NUS National University of Singapore

Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Science

SEMINAR

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Hosted by Dr Roman Carrasco Torrecilla



The linkages between environmental conservation and human health

By Christopher Golden
Research Associate at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Bio:
Dr. Christopher Golden PhD, MPH is an ecologist and epidemiologist interested in the interface of ecosystem service provisioning and human health, specifically in the context of global trends in biodiversity loss and ecosystem transformation. He is the Director of HEAL (Health & Ecosystems: Analysis of Linkages), a 25-institution consortium led by the Wildlife Conservation Society, and is also a Research Associate at the Harvard School of Public Health in both the Department of Environmental Health and the Department of Nutrition. He has been conducting ecological and public health research in Madagascar since 1999 where his interests led to various studies into connections between marine and terrestrial wildlife consumption and the incidence of micronutrient deficiencies, the importance of botanical ethnomedicines and geophagy to local health and the eco-epidemiology of malaria and zoonotic diseases.

This talk will present a series of case studies that Golden and the HEAL consortium have led investigating the ways in which trends in global environmental change (biodiversity loss, wildlife population collapse, climate change, deforestation/urbanization, etc.) affect human health, including infectious disease, non-communicable disease, nutrition and mental health. Case studies will include 1) the role of fires in Indonesia and the downstream particulates/haze that affect cardio-respiratory and other forms of health, 2) the impact of wildlife population collapse on land and sea in destabilizing food security and nutrition; and 3) the connections between green space, national parks and mental health.

Artwork by Ann Nee, DBS, NUS