

Session 1: Repositories of Projects and Evaluations: A Foundation for Evidence-based Decisions

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Collaboration for Environmental Evidence

Repositories of Projects and Evaluations: A Foundation for Evidence-based decisions?

- Making decisions on health investments based on evidence of effectiveness and cost effectiveness
- Realizing the potential of data (syntheses(systematic reviews), published scientific experiments(trials, monitoring data, quantitative, less biased, evaluated), Anecdotal observations(expert opinion, reports, case studies)
- 3 different kinds of repositories
 - Narrative case studies, anecdotal
 - Data-all journals, case studies, monitoring, etc. Evaluation
 - Syntheses
- What should a repository of evaluation look like? Standards?
 - Independence
 - Methodological rigor (based on threats to validity) [20 threats to validity checklist]
 - Transparency (or process and product) [must essentially record that something is taking place, and keep the door open for people to be informed]
 - Objectivity
 - Obsolescence [must be a system to update systematic reviews]
 - Peer Review
- Standards for data repositories
 - Data credibility (internal validity)
 - Reporting (metadata)-context
 - External Validity [how unique was the info? Could it be repeated and produce the same results?]
 - A lot of anecdotal data does not heighten the validity
- Other characteristics of repositories
 - Accessibility
 - Recognition from stakeholders
 - Openly collaborative
 - Networked with data repositories (more than one repository needs to have common standards and communicate)

- Flexible communication systems (know your audience and be able to communicate the information to others)
- Limit the number of repositories

RECOMMENDATIONS (IMPORTANT ATTRIBUTES OF EVALUATION)

- Just have one repository for environmental evaluation globally
- Be independent
- Register evaluations for outset (like register of clinical trials) so, when the program starts evaluations start and comments can be taken/given from the get-go
- Inclusive of contributors
- Open access
- Standards of rigor must be clear (peer reviews)
- Smart communication of findings (make things readable to the audience)
- Report to society the value of evaluation. Show significant benefits in creating and communicating consensus on the baseline of current knowledge for future actions

Gina LaRocco

The Conservation Registry, Defenders of Wildlife

WHAT IS REGISTRY?

- National online centralized database that tracks and maps conservation projects across the landscape. And is a synthesis and management tool
- 3 categories
 - o Habitat Restoration and Management
 - o Enhanced conservation status
 - o Monitoring, education and research
- Captures proposed, in progress, completed and ongoing management projects.

WHAT CAN IT DO?

- o State wildlife agencies can track implementation of wildlife action plans
 - o Federal resource agencies can improve coordination with state, local and private partners
 - o Landowners help promote on the ground efforts
 - o Policy makers and investors help in understanding where public and private money is being spent
 - o Conservation organizations find opportunities for collaboration
- Shows the importance and gives a way to actually communicate your project to everyone across that country that accesses their database.

LESSONS

- a balance between simplicity and precision must be maintained (If not, the original goal can be lost)
- Standardizing data from multiple sources is
- Data must be input in a timely fashion

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Have you had a high degree of commitment from organizations to help build the database?

- Yes, people have committed to the entering projects and support it. But, the main issue is getting data put into the system.
- A comment was made that said the idea of having one global registry is quite impossible considering political reasons and communicating issues. So, how can we come up with a common set of regulations for everyone to abide by and how do you get people to trust in it and follow it? How do you guarantee access to the information for people? Long term management? Mission? What if funding is lost, where does the money go?
- Defenders is committed to having the purpose maintained and fulfilled. Therefore, if any other organization was interested in taking the lifetime responsibility of maintaining the registry Defenders would be willing to hand-over control to ensure it continuing.