under the Radar: Degradation in Canada’s Boreal Forest”–

Courtenay Lewis, Natural Resources Defence Council

“Policy measures to minimize damage to intact forests by extractive industries” –

Sally Johnson, Fairfield Consulting

Carousel talks (5 minutes each):

“Because the future is not what it used to be: A forward-looking approach to estimating future forest conversion” –

Johannes Pirker, IIASA

“If we want to change how land is managed we need to change how it is financed” –

Adam Gibbon, Althelia Funds

“The role safeguards play in the legitimacy and success of policy actions for the preservation and restoration of forests” –

Daniela Rey Christensen, Climate Law and Policy

Coffee Break [10:30-11:00]

11:00 – 12:30

Session 7 – International Policies and Financial Instruments II

“The Amazon Third Way Initiative - Radically changing the sustainable development paradigm for the Amazon” –

Ismael Nobre, Universidade Estadual de Campinas

“Intact forests as public goods, a complementary argument for structuring funding mechanisms” –

Sergio Henrique Collaco de Carvalho, Brazilian Ministry of the Environment

Plenary Discussion

Session 8 – Effectiveness of Protection for Maintaining Intactness I

“Securing indigenous peoples’ territories and sustaining forest in Latin America” –

Tom Griffiths, Forest Peoples Programme

Lunch [12:30-13:30]

13:30 – 15:00

Session 8 – Effectiveness of Protection for Maintaining Intactness II

“Effectiveness of Protected Areas and Bushmeat Hunting” –

Lauren Coad, CIFOR

"The Role of Institutional Failure and Public Institutions in Intact Forest Conservation" -

Jason Scullion, McDaniel College

"Strong national laws as vital to stemming forest conversion" –

Caroline Haywood, ClientEarth

Carousel talks (5 minutes each):

"Are protected areas preventing deforestation in Colombia?" –

Pablo Negret, University of Queensland

"Community and Conservation? A Case Study of Social Forestry in Indonesian Borneo" –

Rachel Friedman, University of Queensland

"Strategies built on the ground: Measures to approach intact forest ecosystems by subnational authorities in the Peruvian Amazon" –

Deborah Delgado Pugley, Catholic University of Peru

"Fatal pressure on forest resources"–

Nathalie Butt, University of Queensland and University of Oxford

"Governance of virgin forests in Romania" –

Mihail Hanzu, Romanian National Institute for Research and Development in Silviculture

Plenary Discussion

Coffee Break [15:00-15:30]

15:30 – 16:30

Session 9 – Synthesis Discussion

Summary of Meeting – Frances Seymour, World Resources Institute

Plenary Discussion

Final Reading of Forest Declaration

16:30 Close of Meeting