



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Prairie's Got the Goods Week!

Biodiversity conservation and food security – bridging the gap



Friday March 22nd, 2024 at 12:00pm MT

Presenter: Dr. Branimir Gjetvaj, Prairie Food System Vision Network

Register for Free: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0Bzy4S99QtGSw0mCm0Nn8g

FREE! Everyone welcome! Watch from anywhere!

More Information: SK PCAP: 306.352.0472 pcap@sasktel.net or www.pcap-sk.org

Presenting Sponsor:



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association canadienne pour les plantes fourragères

Supporting Sponsors:



In-kind Support Provided By:





Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Prairie's Got the Goods Week!

Presentation Summary:

Protected area (PA) networks are a cornerstone of conservation efforts to protect biological diversity. However, the effectiveness of these networks in highly modified and fragmented grassland biomes will largely depend on the level of connectivity, habitat structure and the type of land management practices surrounding the PAs. Despite best efforts, global species populations continue to decline, making it increasingly obvious that focusing on traditional conservation strategies based on protected area system alone is not sufficient.

Agriculture and the global food system are the primary drivers of biodiversity loss due to land cover change, and greenhouse gas emissions impacting climate. At the same time, food production is negatively impacted by these anthropogenic pressures. A collapse of farmland biodiversity driven by agricultural intensification is causing a reduction in supporting and regulating ecosystem services. As a consequence, humanity is facing diminished food system resilience to global climate challenges.

Biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability and food production have traditionally been explored as separate disciplines. In his presentation, Branimir will argue for a transformative, systems approach to seek solutions that will work in synergy to restore biodiversity and improve agroecosystem resilience. We need to implement ambitious, integrated strategies to bend the curve of biodiversity loss without impacting food security. To bridge the gap, design and management of multifunctional landscapes that facilitate a suite of ecosystem services will have to include a mosaic of nature-inclusive agricultural lands established through working-land conservation, semi-natural habitat patches adjacent to croplands, and protected area networks to support rich biodiversity.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Branimir Gjetvaj is a Saskatoon-based biologist, environmental photographer and a dedicated nature conservationist. Branimir is interested in issues at the intersection of land use, biodiversity conservation and food security. Guided by his environmental and agroecology training, Branimir is seeking solutions to minimize the impact of agricultural intensification on the extent and health of natural ecosystems. He is passionate about supporting and restoring biodiversity in agricultural landscapes through wider adoption of nature-based climate solutions.

Branimir has served on the board of directors of several environmental non-profit organizations, and as an appointed member to the University of Saskatchewan Senate. In 2013 Branimir was recognized by the Canadian Environmental Law Association for extensive participation in environmental NGOs, and for using his photography to advance environmental conservation. He published two award-winning books on prairie conservation – *The Great Sand Hills: A Prairie Oasis* and *the Islands of Grass*.

PCAP's Prairie's Got the Goods Week is an annual series of webinars focusing on the goods and services provided by the native prairie ecosystem.