



Environmental Institutions Seminar Series

Presents

John Wiens, Ph.D.

Lead Scientist, The Nature Conservancy
(Mid-Americas Conservation region)

"Mind the Gap": Implementing Science-Based Conservation in an Institutionalized World

Thursday, February 26, 2004

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Physics Room 113, Science Drive, Duke University

Co-sponsored by Duke University Program in Ecology

Abstract

Good conservation rests on good science. But science by itself cannot produce conservation results -- that requires putting the science into practice and using science and practice to influence policy. Attempts to create this nexus of science, practice, and policy, however, are plagued by gaps between science and practice, science and policy, and practice and policy. Such interdisciplinary gaps are not unusual -- they reflect the differing perspectives of different disciplines, reinforced by the tendency of disciplines to be inward-looking rather than outward-looking. I provide some perspective on these gaps, and the necessity of bridging them, from the conservation efforts of The Nature Conservancy, using as an example the issue of compatible human uses of nature preserves.



**Reception following
in Hug Commons
(Nicholas School).**

Biography

John Wiens grew up in Oklahoma watching birds. This interest translated into a stellar academic career studying and teaching landscape ecology and the ecology of birds and insects in arid environments on several continents. After he earned degrees from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he successively joined the faculty of three state universities in the Western U.S. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Fellowship for work at the University of Sydney, and has collaborated with numerous international colleagues.

John left academia in 2002 to join The Nature Conservancy as Lead Scientist, with the challenge of translating classroom teaching and academic research into conservation practice in the real world. With the two other Lead Scientists, he is responsible for developing and helping to implement science-based conservation throughout The Nature Conservancy and forging new linkages with partners. His responsibilities cover the domain of the Mid-Americas Conservation Region: Canada, the Midwest and Great Plains, the south-central states, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, and Paraguay.

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