

Northeast Regional Conservation Framework Workshop

“Albany II”



June 14-16, 2011
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Albany, New York

Hosted by
Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative





Session 1: Regional Conservation Framework

*Session Hosts: Karen Bennett
and Ken Elowe*

Session 1: Regional Conservation Framework

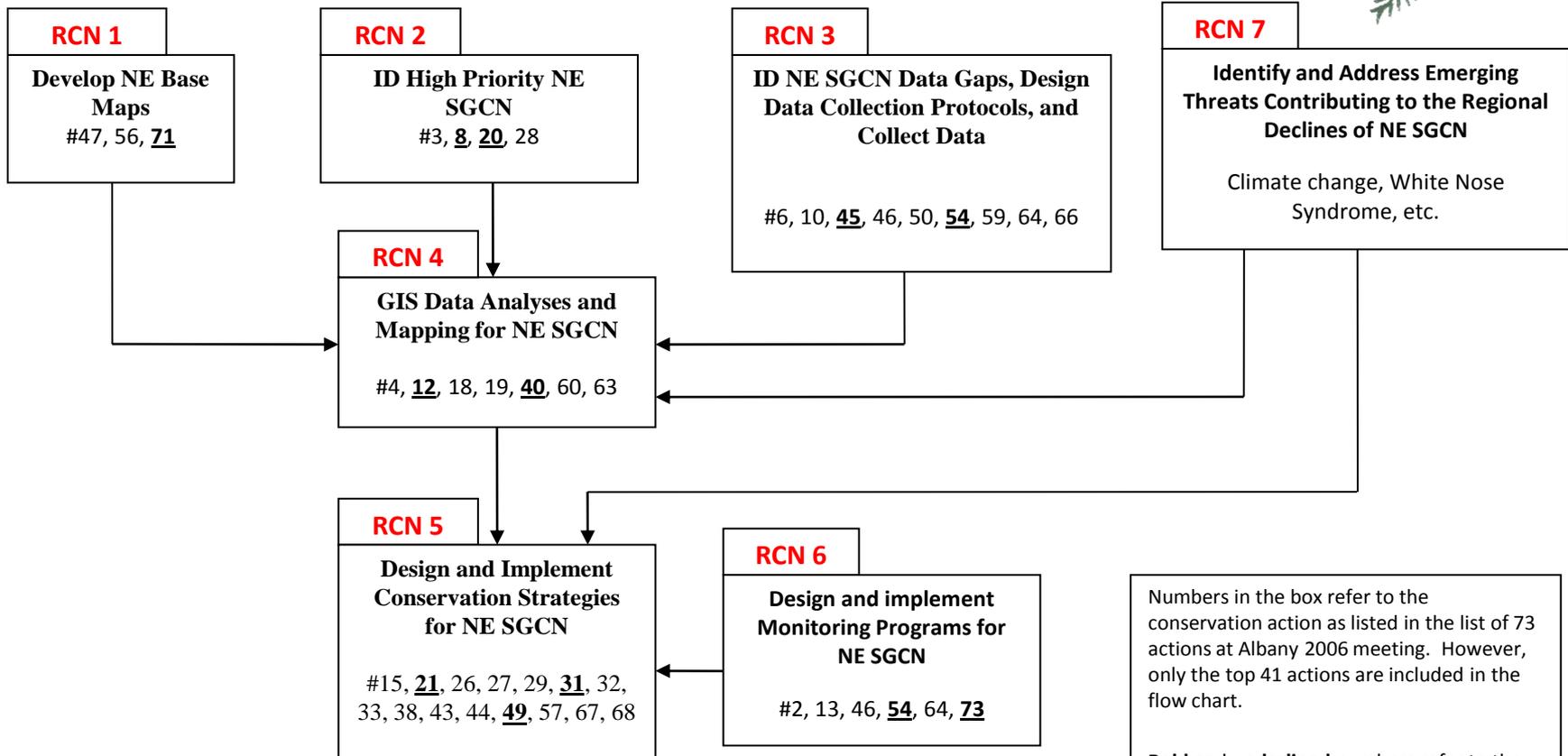


Session objectives:

1. Agreement on goals and need for a regional framework to achieve resource conservation incorporating ecological and human needs;
2. An understanding of how completed, ongoing and proposed RCN/LCC projects fit into a framework;
3. An understanding of how the elements in this framework will inform decision-making by the conservation community; and
4. An understanding on how the remainder of the workshop fits into the framework.

