Press Release INTECOL

Frontiers in Ecology: Nature and Society

As we are collectively facing new limits, ecologists from around the world are gathering next week at the Geneva International Conference Center to explore fundamental and applied questions to understand better what is going wrong and how we can create a new paradigm to live in harmony with nature.

At the Intecol2022 conference (www.intecol2022.org), researchers will present their work in seven themes, comprised of 50 sessions, including biodiversity, climate change, ecological restoration, urban ecology. The seven thematics are: “Our bedrock”: exploring fundamental ecology and evolution; “All is not well”: addressing the global changes and biodiversity crisis; “Look up”: facing the conservation and restoration challenge; “Keep going”: connecting biodiversity with other sustainable development goals; “Ecology and Society”: contributing to society as a whole; “My favorite place”: sharing passions about specific biomes; “It’s in the data”: exploiting the new potential of technology.

In line with these exciting topics, the conference will welcome 11 keynote speakers carefully selected to represent a large spectrum of ideas and research from all six continents. The Geneva Environment Network is also organizing two specific sessions which will link the ecologists with International Organizations present in Geneva. Topics: on “The Value of Nature: Finance for Biodiversity” and “Triple Planetary Crisis: Breaking Silos”.

Each of the 5 days will be marked by two to three plenary conferences, followed by about ten parallel sessions. The opening ceremony (Monday, 9:00 am) will feature speeches by several personalities linked to the organizing organisations as well as by Antonio Hodgers, State Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva. There will be music by Marten Scheffer, scientist and musician and a leading thinker in resilience.

Nearly 1000 participants are expected at Intecol2022. The conference is collectively organized by the University of Geneva, HES-SO/Geneva, UNEP Geneva Environment Network, the Graduate Institute Geneva, and the International Association for Ecology.

While Ecology as a science will not resolve by itself the desperate challenges that we have created for ourselves it is evident that our society needs Ecology to help us manage the biodiversity crisis and the ecosystem services that rely on it, in order to help us guide towards a more sustainable future.

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