



Joint event with  
ZEF  
On-site & via  
Zoom

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Prof. Katrin Böhning-Gaese  
“Biodiversity and people in the Anthropocene”  
July 5, 2022, 15 h CEST, Zoom

**About the speaker**

Prof. Katrin Böhning-Gaese has been director of the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre and professor at Goethe University Frankfurt since 2010. She previously held a professorship at the University of Mainz since 2001.

The trained biologist focuses on the effects of climate and land-use change on biodiversity, as well on the importance of biodiversity for human well-being. She is speaker of the DFG-funded research unit “The role of nature for human well-being in the Kilimanjaro Social-Ecological System”.

Prof. Böhning-Gaese is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz. From 2017 to 2021 she was vice-president of the Leibniz Association. In 2021, she was awarded the German Environmental Award for her outstanding research and her commitment at the interface between science, society and politics.

Find more information on:  
<https://www.senckenberg.de/en/institutes/sbik-f/community-ecology-and-macroecology/>

The lecture is held at the ZEF, but will also be available via Zoom (talk will be recorded and published afterwards).

If you like to attend in person, please register [here](#).

Otherwise, the Zoom access is:  
<https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/93369202266?pwd=MWVhZ3JUSzFidGtGZHIkMGVrR2M0Zz09>  
Meeting-ID: 933 6920 2266; Code: 939753

**Abstract**

In the Anthropocene, the age of humans, the very same are increasingly overwriting geological and ecological processes in the earth system. This is interlinked with biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, which are all symptoms of humans overutilizing nature. According to the World Biodiversity Council IPBES, one million of the estimated eight million species on earth are threatened by extinction: We are facing the sixth mass extinction in the history of our planet. Since biodiversity is the existential basis of human life, a decline of biodiversity results in a loss of ecosystem services, which undermines achieving the sustainable development goals.

But what can be done? Given the importance of the biodiversity crisis for human well-being, we need a transformation of society at large, i.e. the fundamental system-wide reorganization of politics, economy, civil society and also science. Especially for agricultural landscapes in Germany, where species declines are particularly high, this means three things: First, the greening of agriculture. Second, fundamental changes in agricultural policy, better collaborations and new technologies. Third, changes in consumption and diets towards food coming from biodiverse agricultural production and a much higher share of plant-based foods. If we commit ourselves to quick, deep, sweeping changes including the expansion of protected areas and the promotion of restoration, the decline in biodiversity can still be halted and reversed.

**About the Lecture Series**

The lecture series on Innovation Pathways to Sustainability is organized by the TRA Sustainable Futures. It is a forum for high profile and internationally visible scientists who are active in academia or at the science-policy interface. The lectures address an interdisciplinary audience of experts from natural, social, and engineering sciences as well as representatives from international and implementation-oriented organizations.