Regional Conservation Needs Plan a.k.a. “Matula’s Boxes”

(from George Matula, Maine)



Numbers in the box refer to the conservation action as listed in the list of 73 actions at Albany 2006 meeting. However, only the top 41 actions are included in the flow chart.

Bold and underlined numbers refer to the top eleven priority conservation actions.



Original RCN Objective: (Northeast Wildlife Teamwork Strategy).
To address regional wildlife conservation issues with the input and involvement of multiple parties involved in the creation and implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plans

Current RCN Goal/Vision:

The objective of the Northeast RCN Grant Program is to address landscape-scale, regional wildlife conservation issues by combining resources, leveraging funds, and prioritizing conservation actions identified in State Wildlife Action Plans

LCC Goal/Vision (North Atlantic example):

Landscapes that sustain our natural resources and cultural heritage in a healthy state through active collaboration of conservation partners and partnerships in the North Atlantic Region.

LCCs Fundamental Objective:

To define, design, and deliver landscapes that can sustain natural and cultural resources at desired levels nation-wide.

There are many Models for a Conservation Framework...

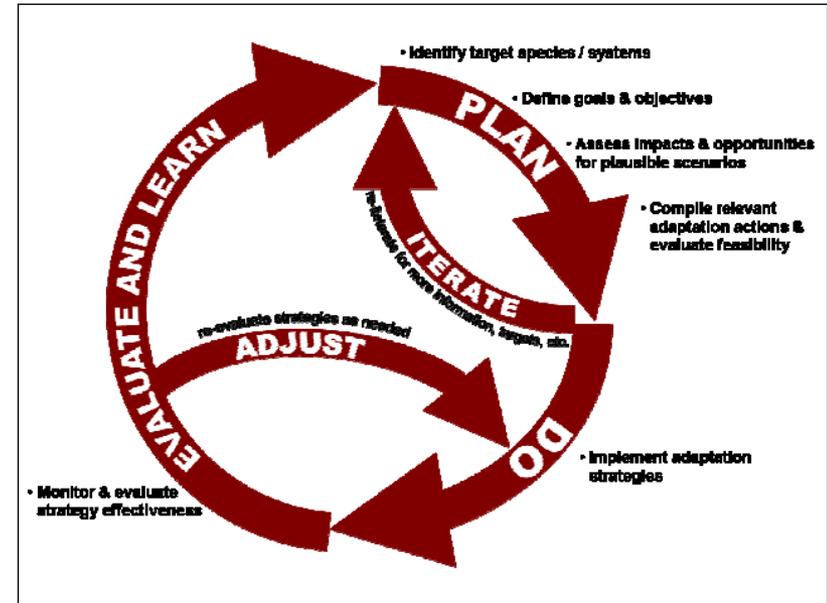
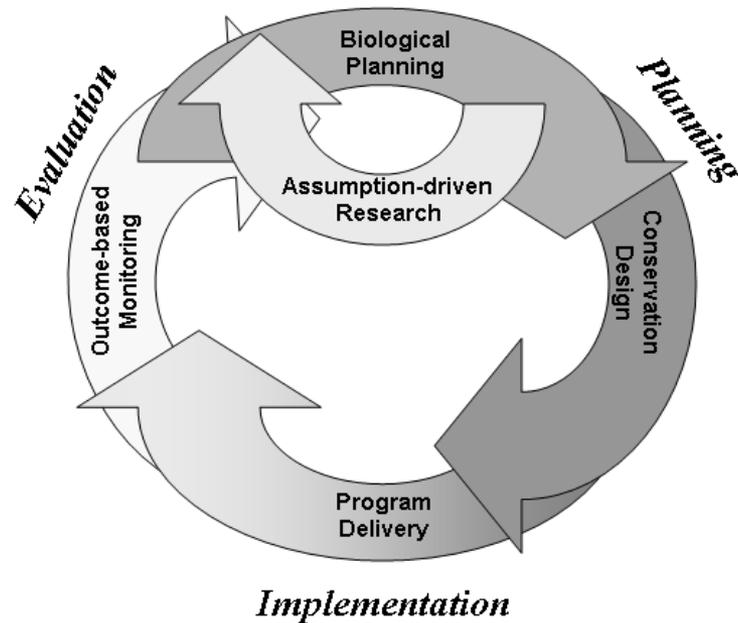
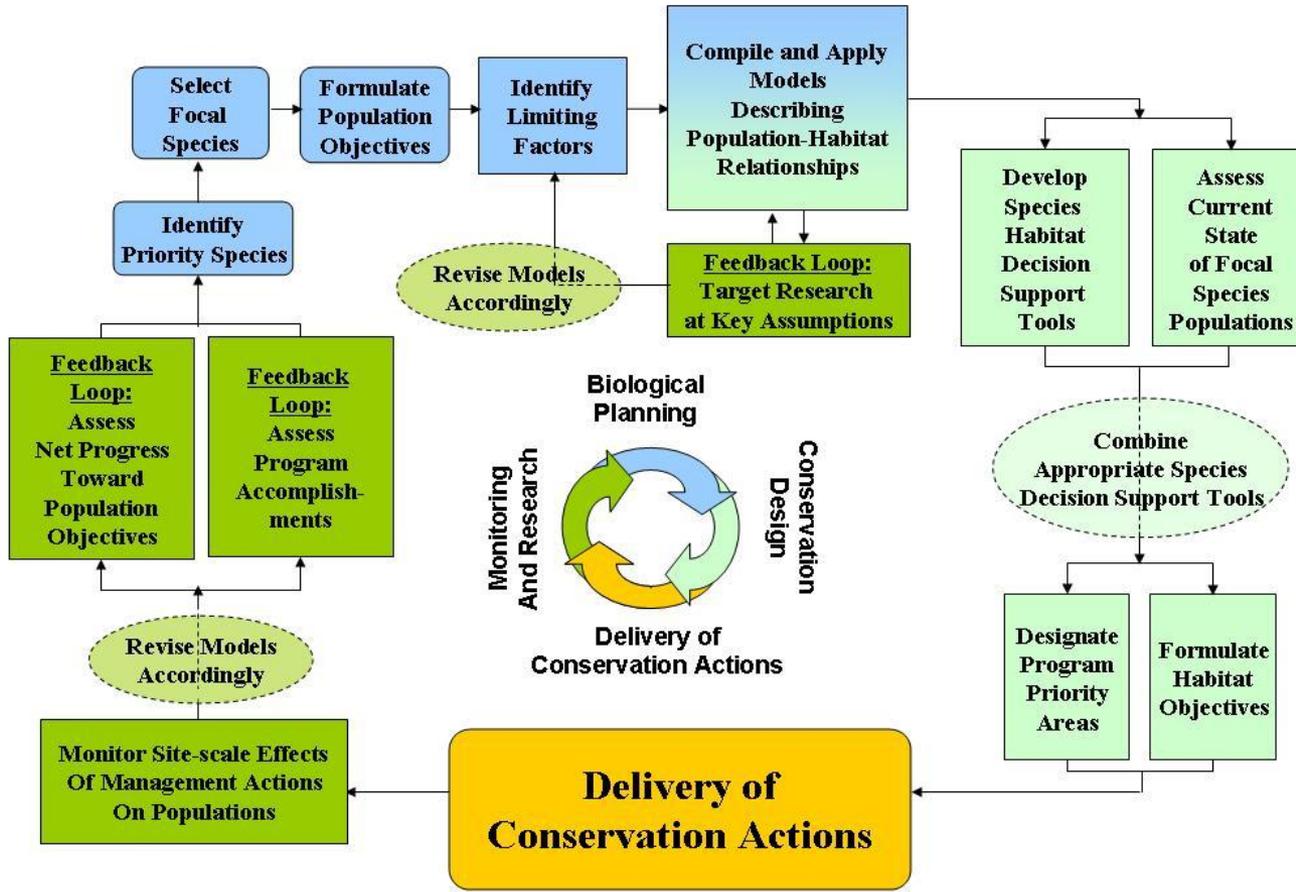


Figure 1. An iterative approach to adaptation planning and implementation (Adapted from [The Heinz Center](#) (2008), Glick et al. (2009), Heller and Zavaleta (2009), Cross et al. (in review)).

