

# FOCALI ANNUAL MEETING 2020 ONLINE

## Program and speed-talk Book of Abstracts

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# Keynotes

## Grace Wong

Researcher, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University:

### **Politics, power and precarity in changing forests: Challenges for research**

Wong is a natural resource economist and focus on assessing social, economic and ecological trade-offs in tropical environments, with a particular focus on the interface of development, socio-political processes and environmental change. Her current research is on ecosystem services and human wellbeing in dynamic social-ecological systems, with an interest in power and equity in the distribution of benefits and risks from natural resource use and governance.

*In session: 2020: The Year of the Converging Crises – Multidisciplinarity key to solve entangled challenges*

## Jan Wärnbäck

Senior Policy Specialist Environment and Climate, Sida

### **A new Global Biodiversity Framework and a Development Co-operation with increased focus on Biodiversity and Ecosystems.**

What does the road leading up to COP 15 in Kunming, China look like and what does the Government want Sida to do in order to develop and strengthen the Agency's work with Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

*In session: Research-policy-practice dialogue on "The super-year for nature and people"*

## Anton Andersson

Forest Policy Advisor, Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation:

### **The EU and global deforestation - what to expect in 2021**

The European Commission will continue to implement the European Green deal and its communication on the World's forests. In 2021, new legislation will be proposed with the aim to minimize the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market.

*In session: Research-policy-practice dialogue on "The super-year for nature and people"*

# Program November 4, 2020

10:00 - 12:15 and 13:30 - 14:00

## 10:00 Welcome and introduction

### 2020: The Year of the Converging Crises – Multidisciplinarity key to solve entangled challenges

We live in times of linked crises, which should be a strong wake-up call on our interdependence with nature and need for broader and stronger collaboration across geographical regions, sectors, and disciplines. This session will highlight how we can enhance the broad collaborations that are necessary, while minimizing the challenges that sometimes follow with them.

**Key note: Grace Wong**, Researcher, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University: *Politics, power and precarity in changing forests: Challenges for research*

**Torsten Krause**, Associate Senior Lecturer, Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies: *Traditional ecological knowledge and hunting of forest fauna, why does it matter for the SDGs? Connecting the dots*

**Denise Margaret Matias**, Research Scientist, Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE) & Associate, Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia: *Forest-dependent peoples and wildlife consumption bans*

Q&A

### Group discussion

Experiences of working with interlinked challenges in multidisciplinary collaborations. Participants may also suggest how Focali could support collaboration on entangled issues that could have a greater impact “on the ground”, where challenges are not separated by disciplines.

## LEG STRETCH AND MINGLE

## 11:00-11:30 Speed-talk session I: “Tropical deforestation – causes, implications and needed measures”

Moderator: Torsten Krause

**Lan Wang Erlandsson**, Researcher, Stockholm Resilience Centre: *Large parts of Amazon rainforest lose resilience under climate change*

**Martin Persson**, Associate Professor, Chalmers University of Technology: *Reducing commodity-driven tropical deforestation - Political feasibility and ‘theories of change’ for EU policy options*

**Paula Andre Sánchez García**, Master Student, Stockholm Resilience Centre: *Understanding Land Speculation as a driver of deforestation in the Northern Colombian Amazon*

Q&A

## 11:30-12:15 Contested and polarized issues - how to communicate complexity?

Moderator: Linda Hansson

In media and on twitter, research results are often interpreted in simplified and polarized ways, as with the role of forests for the climate. In this session we will discuss how researchers can relate and engage in these debates. How can we as scientists show the importance of systemic approaches to address complex issues and how can we communicate complexity simple enough without losing credibility?

