BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, AND AGRICULTURE

- **Dr. Elizabeth T. Kennedy**, Director, Evaluation and Research, Rainforest Alliance (Chair)
- **Dr. Gary Paoli**, Director of Research and Project Development, Daemeter Consulting (Panelist)
- **Ms. Elizabeth Clarke**, Business and Biodiversity Programme Manager, Zoological Society of London (Panelist)
- **Mr. Nuno Viela,** Director, Department of Environmental Studies, Sinergiae Ambiente (Panelist)
- **Mr. Juan Jose Dada**, International Finance Corporation

Rainforest Alliance

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Discuss and share perspectives on **tools and methods to evaluate impacts of agriculture**, both for new agricultural expansion and for existing production areas.

- Explore the strengths and limitations of **the High Conservation Value (HCV) approach** in the context of agriculture, and identify priorities for strengthening HCV as both an analytical tool and a conservation tool.

- Discuss the sources and level of **demand for information on the biodiversity and ecosystem consequences of agriculture**, and brainstorm ways to increase the value (and there fore interest) of this information to agricultural supply chains and society.

Rainforest Alliance

QUESTIONS

- How can the HCV approach be used more effectively to prevent biodiversity loss, aid in mitigation, and improve impact assessment
  - Is there clarity on what the HCV approach aims to achieve, and what it does not?
  - What do you perceive as the major strengths and weaknesses of the approach (be specific)?
  - What are the priorities for improving the application and benefit of the HCV approach, and what would it take to make these things happen?
- What is the quality of information that is being used for EIA and site selection processes for agricultural development / expansion projects?
  - Is it adequate, if not, what are the barriers to and opportunities for doing better?
  - To what degree is cost a factor, and do we see any opportunities to expand the mandate for EIA, spatial planning, and impact assessment for agriculture so that more resources can be devoted to this endeavor?

Rainforest Alliance

- As food companies, investors, and consumers all show increasing interest in supporting "sustainable" food production and avoiding unsustainable practices, do we have a common concept of what sustainability means, with respect to biodiversity and ecosystems?
  - To what degree is forest conversion and / or biodiversity loss acceptable in the context of agriculture?
  - What level of "environmental externalities" are acceptable – e.g. nutrient loading, other agrochemical runoff, GHG emissions, groundwater withdrawal or appropriation of surface waters?
  - To what degree must "sustainable" agriculture provide habitat for native species within production zones themselves (e.g. fields/pastures/peripheral areas)?
- How can ecosystem services from agricultural landscapes be more accurately and cost-effectively monitored – both in the context of EIA and in the context of assessing impacts of eco-certification? What are the key innovations in sampling, monitoring, modeling, and use of proxy measures?