

For immediate release:

“Welcome to the Homogenocene” Environmentalist Kieran Suckling visits Flagstaff.

Flagstaff, AZ-- Kieran Suckling, Executive Director of the Center for Biological Diversity, takes a no holds barred approach to environmental advocacy. His style has garnered both substantial conservation gains and the scorn of critics—from both outside and within the conservation movement. He will offer some of his experiences and thoughts on effective environmental work to the Flagstaff public as the latest of Northern Arizona University’s Olajos-Goslow Chair of Environmental Science and Policy’s speaker series.

Some have referred to our modern era as the Anthropocene-- a period in which all ecological processes have in some way been influenced by human activity. An ongoing debate central to the modern American conservation community surrounds the nature of the human-environment relationship and how we should respond to these far-reaching human impacts. Suckling takes an alternative perspective: “Colonialism and industrialism have transformed much of the Earth in past three centuries, driving thousands of species, languages, cultures and wild places extinct. This extraordinary loss of cultural and biological diversity is unprecedented in 200,000 years of human and 65 million years of geologic history. The *Great Homogenization* will be the defining character of modernity to geologists and anthropologists a million years from now and may warrant the designation of new geologic epoch: the Homogenocene. Conservation and cultural rights advocates have slowed the rate of loss, but must quickly and radically scale-up efforts to secure 50% of the planet from industrial development if placed-based biological and cultural diversity is to survive.”

Suckling will address these ideas during his public lecture entitled *Welcome to the Homogenocene: The mass extinction of cultures and species and how to reverse the trend*, on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 7pm in Northern Arizona University’s Cline Library Assembly Hall. After his presentation, he will take questions from the audience. A casual public reception will follow in the foyer of the assembly hall.

Suckling will also be meeting with a group of graduate students and faculty members from Northern Arizona University’s Landscape Conservation Initiative to conduct a workshop on the topic of the human-environment relationship and how we can most effectively respond to the ecosystem changes we face.

For more information about the Keiran Suckling’s visit and the Olajos Goslow Endowment, contact Cari Kimball at Cari.Kimball@nau.edu

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