

Aliance Workshop for World Conservation Congress
(Wednesday, October 8, 11:30 – 1:00)
Room 129 Floor P1

Progress Towards the 2010 Target: Establishing networks to catalyze biodiversity conservation reporting and decision making (Reference Number 352).

Thematic Stream: Safeguarding the diversity of life

Abstract

Assessing achievement of the ambitious 2010 target, significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss, requires appropriate measures that communicate progress towards accomplishing this target. Accordingly, actions have been advancing globally and across numerous regions and nations to build partnerships and establish networks that ensure standardized biodiversity monitoring and reporting efforts are embedded effectively within respective conservation communities. The premise of these networks is to collaboratively generate and utilize biodiversity conservation data, as well as ensure monitoring is acknowledged as a central means for guiding reporting and decision making processes.

Biodiversity monitoring networks act as important catalysts that enable national, regional and global contributions to be made towards evaluating progress in meeting the 2010 target and beyond. By binding relevant stakeholders together, these networks develop and implement standards, address critical gaps in biodiversity information and help fill capacity and resource needs to ensure consistency in data acquisition, analysis and long-term reporting of status and trends in biodiversity. Such systematic national, regional and global monitoring efforts, guided by measures recommended under the Convention on Biological Diversity, are gaining importance as means to inform natural resource use decisions, specifically where, how and why biodiversity conservation investment and strategies should be dedicated.

Such biodiversity monitoring networks have been formed in several regions, including Madagascar and East Africa, as well as at the global level by various conservation consortiums. Information acquired through these alliances is providing better knowledge of how both conservation investments and biodiversity threats impact the rate of biodiversity loss. This enables the conservation community, by reporting biodiversity status and trend data, to inform government policy, conservation planning and investment responses to better achieve the 2010 target.

Workshop Summary and Objectives

This workshop will explore the use of networks as mechanisms for serving two purposes; 1) to generate data for measuring biodiversity status and trends for global reporting such as the CBD 2010 target, and 2) for utilizing biodiversity monitoring data in decision making processes. Biodiversity monitoring is a resource intensive activity that must be systematic and sustainable for it to successfully inform global reporting and decision making needs as well as help demonstrate how biodiversity benefits society; both are enormous challenges. In the absence of long-term financial resources, the pooling of capacity and expertise among organizations becomes extremely important, and the skill of managing these networks critical. Biodiversity monitoring and reporting efforts must rely on interorganizational synergies and alliances that are driven by a culture that values collaborative and proactive individualism and shared goals. In this workshop we are interested in identifying the various ways collective action originates and gets organized, the partnerships that emerge, the horizontal and vertical linkages that come into being and ultimately what characteristics make a successful biodiversity monitoring network. In summary the following objectives aim to be met:

- Gain an understanding of the value of networks as catalysts for biodiversity monitoring and reporting.
- Learn from past & current experiences in establishing and maintaining networks to facilitate biodiversity monitoring and reporting.
- Identify common characteristics among networks presented
- Identify common challenges among networks presented
- Identify future strategies for addressing common challenges and maintaining successful and strategic networks for biodiversity monitoring and reporting.

The opening presentation of this workshop will explore the following:

- The importance of biodiversity monitoring for reporting and decision making, the demand for it, and the challenges we face doing it.
- Why networks must and can serve as viable mechanisms for systematically generating and disseminating biodiversity information.
- The science behind strategic networks.
- What we mean by the term 'network.' (I.e. Are they loosely coupled but complex adaptive systems that cannot be described by a few rules, mechanisms to develop and implement rigorous standards, or can they be both)?
- Both the complexities and key characteristics of networks
- The workshop objectives

Two presentations will then discuss different types of networks that have emerged to generate sets of information required for global reporting; notably trends in species populations and threatened status and protected area status and management effectiveness. Two other presentations will then discuss the use of networks for both acquiring and utilizing biodiversity monitoring data at national and regional scales (using Madagascar and the ASEAN region as examples). Each of these presentations will address some or all of the following questions:

1. Why is a network needed, what is the purpose of the network (develop, maintain and implement standards, systematically generate data, develop data management, sharing and dissemination tools/systems)?
2. What are the structural properties of the network (i.e. degrees of cohesiveness and connectedness, centrality and size)?
3. What are the relational properties of the network (i.e. nature of the relationship, content and objectives)?
4. What motivates people to contribute to the network?
5. How has a network built collaboration to reduce conflicts/competition among stakeholders?
6. What are remaining or underlying challenges of the network(s)?
7. What are recommendations for establishing and maintaining successful networks (organizational structure, rewards/incentives)?
8. How has the network addressed needs for standards?

A group discussion will follow the presentations. Group discussion will open up with a 5 minute presentation summarizing common network characteristics as well as what is unique about each one. The group will then explore common remaining challenges for networks and identify future strategies for addressing them.

Participants/Speakers and draft presentation titles

- **Dr Elizabeth Kennedy and William Crosse, Monitoring Support Program, Conservation International**
The rationale behind biodiversity monitoring networks and key network characteristics.
- **Dr Stuart Butchart, Birdlife International**
Use of global networks to collate data for worldwide monitoring the status of species (Red List Index), sites (Important Bird Area Indices) and habitats (via population trends of representative bird species: Wild Bird Indicators).
- **Charles Besancon, World Conservation Monitoring Center**
Use of networks to maximize data for monitoring status and management effectiveness of protected areas.
- **Mr. Rodrigo Fuentes, Executive Director of the Biodiversity Information Management for the Asean Centre for Biodiversity**
Using networks for enhancing collaboration on common regional biodiversity issues
- **James Mackinnon, Technical Director of Conservation International, Madagascar Center for Biodiversity Conservation.**
Using networks to maximize acquisition and utility of monitoring data for national and regional scale decision making and reporting.

Workshop agenda

Time	Activity	Topic	Lead presenter	Notes
	Opening presentation 1	Importance of biodiversity monitoring Rationale behind networks for biodiversity monitoring. What characterizes a network? Advantages and pitfalls of networks as biodiversity monitoring catalysts	Mr. William Crosse	
	Presentation 2	Use of global networks to collate data for worldwide monitoring of the status of species (Red List Index), sites (Important Bird Area Indices) and habitats (via population trends of representative bird species: Wild Bird Indicators).	Dr. Stuart Butchart	Presentation will describe how three different networks generate the data needed to monitor biodiversity trends through focusing on species, sites and habitats. Will discuss trade-offs between maintaining and imposing standards versus ensuring simplicity and encouraging participation, as well as differences and similarities between the networks.
	Presentation 3	Use of networks to maximize data for monitoring status and management effectiveness of protected areas.	Mr. Charles Besancon	
	Presentation 4	Using networks for enhancing collaboration on common regional biodiversity issues	Mr. Rodrigo Fuentes	Presentation will focus on how ASEAN supports linking species and protected area data to national reporting obligations and will discuss the complexities and challenges of networking across countries with very different capacities, political structures and resources for biodiversity conservation.
	Presentation 5	Using networks to maximize acquisition and utility of monitoring data for national and regional scale decision making and reporting.	Mr. James Mackinnon	
	Group Discussion	Synthesis of networks described Strategies for addressed key challenges What determines a successful network?	Facilitated by Elizabeth Kennedy	Group discussion based on lessons and experiences. 5 minutes presentation summarizing different network characteristics, uniqueness of each network and common challenges