

Extinction-driven changes in island communities, worldwide and in Mauritius



Research seminar

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Island communities are most vulnerable to extinctions and this affects the interactions between species. We have particularly lost a lot of large, fruit-eating animals. These large frugivores are the ones capable of dispersing the largest seeds, and their loss will in turn affect the plants that are dependent on them. Small and isolated islands have lost the highest proportion of their frugivore community, with Hawaii losing almost all native seed dispersers. Julia Heinen will discuss extinction-driven changes in frugivore communities on islands worldwide and at a local scale, on Mauritius, famous for the extinction of the Dodo.

