NUS National University of Singapore

Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Science

SEMINAR

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Hosted by A/P Theodore Evans

The biodiversity value of degraded tropical forests



Dr David Edwards

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Degraded forests now dominate the remaining tropical forest cover. In this talk, I will explore the value of these degraded forests for biodiversity protection in two of the world's hottest hotspots of imperiled biodiversity: Sundaland and the Tropical Andes. I will start by exploring the impacts of forest degradation—via selective logging and forest conversion to oil palm—on Sundaic biodiversity. I will then move on to discuss the potential ways of protecting Sundaic biodiversity within the logged forest environment. I will argue that conservation payments, improved logging management and sustainable agricultural labels all have important roles to play. I will then focus on the historic loss of forest for cattle farming in the Tropical Andes and the role of cloudforest regeneration in conservation. Our work uniquely combines biological value, carbon storage and sequestration, and economics to reveal important win-wins for carbon and biodiversity conservation at minimal financial cost.

Artwork by Ann Nee, DBS, NUS