



- First Announcement -

Geobiodiversity – An Integrative Approach Expanding Humboldt's Vision

October 1st – 3rd, 2017, Frankfurt / Germany

International conference hosted by the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, Frankfurt, in cooperation with Yale University and Stanford University.

Topic

Alexander von Humboldt's approach to science was visionary: The natural world as an interconnected Earth system with all its geological and biological diversity. As we, *Homo sapiens*, are part of this system and contribute to its ever changing nature in unprecedented ways, it is time to expand Humboldt's vision and provide the scientific basis for a sustainable world and ensure future human well-being.

To improve our understanding on how the individual components of this "System Earth" relate to each other, we need to focus on the interactions among its components and identify their reciprocal effects on the relevant spatial and temporal scales. Any ecological community is shaped by abiotic and biotic factors as well as by the phylogenetic history of the lineages, and the geological and climatic history. At the same time without an understanding of how geodynamic processes influence climate and landscape evolution, or global biodiversity, or how climate change affects past and present ecosystems, species and ecological communities, we will fall short in understanding present-day and future biodiversity.

This conference aims at presenting an integrative, systemic approach to natural history research, which is scientifically but also societally relevant. Today, humans have an unprecedented impact on the earth system with consequences not only for biodiversity and ecosystems but for humanity's well-being. Projections about future biodiversity and ecosystem services need to include data on the various components and interrelationships and on how environmental change has impacted biodiversity, ecosystems and human societies in the past.

The focus of this conference is outlined by the following questions:

- How do earth system processes affect climate and biogeochemical cycling? How did climate change affect ecosystems, ecological communities and human societies, and vice versa?
- How do earth system processes and climate affect macroevolution and ecological change? How does genomics change our view on evolutionary processes?
- How have ecosystems and ecological communities changed over long time scales? What are the implications for the conservation of ecosystems and species today and in the future?
- How do past and present-day changes in ecosystems and ecological communities affect conservation and ecosystem services for humans today and in the future? How can science be effective in policy-making and decision-making?
- How do scientific collections contribute to and shape geobiodiversity research? What are the opportunities and challenges for scientific collections in the future?
- How do we engage at the interfaces between science, policy and society?

Draft programme: http://www.senckenberg.de/root/index.php?page_id=18496

Plenary talks

The conference is scheduled for two days and will feature plenary talks by leading experts in the fields of geobiodiversity research, including

- **Page Chamberlain (Stanford University)**
- **Catherine Graham (Eidg. Forschungsanstalt für Wald, Schnee und Landschaft WSL)**
- **Gerald Haug (Max-Planck-Institute for Chemistry)**
- **Pincelli Hull (Yale University)**
- **Walter Jetz (Yale University)**
- **Georgina Mace (University College London)**
- **James Mallet (Harvard University)**
- **Jonathan Payne (Stanford University)**
- **Susanne Renner (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)**
- **Klaus Töpfer (IASS Potsdam)**

Symposia

Symposium 1: Human-environment interactions in the past and present.

Chairs: Prof. Dr. Katerina Harvati-Papatheodorou (Senckenberg & University of Tübingen), NN

Symposium 2: Bridging the past and the present: new data, new methods, new insights.

Chairs: Dr. Susanne Fritz (Senckenberg & Goethe University Frankfurt), Prof Jack Williams (University of Wisconsin)

Symposium 3: The power of natural history collections – archives of nature for science in the past, present and future

Chairs: Prof. Dr. Angelika Brandt (Senckenberg & Goethe University Frankfurt), NN

Symposium 4: Biodiversity science in support of policy and sustainability

Chairs: Associate Prof. Walter Jetz (Yale University), NN

Open abstract call for talks & posters

We welcome the submission of abstracts for oral contributions (10 minutes +5 min discussion) for one of the four symposia and for posters! Please note that only a limited number of contributions can be accepted. The decision if a contribution is accepted as an oral presentation will be made by the symposia chairs. You will be informed as soon as possible. Please submit your contributions via the **online registration form**: <https://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/senckenberg2017>.

Deadline for abstract submission is May 31st, 2017

Registration

Please **register via the online registration form**:

<https://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/senckenberg2017/>

Registration deadline: September 3rd, 2017

Due to limited availability of places early registration is recommended.

Venue

The conference will be held at the Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum Frankfurt.

Fees

The regular participation fee is 100 € (special fees for students: 50 €, a proof of a student status will be requested on-site upon registration). For payment information, see online registration form. The participation fee includes the ice breaker welcome, coffee breaks and 2 lunches. The fee for the conference dinner is 30 €.

In case of registration after September 3rd (space permitting), an additional fee of 30 € is charged.

Accommodation

Participants have to make their own accommodation arrangements, at own cost. We suggest the **following hotels**, which are located close to the conference venue:

www.senckenberg.de/files/content/tagungen/geobiodiversity_conference_hotel_suggestions_2017.pdf

Otherwise please consult: <https://www.booking.com/city/de/frankfurt-am-main.de.html> or www.hrs.com/en/hotel/frankfurt-am-main/d-91191.

Child care

For registered conference participants who will bring their children, we will organize childcare during the conference sessions. Please inform us about your needs until June 30th via e-mail to geobiodiversity-conference@senckenberg.de.

Scientific committee:

- **Katrin Böhning-Gaese (Senckenberg, Goethe-University Frankfurt)**
- **Andreas Mulch (Senckenberg, Goethe-University Frankfurt)**
- **Volker Mosbrugger (Senckenberg, Goethe-University Frankfurt)**
- **Angelika Brandt (as of April 2017: Senckenberg, Goethe-University Frankfurt)**
- **Susanne Fritz (Senckenberg, Goethe-University Frankfurt)**
- **Katerina Harvati-Papatheodorou (Senckenberg, Eberhard Karls University Tübingen)**
- **Walter Jetz (Yale University)**

Official conference homepage

<http://senckenberg.de/geobiodiversity-conference>

Please help us to promote this conference by sharing this invitation or the conference website's link within your networks.

Thank you for your support and with best wishes,

on behalf of the scientific committee,

Katrin Böhning-Gaese