

# Building the Ark.

## Protecting Nature from Neighbourhoods to Nations

The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity <<http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>>.

It would be great if the year could be simply a celebration of the Earth's biological richness, but Biodiversity Year is occurring at a time when non-human life on our planet is in a more perilous state than ever before.

Scientists warn us that our planet is undergoing a major wildlife crisis on par with earlier mass extinction events in the earth's history. It is estimated that some 17,000 species are currently threatened with extinction, including 12 per cent of all known birds, a quarter of all known mammals and a third of all known amphibians. Among the most vulnerable wildlife, are plants and animals that are well-known and well-loved by Canadians, such as caribou, grizzly bears, and salmon.

We must remember that without healthy ecosystems and species diversity, we can't hope to have healthy economies and healthy human societies. Indeed, the loss of species and ecosystems, affects not just the production of

economic commodities like the food we eat, the timber we use to build our homes, and the medicines we use to heal ourselves, but many non-market ecological services that sustain the health and wellbeing of our communities. These services regulate the climate, disease outbreaks, and wastes; they include cultural services that provide aesthetic, recreational and spiritual values; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling, water purification and other natural benefits. Sadly, the benefits we receive from nature are often taken for granted by policy-makers, partly due to a lack of knowledge regarding what they are and what they're truly worth.

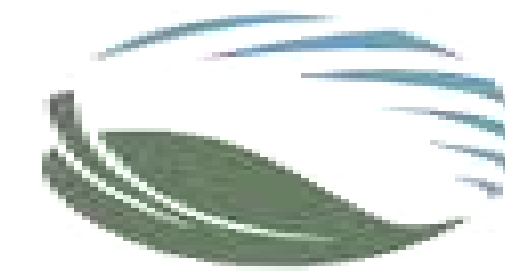
The good news is that with strong endangered-species laws, conservation-driven land-use planning, core protection of wildlife habitat in parks and protected areas, and sustainable resource development we can successfully slow the loss of wildlife habitat and the accompanying declines in biodiversity.

### Faisal Moola, PhD



Dr. Moola is the Director of Terrestrial Conservation and Science at the David Suzuki Foundation and an adjunct professor of Forest Conservation at the University of Toronto. He has published widely in scientific journals on ecology, conservation biology, and environmental policy. At the foundation he leads a team of scientists, policy analysts, and public outreach experts on a number of campaigns to educate the public and reform environmental policy in Canada; including legal protection of endangered wildlife, valuation of ecosystem services, protection of urban agri-belts, and mitigating and adapting to climate change through nature conservation. He also leads a land-use planning project in southeastern Tibet, with the goal of protecting ecosystem goods and services that are critical for community health and wellbeing. Dr. Moola has sat on govern-

ment science committees and advised aboriginal and government leaders. He has been instrumental in developing a critically-timed conference at the University of Toronto on protecting forest as a strategy of fighting climate change. Through his efforts he has had the honour to contribute to some of the most significant conservation achievements in recent Canadian history, including the protection of over 2 million hectares of temperate rainforest in British Columbia, the development of new sustainability standards of the forestry industry to meet the exploding market for green paper and wood products (Forest Stewardship Council) and the decision by the Ontario government to protect at least half of the province's remaining boreal wilderness. He has a growing interest in renewable energy.



David  
Suzuki  
Foundation

### Woodbridge Lecture:

Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

12:30 to 1:30 P.M.

&

6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Room B102

IAHS Lecture Theatre

McMaster University

### Space is Limited

Bachelor of Technology Partnership

