

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

AND THE

FUTURE OF NATURE

NOVEMBER 30th, 2016
PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Photo: Wildlife Conservation Society

How will synthetic biology and conservation shape the future of nature?

Synthetic biology is a broad and fast-moving field of innovation involving the design and construction of new biological parts, and the re-design of existing, natural biological systems. It has many potential applications that may change human relations to the natural world including replacing natural products (e.g. vanilla, ambergris) with synthetic ones, reviving extinct species, and creating powerful tools to address wicked conservation problems. Despite this promise and the vast sums being spent on its development, synthetic biology is virtually unknown to the conservation community. We must engage promptly, honestly and with a broad discussion to see how conservation perspectives can help shape this major emerging field.

Guest Speaker: Kent H. Redford

Kent is Principal at Archipelago Consulting - established in 2012 and based in Portland, Maine. Archipelago Consulting was designed to help individuals and organizations improve their practice of conservation and has worked with the Global Environment Facility, U.S. National Park Service, Moore Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Packard Foundation and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association amongst others.



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