



DR. GRETCHEN C. DAILY

TYLER LAUREATE FOR 2020

Having been named as one of the '50 Most Important Women in Science', Dr. Gretchen C. Daily has changed the landscape of conservation biology.

She is currently the Bing Professor of Environmental Science in the Department of Biology at Stanford University, with joint appointments as the director of the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford, and as a senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

Daily is credited with pioneering the field of Countryside Biogeography, which she describes as "a new conceptual framework for elucidating the fates of populations, species, and ecosystems in 'countryside' – the growing fraction of Earth's unbuilt land surface whose ecosystem qualities are strongly influenced by humanity." Her research attempts to determine what "species are most important and most merit protection" and "what is the scientific basis for deciding" the relative importance of species within a given ecosystem.

One of Daily's five books, 'Nature's Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems' has been hailed, "one of the most influential books published on the environment in the past 30 years." The introduction describes the concept of ecosystem services. The book then shares papers by esteemed environmental scientists regarding topics such as services provided by soil, pollinators, marine ecosystems, and forest ecosystems.

In 2005 Daily, together with partners from The Nature Conservancy, the University of Minnesota, and the World Wildlife Fund, established the Natural Capital Project. The organization's objective is to improve the well-being of all people and nature by motivating greater and more targeted natural capital investments. Together they have developed InVEST - a suite of free, open-source software models used to map and value the goods and services from nature that sustain and fulfil human life. In essence, it is a tool for balancing the environmental and economic goals for governments, non-profits, international lending institutions, and corporations.

Daily's list of awards is impressively long. She received the 2018 BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the category of Ecology and Conservation Biology, jointly with Georgina Mace for developing vital tools facilitating science-based policies "to combat species loss." Other significant recent awards include the Blue Planet Prize (2017), the Volvo Environment Prize (2012), and the Midori Prize (2010).

Daily undertook both her Bachelor and Masters of Biological Sciences at Stanford University before earning her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at Stanford University as well. She is a fellow of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. Daily is a board member at the Beijer Institute for Ecological Economics and the Nature Conservancy.