

# **DRAFT** NASA Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation

## Annual Team Meeting

Yours Truly DC Hotel, Washington D.C.

May 27-29, 2025

### **MEETING REGISTRATION & INFORMATION**

[PLEASE UPLOAD YOUR PRESENTATIONS HERE](#)

#### Tuesday May 27

---

8:30AM Coffee/Tea

9:00AM **Welcome, Code of Conduct, & Introduction**  
*Woody Turner/NASA Headquarters*

9:15AM NASA Earth Action  
*Tom Wagner/NASA Headquarters*

9:30AM NASA Earth Science Division Research & Analysis Program  
*Barry Lefer/NASA Headquarters*

9:45AM **Project Talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**  
Archipelago-wide rewilding of Galapagos giant tortoises  
*Giorgos Mountrakis/ State University of New York, Syracuse*

Maximizing the effectiveness of area-based conservation strategies for birds in Latin America under a changing environment  
*Jill Deppe/National Audubon Society, Inc.*

Internet of Animals  
*Antonio Ferraz/ NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

Prediction of Individual Coral Organismal Growth, Recruitment, and Mortality (PICOGRAM)

*Sam Purkis/University of Miami*

Advancing tools to support and test an integrated biodiversity monitoring system for Colombia's protected areas

*Mary Blair/American Museum of Natural History*

10:45AM **Break (30 min)**

11:15AM **Project Talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**

Understanding the 3D signature of biodiversity hotspots in Mediterranean forests

*Atticus Stovall/ NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*

Earth observation-based restoration and monitoring in coastal and forested protected areas of West Africa

*Lola Fatoyinbo/NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*

Operationalizing dynamic ocean management tools to support a climate-ready network of protected areas in the North Atlantic

*Camrin Braun/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

Near-real time forecasting and change detection for a fire-prone shrubland ecosystem

*Adam Wilson/State University of New York at Buffalo*

An ecological toolbox to inform livestock grazing allotments across wildlife conservancies in Kenya

*Jared Stabach/Smithsonian Institution*

12:15 **Lunch (1 h 15 min)**

1:30PM **Project Talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**

Biodiversity, connectivity and ecological forecasting: applying NASA earth observation data to conservation management in the Greater Kruger National Park

*Jody Vogeler/Colorado State University*

Leveraging Earth observation for ecosystem service accounting in large-scale levee setback decisions

*Charles Van Rees/University of Georgia, Athens*

Act Green: a near-real time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts

*Gautam Surya/Wildlife Conservation Society*

Developing and implementing a tool for prioritizing the management of an invasive and hyperabundant apex predator – the Barred Owl

*Marcus Peery/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

FATE: The drifting Fish Aggregating device (dFAD) Trajectory modeling tool for marine protected area management

*Daniel Whitt/NASA Ames Research Center*

2:30PM

**Project talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**

Implementing the Yurok Natural Resources Portal as a decision support system to inform tribal resource management

*Danielle Wood/Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Enhancing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience in dry forest ecosystems

*Marcus Peery/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

From eyes in the sky to boots on the ground: applying NASA Earth observations to protect critical forests in Mesoamerica through the IUCN STAR program

*Nicholas Macfarlane/IUCN*

Integrating remote sensing and ecological forecasting into decision support for beaver rewilding

*Jodi Brandt/Boise State University*

Biggest bang for your buck: using NASA Earth observations to understand and maximize holistic ecosystem benefits from invasive mammal eradications on islands

*David Will/Island Conservation*

3:30PM **Break** (30 min)

4:00PM **NASA Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition (CSDA) Program**

*Melissa Martin/NASA HQ*

4:15PM **Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET)**

*Brock Blevins/NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*

4:30PM **Speed Talks on Posters by NASA FINESST Awardees**  
(1 min talks using 1 slide each)

5:00PM **Poster Session** ([list of posters](#))

## Wednesday May 28

---

8:30AM Coffee/Tea

9:00AM **Project Talks: Bioscape I (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**

Biodiversity Survey of the Cape (BioSCape)

*Adam Wilson/State University of New York at Buffalo*

RadSCape: radiative transfer simulation and validation of the dynamic structural and spectral properties of the vegetation of the Cape

