

# Yale Center for Biodiversity and Global Change

## Winter 2026 Newsletter

### Main News

#### Biodiversity and Global Change Center at Half Earth-Day



The Biodiversity and Global Change (BGC) Center had a strong presence at the E. O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation's ninth annual Half-Earth Day event, “From Wisdom to Action: Mentorship as a Force for Biodiversity”, held at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. We attended a science workshop on “Supporting conservation outcomes through novel technologies for local biodiversity assessment”, co-hosted by BGC Center Director Walter Jetz and the Field Museum’s Dr. Lesley Souza. Walter moderated the panel "Local leaders, practical approaches, and novel tools for monitoring and conservation in Amazonia" and presented the formal release of the 2025 Species Protection Report, which documented a 6% rise in species protection on land and 4% rise in the seas based on the [Species Protection Index](#). Learn more about the event and watch recordings of sessions on [the E. O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation website](#).

[Read the full SPI Report](#)

[Read an article about the report](#)

# Living Data Conference



Several members of the BGC Center attended the [Living Data](#) conference last October in Bogotá, Colombia, and presented on many of the exciting research and initiatives underway at the Center. Jeremy Cohen, associate research scientist at the Center, gave a talk on his recent work, [published in Nature Ecology & Evolution](#), showing that North American birds are shifting their ranges in response to climate change, but not fast enough to avoid exposure to unideal conditions. Alex Killion, managing director at the Center, presented on the Center's efforts to support governments in national biodiversity monitoring. Walter Jetz gave a talk about [species populations Essential Biodiversity Variables](#) and Map of Life. Beth Gerstner, biodiversity scientist at the Center, presented on the global species distribution models project at the Center and the development of the Expert Tools platform to support human-in-the-loop model review and refinement.

---

## BGC in the News

---



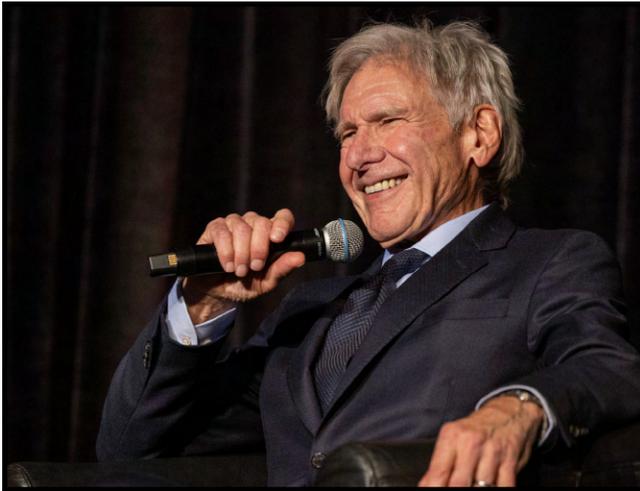
### YALE NEWS

**'Map of Life' report reveals strides in biodiversity conservation — but much work remains**

*By Karen Guzman*

Coverage of the 2025 Species Protection Report.

[Read the Article](#)



**CHICAGO SUN TIMES**

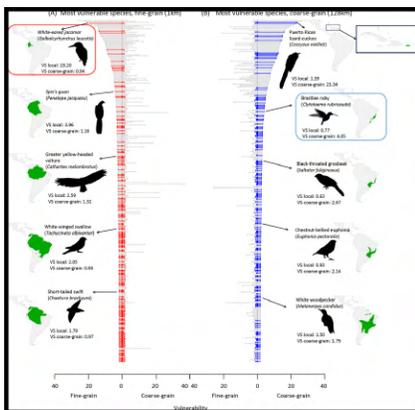
## Harrison Ford recognized for environmental advocacy at Field Museum ceremony

*By Casey He*

Coverage of the Half-Earth event, including a highlight of the 2025 Species Protection Report

[Read the Article](#)

## Recent Publications



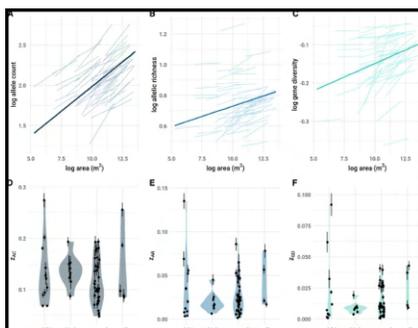
### Fine-Grain Data Reveal Vulnerability of Biodiversity to Climate Change

*Global Change Biology*

Lu M & Jetz W.

