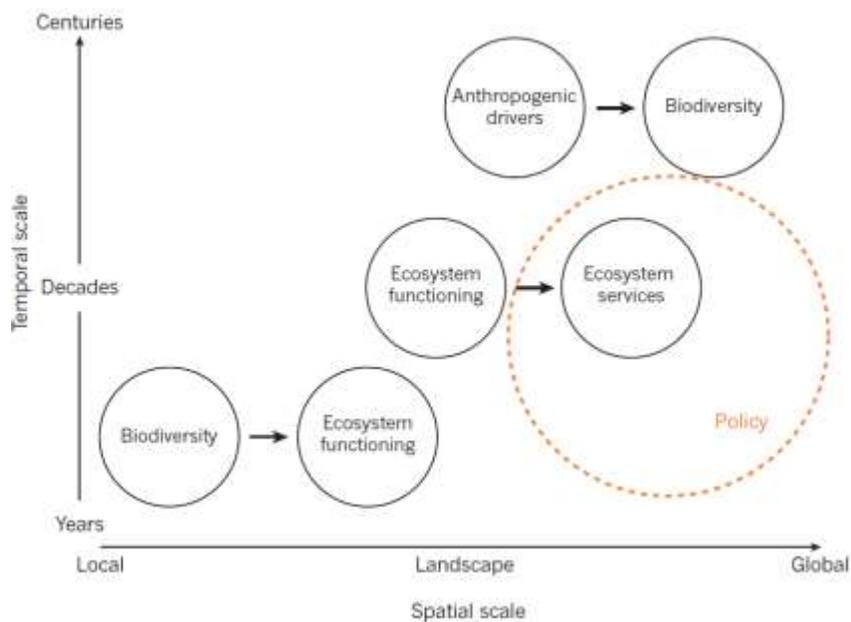


20 Settembre 2017 - h 15.00 Aula Macaluso (D1)
Via Archirafi 20 - Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e del Mare
Università degli Studi di Palermo

Linking the influence and dependence of people on biodiversity



Prof. Forest Isbell

Associate Director of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve and
Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and
Behavior at the University of Minnesota (USA)

Biodiversity enhances many of nature's benefits to people, including the regulation of climate and the production of wood in forests, livestock forage in grasslands and fish in aquatic ecosystems. Yet people are now driving the sixth mass extinction event in Earth's history. Human dependence and influence on biodiversity have mainly been studied separately and at contrasting scales of space and time, but new multiscale knowledge is beginning to link these relationships. This talk will explore how much the influence of people on biodiversity might undermine our dependence on it, featuring the cascading impacts of nutrient enrichment on grassland plant diversity and productivity, as well as the cascading impacts of habitat loss on biodiversity and carbon storage in terrestrial ecosystems worldwide.