*Jan van Aardt/Rochester Institute of Technology*

Spectral and spatial scaling in biodiversity remote sensing: research conducive to BioSCape science and implementation activities  
*John Silander/University of Connecticut*

Cyanobacteria and surface aquatic vegetation of the Cape freshwater systems (CyanoSCape): a hyperspectral data campaign and analysis  
*Liane Guild/NASA Ames Research Center*

BioREaCH: biodiversity-remote sensing for estuarine and coastal habitat research  
*Atticus Stovall/NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*

10:00AM **Break** (30 min)

10:30AM **Project Talks: Bioscape 2 (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**  
Cape Traits: patterns of functional trait variation and diversity across the Greater Cape Floristic Region and comparison with other Mediterranean ecosystems  
*Philip Townsend/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning  
*Peter Adler/Utah State University*

BioSCape – Mapping of phytoplankton functional types from space in support of coastal resource management and decision support activities  
*Jinghui Wu/Columbia University*

Intrinsic dimensionality and data fusion to monitor Cape biodiversity  
*Kerry Cawse-Nicholson/NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

Biodiversity across scales: mapping taxonomic, phylogenetic, and functional diversity with eDNA, field surveys, and remote sensing data  
*Matthew Rossi/University of Colorado, Boulder*

11:30AM **Lunch - Mentor Lunch / Early Career Lunch (2 hrs)** ([please sign up here](#))

- 1:30 PM      **Project Talks: Bioscape 3 (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**  
Plant community assembly and trait evolution in the South African  
Greater Cape Floristic Region  
*Jeannine Cavender-Bares/Harvard College*
- BioSoundSCape : Connecting acoustics and remote sensing to study  
habitat-animal diversity across environmental gradients  
*Matthew Clark/Sonoma State University*
- TraitsCape: understanding the role of microrefugia in buffering fynbos  
from global change  
*Corey Merow/University of Connecticut, Storrs*
- Integrating remote sensing and biodiversity observations to map and  
monitor plant taxonomic, phylogenetic, and functional beta-diversity in  
the Greater Cape Floristic Region  
*Matthew Fitzpatrick/University of Maryland, Cambridge*
- BioSCape multi-sensor data integration  
*Philip Brodrick/NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*
- 2:30 PM      **New & Recent Missions (8 min talk + 4 min Q&A) [PACE,  
NISAR, SWOT, SBG, and LUCE]**
- 3:30PM      **Break (30 min)**
- 4:00PM      **Breakouts [TBD]**
- 5:30PM      **Adjourn**

Thursday May 29

---

8:30AM Coffee/Tea

9:00AM **Project Talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**

Integrated multi-project impact assessment for the contribution of NASA Earth observation products to support biodiversity decision-making in Colombia

*Victor Gutierrez-Velez/Temple University*

Assessing the efficacy and applicability of dynamic ocean management for the US West Coast

*Barbara Muhling/University of California, Santa Cruz*

Impact assessment for applying satellite Earth observation data to SDG 15 monitoring in Ghana

*Danielle Wood/Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Harnessing NASA satellite remote sensing in support of large-scale conservation management on BLM lands: An evaluation of LandCART's role in conservation decision making

*Greg Okin/University of California, Los Angeles*

9:48AM **Special Invited Talk (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**

AI foundation models at NASA

*Tsengdar Lee/NASA HQ*

10:00AM **Project Talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**

Ecological forecasting tools for movement-track management at the Yukon-to-Yellowstone migration corridor

*Roland Kays/North Carolina State University*

Determining forest recruitment change through the integration of NASA Earth observation data and predictive modeling

*Tong Qiu/Duke University*

Natural resource management with new protected area connectivity tools

*Patrick Jantz/Northern Arizona University*

A remote sensing-based bird friendly certification system for sustainable agro-forestry: a multi-sensor approach to evaluating and monitoring avian habitat quality

*Qiongyu Huang/Smithsonian Institution*

Hot spots in the ice: importance of polynyas for marine ecosystems

*Alice DuVivier/UCAR*

11:00AM **Break** (30 min)

11:30AM Project Talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)

Ecosystem assessments based on Earth observations to inform management of invasive iceplant for biodiversity conservation

