



# Effective and ethical conservation

**Learning from Indigenous and traditional knowledge to better understand human–wildlife coexistence**

- **Wednesday 13th August 2025**  
**11.00am – 12.00 pm** (Australian Western Standard Time)

**ONLINE EVENT**

**Register here**

**Much work on human–wildlife conflict focuses on safeguarding wildlife from humans and vice versa, protecting humans, their crops, livestock and property from wildlife, and mitigating negative, sometimes lethal encounters, instilling the notion of humans and wild animals as adversaries.**

This conflict has been perceived as the norm, with coexistence a distant ideal. This way of seeing ignores the many ways people have coexisted with wildlife and co-adapted with wild animals in multispecies landscapes for generations.

Join us as we explore how greater attention to Indigenous and traditional experiences and knowledge, and paying attention to coexistence, can reshape an understanding of human-wildlife interactions that decenter humans to actively support ethical conservation.

***Registrations are essential.***

## GUEST SPEAKER



### Dr Helina Jolly

*Assistant Professor, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont USA*

Helina is an interdisciplinary environmental researcher and policy analyst working at the interface of people and nature. With experience across diverse cultures and countries – from hunter-gatherers in the Western Ghats in South India, farmers in Sri Lanka, and berry pickers of Miawpukek First Nation in Canada, the themes in Helina's work range from wildlife coexistence, cultural burning, traditional livelihoods, and biocultural food systems.

Helina explores how people's knowledge systems and experiences can support contemporary land management, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration approaches. As a documentarian, National Geographic Explorer, and science communicator, Helina is passionate about driving impactful research that connects communities and addresses urgent environmental issues.

Helina holds a PhD in Natural Resource Management from the University of British Columbia and an MSc in Environmental Policy and Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

## FACILITATOR



### Professor Owen Nevin

*Chief Executive Officer, The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI)*

Owen is an experienced conservation biologist and research leader and is the Chief Executive Officer of The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI). Owen's research work has focused on advancing the conservation of threatened species and their habitats through developing better management and understanding of behaviour and ecosystem function, and human impacts including ecotourism and resource. Owen is a member of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia. Previous positions include Head of the National School of Forestry (UK), Dean of Graduate Research and Associate Vice-Chancellor at CQUniversity Australia.

Owen has served on the Society for Conservation Biology's European Board and on the Global Board of Governors. He was elected as a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London and appointed as Anniversary Visiting Professor of Conservation Biology at the University of Cumbria.