DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY Spring 2014 Seminar Series



"Tropical Defaunation and the Local Co-extinction of Ecological Processes"

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Anthropogenic impact is leading to the local extinction or massive decline of mammalian populations. This process, defaunation, has the potential to cause associated co-extinctions of taxa and even the co-extinction of ecological processes. This may have consequences not only for ecosystem structure and functioning, but also, potentially, for ecosystem services such as prevention of disease risk in humans. In this seminar I will present examples to illustrate these relationships and will argue that defaunation may represent another global environmental change of the Anthropocene.