

20 November 2013

## Aarhus Advanced Lectures in Biology

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### Speaker

Professor Carlos A. Peres  
School of Environmental Sciences,  
University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK &  
Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém, Brazil



### *Large vertebrate defaunation modulates tropical forest ecosystem services*

**ABSTRACT:** Here I examine the extent to which semi-subsistence hunters deplete large vertebrate populations across Amazonia. Patterns of vertebrate biomass in structurally undisturbed forests are then explained in terms of key environmental variables, including forest type, floristic diversity, forest hydrology, rainfall seasonality, soil fertility and degree of hunting pressure. Regional scale estimates of aggregate vertebrate biomass are highly variable and crucially dependent on the interaction between baseline habitat productivity and levels of offtake. On the basis of a vast network of 2,345 canopy tree plots, I then estimate the consequences of persistent overhunting to forest structure and composition, and ultimately the magnitude of ecosystem services foregone by the chronic depletion of large-bodied frugivores.

#### PROGRAM

15:00 Welcome  
15:05 Prof C.A. Peres

#### VENUE

AIAS Auditorium  
Building 1632  
Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 6B  
8000 Aarhus C



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