**Lan Wang Erlandsson**, Researcher, Stockholm Resilience Centre

**Malavika Vyahaware**, Staff reporter Mongabay, based in La Reunión

**Stephen Woroniecki**, Post-doctoral Researcher at Tema-Environmental Change, Linköping University, and Associate of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative at the University of Oxford

## LUNCH BREAK

## 13:30-14:00 Speed-talk session II: “Land-use, livelihoods and rights”

Moderator: Harry Fischer

**Stephen Woroniecki**, Post-doctoral Researcher at Tema-Environmental Change, Linköping University, and Associate of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative at the University of Oxford: *Biodiversity and Justice - Exploring the Epistemic Tensions*

**Minda Holm**, Research Assistant, Stockholm Resilience Centre: *Indigenous rights, claims and contestations in the changing forest-agriculture landscapes in South-East Asia – A literature review*

**Linda Engström**, Researcher and Senior environment policy adviser, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU: *What are the impacts of cancelled development projects?*

Q&A



# Program November 5, 2020

10:00 - 12:15 and 13:30 - 14:15

## 10:00 Welcome and warm-up

### Research-policy-practice dialogues on "The super-year for nature and people"

Key policy and practice actors will provide insights to current developments within our field, with a focus on 2021, the due to COVID-19 postponed "super-year for nature and climate". Following short introductions to the biodiversity, climate, forest protection and food-system agendas ahead, the session will open up for a broad dialogue on these interlinked issues and policy processes 2021.

#### I) Presentations:

**Jan Wärnbäck**, Senior Policy Specialist Environment and Climate, Sida: *A new global biodiversity framework and a development co-operation with increased focus on biodiversity and ecosystems.*

**Anton Andersson**, Forest Policy Advisor, Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation: *The EU and global deforestation - what to expect in 2021*

#### II) Reflections on presentations - connecting policy with context:

**Southeast Asia via Denise Margaret Matias**, work with Indigenous and Local Knowledge engagement in IPBES and Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform in the UNFCCC.

**Amazon region via Mairon G. Bastos Lima**, Post-doc. Chalmers University of Technology and Trase Earth platform

#### III) Joint dialogue with participants and speakers

#### LEG STRETCH

#### IV) Launch of Focali dialogue forum in collaboration with SIANI-Sida

**V) Brainstorming in groups:** Providing input to dialogue forum and collaborations 2021 What can we do together in relation to these issues and related policy processes that could have an impact in policy and practice?

#### VI) Reporting back and closing of the session

## 11:30-12:15 Speed-talk session III: "People at the centre of restoration & sustainable landscape-mgmt"

Moderator: Hanna Sinare

**Ylva Nyberg**, Researcher, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU: *Use, effectiveness and disadvantages of agroforestry - Kenyan case*

**Rosa Goodman**, Associate Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU: *Value generation is the key to scaling restoration and management*

#### Q&A

**Lila Nath Sharma**, Researcher, ForestAction Nepal: *A framework for ecologically informed invasive species management and forest restoration*

**Harry Fischer**, Associate Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU: *Effects of afforestation on rural livelihoods and land cover: Evidence from 40 years' tree plantations in northern India*

**Dil Bahadur Khatri**, Executive Director, South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies and Post-Doc Researcher Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU: *Lessons from research-policy-practice lab methodology in the local water management sector in Himalayas*

#### Q&A

#### Closing

#### LUNCH BREAK

## 13:30-14:00 Planting seeds for deeper collaboration

Additional networking session with group discussions focusing on experience sharing and finding concrete issues and activities to collaborate around, divided into three themes:

- **Ecosystem restoration, climate and livelihoods**

incl. speed-talk by Gert Nyberg, SLU, on the Formas project Drylands Transform: *Pathways and challenges towards a social-ecological transformation of landscapes, livestock and livelihoods.*

- **Tackling deforestation and biodiversity loss while ensuring livelihoods and rights**
- **Networking session open for other themes**



# FOCALI ANNUAL MEETING 2020 ONLINE

## Speed-talk Book of Abstracts

Session I: Tropical deforestation – causes, implications and needed measures

Session II: Land-use, livelihoods and rights

Session III: People at the center of restoration and sustainable landscape management

