

ZSL SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION EVENT

Tuesday 9th April 2019

The Meeting Rooms, Zoological Society of London,
Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY

AGENDA

Indigenous knowledge and conservation management: challenges and opportunities

Chaired by Dr Raj Puri

*Centre for Biocultural Diversity, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University
of Kent*

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Paul Barnes, University College London & Zoological Society of London

*Working with the experts: Changing relationships between people and nature, and
the implications for conservation in the Cyclops Mountains, Papua*

Chantal Elkin, Alliance of Religions and Conservation

The role of religion in conservation

Dr Lisa Ingwall-King, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre

*Importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge for the conservation of biological
and cultural diversity: a case study from Guyana*

**Professor Jay Mistry, Royal Holloway University of London and Co-Director, Cobra
Collective CIC**

*Viewing conservation through a different lens: working with Indigenous knowledge
through participatory video*

ABSTRACTS

Indigenous knowledge and conservation management: challenges and opportunities

Working with the experts: Changing relationships between people and nature, and the implications for conservation in the Cyclops Mountains, Papua

Paul Barnes, University College London & Zoological Society of London

The Cyclops Mountains are a small mountain range on the north coast of New Guinea. The area is biologically and culturally very diverse. There are numerous endemic and restricted range species and living alongside them are people from several indigenous groups as well as migrants from elsewhere in New Guinea and Indonesia. In recognition of the unique biodiversity and the role of the mountain range as a critical water supply for nearby towns, the Cyclops Mountains were designated as an IUCN Category I(a) protected area in 1995. Despite a long history of human habitation in the area, circumstances in the Cyclops Mountains are changing fast for both the indigenous people and the wildlife. The inward migration of people and rapid cultural change are altering the social, political and economic conditions for local inhabitants and causing breakdown of traditional environmental taboos and management practices. These changes, echoed throughout the world, are leading to a greatly diminished set of relations between people and nature.

This talk will discuss some of the issues leading to the erosion of people's connection to their local environment in the Cyclops Mountains. It will challenge some common assumptions of mainstream conservation and argue for conservation policies that reflect the interest, knowledge and values of the people that they affect.

Paul Barnes is in the final year of his doctorate as a member of the Human Ecology Research Group (HERG) in the department of anthropology, UCL. He is also part of the Institute of Zoology and works with the EDGE team here at ZSL. His interests lie in understanding the interactions between humans and nature and how to implement conservation policies better for both people and biodiversity. When not working towards his doctorate, Paul runs a conservation consultancy business offering advice and carrying out social and environmental surveys and other contractual research.

The role of religion in conservation

Chantal Elkin, Alliance of Religions and Conservation

The most biodiverse countries are also the most religious. In these countries, religion is often a source of moral values, and a major influence on how people view their relationship with nature. As such, building effective partnerships between conservation and religious groups has significant potential to influence human behaviour in support of conservation outcomes. The UN has called the faiths' environment programmes "the largest civil society action on the environment in the world". In 2015 they estimated there were about three and a half million faith-based environmental projects globally. Chantal Elkin is the Director of the Wildlife Programme at the Alliance of Religions and Conservation

(ARC), a British-based NGO that brings religious groups together with environmental partners to address biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. She will provide examples of ARC's work with religious and conservation partners in Asia, highlighting ARC's projects in Indonesia and Malaysia on the first ever Islamic fatwas issued on wildlife trade and climate change; projects in India to mitigate impacts on tiger reserves from large-scale Hindu pilgrimage; projects in China to reduce ivory and threatened species consumption through Buddhist and Daoist partnerships; and projects in Cambodia to support community forestry programmes run by Buddhist monks.

Chantal Elkin is the Director of the Wildlife Programme at the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), a British-based NGO originally under the WWF umbrella. Chantal was with Conservation International (CI) for eight years, first as the Manager of the Indo-Burma programme and then as Director of CI's Wildlife Trade programme, working primarily in Asia. Chantal holds two Masters degrees from the University of London, the first in Environment and Development in Southeast Asia and the second in Buddhism and Conservation. She sits on the board of the Society for Conservation Biology's Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group.

Importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge for the conservation of biological and cultural diversity: a case study from Guyana

Dr Lisa Ingwall-King, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Indigenous people's territories cover over a quarter of the world's land surface and are estimated to hold 80% of the planet's biodiversity. There is increasing recognition that Indigenous knowledge and practices contribute to the conservation of biological and cultural diversity. Recent studies have found that Indigenous people are critical to maintaining intact forest landscapes, and deforestation rates can be as high as five times greater outside indigenous people's territories than inside. This recognition is reflected in many Multilateral Environmental Agreements which include goals on integrating traditional knowledge into policy and practice. For example, the Convention for Biological Diversity, Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 and Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) Target 10. However, many countries struggle to progress on these targets.

I will present findings from a recent literature and policy instrument review focusing on identifying case studies which can serve as good practice examples of traditional knowledge integration, and the most common barriers for integration. Furthermore, a newly developed method of assessing the level of traditional knowledge integration in policy will also be presented together with the result from the first two years of applying the method in Guyana. These findings are part of a larger Darwin funded project where a new approach to traditional knowledge integration is being trialled in Guyana.

Dr Lisa Ingwall-King is an interdisciplinary environmental geographer that has a diverse background in research, capacity building and policy-making. She has worked in South America and Africa on both conservation and indigenous communities projects. Since 2013, Lisa has worked at UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, a Research Institute focusing on the science-policy interphase. Much of her work has been in relation to ecosystem services, particularly cultural ecosystem services and in support for progress on the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, such as the Convention of Biological Diversity.

Viewing conservation through a different lens: working with Indigenous knowledge through participatory video

Professor Jay Mistry, Royal Holloway University of London and Co-Director, Cobra Collective CIC

Indigenous knowledge is the vehicle through which the principles of Indigenous worldviews, beliefs, traditions, practices, and institutions are transmitted and put into practice. It is characteristically local in scale, transmitted orally, collectively owned, holistic in perspective, and adaptive in nature. Although it is now recognised as important for maintaining Indigenous culture and rights, and for informing environmental management and governance worldwide, it still fails to be routinely adopted in practical and policy interventions. This is partly due to epistemological differences between Indigenous and scientific ways of knowing, partly due to the political and the power differentials between different actors and their knowledge, and partly due to the limited engagement of decolonising methodologies that could reveal new ways of working and alternative ways of thinking about issues. Addressing the latter, participatory video (PV) involves a group or community in shaping and creating their own films according to their own sense of what is important, and how they want to be represented. In this presentation, I will share my experience of working with Indigenous communities in South America to show how PV has the potential to strengthen Indigenous knowledge while at the same time promote communities' own solutions to conservation and development.

Professor Jay Mistry's research interests lie in environmental management and governance, with a commitment to a social-ecological approach and working in collaboration with other academics, governments, civil society organisations and Indigenous communities. The central concept running through her work is that environmental management and governance should not be top-down implementation of external expertise, but must involve active local participation building upon local and Indigenous knowledges and practices. Her work converges environmental and social science methods, within a framework of participatory action research using participatory video. She has long-term research collaborations with Indigenous communities in Guyana, Brazil and Venezuela.

Join us at our next event

Street-smart animals: incorporating cognitive behaviour into conservation efforts

Tuesday 14th May 2019, 6.00pm – 7.45pm

Human-induced urbanisation, invasive species and land clearing are changing the environment at a far quicker pace than animals are able to evolve. Cognitive mechanisms can play a crucial role in determining how well animals adapt to this change. Find out how integrating cognitive mechanisms into conservation strategies offers a new approach to enable animals to adapt and ensure their survival.



<https://www.zsl.org/science/whats-on/street-smart-animals-incorporating-cognitive-behaviour-into-conservation-efforts>