

James Cook University, Cairns

Invites you to attend an

Inaugural Lecture
by

Distinguished Professor William F Laurance

To be held at

**Rydges Esplanade Resort, Cairns
On Tuesday 16th of March at 5.30pm**

“Emerging threats to tropical forests”

Professor William F Laurance will highlight new and emerging threats to tropical ecosystems. The drivers of forest destruction and key perils to biodiversity have changed over the past two decades. Industrial drivers of forest conversion—such as logging, large-scale soy and cattle farming, oil-palm plantations, and oil and gas development—have escalated in importance in recent decades, buoyed by rapid globalization, economic growth, and rising standards of living in developing nations. Biofuels are likely to grow rapidly as a driver of future forest destruction. Climate change has emerged as a potentially serious cause of change in the tropics, and some fauna, such as amphibians, are being decimated by emerging pathogens.

In general, old-growth forests are vanishing rapidly and being replaced by fragmented, secondary, and logged forests. Professor Laurance will consider the implications of these manifold changes for the future of tropical biodiversity.

All Welcome, light refreshments will be served

RSVP

RSVP by Monday 15th March 2010 to 4042 1086 or leanne.shillitoe@jcu.edu.au

Contact: Leanne Shillitoe School of Marine & Tropical Biology

William F Laurance is a Distinguished Research Professor at James Cook University. He joined JCU recently after having spent 14 years with the Smithsonian Institution, an eminent U.S.-government research organization, based in Brazil and Panama.

Professor Laurance's research focuses on the impacts of intensive land-uses, such as habitat fragmentation, logging, and wildfires on tropical forests and species. He is also interested in climatic change and conservation policy. He works in the Amazon, Africa, Southeast Asia, and tropical Australia, and has published five books and over 300 scientific and popular articles.



Professor Laurance received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1989 and then held research positions with the CSIRO and Wet Tropics Management Authority in North Queensland, before joining the Smithsonian Institution.

A leading voice for conservation, Professor William F Laurance believes that scientists must actively engage policy makers and the general public, as well as other scientists. He is a fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science and former President of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, the world's largest scientific organization devoted to the study and preservation of tropical ecosystems. He has received many scientific honors including the prestigious BBVA Frontiers in Ecology and Conservation Biology Award, regarded by many as the 'Nobel Prize' for environmental conservation.