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Integrating Top-Down with Bottom-Up Conservation Policy in Africa

Developed nations intervened in conservation policy across in Africa during the 20th Century to address perceived needs to protect species and biodiversity. By the 21st Century, conservationists in Africa have revised that perception and begun the process of identifying conservation priorities from an African perspective, and in consideration of Africans' priorities. While foreign conservation interveners struggled to identify mechanisms to which local people would respond, African conservationists are now demonstrating how to integrate the continent's unique socio-economic circumstances into efforts to protect biodiversity. In Africa, effective conservation policy must include the generation of wealth, reduction of disease and hunger and support of traditional land use practices.

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Bird monitoring to conservation el Salitre wetland in Bogota: strengthening local conservation efforts

Bogota Savannah was greatest Lake Humboldt 20000 years ago. Early XX century, there were 50000 ha of wetlands in Bogota, but at time this area has reduced to around 800 ha, due principally human activities like industry, city-planning expansion, and agriculture. Actually, there are 13 wetlands and 2 associated lakes in Bogota. El Salitre wetland is aquatic area that contains migratory and resident bird's species. Around this wetland, there are some urbanization and recreational areas that affect this natural habitat. Due city-planning expansion District Administration wanted to build a greatest area to realize massive events on El Salitre. At date, we have realized bird monitoring and we have registered this region is very important for birds like core habitat, since this site offer them food and protection. Migratory species like Vermivora peregrina, Porzana carolina, Porphyrio Martinica, Actitis macularia, Piranga rubra, Contopus coopei inhabit this area. Birds in El Salitre wetland use primarily the area for feeding and resting, and we have registered presence of eggs and chicks. This way, with these results, we demonstrated this area is very important for migratory and resident birds, and El Salitre wetland was declared like that a few months ago. However, conservation and educational efforts should take in consideration the protection and conservation this wetland.

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Past, present and future of wild ungulates in relation to changes in land use

In recent decades, Mediterranean landscapes have been experiencing more rapid changes in land use than usual. These relatively rapid changes have affected the ecology of the species inhabiting this biodiversity hotspot. Some studies have assessed the effect of such changes on biodiversity, but most of these were diachronic studies of population dynamics, or synchronic studies of species habitat selection, whereas few studies have simultaneously taken into account temporal changes in habitat composition and changes in species distribution. The present study analyzed the effects of land-use changes on the evolution of the distribution of wild ungulates (Iberian wild goat, red deer, roe deer and wild boar). Thus, we i) describe the environmental determinants of ungulate distribution in past scenario (1960s) but also in present one (1990s), ii) assess the biogeographical differences between scenarios, and iii) model land use for 2040 to forecast future species distributions. Our results show that, with the exception of wild boar, which drastically altered its distribution between both scenarios, natural vegetation has more explanatory power in models of the present, but crops were more relevant in models of the past. Generally, areas favourable to the species studied will continue to increase in the future. The results are discussed from the perspective of the socio-economic relevance of wild ungulates in relation to some unfavourable areas of Mediterranean regions.

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Applying choice modeling to design payment programs for off-reserve conservation in the Northern Territory, Australia

The need to integrate social and economic factors into conservation planning has become a focus of academic discussions and has important practical implications for the implementation of conservation areas. However, to date the focus has been only on selection of areas for strict reservation. With limited resources, progressive degradation of habitats, and rising expectations about the necessary extent of conservation management, it is increasingly likely that other conservation actions such as stewardship agreements or conservation covenants on private land will be necessary. We conduct a survey in the Daly Catchment, Northern Territory, to estimate the current land management costs for landholders associated with current conservation actions and threats. The Daly Catchment is a national priority for biodiversity conservation but also highly suitable for intensified extractive uses. We use choice modeling to assess the probability of success of three conservation actions by land parcel: acquisition for reservation, payments to support a Conservation Management Agreement, and payments to support a Conservation Covenant. We produce a spatially explicit map of areas that have a high probability of success for the various conservation actions. Additionally, we assess the current costs of conservation for the catchment and use regression techniques to estimate the budget required to support the various conservation actions under consideration.