



## VIRTUAL BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

Friday, 21 Aug 2020 | 4pm | Online Zoom Session

Hosted by Dr John Ascher

# Biodiversity threats in the Asian tropics

**By Alice Catherine Hughes**

Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences, China



### About the Speaker

*Alice's work focuses on patterns of biodiversity and drivers of biodiversity change, at various spatiotemporal scales in order to develop pro-active management strategies that aim to mitigate the impacts of human activities on biodiversity. Her research spans from biogeographic research to conservation prioritization and management, and the development of tools for conservation biodiversity monitoring and assessment. This work includes understanding patterns of diversity, including that of cryptic species, and the processes behind the divergence and biogeography of species based on a combination of approaches. Her work also includes developing new tools for monitoring biodiversity patterns for bats, such as the use of bioacoustics, and other site based prioritization techniques.*

*All our work seeks to better understand natural systems, and to use that information to develop priorities for conservation and management, this also includes the development of tools such as using bat bioacoustics to rapidly inventory diversity and develop standard methods for surveys to mitigate the impact of development on biodiversity.*

Despite their high levels of biodiversity and endemism the Asian tropics are frequently forgotten in global discourse on tropical biodiversity loss. Yet understanding threats and developing conservation priorities requires a clear and accurate understanding of biodiversity data. Here I first discuss the representativeness and accuracy of current biodiversity and ecologically relevant data, and its limits to sensibly inform analysis and develop meaningful priorities for conservation and management.

Much of Asia has reached a point of almost no return with much of its native biodiversity, with rates of undocumented road building in many parts of the region (i.e. 90% of roads in central Kalimantan are unmapped) symptomatic of the rapid rates of deforestation, and the rapid exploitation of native resources and species in these regions.

Here I will explore the various threats to the regions biodiversity, and discuss which ecosystems, species and regions are most at risk. I also discuss priorities for action and implementation using various approaches, and the major barriers to implementing the necessary policy and management protocols to secure a future for the regions biodiversity. Finally, we discuss the relative responsibilities what mechanisms might effectively change the trajectory of this region, and conserve its threatened biota.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nus-sg.zoom.us/j/99623252507?pwd=bmlaZlhhVWVs4TEpOUUnBKNG1oMINyQT09>

**Meeting ID: 996 2325 2507**

**Password: 811645**