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## Speed-talks during session

# 2020: The year of the converging crises - Multidisciplinarity key to solve entangled challenges

Torsten Krause, Associate Senior Lecturer, Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies:  
**Traditional ecological knowledge and hunting of forest fauna, why does it matter for the SDGs? Connecting the dots**

In this short presentation I will provide a deep dive into a major factor for tropical forest degradation and threat to forest fauna. I will present main findings from fieldwork in Colombia and based on these I will highlight the relevance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge that supports a more sustainable hunting management. Moreover, I will also show why hunting of tropical forest fauna is important for the achieving the SDGs.

Denise Margaret Matias, Research Scientist, Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE) & Associate, Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia

**Forest-dependent peoples and wildlife consumption bans**

As a response to COVID-19, China has enacted wildlife consumption bans. Some conservationists laud this step and calls for implementing it in other places. This speed talk will discuss how such a blanket ban, good as it may be for biodiversity, may impact negatively on subsistence and livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples.

# Speedtalk session I: Tropical deforestation – causes, implications and needed measures

Moderator: Torsten Krause

Lan Wang Erlandsson, Researcher, Stockholm Resilience Centre.

## **Large parts of Amazon rainforest lose resilience under climate change**

In a recent study, we found that climate change considerably reduces Amazon forest resilience and increases the irreversibility of forest loss: while 60 % of the Amazon forest has the capacity to recover from deforestation today, only 20 % may retain such resilience later this century under severe climate change. Congo rainforest may gain some resilience under projected rainfall increases, but the area where natural forest regrowth is possible remains relatively small.

Martin Persson, Associate Professor, Chalmers University of Technology.

## **Reducing commodity-driven tropical deforestation - Political feasibility and 'theories of change' for EU policy options**

We review 1,141 policy proposals from grey literature and EU consultations for how the EU and other consumer countries can address tropical deforestation. We identify 86 unique policy options and assess their political feasibility and the 'theory of change' (TOC) through which the policies address tropical deforestation. Most policy proposals lack an explicit and proven TOC, but due diligence requirements and multi-stakeholder fora stand out as policies that are feasible, yet rest on convincing TOCs.

Paula Andre Sánchez García, Master Student, Stockholm Resilience Centre.

## **Understanding Land Speculation as a driver of deforestation in the Northern Colombian Amazon**

Historically, deforestation in the Colombian Amazon was driven by agricultural expansion, colonization and illegal crops; however, new evidence suggests that land speculation has recently become a major driver of forest loss in the region. Still, little is known about the social, political and economic mechanisms that underpin land speculation as a driver of deforestation in the region. I will present a Process-tracing framework to further unpack the relationships between land speculation and deforestation, with the aim to better understand the causes of land-use change in the Colombian Amazon.

# Speedtalk session II: Land-use, livelihoods and rights

Moderator: Harry Fischer

Stephen Woroniecki, Post-doctoral Researcher, Linköping University and Oxford University

## **Biodiversity and Justice - Exploring the Epistemic Tensions**

In this collaboration, we are seeking to encounter the concepts of 'Biodiversity' and 'Justice' as they are used in the Academy, Media and other actors. We are asking how they are used (and what work they do), using which language forms and associated related notions. Through careful readings, questioning and exploration, we aim to understand the consequences of thinking through such conceptual forms, and how it might become otherwise.

Minda Holm, Research Assistant, Stockholm Resilience Centre.

## **Indigenous rights, claims and contestations in the changing forest-agriculture landscapes in South-East Asia - A literature review**

This review contributes to the project, "Fair for whom? Politics, power and precarity in transformations of tropical forest-agriculture frontiers (FairFrontiers)". The objective of this review is to provide a comprehensive overview of how literature portrays: a) changing forest-agriculture landscapes – and the underlying economics and politics of forest and land resources driving these; and b) how these changes affect indigenous justice (recognition of rights, claims, customary use and culture; and contestations) across Southeast Asia.

