

Ecological Seminar

Wednesday, 30th Oct 2024, 16:15 h, BIOM 1060

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Biodiversity Conservation in Central Europe

In my talk I will focus on the threats to biodiversity and the actions needed to mitigate the precipitous decline of species richness. Many habitats of conservation concern have been severely affected by habitat loss, leaving their fragmented remnants mostly poorly protected and often embedded in a hostile matrix. Moreover, the flora and fauna of the remaining patches usually suffers from habitat degradation. Habitat quality, size, and connectivity are considered to be the key drivers of species richness in fragmented landscapes. Hence, conservation management should aim to (i) increase the quality of the remaining patches, (iii) enlarge their size, and (iv) improve functional connectivity between them. In times of rapid global warming, moreover, a stabilisation of the water level and an increase in heterogeneity at the habitat and landscape scale are highly needed.

