



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

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University
of Basel

Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

IDP BRIDGES Final Event

5 April 2017

University of Zurich, Aula



Bridging Science and Policy

Do not miss the ceremonial closing ceremony of the IDP BRIDGES Innovative Doctoral Program. 10 PhD students will present their outcomes. For example, key factors influencing the success of biofertilization, assessment of forest policy design to mitigate climate change, the use of RNAi as fungicide, potential of epigenetics for the organic sector, drafting a patent landscape for the use of apomixis as a technology.

Keynote talk

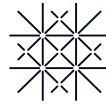
Marco Lambertini, Director General at WWF International, will present highlights of the Living Planet Report 2016.

Registration

<https://ethz.doodle.com/poll/645eh49ywkeaax45>

→ www.plantsciences.ch

Picture: Alex Hyde - alexhyde.co.uk



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Program

16:15	Welcome and synthesis of the IDP BRIDGES Program
16:30	Keynote talk by Marco Lambertini, WWF International
17:15	Discussion
18:00	PhD Project pitches
18:15	Dialogue session with PhD students
Apéro	

The modern challenges and opportunities for preserving ‹our› Living Planet

Marco Lambertini
Director General, WWF International

The evidence has never been stronger and our understanding never been clearer. Not only are we able to track the exponential increase in human pressure and the consequent degradation of natural systems, but we also now better understand the interdependencies of Earth’s life support systems and their limits. Lose biodiversity and the natural world including the life support systems as we know them will collapse. We depend on nature for the air we breathe, water we drink, the food and materials we use and the economy we rely on, and not least, for our health, inspiration and happiness.

For decades scientists have been warning that human actions are pushing life toward a sixth mass extinction. Evidence WWF’s Living Planet Report supports this. Wildlife populations have already shown a concerning decline, on average by 67 per cent by the end of the decade. While environmental degradation continues, there are also signs that we are beginning a transition towards an ecologically sustainable future.

Despite 2016 set to be another hottest year on record, global CO₂ emissions have stabilized over the last two years, with some arguing they may even have peaked. Rampant poaching and wildlife trafficking is devastating ecosystems, but the U.S. and China have recently committed to a historic ban of domestic ivory trade.

Perhaps more importantly, the interdependence between the social, economic and environmental agendas is being recognized at the highest levels through the revolutionary approach adopted in defining the new set of the world’s Sustainable Development Goals.

We need to transition to an approach that decouples human and economic development from environmental degradation—perhaps the deepest cultural and behavioural shifts ever experienced by any civilization.

These changes are upon us, and if we are awed by the scale of the challenges that this generation is facing, we should be equally motivated by the unprecedented opportunity to build a future in harmony with the planet.



Marco Lambertini is Director General of WWF International. He leads a global Network with over 50 years of environmental conservation successes, nearly 7,000 staff, five million supporters, 25 million followers on social media and activities in over 100 countries.

