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THE WRIGLEY LECTURE SERIES ON SUSTAINABILITY CO-HOSTED BY GIOS, CLAS, OVPR, AND ECOSERVICES

The Future of Biodiversity



SIR PETER CRANE
THE JOHN AND MARION SULLIVAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



THOMAS E. LOVEJOY

PRESIDENT
THE HEINZ CENTER

Biodiversity is being lost at unprecedented rates due to human activities. And yet the understanding of the oftentimes complex ways in which human well-being depends on the world's biological resources has never been more advanced. Our capacity to identify new species, and understand how they are related to one another, is growing, as is our understanding of the ecological and social conditions required for successful conservation. Whether our understanding and capacity will grow fast enough to prevent a global extinction crisis remains an open question. In this joint lecture, Peter Crane and Thomas Lovejoy look at what we know about species and their contributions to human well being today, what we might know in the future, and how the loss of species might affect the lives of people.

Professor Sir Peter Crane is The John and Marion Sullivan University Professor at The University of Chicago and holds his appointment in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences. A former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew and of the Field Museum in Chicago, he is a fellow of the Royal Society, a foreign associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He was awarded a knighthood on June 12, 2004. Professor Crane is an alumnus of the University of Reading. His own research interests involve the integration of studies of living and fossil plants, in order to understand large-scale patterns and processes of plant evolution.

Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy has been President of The Heinz Center since May 2002. Before coming to The Heinz Center, he was the World Bank's Chief Biodiversity Advisor and Lead Specialist for Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean and Senior Advisor to the President of the United Nations Foundation. Dr. Lovejoy has been Assistant Secretary and Counselor to the Secretary at the Smithsonian Institution, Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior, and Executive Vice President of the World Wildlife Fund–U.S. In 2001 he was awarded the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement. Dr. Lovejoy served on science and environmental councils or committees under the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. He received his B. S. and Ph.D. (biology) degrees from Yale University.

Thursday, January 31, 2008 – 4:00 PM
Life Sciences E-104
Arizona State University, Tempe campus

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