Summary Report, Short-Term Visit

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I spent three days visiting NIMBioS from Nov. 4-6, 2015. It was my first visit to Tennessee, and needless to say, I had never before seen so much orange. Having the chance to collaborate with Dr. Paul Armsworth in person was a thrill, and together we were able to make substantial progress on one of my PhD chapters during my short stay. I presented at Paul's lab group meeting on the Thursday morning, where we discussed using Generalised Linear Mixed Modelling for one of my PhD projects (briefly described below). I was grateful for this opportunity as the meeting provided many useful insights and flagged some potential issues with the analysis going forward. Friday morning involved a more refined presentation to NIMBioS, which doubled as a chance to meet some NIMBioS folk that I hadn't yet met. I was encouraged to meet with as many people as possible during my stay, and I am glad I listened to this advice. There is some fantastic research being done within NIMBioS and its affiliate groups. It strikes me as a pleasant research community. I look forward to fostering the collaborations gained from my visit and to visiting again in the near future.

The project I worked on while visiting NIMBioS is a collaboration between Dr. Paul Armsworth, Dr. Gwen Iacona (U of Qld), Dr. Oscar Venter (U of Nth BC), Dr. James Watson (U of Qld and Wildlife Conservation Society) and myself. It involves quantifying forest loss inside protected areas between 2000 and 2012 and seeing which one or series of biophysical, social and economic factors best explain forest loss inside protected areas. It will be a global scale analysis, treating individual protected areas as replicates. We will use Landsat imagery for provide forest loss data, and draw social and economic data from World Bank and United Nations data repositories. This analysis aims to equip conservation decision makers with new insights into how biophysical, social and economic variables can affect the ability of protected areas to maintain forest cover.