

Cornell and the Road to Rio plus 20

HOSTS: Keith Tidball, Marianne Krasny

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The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of UN General Assembly Resolution 64/236 and will take place in Brazil in June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document. Cornell University researchers, extension professionals, and ACSF Fellows have been working towards contributing to the conference via active participation in Conventions such as the Convention on Biodiversity and the Convention on Climate Change, among others. Due in large part to an MOU between Stockholm University and Cornell, Cornell researchers and extension professionals have collaborated closely with Thomas Elmqvist, a visiting professor from Stockholm who has been actively involved in numerous high-level activities with the United Nations. Among these activities are (1) efforts to recognize, protect, and enhance urban biodiversity; (2) economic valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity, and (3) conflict and disaster mitigation and response that includes community based natural resource management. This ACSF Topical lunch, organized by the Cornell Civic Ecology Lab, will be an opportunity to learn more about these and other activities, and also to share amongst colleagues other activities that are related to the 2012 UNCSD ("Rio +20") in order to foster new collaborations across disciplines and fields. The conversation will be initiated by Christine Alfsen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability at the United Nations, and co-moderated by Thomas Elmqvist and Keith Tidball.