



Diverse knowledge systems for fire policy and biodiversity conservation

04-07 September 2018, Egham (West London, UK)



Aims of the Workshop

The Global Paleofire Working Group is pleased to announce an open call for participation to our workshop: ***“Diverse knowledge systems for fire policy and biodiversity conservation”***, hosted by the Centre of Quaternary Research in the Geography Department, Royal Holloway, University of London.

The objective of this workshop is to foster collaboration between Quaternary Science and more applied disciplines (Biodiversity Conservation, Forest Management, Climate impacts), by bringing together palaeoecologists, human geographers, modern ecologists and stakeholders, to discuss:

- 1) How long-term data on fire-vegetation interactions can inform fire management (prescribed burning, fuel reduction, salvage logging) to maintain/restore biodiversity (**paleoecology-informed conservation**). This will imply assessing how integrated paleofire and long-term vegetation dynamic can contribute towards stakeholders' goals for conservation.
- 2) How local, traditional, Indigenous knowledge systems on fire management maintain and promote biodiversity (**community-owned driven conservation**). This will involve identifying sustainable fire-related land use practices successfully implemented by local communities without major influence from external stakeholders, and their responses to future global changes.
- 3) Defining conservation challenges and agendas from stakeholders and policy-makers that can be addressed by long-term records and local/traditional/Indigenous knowledge in co-production processes (**stakeholder-driven research**). This will include identifying conservation priorities for key species and ecosystems, and integrating ongoing efforts of collaboration between stakeholders, local communities and the paleoecology community.

This integrated approach will help identifying which conservation targets (natural or cultural) best meet landscape management goals for specific ecosystems and biomes (from tropical to boreal), with the aim to: 1) balance specific targets in areas that offers conservation challenges on both natural structure and cultural properties; 2) identify alternative management objectives where restoring naturalness, and protecting cultural heritage, are in conflict.

During previous workshops, **the GPWG established successful collaborations** which resulted in several products for dissemination and outreach (<http://www.gpwg.paleofire.org/>). This workshop will have a significant network-building component and it is conceived to inspire new work on Quaternary, Ecology and related disciplines.

The workshop is open up to **a limited number of national and international participants**. Accommodation and food will be provided. Limited financial support from PAGES is available to supplement participant travel – **particularly for Early Career scientists and researchers from less developed countries**. Please note whether you will have full funding support to travel to the venue.

Deadline for applications is May 11, 2018.

To apply: send your applications to Daniele.Colombaroli@rhul.ac.uk, with a short paragraph explaining your research background, and to which theme (*paleoecology informed conservation, community-owned driven conservation, or stakeholders driven research*) you expect to contribute.

Looking forward to seeing you in September,

The GPWG2 (<http://www.gpwg.paleofire.org/>)