

# Life, Earth & Environment Seminar Series

When: Friday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 12 – 1pm

Where: Natural Resources Building, Large Lecture Theatre (EM1)

## *From plant traits to ecosystem - case studies from Asian forests*

**Dr Sabine Both**

*University of Aberdeen; University of New England*



Borneo's rainforests are 140 million years old and home to iconic species like orang-utans and Pygmy elephants. However, they are severely threatened by logging and conversion to agriculture. Selective logging is a widely used procedure in which valuable timber species are removed but the rest of the forest remains. Little is known about how the functional composition of tree communities changes after this disturbance. Based on data from 284 tree species and a wide variety of functional plant traits, I show how trait expression varies across landscapes as a result of anthropogenic disturbance and what that implies for plant functional diversity across human-modified tropical forests.



### **Biography**

Dr Sabine Both is a plant ecologist focusing on tropical and subtropical species-rich forest ecosystems and the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Her main interest lies in the interactions between tree species richness and functional diversity of forest ecosystems and the interplay with other trophic levels. Her observational and experimental studies have been conducted in south-eastern China and Malaysian Borneo.

Sabine recently came from the UK to join ERS and looks forward to collaborating with fellow researchers at UNE!



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