



Professor William Laurance

Advancing Australian Leadership in Tropical Conservation Science

Current Organisation:	James Cook University
Administering Organisation:	James Cook University
Primary research field:	Ecological Applications and Environmental Science and Management
National Research Priority:	An Environmentally Sustainable Australia

Professor William Laurance is a Distinguished Professor and Tropical Research Leader (Rainforest) in Marine and Tropical Biology at James Cook University. His interests are diverse, ranging from the impacts of habitat fragmentation, logging and fires on tropical fauna and flora, to global-change science and conservation policy. He is also actively engaged in public-outreach initiatives and the popular media.

Professor Laurance's project will advance a dynamic environmental research program for tropical forests in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond focusing on mounting threats including forest fragmentation, road expansion, and destabilizing synergisms between climate change and fire. This cutting-edge program will forge practical solutions to urgent concerns while promoting an array of new research challenges, opportunities, and sources of international funding for Australian scientists.

Professor Laurance received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a postdoctoral fellow with the CSIRO Tropical Forest Research Centre and Director of the School of Field Studies Centre for Rainforest Studies in north Queensland, before joining the Smithsonian Institution as Senior Staff Scientist. He has received numerous awards including the prestigious BBVA Frontiers in Ecology and Conservation Biology Award, the American Society of Mammalogists Award, and the Boething Award for Conservation Research from Stanford University.

Professor Laurance has authored six books and over 300 scientific articles. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and former President of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, the world's largest scientific organisation devoted to the study and wise use of tropical ecosystems. He is a Research Associate at Harvard University and was recently appointed Prince Bernhard Chair in International Nature Conservation.

Media contacts

For project information contact Australian Laureate Fellow Professor William Laurance—07 4038 1518 or 07 4042 1819
(*Professor Laurance is also available to comment via email: bill.laurance@jcu.edu.au or Skype—please email Professor Laurance to arrange an interview via Skype*).

For *Australian Laureate Fellowships* scheme information contact Sheena Ireland—0412 623 056