The Strategic Habitat Conservation Approach



Within an Ecoregion



Strategic Habitat Conservation and the 8 Elements of State Wildlife Action Plans



Element 1:

Species status assessment

Element 5:

Manage data to:
-detect changes
-assess effectiveness
-adapt management

Element 5:

Monitor species, habitats, outcome of actions

Element 2:

Habitat status assessment



Element s 7&8: Coordinate implementation

Element 3:

Evaluate problems & solutions

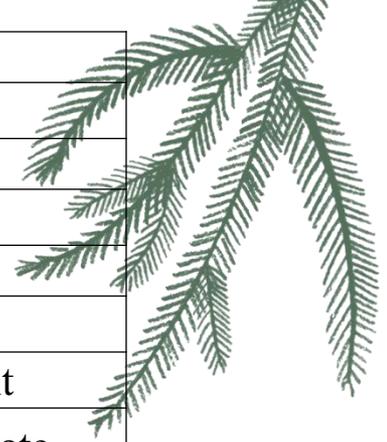
Element 4:

Prescribe actions

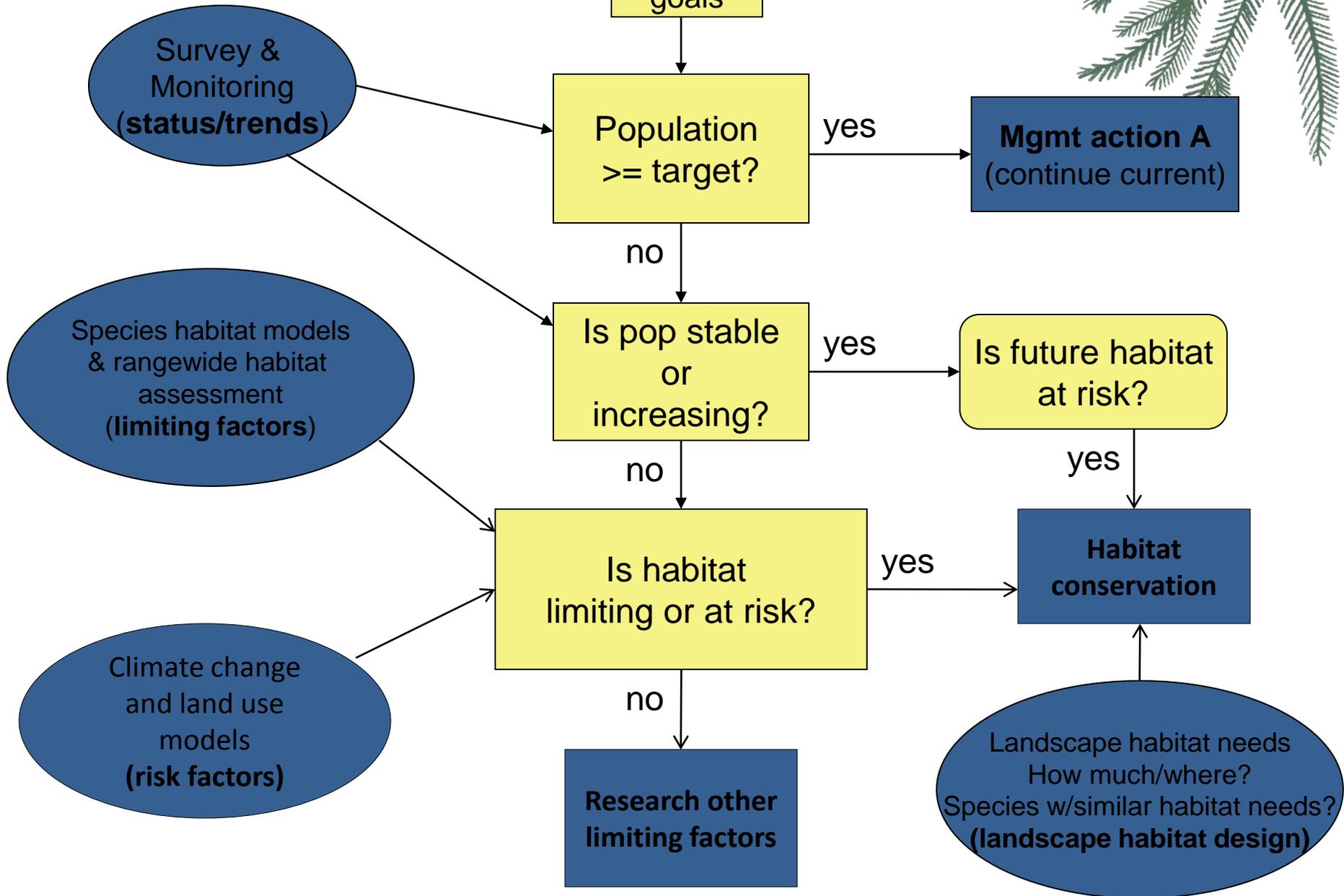
Element 4:

