

A TropSc™ 2021 webinar series
The Future Belongs to the Tropics

TROPICAL FORESTS UNDER THREAT

Finding Our Way Out of the Woods



Tropical forests cover 7% of global land surface and support over 60% of terrestrial biodiversity. They store an estimated 25% of the world's carbon and play a pivotal role in regulating the world's climate.

The extent of deforestation in the tropics is higher than the rest of the world. Forest degradation and deforestation in tropical countries is a major environmental, social, and economic problem, and will continue to be so unless action is taken.

While efforts for tropical forest recovery have centered on forest restoration, efforts to protect existing natural forests and develop sustainable funding mechanisms are arguably vital as well. In this webinar, we showcase efforts around the world that support both tropical forest protection and restoration.



Rudi Putra

Forum Konservasi Leuser
Indonesia



Sri Rao Venkateswara

Rimba
Malaysia



MODERATOR

**Professor Gopalasamy
Reuben Clements**

Jeffrey Sachs Center on
Sustainable Development,
Sunway University Malaysia



Dr James Roshetko

World Agroforestry (ICRAF)
Southeast Asia Regional
Programme (Indonesia)



Adam Gibbon

NatureBased Ventures
United Kingdom



Esteban Brenes-Mora

Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation
Costa Rica

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Agenda

14:30 – 14:35

Introduction and Welcome Remarks

Mazlan Othman

Director, International Science Council Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

14:35 – 16:20

Panel Discussion: THREATS TO TROPICAL FORESTS: HOW CAN WE FIND OUR WAY OUT OF THE WOODS?

MODERATOR: Professor Gopalasamy Reuben Clements

Senior Research Fellow, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University

Sustainable financing for forest protection

Adam Gibbon

Founding Director, NatureBasedVentures

Securing the future of forests in the 100,000-hectare Kenyir watershed, Malaysia

Sri Rao Venkateswara

Conservation Finance Manager, Rimba

Sustainable Agroforestry in Indonesia

Dr James Roshetko

Senior Agroforestry Systems and Integrated Natural Resource Scientist, World Agroforestry (ICRAF)

Restoring forests as a catalyst for community development: lessons from Costa Rica

Esteban Brenes-Mora

Executive Director, Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation

Forest restoration in the Leuser Ecosystem

Rudi Putra

Senior Advisor, Leuser Conservation Forum (FKL)

16:20 – 16:30

Wrap-up and Closing



Speaker Profiles



Professor Gopelasamy Reuben Clements is a conservation scientist by training. He is currently the Associate Dean of Research in the School of Medical and Life Sciences in Sunway University and a Senior Fellow with the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development. He received his PhD in conservation science from James Cook University and obtained his MSc and BSc in biology from the National University of Singapore. Reuben's research focuses on forest and biodiversity conservation. He has published over 90 articles in journals including Nature, and his work has been featured in the BBC, New York Times and National Geographic. He also co-founded a local non-profit research organization known as Rimba, which conducts applied research on the conservation of threatened species and ecosystems in Peninsular Malaysia.

Adam Gibbon is a natural capital impact investor. In 2021, he founded NatureBased Ventures to accelerate finance towards nature-based solutions to climate change. He has a BSc in Natural Sciences from Durham University and an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford University. He specialises in designing, raising and deploying debt and equity investment funds that finance sustainable enterprises. He has a technical specialty in the design and development of REDD+ and sustainable agriculture projects and strategies that conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable livelihoods in the tropics and subtropics



Dr James Roshetko has a PhD in Geosciences and Natural Resource Management from the University of Copenhagen. He has 38 years of experience, including 33 years working in Southeast and South Asia and 23 years living in Indonesia. The focus of his career has been to generate and apply science-based knowledge to enhance rural development options through improved sustainable environmental management. The central theme being smallholder agroforestry systems and enterprises as viable components of a climate-smart, multifunctional landscape-management approach that enhances local livelihoods, protects environmental services, and achieves sustainable environmental management.



Speaker Profiles



Esteban Brenes-Mora is the Executive Director of Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation; his work is focused in endangered species conservation and habitat restoration. Esteban has been strategizing along local communities and authorities to develop conservation actions and productive activities that allow them to coexist with wildlife and promote forest restoration. Esteban is conservation associate for GWC, member of the Board of Directors of Osa Conservation, lecturer at the University of Costa Rica, and deputy of the Costa Rica's Government National Wildlife Commission. He has experience on wildlife conservation in Central America, South-East Asia and Europe. Esteban has lectured in distinguished institutions around America, Asia, United Kingdom, and Europe.

Sri Rao Venkateswara has over 10 years of experience in conservation project management and regularly liaises with federal and state government agencies. He was a Professional Fellow at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington DC. Sri is currently the Conservation Finance Manager for Rimba and is currently a Fellow with the Kinship Foundation based in Chicago.



Rudi Putra is a 2019 National Geographic Fellow and Senior Advisor of the Leuser Conservation Forum (FKL), an NGO aiming to protect and restore the 2.6 million hectares of remaining forest in Northern Sumatra, Aceh, Indonesia called the Leuser Ecosystem. Rudi and his team work to dismantle illegal palm oil plantations that are causing massive deforestation in the Leuser and to protect the habitat of the critically endangered Sumatran rhino. Rudi has a Master's from Bogor Agricultural Institute specializing in tropical biodiversity conservation with a focus on the ecology and population distribution of Sumatran rhinos in the Kappi Plateau. Rudi received the Future for Nature Award in 2013 for his efforts to protect Sumatran rhinos. In 2014, Rudi received the Goldman Environmental Prize for his efforts to combat illegal logging, forest encroachment for palm oil production, and policies that open endangered ecosystems to mining and plantation industries.