*Benjamin Halpern/UC Santa Barbara*

Earth observations to combat invasive aquatic vegetation

*Erin Hestir/ UC Merced*

Mapping and protecting rock habitat in the Cascades Mountains for the conservation of climate sensitive species

*Arjan Meddens/Washington State University, Pullman*

The University of Connecticut Ecological Modeling Institute Biodiversity Exposure Forecasts (BEFore): anticipating ecological vulnerability to global change

*Mark Urban/University of Connecticut, Storrs*

I.C.E. C.R.E.A.M.: integrating communication of ECOSTRESS into community research, education, applications and media

*Gregory Goldsmith/Chapman University*

12:30PM **Lunch** - (1.5 hrs)

- 2:00PM      **Project Talks (10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**  
The Southeast US Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON):  
toward operational marine life data for conservation and sustainability  
*Frank Muller-Karger/University of South Florida*
- Louisiana Deltaic Estuaries MBON: sea Level Rise Sentinels  
*Cassandra Glaspie/Louisiana State University*
- AMBON – linking biodiversity observations in the Arctic  
*Katrin Iken/University of Alaska, Fairbanks*
- 2:36PM      **Next Terrestrial Ecology Airborne Campaign  
(10 min talk + 2 min Q&A)**  
*Ryan Pavlick/NASA HQ*
- 2:48PM      **Break (42 min)**
- 3:30PM      **Plenary Discussion: Program updates, issues and concerns**  
*Keith Gaddis/NASA HQ*
- 4:00PM      **Adjourn**

## Friday May 30 - Marine BON All-hands Meeting

---

9:00AM - 3:00 PM      MBON All-hands Meeting

## Poster Presentations

**Tuesday, May 27**

*Note: Poster boards are 4'x8' (two posters per side), so all posters should fit in a 4'x4' area.*

### **A.7 Biodiversity (2020)**

Identifying population tipping points through imagery super-resolution

*Heather Lynch/State University of New York, Stonybrook*

Understanding urban centers as ecological traps for avian migrants

*Kyle Horton/Colorado State University*

Scaling forest diversity across space and time in a non-equilibrial world

*Sydne Record/University of Maine*

The landscape of fitness: fusing GPS measurements with GEDI and ECOSTRESS data products to map responses of migratory animals to vegetation canopy structure and water stress

*Neil Carter/University of Michigan*

Multiple spatial scales, long-term trends, and synchrony of the dynamic habitat indices and bird populations

*Volker Radeloff/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

BioCube: Integrating remote sensing and in-situ dimensions of biodiversity to understand plant and animal community composition and dynamics at large scales

*Phillip Townsend/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

The size, trophic and spatial-temporal scaling of environmental selection in pelagic species

*Matthew Oliver/University of Delaware*

Multi-sensor biodiversity framework developed from bioacoustic and space-based sensor platforms

*Brian Pijanowski/Purdue University*

Assessing spatial biodiversity dynamics in kelp forest ecosystems using spaceborne remote sensing

*Tom Bell/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

Understanding the global 3D signature of tree biodiversity

*Atticus Stovall, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*

MarineVERSE – The Marine Biodiversity and Scaling Project

*Sam Purkis/University of Miami*

Transcriptomics From Space: Linking Remote Sensing to Tree Gene Expression in a Diverse Set of Species Through the Growing Season and in Response to Water Deficit

*Nathan Swenson/Notre Dame University*

#### **A.7 Biodiversity (2024)**

Linking Biodiversity Observations Across Multiple Scales to Assess and Monitor Alterations in Planktonic Community Composition of the Arctic Ocean

*Rick Reynolds/University of California, San Diego*

Understanding marine microbial community dynamics using satellite-derived observations

*Julia Brown/Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences*

Soaring Across Scales: The Effects of Wind on Individuals, Populations, and Flyways Among Atlantic Pelagic Seabirds

*Francesco Ventura/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute*

Mega impacts of megaherbivores: unraveling the role of rhino restoration in savanna-fire dynamics

*Jessica Rothman/Hunter College*

Quantifying relationships and feedback between vegetation structural complexity and biodiversity in the Congo Basin

*Andrew Davies/Harvard College*

Can remote sensing help solve the mystery of disappearing *Ondrata zibethicus*?