[doi.org/10.1111/gcb.70627](https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.70627)

[Read an article about this paper on the BGC site!](#)

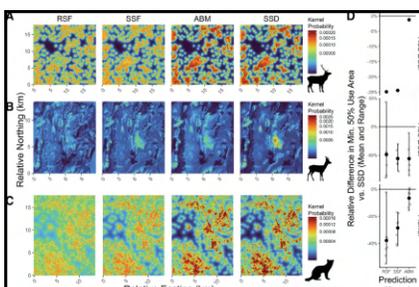


### Variability, Drivers, and Utility of Genetic Diversity-Area Relationships in Terrestrial Vertebrates

*Ecology Letters*

Schmidt C, Hoban S, Leigh DM, Jetz W, & Garroway CJ.

[doi.org/10.1111/ele.70306](https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.70306)

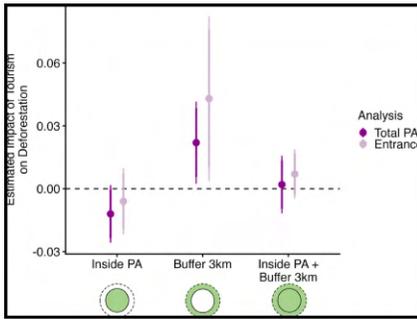


### Choices to Landscapes: Mechanisms of Animal Movement Scale to Landscape Patterns of Space Use

*Ecology Letters*

Rogers W, Yanco S, & Jetz W.

[doi.org/10.1111/ele.70279](https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.70279)

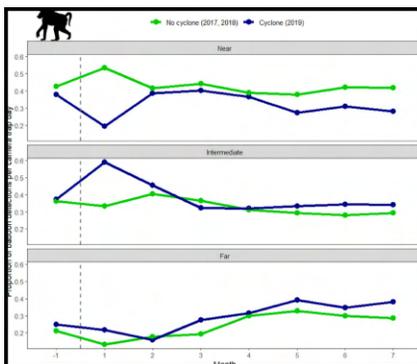


## Tourist visits to Madagascar's protected areas linked to deforestation decreases within but increases outside protected area boundaries

*Conservation Science & Practice*

DeSisto CMM, Frappier-Brinton T, Boos E, & Rasolofoson RA.

[doi.org/10.1111/csp2.70225](https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.70225)



## Effects of an Extreme Weather Event on Primate Populations

*American Journal of Biological Anthropology*

Beardmore-Herd M, Palmer MS, Gaynor KM, & Carvalho S.

[doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.25049](https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.25049)

Find all our recent publications on the [BGC website](https://www.bgc.org/).

## Other News

### Conferences and Meetings

#### COP30

Alex Killion, Managing Director of the BGC Center, was invited to COP30 held in Belém, Brazil, to join a panel on Guyana's pathway to low carbon development and biodiversity conservation leadership. He was joined by Guyana's President Ali, other heads of state, and UN Assistant Secretary-General Michelle Muschett.



## IUCN Conservation Congress

Claire Hoffmann, Head of Partnerships at the Center, attended the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi this past October. At this global event, held only once every four years, she met with key partners, including Esri, The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Trust, and the Jane Goodall Institute.



---

## Applied Conservation Technology Congress (ACT Con)

Meredith Palmer, a Conservation Scientist at the Center, attended ACT Con, an event co-hosted by SMART and Earth Ranger, this past November in Hanoi, Vietnam. She was invited to give a keynote presentation on turning complex science into actionable insights as well as two talks, one on the integration of multimodal sensor data and the other an overview of the National Biodiversity Information Systems.



---

## Hew Locke's Guyana: Climate Crisis

Claire Hoffmann, Head of Partnerships at the Center, participated in a conversation with Jemma Field, Associate Director of Research at the YCBA, about biodiversity, climate change, and colonialism in Guyana. Using the work of Guyanese-British artist Hew Locke, they discussed the new Global Biodiversity Alliance and the importance of equitable partnerships in conservation.

[Watch the Recording](#)



# Member News



## Welcome Emma!

We are excited to welcome Emma Majoros, who joined us at the Center this January as a Data Engineer! Emma is a data management specialist with a focus on geospatial data pipelines. She has a background in geospatial data science, sustainable tourism and systems, and big data analytics. Her skills and experience are a great addition to our data and analysis teams!

# Looking Ahead

## CBD 7th National Report

February 28th, 2026

As countries are preparing to submit their [seventh national reports](#) outlining progress toward their national biodiversity goals and those of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the BGC Center has prepared and delivered reports for our three component and complementary indicators for the GBF: the Species Protection, Habitat, and Information Indices. These reports meet the reporting guidelines for the GBF and provide additional decision-relevant information for countries. We sent a total of nearly 1,400 reports to 193 GBF signatory nations.



Thank You For Reading!



<https://bgc.yale.edu>