

Symposium on Biological Extinctions and Climate Change
September 10-11, 2015
Saint Louis, Missouri, U.S.

Organized by Prof. Peter Raven and Prof. Camille Parmesan

With major world-wide climate negotiations looming this December (COP21 in Paris), there is an urgent need for the conservation and biodiversity communities to reassess the 2°C threshold as defining "dangerous" climate change, as agreed on by 180+ nations in the Copenhagen Accord (2009). To this end, this symposium will provide an up-to-date discussion centered on the theme of extinctions and climate change from the viewpoints of the many different disciplines that can inform on this topic.

This symposium will represent our current understanding of how rapid climate change impacts population and species' extinctions from the perspectives of:

- 1) the distant past, through a paleobiology lens
- 2) the recent past, through understanding observed impacts of anthropogenic climate change
- 3) the near future, via modeled projections of impacts of anthropogenic climate change

and will synthesize how well anthropogenic climate change has been incorporated into biodiversity conservation sectors, in terms of our current ability:

- 4) to assess extinction risk
- 5) develop conservation priorities
- 6) prevent species' extinctions

Organizers and invited speakers:

- Wendy Foden, PhD, Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission Climate Change Specialist Group, South Africa
- Brian Huntley, PhD, Professor in the School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, University of Durham, United Kingdom
- Stephen Jackson, PhD, Center Director of the U.S. Department of Interior Southwest Climate Science Center, United States
- Joshua J. Lawler, PhD, Associate Professor in the School of Forest Resources, University of Washington, United States
- Guy Midgley, PhD, Professor in the Department of Botany and Zoology, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
- Camille Parmesan, PhD, National Marine Aquarium Chair in the Public Understanding of Oceans and Human Health, University of Plymouth, United Kingdom
- Peter Raven, PhD, George Engelmann Professor of Botany Emeritus in Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis and President Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, United States
- Rebecca Shaw, PhD, Associate Vice President & Senior Lead Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund, United States
- Stephen Williams, PhD, Professor in the Centre for Tropical Biodiversity and Climate Change, James Cook University, Australia

The Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity is hosted by the Washington University Climate Change Initiative and will be held at Washington University in St. Louis. To register, please visit [here](#).