



Speaker invited by: Migration and Immuno-ecology, Computational Ecology group, Radolfzell

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VIDEOCONFERENCE TO RADOLFZELL

Biodiversity conservation and restoration: bridging the great divide between research and implementation

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There is a vigorous debate about the capacity of conservation biology, as a scientific discipline, to effectively contribute to actions that preserve and restore biodiversity. Various factors may be responsible for the current great divide existing between conservation research and action. Part of the problem may be a lack of involvement by conservation scientists to actually conduct, or help implement, concrete conservation action. Yet, scientists' involvement can be decisive for successful implementation. We argue that a conceptual paradigm shift should take place in the academic conservation discipline towards more commitment on the side of the researchers to turn conservation science into conservation action. Practical implementation should be regarded as an integrated part of the scientific conservation activity as it actually constitutes the ultimate assessment of the effectiveness of the recommended conservation guidelines, and should be rewarded as such. Several examples will be given to illustrate how this novel approach may operate.

Who is Raphael Arlettaz?

2000– Head of the Valais Field Station of the Swiss Ornithological Institute, Salgesch

2001– Full professor of Conservation Biology, Zoological Institute (now Institute of Ecology and Evolution), Bern University, head of the Division of Conservation Biology and institute co-director

2008–2010 Acting director, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Bern, Switzerland

Selected publications:

- Effect of acoustic clutter on prey detection by bats. R Arlettaz, G. Jones, P.A. Racey, Nature 414:742-5. 2001
- Spreading free-riding snow sports represent a novel serious threat for wildlife. R. Arlettaz, P. Patthey, M. Baltic, T. Leu, M. Schaub, R. Palme, S Jenni-Eiermann. Proc Biol Sci 274:1219-24. 2007
- The demographic drivers of local population dynamics in two rare migratory birds. M.Schaub, T.S. Reichlin, f. Abadi, M. Kery, L. Jenni, R. Arlettaz. Oecologia 168:97-108. 2012