



UF Center for  
Latin American Studies  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

TCD  
Tropical Conservation &  
Development Program

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## ***The economic impacts of tourism and hunting in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia: an institutional economics perspective***

By Alex Chikadel

PhD Candidate, UF School of Natural Resources and Environment

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

12:45 - 1:45pm

Grinter 376

**Content:** As population growth and economic development in Africa has placed increasing pressure on savanna and forest habitats, wildlife populations are becoming increasingly confined to protected areas (PAs) set aside by governments under statutory obligations. On private and communal land surrounding statutory PAs, where individual and collective land-use decisions are exposed to market forces, wildlife often fails to “pay its way” and habitat is converted for agricultural use. Paradoxically, this outcome can be observed even when the economic development that ultimately threatens wildlife in a park’s buffer zone is partially driven by wildlife-based tourism. Through a detailed unpacking of the local and national level economic impacts of tourism at Zambia’s South Luangwa National Park and the economic impacts of trophy hunting in its buffer zone, I investigate the role that legal and economic institutions can have in mediating market forces in highly divergent ways, and therefore in enhancing or constraining the value generated by PAs and producing landscape outcomes. This case study also serves to highlight the information gap around the economics of PAs, the usefulness of this information to the policy process, and how economic monitoring can be integrated into, and complement a broader monitoring program sensitive to other dimensions of value.

**Biography:** Alex Chidakel is a PhD candidate in the School of Natural Resources and Environment and is advised by Dr. Brian Child. He holds a master's degree in environmental studies and has conducted research in Zambia on issues around protected area management since 2008, and in South Africa since 2014. His doctoral research is on the comparative economic performance of protected areas located in different institutional settings and operated under diverse governance structures.

*Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Students are provided with an opportunity to present and discuss their research projects with peers and faculty. In addition, discussion sessions on issues of current interest are also held. Visiting scholars and conservation practitioners also participate when available. It is held every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.*