Prioritize actions

Strategic Habitat Cons. Element	Sub-element
Biological Planning	Biological Planning Units
	Priority Species
	Population Objectives
	Limiting Factors
	Species/Habitat Models
Conservation Design	Landscape/Habitat Assessment
	Assessment of Conservation Estate
	Decision Support Tools
	Conservation Objectives
	Integrate Multiple Species Objectives
Conservation Actions	Program Objectives
	Conservation Delivery Mechanisms
	Communication and Education Delivery Mechanisms
Outcome-based Monitoring	Conservation Tracking System
	Habitat Inventory and Monitoring Program
	Population Monitoring Program
Assumption-driven Research	Species/Habitat Model Assumptions
	Conservation Treatment Assumptions
	Keyfactor/Sensitivity Analyses
	Spatial Data Analyses



Population Goals in the Context of a Conservation Framework



North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Framework Elements



- **Conservation targets/population goals** – at a regional level
- **Species/habitat models** – regional levels – across species distribution
- **Landscape design** – combine multiple species needs into landscape designs that support regional population goal levels
- **Habitat change over time** – assess with respect to stressors such as sprawl and climate change – incorporate into landscape designs
- **Conservation “translation” tools** – translate the science foundation into landscape patterns easily conveyed to public and landowners – work at community levels
- **Information management**
- **Monitoring** -serve as a “community of practice” for conservation partners – what have we learned, what works and what doesn’t?

Northeast Conservation Framework



GOAL-SETTING

*Which species to conserve?
At what levels?
Who decides?*

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

*What do we know about the
status of priority wildlife?*

CONSERVATION DESIGN

*What should landscapes look
like to conserve all species at
levels that society wants?*

PRIORITIES

*Which species demand
immediate attention?*

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*How will we manage the
demand for and creation
of data?*

SCIENCE TRANSLATION TOOLS

*How do we make science
solutions useful?*

MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH

*What new information will we
gather to support
conservation?*

CONSERVATION ADOPTION

*How do we get communities and
landowners engaged in
conservation?*

CONSERVATION DELIVERY

*How will we most efficiently put
conservation on the ground?*

Session 1

Northeast Conservation Framework

Workshop Sessions

Habitat Mapping Session 2



GOAL-SETTING

*Which species to conserve?
At what levels?
Who decides?*

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

*What do we know about the
status of priority wildlife?*

Session 3

PRIORITIES

*Which species demand
immediate attention?*

CONSERVATION DESIGN

*What should landscapes look
like to conserve all species at
levels that society wants?*

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*How will we manage the
demand for and creation
of data?*

SCIENCE TRANSLATION TOOLS

*How do we make science
solutions useful?*

Session 4

Session 6

MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH

*What new information will we
gather to support
conservation?*

Session 5

CONSERVATION ADOPTION

*How do we get communities and
landowners engaged in
conservation?*

CONSERVATION DELIVERY

*How will we most efficiently put
conservation on the ground?*



Turning Point Polling

Do you agree that a common framework is needed for regional conservation?

- Yes, Very Strongly*
- Yes, Strongly*
- Somewhat*
- Slightly*
- Not at all*

Does the general set of elements describing a conservation framework make sense to you?

- Yes, Makes perfect sense*
- Yes, Makes good sense*
- Somewhat*
- Slightly*
- Not at all*

Based on your experience with conservation planning, decision-making, and delivery, are there any key elements or concepts missing from this framework?

- All elements are there*
- Most elements are there*
- Some key elements are missing*
- Needs to be completely reworked*
- I'm not sure*



Group Discussion Questions:

1. Based on your experience with conservation planning, decision-making, and delivery, are there any key elements or concepts missing from this framework?
2. What are the complementary roles of the states, LCCs and other partnerships in implementing the framework?