

Maarten Kappelle, born in Amsterdam and a citizen of The Netherlands, received his PhD in tropical ecology in 1995 from the University of Amsterdam. Since 2010 he is Chief Conservation Officer at World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in The Netherlands, and responsible for implementing its global biodiversity conservation programme on forests, freshwater systems, oceans, and species protection. From 2005 to 2010 he held management responsibility and directed The Nature Conservancy's Science Program in Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America) and the Caribbean (MAC Region). Before taking on this position, Maarten served as the Conservancy's Science Director for Central America (2003-2004). In 2006 the University of Tennessee in Knoxville granted him the honorary appointment of Adjunct Associate Professor in Geography, while in 2009 he served as Visiting Professor at the University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica.



As a scientist Maarten is well known for his extensive experience in plant community ecology, landscape ecology, ecosystem classification and mapping, climate change and conservation biogeography of tropical montane cloud forests, tropical highland oak forests, and tropical alpine paramo grasslands. He has published seven books on these ecosystems –both in English and Spanish– as well as over 75 peer-reviewed journal papers and book chapters. In 2007 he published an illustrated dictionary on biodiversity (in Spanish), including over 6,500 terms (available from INBio). Maarten has given over 80 oral presentations (including conferences and key note lectures) at international science congresses, symposia, and workshops in some 20 countries. Maarten is married, has two children, and lives near Amsterdam, The Netherlands.