***The final day***

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| ***Day 4 – Friday 29th August*** | |  |
|  | Recap and reflections | 09:00 – 09:45 |
|  | Outcomes, outputs and between workshops steps and activities | 09:45 – 11:00 |
|  | Morning tea |  |
|  | Brainstorming for December 2014 workshop | 11:30 – 12:30 |
|  | Reflection on workshop | 12:30 – 13:00 |

***The day got underway with participants sharing their experiences of the workshop thus far:***

Cameron mentioned that he was amazed with ‘*what we have’* that we’d come in with literally a blank page and he felt that he had learnt a lot, and it was great to have heard everyone’s assumptions, thoughts and fears etc. He felt that the foundations were now set for creating a tangible ‘*thing’*. He noted that everyone had been so open and mentioned that it is a difficult journey to find a common language for so many different theories, but felt that the group had really started to build a connection between them all and was well placed to now move into the ‘*Now What’* phase.

Bob contributed that we have now got a partial view of evaluation/ conservation/ systems thinking and wondered if the current picture was enough to get one with the next stage or are there other endeavours between us that we need to reduce that partial reality. He noted that the discussion yesterday about multidisciplinary working (a bunch of experts working together on an issue) versus interdisciplinary working - (when we start braiding our skills and knowledge to work on issues) is a critical one – he felt that we are still in the ‘inter’ stage where we are still talking to each other about our disciplines – but that we are well on the way to the next level to integrate that into our practice.

He asked which of our interesting conversations are the important ones to move forward now?

***Potential outputs of the group?***

Duan spoke to taking the time to work out which are the next steps to blend the scientific and practitioner experience in the room.

* **Review paper:** “What does evaluative thinking bring to conservation?”
* **Develop a brochure**
* **Text book**

Cari went on to say that she too had been thinking about the review paper

* **Review paper** – hinged around important ideas and ways for the conservation community to start thinking about evaluative and systematic thinking. What tools/rules could we share with the community to ease them into this new way of thinking, and how to integrate it into conservation thinking. Also, the importance of talking about the costs of introducing new opportunities and ways of doing things.
* To introduce a more robust version of the idea of **backcasting experience** with a bigger group, what do we need to get a paradigm shift? Possibly at the symposium.
* Introduce a **framework** **for evaluative working** – for this sharing a ‘**case study’** of a project following it from start to end could be effective.

Andrew suggested that conservationists think in ‘tools’ and that these outputs could be the ‘hook’ and will help contextualise the theory for conservationists.

Bob discussed that we need to be mindful that we hold a mutual respect for each other’s tools and disciplines and that we can’t just ‘take’ each other’s tools. But when will we know when we are ‘ready’ to use each other’s tools?

Carli added that for the conservationists what we have now can be used as a great ‘hook’ to start talking about the ‘best first step’ showing people it’s the start of the conversation, that for a tools-based community showing that there could be a new framework and set of tools / framework to use from these new disciplines – rather than presenting an entire new framework and just saying ‘here use this’.

Beverly spoke about her ideas for the **review** **paper.** She picked up on Kent’s planning cycle and mentioned that it doesn’t have to end where it does, and say that there are new ways of thinking and tools that can help drive it forward trough analysis etc. That the paper is specifically designed to get rid of the problem of the cycle stopping where it does. So that if we re-frame this it can start to break down the barriers and show that there are some ways of thinking and tools that can help conservationists.

Then thinking about the linear model of starting some thinking about how that gets embedded in a bigger picture so that people can use some parts of it that works for them but also incorporate some aspects of the theory that works for them.

An idea for the paper is that people should think about the use of their data better giving them a bigger context and to move people from analysis alone and give them tools for synthesis and meaning making for different purposes in and way that is not typically done, with the aim for people to collect less, more targeted data and better use existing data for specific purposes within the bigger picture.

Still thinking about the **review paper** and associated tools Cameron suggested that we should review how we ‘actually’ carry out projects and **design a diagram** that is the ‘reality’ and try to move to one which is ‘Best Practice’, emphasising that things are not always linear.

***What’s missing from the picture?***

Glenda noted that it is really important to pull out the group’s objective and to work to that, this is what we are trying to do and our outputs are us putting this objective into practice:

**Objective: To increase systems and evaluative thinking and action in conservation and practice**

* Literature from other fields which will broaden our knowledge and test our assumptions. For example ***Implementation Science*** may be of interest here as it could give rise to interesting questions which we can ask – rather than just giving us answers.
* What do we share now?
  + - * What learnings?
      * What recommendations?
      * What questions?
      * Who do we share with?
      * How to disseminate our ideas and who with? Is this on-line communication? How do we market it effectively?

