



Intact Forests in the 21st Century

18 – 20 June 2018

Conference at University of Oxford, UK



Photo: tropical forest of Belize

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, their ongoing threats, and policy actions for their preservation and restoration. It draws together researchers and practitioners attempting to define and map “intact forests”, those who are assessing societal values derived from them, and those able to assess 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, as well as 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 has two main technical sections:

- 1 - The geography of intactness – definitions, metrics, mapping, threats and values
- 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 shorter 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, and to a closing synthesis.

Conference venue: Grove Auditorium, Magdalen College, University of Oxford, OX1 4AU

This conference programme is printed on FSC-certified paper

Day 1

Monday 18 June 2018

08:15 – 09:00

Registration and badge collection – Grove Auditorium atrium

09:00 – 09:35

Session 1 – Introduction

Overview of Forests and Framing of the Conference – Yadvinder Malhi, University of Oxford
Introduction to Draft Forest Declaration

09:35 – 10:30

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 at 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 HCSA as planning tools” –

Ellen Watson, High Conservation Value Resource Network

“Mainstreaming IFL Loss Reporting” –

Leo Bottrill, MapHubs

“hcvf.ru - A tool for flagging HCV sites” –

Nikolay Shmatkov, WWF-Russia

“Global Forest Watch Tools” –

Liz Goldman, World Resources Institute

“Temperate forests as ecosystem references from the watershed perspective: Distribution and coverage of Patagonian watersheds with limited intervention (40 °S to 56°S)” –

Paulo C. Moreno, Center for Research in Ecosystems of Patagonia (CIEP)

“Primary forest monitoring in the tropics” –

Svetlana Turubanova, University of Maryland

Plenary Discussion

Lunch at 12:30 – 13:30 in the Magdalen College Dining Hall

13:30 – 15:00

Session 4 – Changing Geography of Intactness

“Canada’s Intact Forest Landscapes: Threats and Opportunities” –

Jeff Wells, International Boreal Conservation Campaign & 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 at 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

Plenary Discussion

17:00 End of Day 1

17:15 Drinks 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

“Environmental Factors of Intact Forest Landscapes Influential in Great Ape Abundances” –

David Morgan, Lincoln Park Zoo

“Addressing Canada’s international biodiversity and climate commitments through the eyes of boreal caribou” –

Justina Ray, Wildlife Conservation Society

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 at 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

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

Lan Qie, Imperial College London

“Using Lidar to assess forest intactness/degradation” –

David Coomes, University of Cambridge

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

Sean Maxwell, University of Queensland

Plenary Discussion

Lunch at 12:30 – 13:30 in Magdalen College Dining Hall

13:30 – 14:45

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” –

Dominick V. Spracklen, University of Leeds

“Fire impacts on tree mortality in intact and degraded Amazonian forests” –

Erika Berenguer, University of Oxford

“Cracking open or keeping a lid on: The Pandora’s Box of human infectious disease risks associated with intact forests” –

Kris Murray, Imperial College London

“The Forest-Water Divide – Is More Debate Really Necessary?” –

David Ellison, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Ellison Consulting

Plenary Discussion

14:45 – 15:00

Introduction to Policy Discussion

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

Coffee Break at 15:00 – 15:30

15:30 – 17:00

Session 6 – Maintaining important values in logged forests

“The effects of logging on measures of intactness/A machine learning approach to map selective logging” –

Matthew G. Hethcoat, University of Sheffield

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

Courtenay Lewis and Anthony Swift, Natural Resources Defence Council

“Direct and indirect impacts of forest management on intact forest landscapes: the debate within the Forest Stewardship Council” –

Brian Milakovsky, WWF International [presented by Tim Rayden, Wildlife Conservation Society]

“Reconciling certification and intact forest landscape conservation” –

Fritz Kleinschroth, ETH Zürich

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

A. Ptichnikov, Institute of Geography Russian academy of sciences

“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

17:00 – 17:30

Discussion of Forest Declaration

17:45 – 19:00

Poster presentation session with drinks reception in the Grove Auditorium atrium

19:00 End of Day 2

Day 3

Wednesday 20 June 2018

09:00 – 10:30

Session 7 – International Policies and Financial Instruments I

“Intact forests in contexts” –

Paul Jepson, University of Oxford

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

Sally Johnson, Fairfield Consulting

“State of intact forests and unmanaged lands under the UNFCCC” –

Jason Funk, The Center for Carbon Removal

“Possible policy options for preserving and financing intact forests in the UNFCCC” –

Jeff Fiedler, The Nature Conservancy

“Perspective from a High Forest cover Low Deforestation Country” –

Winston Lackin, Ambassador for the Environment, State Advisor to the President of the Republic of Suriname

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 at 10:30 – 11:00

11:00 – 12:00

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

12:00 – 12:30

Session 8 – Effectiveness of Protection for Maintaining Intactness I

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

Tom Griffiths, Forest Peoples Programme

“Building capacity for the global protected areas network: an evaluation of PA effectiveness and management gaps” –

Lauren Coad, CIFOR

Lunch at 12:30 – 13:30 in Magdalen College Dining Hall

13:30 – 15:00

Session 8 – Effectiveness of Protection for Maintaining Intactness II

“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

“The impact of wild meat hunting on biodiversity inside protected areas, and potential management solutions” –

Lauren Coad, CIFOR

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

“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 at 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

Conference Posters

“Forests, Wind, and Water: How forest cover in South America impacts regional wind speeds and atmospheric moisture transport” –

Emory Ellis, Hampshire College

“How Protected Areas Fail. The Story of Two Biosphere Reserves in Central America” –

Jason Scullion, McDaniel College

“Definition dissonance in the Amazon: do inter-disciplinary differences in key term interpretation hinder the debate around past and present human influence in Amazonia?” –

Oliver Wilson, University of Reading

“Millennial-scale history of RAINFOR Forest Plots in Bolivia” –

James Hill, University of Reading

“Comparison on Net Primary Production Partitioning along Global Environmental Gradients” –

Xian-cheng Lu, National Taiwan University

“The HCV Approach as a Tool for Protecting Forest Values” –

Ellen Watson, High Conservation Value Resource Network

“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

“Measuring Integrity of Porous Forest Landscape: Forest landscape with rooms for development” –

A. Dwiputra, CGIAR

“Approaching Forest Degradation Monitoring [Delta-r-NBR]” –

Andreas Johannes Langner, Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission

“Giant kelps along the coastline of Patagonia: mapping intact submarine forests” –

Alejandra Mora Soto, University of Oxford

“Impacts of habitat fragmentation on rainforest regeneration” –

Gail Stride, University of York

“Prey Long Economic Forest, the sound of Destruction in Cambodia” –

Khun Bunnath, ADB/MLMUPC/CLUP Project, Cambodia

“The Rainforest Business School” –

Maritta Koch-Weser, Earth 3000

“Forest Conservation in Nepal: A review” –

Ineej Manandhar, Hariyo Ban Program, WWF Nepal

“Global Trends in Forest Vertebrates” –

Elizabeth Green, UNEP-WCMC

