

ALDO LEOPOLD AWARD - 2013



Anthony R.E. Sinclair
Professor Emeritus
University of British Columbia

“Tony” Sinclair is known for his pioneering, long-term research and his commitment to the conservation of wildlife. Tony’s research into population and community dynamics in the Serengeti National Park of East Africa, in the boreal forests of the Yukon in northern Canada, and the open eucalypt woodlands of eastern Australia has contributed to our understanding of the mechanisms behind the function, organization, and change in key populations in these important ecosystems.

Sinclair spent his early childhood in the African Tanzania. He completed his degrees in zoology at Pembroke College, Oxford studying the ecology of African Buffalo. He continued his studies in Africa with his premier contribution being his comprehensive research on the Serengeti Ecosystem over more than 39 years. He conducted experiments and perturbations to uncouple the linkages among the plants, herbivores, and carnivores providing a fundamental increase to our understanding of these complex systems, and a sound foundation for their conservation and management. This work has culminated in 6 books. His pioneering long-term investigations of population and community dynamics in Africa in the Serengeti has made him a central global figure in wildlife conservation. Professor Sinclair has also carried out key long-term research programs in the forests of Canada and in Australia. His work has been instrumental in defining the snowshoe hare as a keystone herbivore in the boreal forest, and in recognizing the key position played by the introduced red fox on conservation issues in Australia.

Dr. Sinclair has published over 140 scientific papers including a set of influential papers in *Science* and *Nature* on all the above systems. He focused his theoretical insights on the question of population regulation and limitation, and the role of density dependent versus independent processes through seminal papers in books and journals such as “Population Regulation in Animals” in *Ecological Concepts* in 1989. He has been awarded the Hayward Fellowship, New Zealand 2003, and the Senior Killam Research Fellowship 2004-06. For the impact of his theoretical and conservation impact he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1996 and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2002. His research has provided young ecologists with a role model that has been instrumental in raising the profile of ecology worldwide.