Cameron noted that a good way to approach this may be to look the reality of conservation and think about where conservationists get their information from now, what are the products we will produce and what is the best vehicle for us to use to reach our goal (i.e. to get people to move from A to B). And what are the needs that we can address? So we craft our messages and content and outputs (brochure? Event? Workshop?) to answer this need.

We need to watch desire to overload the conservation community with too much information too soon.

It was noted that there is a need from the conservation community for more effective evaluation and systems coming from donors.

Bob noted that if the conservation community is being pressured to be more effective and evaluative, this may mean that the donors are challenged about their concepts of ‘effectiveness’ and this needs addressing. Andrew noted that this is a conversation that has already begun.

December session is needed to refine our message and what we need to deliver and how. To possibly design the strategy in December.

Glenda’s (our) Theory of Change

Glenda recapped on her Theory of Change adding in several points the group discussed, this was really well received by the group.

How to influence the Society to Conservation Biology? Beverly wondered if there are ways that some of our work can be fed into their work and how it might work.

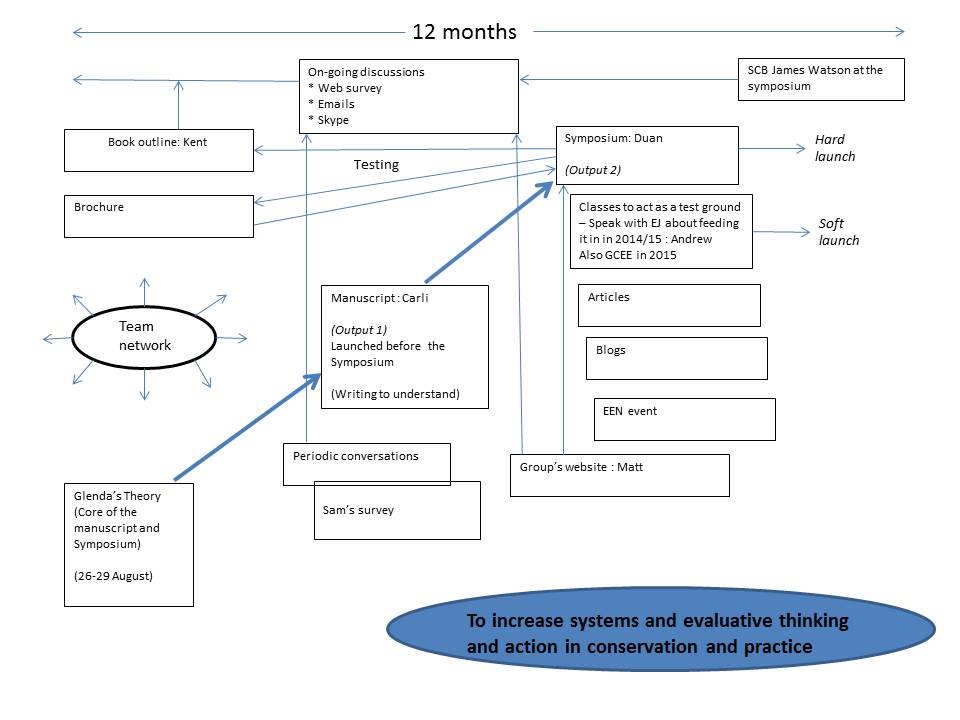
***Where do we start?***

It was felt that the group needed to ensure that the conversation continues, whether that be through email or calls moving forward.

Things to do before the December meeting:

* Approach the society for CB with a statement?
* Keep our conversation going – Matt to develop website to enable this
* Get members of the group not here up to speed
* Create a summary of this week as briefing notes
* Develop a symposia outline and submit by October 2014
* Paper outline / briefing notes around Glenda’s diagram (Carli)
* A name for the group
* Decision to speak about this meeting with colleagues in terms of what individuals learnt rather than ‘The group decided’
* Email the group with feedback from colleagues group members have spoken to about the results of this week
  + - * Who did you talk to?
      * What did you say?
      * What did you learn?
      * Realisations
      * Ideas
      * What are your questions now?
* Matt to design a web survey
* Put information on the GCCE website : <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/ecosystemsandenvironment> Andrew to supply a statement to tweet, matt to supply link to the groups site when ready. (to Carlyn)
* Review of the workshop for the GCEE website (Andrew to supply)
* Cameron: creation of a reading list of things we’ve mentioned this week
* Andrew to think about: Ted talks at the symposium on thinking collaboratively, systemically, evaluatively etc.

***What’s next***

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