*Laurence Smith/Brown University*

HI-GRASS - Holistic Investigation of Grassland Systems Across Scales

*Hamed Gholizadeh/Oklahoma State University*

Understanding the scale of migratory birds' attraction to artificial light in the era of LEDs

*Kyle Horton/Colorado State University*

From species to landscapes: integrating multi-scale data to characterize the spatial and temporal dynamics of plant phenology

*Brooke Rose/San Diego State University*

Enhanced marine biodiversity monitoring in the Northern California Current through coupled remote sensing and integrated observations across spatiotemporal scales and trophic levels

*Dawn Barlow/Oregon State University*

#### **A.7 Ecological Conservation 2024**

Increasing scale and ensuring sustainable transfer of the Mesic Restoration Monitoring aid (MRRMaid) decision support tool for beaver rewilding

*Jodi Brandt/Boise State University*

A post-fire reforestation assessment and prioritization tool for the western United States

*Zachary Holden/US Forest Service*

Expanding the geography and user base of the Atlantic Sturgeon Occurrence Model

*Matthew Oliver/University of Delaware*

Multi-scale remote sensing models to improve decision making around waterbird and wetland diversity

*Jessica O'Connell/Colorado State University*

Decision and Information System for the Coastal Ocean waters of the South African Cape (DISCO-SCAPE)

*Joaquim Goes/Columbia University*

A Cloud-based Data Science Open Platform for the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area  
Research and Management Decisions

*Boyang Pan/Ocean Motion Technologies, Inc.*

Leveraging NASA Data to Guide Biodiversity Conservation Investments with the Trust  
for Public Land

*Carl Boettiger/University of California, Berkeley*

Highlighting and expanding the value of private, working forests for migratory bird  
conservation

*Courtney Davis/Cornell University*

Coordinating conservation across landscapes: Using NASA data to understand relative  
responsibility

*Sam Veloz/Point Blue*

Upscaling the Connecting Landscapes (CoLa) decision support system for range-wide  
conservation of priority wild cat species

*Patrick Jantz/Northern Arizona University*

Expanding and Scaling a Decision Support System to Inform Conservation Actions with  
Local Communities and Governments in Africa Using OPERA Land Surface Disturbance  
Alerts

*Lilian Pintea/Jane Goodall Institute*

#### **A.45 Ecological Conservation**

Continuing Impacts of Ocean Observing Data for Protected Species Modeling and  
Management

*Patrick Halpin/Duke University*

Assessing the Local and Regional Impact of the Palau Aquaculture Suitability Tool

*Anne Holland/Space Science Institute*

The benefits of SaWS to stakeholders and decision makers

*Chuanmin Hu/University of South Florida, Tampa*

Assessing the Impact of a Satellite Based Atlantic Sturgeon Forecasting Tool

*Matthew Oliver/University of Delaware*

Impact Assessment of the Decision and Information System for the Coastal Waters of Oman (DISCO)

*Dale Kiefer/Systems Science Applications*

Measuring the Impacts of Workshops on the Use of Earth Observations in Coastal Ecosystems Valuation

*Valerie Seidel/The Balmoral Group, LLC*

Redefining Decision Making: Implications of a Habitat Monitoring System on Conservation Actions at the Local and National Levels

*Lilian Pintea/Jane Goodall Institute*

## **FINESST**

Integrating Field Observations and Multi-scale Remote Sensing to Understand the Environmental and Biological Controls of Tall Shrub Distribution in Arctic Tundra

*Dedi Yang/State University of New York, Stonybrook*

Linking emerging threats to wildlife and human health to climate change effects on boreal forest ecosystems

*Ben Tonelli/University of California, Los Angeles*

Examining Responses of Phytoplankton Community Composition to Climate-Related Changes in the Arctic Ocean Using Multiyear Observations from Multiple Satellite Mission

*Anjali Narayanan, University of California, San Diego*

Detecting disturbance legacy effects in functional trait phenology using imaging spectroscopy data from the SHIFT campaign

*Natalie Queally/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Using detailed human activity and remote sensing data to assess wildlife responses to altered human behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic

