

Sommersemester / Summer Term 2012

BayCEER Kolloquium

 Vortragsreihe Ökologie und Umweltforschung
Lecture series in Ecology and Environmental Research

Donnerstag 10.05.2012, 17:00 Uhr, H12

Anschließend Postkolloquium mit Bier und Brezeln im Foyer H6

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From Roe Deer to Satellites and Vulnerability Assessments: Scaling up Difficulties or Downsizing Complexity?

As the impacts of human activities increase in both magnitude and extent, biodiversity is under increasing pressure. To halt these recent dramatic declines in biodiversity, one needs, among other things, to (a) measure changes in biodiversity at various spatial and temporal scales to identify areas experiencing the highest rates of loss, and (b) identify the mechanisms underpinning the observed changes; so that efficient mitigation strategies can be designed. Although there is no strict consensus on how to measure biodiversity and biodiversity loss, the species level stands up among other biological units in the study of biodiversity at both global and regional scales. In mammals for instance, the focus on the species level has allowed us to determine particular traits which make organisms more vulnerable to extinction and to explore how patterns of species decline vary according to different threats.

Species-focused conservation strategies alone, however, may overlook threats operating at the population scale, which can generate significant bottom-up impacts on biodiversity compromising the optimal provision of ecological goods and other ecosystem services to human societies. Population losses are indeed an early warning of species extinction and integrative approaches relating species and populations have been highlighted as being urgently needed to improve the efficiency of conservation efforts and the maintenance of biodiversity. From this, it is clear that effective biodiversity loss mitigation strategies rely on our ability to understand and appreciate the relative importance of processes that may operate at very different scales. In this talk, I will discuss the challenges associated with accessing such a level of understanding, and highlight some of the issues currently faced by conservation biologists. .

 Do. /Thu. 17 st
Gebäude/Building
NW I
Hörsaal/Lecture hall
H12

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 The lecture series
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 Guests
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