


Understanding the distribution and dynamics of savannas within tropical east Asia

Date	Date: April 26, 2024	
Time	16:00 (UTC+8)	
Venue	3N01 & Zoom	

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Abstract

Savannas in tropical east Asia are often misclassified as “degraded” forests, which could lead to their mismanagement and loss. In this study, I used three different modeling approaches (remote sensing classification of satellite imagery, dynamic global vegetation modeling, and hierarchical clustering of stacked species distribution models) to assess the distribution and dynamics of Asian savannas. The analyses revealed that savannas exist in the region in wider extents than what is presently recognized. They were also found to incur losses due to increasing atmospheric CO₂ and current management regimes in place. It is therefore crucial to properly recognize and manage these savannas to prevent further damage.



About speaker

R. Sedricke Lapuz likes maps. Thus, he spends his days mapping as Dr. Alice Hughes’ postdoctoral fellow in HKU’s School of Biological Sciences, to shed light on questions related to biogeography, conservation, and One Health. For his PhD (from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences), he mapped Asian savannas using different machine learning methods. For his postdoc project, he is mapping potential pandemic hotspots driven by virus spillover risk from horseshoe bats in tropical east Asia.

All are welcome!