Linda Engström, Researcher and Senior Environment Policy Advisor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU.

## **What are the impacts of cancelled development projects?**

In the early 2000's, global development bodies and governments strongly promoted large-scale agro-investments in rural Africa as a development strategy. Consensus is now growing that a large share of these investments fail to materialise. This presentation outlines a few reasons as to why development policy needs to pay more attention to such stalled or cancelled agro-investments, and to cancelled development interventions more broadly.



# Speedtalk session III: People at the center of restoration and sustainable landscape management

Moderator: Hanna Sinare

Ylva Nyberg, Researcher, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU.

## **Use, effectiveness and disadvantages of agroforestry – Kenyan case**

Agroforestry is used to a larger extent by farmers accessing regular agroforestry advisory services. Agroforestry is perceived and also proved to be one of the most effective measures to adapt to rainfall variability among smallholders. Lack of knowledge and labour is restricting the adoption of agroforestry.

Rosa Goodman, Associate Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU.

## **Value generation is the key to scaling restoration and management**

Tropical forests can play a large role in climate change mitigation; sustainable forest management can protect forests from conversion; and wood can be a renewable, climate-positive building material—but this enormous potential has yet to be realized. We contend that to scale restoration, conservation, and sustainable management of forests, the forests must generate value that is truly competitive with other land uses. Here, we lay out the overall concept and details necessary to transform the tropical timber industry and generate orders of magnitude more value within the forest sector.

Lila Nath Sharma, Researcher, ForestAction Nepal.

## **A framework for ecologically informed invasive species management and forest restoration**

Degraded forests are often highly vulnerable to plant invasion and invasive species pose burden to forest management and restoration. Forest restoration and invasive species management should be informed by social and ecological context for desired and sustainable outcome. Drawing from invasive species management interventions and taking example of Mikania management in degraded forest, we highlight how IAS management can be informed by ecology of invading species and site specific social-ecological context, and propose for cost effective and socially acceptable approaches for Mikania management in degraded forest within the broader framework of forest restoration.

Harry Fischer, Associate Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU.

## **Effects of afforestation on rural livelihoods and land cover: Evidence from 40 years' tree plantations in northern India**

Planting trees is seen as a central focus of climate change mitigation efforts worldwide, but evidence of long-term socio-ecological impacts is limited. Through analysis of 40 years' tree plantations on public lands in the Kangra District of north India, we find that tree planting does not improve forest cover on average; however, the presence of participatory resource management institutions is associated with greater forest density and more livelihood benefits overall. Our findings suggest that real-world contributions of tree plantations for carbon sequestration may be vastly over-estimated by many proponents, but that meaningful local participation in management can help to advance both carbon and livelihood objectives.

Dil Bahadur Khatri, Executive Director, South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies.

## **Lessons from research-policy-practice lab methodology in the local water management sector in Himalayas**

A critical question the academia has been facing these days is about what is the relevance of their research to transformative changes by informing policy and practice. Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), the Kathmandu based think tank has been engaged to generate action verified lessons to bring positive changes to equitable and sustainable resource governance. In this talk, I intend to share lessons from the research-policy-practice lab methodology in the local water management sector.

## **DURING NETWORKING SESSION NOV 5, 13:30-14:15, GROUP ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, CLIMATE AND LIVELIHOODS**

Gert Nyberg, Associate Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU

## **Pathways and challenges towards a social-ecological transformation of landscapes, livestock and livelihoods (within the Formas project Drylands Transform)**

In Drylands Transform we will investigate the links between land health, livestock-based livelihoods, human well-being, and land management and governance. Through strong stakeholder engagement in interdisciplinary research, we set out to explore the challenges and pathways towards a sustainable social-ecological transformation that optimizes synergies among SDGs while minimizing the trade-offs. We will use innovative field research approaches focusing on livelihood improvement through rangeland restoration and governance interventions across the border between Kenya and Uganda.