



The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Fall 2017 Seminar Series

Can we conserve biodiversity in an increasingly urbanized world?

Classic writings on conservation biology were produced when human population size was substantially smaller than it is today, and those people lived in mostly rural landscapes. Today the majority of the world's population is urban, and the number of people on Earth continues to increase. The result is the production of mega-cities and the development of regional urban corridors that often overlap with biodiversity hotspots. Conservation canon suggests that preserving species diversity within the small, often degraded tracts of undeveloped lands around such urban centers is a futile investment. So, what are we to make of increasing urbanization and the need to conserve species? I'll argue that we can no longer ignore the issues of urbanization within conservation biology and that there is the potential to realize real biodiversity gains within urbanizing landscapes. However, there are lots of information gaps in how to proceed leaving much room for future research.



Professor Julie Lockwood
Rutgers University



Friday, September 8, 2017

SERF 307 - 3:30 PM

Pre-talk Reception 3:00 PM in Dabney 575