*Diego Ellis-Soto/Yale University*

Characterizing immediate and mid-term climate effects on boreal forest dynamics to model long-term forest dynamics and management outcomes

*Shelby Sundquist/Northern Arizona University*

Evaluating the influence of biocontrol program on the Colorado River biodiversity with multi-source time series imagery

*Yilun Zhao/University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

Integrating ships and satellites to understand the global biogeography and biophysical coupling of surface and deep ocean ecosystems

*Emmett Culhane/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute*

Multi-Source Detection and Monitoring of Ephemeral Shorebird Habitats in an Agricultural Prairie System

*Jennifer Linscott/University of South Carolina*

Integrating models of ephemeral water and wildlife energetics using synthetic aperture radar

*Amelia Zuckerwise/University of Michigan*

Geographic Variation in Primary Productivity Synchrony Across the United States

*Ryan Buron/University of Wisconsin*

Advancing bat conservation and management in the western US through GEDI-derived forest structure

*Brent Barry/University of Idaho*

Satellite-based Mapping of Freshwater Resilience and Conservation Potential on 270 Remote Pacific Islands

*Michael Burnett/University of California, Santa Barbara*

Detection, driver-response analysis, and forecasting of Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms in inland waters under a changing climate

*Chintan Maniyar/University of Georgia, Athens*

Does ecosystem engineering by beaver increase distribution, abundance and connectivity of biodiversity in the Greater Yellowstone Area?

*Kathryn Davis/University of Wyoming*

Integrating Climate Projections into Snow-mediated Habitat Selection for Carnivores and Ungulates

*Benjamin Sullender/University of Washington*

Sensing the biodiversity impacts of gold mining in the Peruvian Amazon

*Christopher Sayers/University of California, Los Angeles*

Uncovering water and carbon tradeoffs in three California oak species with hyper spectral remote sensing

*Anna Ongjoco/University of California, Los Angeles*

Remote-Sensing Resilience: An Exploration of Caribou Winter Habitat in the Changing Arctic Environment

*Skye Salganek/Northern Arizona University*

Explainable AI to model avian hierarchical habitat selection, and accurately predict their distribution and richness

*Akash Anand/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Analyzing Spatial Co-benefits of Carbon and Structural Diversity in South East Asia with GEDI

*Paromita Basak/University of Maryland, College Park*

Assessing the impacts of invasive plants on ecosystem characteristics using multi-scale imaging spectroscopy

*M. Ny Aina Rakotoarivony/Oklahoma State University*

Characterizing Habitat Requirements (Characteristics, Configurations, and Thresholds) of Grassland Birds in Illinois Through a Cross-scale Remote Sensing Framework

*Wendy Dorman/University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign*

Impacts of rebounding Asian elephant populations on forest structure and carbon storage

*Brandon Hays/Duke University*

Predicting species composition and extinction risks for montane mammals across dynamic patchy environments

*Andrew Gaier/City College of New York*

Grassland degradation patterns and causes, and the effectiveness of protected areas in Mongolia

*Elbegjargal Nasanbat/University of Wisconsin, Madison*

### **Others**

NASA CATALYST - Preserves Project

*Kimberly Miner/NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

Mapping Catalyst requirements to NASA's Information Systems Inventory

*Ian Brosnan/NASA Ames Research Center*

Workshop on community-developed cyberinfrastructure for efficient ecological forecasting

*Rob Carneiro/NERACOOS*

Wildlife Conservation Agencies and NASA Earth Observation Data: a needs assessment analysis for using NASA data to conserve biodiversity and facilitate landscape conservation.

*Tony Wasley/Wildlife Management Institute*

Understanding and Predicting Ecological Change in Mountain Ecosystems: The Colorado Headwaters Ecological Spectroscopy Study (CHESS)

*Ian Breckheimer/Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory*

Remote sensing of biodiversity across trophic levels

*Anna Schweiger/Montana State University*

Mapping biocrust community composition and functional diversity across global drylands

*William Smith/University of Arizona*

Soilborne plant pathogen dispersal and assessment: Building a remote sensing-based global surveillance system for plant disease

*Katie Gold/Cornell University*