

Conservation Innovation Update The Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest

HOLIDAY SPECIAL: LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS --

Pioneers of Large-Scale Conservation

Join us at 11 am EDT next Monday, December 20, 2010 for a live, online discussion with Gary Tabor, Philip Nyhus, and Rob Lilieholm, three pioneers in the conservation of large landscapes for "charismatic megafauna."

Register [here](#) for this online event.

Dear Colleagues in Conservation:

The Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University, along with the Conservation Finance Forum, will be hosting a HOLIDAY EDITION expert chat featuring LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS (*oh my!*) on Monday, December 20 at 11 am Eastern Daylight Time. We will be speaking with: Gary Tabor, Director of the Center for Large Landscapes in Bozeman, Montana and an expert in grizzly bear habitat conservation; Philip Nyhus, a Colby College professor who was witness to an historic meeting this fall in Russia on tiger conservation; and Rob Lilieholm, a University of Maine/Orono professor who is working on a cutting-edge project to model ecosystem futures in Kenyan parks where lions still roam.

Gary Tabor's experience as a catalyst for the conservation of expansive wild corridors has spanned several decades. He served as the Environment Program Officer for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Associate Director of the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, and as Program Director for the Wilburforce Foundation, where he managed its Yellowstone to Yukon field office. Gary's work also includes the design of international conservation trusts for biodiversity protection for USAID, and the Global Environmental Facility of the World Bank. The Center for Large Landscape Conservation which Dr. Tabor now directs was established in 2007 with a V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation grant to advance the mission of large landscape conservation in western North America and around the world. By acting as an inter-organizational catalyst to fuel scientific and policy collaboration, The Center for Large Landscape Conservation plays a unique role in advancing wildlife corridor and connectivity conservation.

Philip Nyhus, a professor in Colby College's Environmental Studies program, conducts interdisciplinary research that bridges the natural and social sciences to address human interactions with the environment. Nyhus is part of an international team helping the government of China to restore wild populations of the critically endangered South China tiger, and is the co-editor of *Tigers of the World: The Biology, Politics and Conservation of Panthera tigris*.

Notably, Nyhus traveled this fall to St. Petersburg, Russia, to the International Tiger Conservation Forum, a meeting hosted by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and the Government of the Russian Federation. At that meeting, thirteen "tiger range" countries agreed on a cross-continental agenda for tiger conservation and the need for urgent action to protect this hugely symbolic and ecologically essential wild species.

Rob Lilieholm, the E.L. Giddings Associate Professor of Forest Policy at the University of Maine, describes his work this way. "I've always loved the outdoors and am fortunate that my research has taken me all over the world to explore ways in which wildlands can be sustainably managed to promote a variety of social, economic and ecological goals. In my research, I model alternative future growth scenarios and develop market-based approaches to sustain communities and the surrounding lands upon which they depend."

Prior to coming to UMaine in 2006, Rob spent 18 years at Utah State University, and was a Visiting Fellow at the Lincoln Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as well as at the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica. Earlier this year, he travelled to Nairobi, Kenya, where he helped to model the future of Nairobi National Park and several of the other magnificent Kenyan settings where lions and wildebeests roam freely. Rob will share with us several of his insights into the enormous challenges facing champions of large-scale conservation in Africa in the 21st century.

Please join us next Monday for what should be a fascinating session with three distinguished experts in the theory and practice of large-landscape conservation.

Best regards,

Jim

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