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Speaker: **Dr. Johanne Pelletier, TNC-Atkinson Center for Sustainability**

Topic: *The Contribution of Forests and the Challenges to Address Deforestation: Evidence for Zambia*

Date: **Thursday, January 28th, 2021**

Time: **12:00 – 1:30 PM (EST)**

Place: **Zoom Webinar: Register Here**

All Are Welcome!

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Johanne Pelletier is a quantitative ecologist/environmental scientist with expertise in remote sensing, working on impact evaluation for the CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment. Her research interest focuses on understanding of the impacts of human interactions with terrestrial ecosystems through land-use/cover change, with the goal of mitigating climate change, sustaining ecosystem services and improving livelihoods. She earned her PhD at McGill University (Canada) and with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama). She played a leadership role on a NASA-funded project focusing on improving estimates of carbon emissions and removals from land-cover change in Southern and Eastern Africa as a postdoctoral fellow at the Woodwell Climate Research Center. She was selected for a highly competitive NatureNet Fellowship by the Nature Conservancy at Cornell University, where she worked with agricultural and development economists studying the relationship between deforestation and the use of agricultural inputs by smallholder farmers. More recently, she led a collaborative partnership project of TNC-Cornell Atkinson Sustainability Center to create new soil maps for Zambia to estimate land-based climate change mitigation potentials and to monitor charcoal production with remote sensing.

ABOUT THE TALK

Forests play an important role globally for climate change. Recent research also shows their importance at the local and regional level for regulating temperature and for water cycling. Using Zambia as a case study, I will discuss the challenges at reducing deforestation and some path of actions for understanding and addressing the proximate drivers of deforestation. Agriculture expansion and wood energy are important drivers of forest loss in the country. I present results for smallholder maize agricultural intensification and forest loss, that provide evidence for land sparing effect through the use of improved seeds and soil health management. I show new advances in understanding the charcoal environmental footprint and for monitoring charcoal making in one hotspot production area. I link these results with newly generated national soil carbon information to inform the potential of land-based climate change mitigation and adaptation in Zambia.

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