

## 2010 EEN Forum Notes

### Session Name: Conservation Planning and Evaluation

**Speakers:** Madeleine Bottrill- University of Queensland, Australia

Helen Fox- World Wildlife Fund

Alejandro Ortega-Argueta- Instituto de Ecología, A.C. México

**Session Date/Time:** 6/7/2010 1:15 PM

**Notetaker:** Sarah Wendel

#### Main Themes:

- Purpose of this session:
  - To highlight development and progress of evaluation in conservation planning at different scales and for different conservation activities
  - To identify properties for establishment and measurement of indicator
- Conservation planning can be used as a means of allocating resources- values, designs, efficiency, and road maps

#### Detailed Notes:

- Conservation Planning- A structured and transparent process for identifying priorities, allocating investments and negotiating trade offs
- There are two types of Conservation Planning:
  - Recovery Planning
  - Systematic Conservation Planning
- Evaluation in Conservation Planning:
  - Lack of formal reporting or standards for evaluation
  - Focus on short-term outputs
  - Additional benefits and conflicts emerge during process
  - Need short-term and intermediate indicators representing multi-dimensional aspects

#### Speaker 1: Threatened species management: Current Trends in Data Management and Information Needs for Evaluation- Alejandro Ortega-Argueta

- Efforts have been made to assess threatened species programs around the world
- Recovery of some species may take decades- how to measure progress in short term:
  - Threat Management
  - Plan Implementation

- Progress of recovery
- Some Program assessments are based on outputs as results
- Examples of performance criteria and indicators for monitoring and assessing the progress and impacts of recovery plans:
  - Biological and Ecological
  - Threat Management
  - Social aspects
- A framework for monitoring and evaluating threatened species program:
  - Establishing short, mid, and long-term indicators
  - Meeting the information quality and needs for various users
  - Accountability framework

**Speaker 2: Conservation Plans are Useless; Conservation Planning is Essential- Madeleine Bottrill- University of Queensland, Australia**

- Increasing integration of systematic conservation planning into institutional frameworks
- Much uncertainty about planning effectiveness:
  - Planning-implementation gap
  - Ability of plans to address real-world complexity
  - Planning as an academic pursuit
- Integrating evaluation into systematic planning
  - Develop standards for measuring planning
  - Building an evidence base from existing planning processes
- What outcomes are most important?
  - Natural Capital
  - Financial Capital
  - Human Attitudes
  - Social Aspects- Institutional Capacity
- What outcomes are most achieved?
  - Natural Capital
  - Human Attitudes
  - Institutions

**Points for Discussion:**

- 1. What should we be evaluating in conservation planning?**
  - a. Actions taken must address all the players involved so that the overall goal can be accomplished. Having the data to integrate into the issue to understand relationships between players is critical
- 2. When during the process should we evaluate?**
- 3. What indicators should our evaluations focus upon?**
- 4. How might we maximize the quality of our evaluators?**
  - a. Important to develop leadership and local leaders