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Megan: … of my talk is really more of an introduction and the real meat of today's presentation will come to you from Natalie and from Shawn. First I'll just give a brief introduction to provide some context for the learning group and then the focus will really be about the work that Natalie did to put a recent systematic review that was conducted by the International Institute for Environment and Development along with the support of people on this webinar like Diane and Conchelsa, that looked at the evidence linked to the conservation enterprise as an approach for biodiversity conservation.

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And we did this by putting those results into a Theory of Change, we'll give you just a couple examples of what Natalie found and then encourage you to read the brief and download it from this webinar. Then we're gonna talk about some ways that you can participate in the learning group and Shawn's gonna take you through a new platform that we setup to both house documents and resources that you can use in your programming. And also a discussion board that you can use to share your learning and hear from other people around the world that aid. And we'll also be sure to save some time just for discussion and any questions that you have during the presentation. I encourage you to use the chat box here on the right to answer questions and, or ask questions and have a little side discussion. There's lots of experience here online and so we really look to you to really form this learning group because it's really all about you.

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So here is just the presentation in short, the introduction, Natalie's work on using the Theory of Change, how you can participation and add your comments and questions.

So just for a little bit of context, the purpose of the cross mission wearing program is to help missions design and manage conservation interventions. We know that learning groups work best when they're focused on bringing people together to share their experiences towards solving a common challenge and our common challenge is really about how to make biodiversity programming the most effective it can be. In this case we're looking at the strategic approach of using conservation enterprise as a way to reduce threats to biodiversity. The learning program is also meant to answer your questions and be relevant to you so we've setup a learning agenda that you really helped us define.

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This agenda will be implemented together and share lessons along a common Theory of Change or how our investments the chief

biodiversity conservation. So our first learning group is about conservation enterprises, in the month to come we'll also have a group looking at wildlife trafficking. So what do we mean by conservation enterprises? Lots of aid programs have supported different kinds of enterprises at different scales and involving different actors, all about creating economic incentives for people who live in biodiverse rich areas. From the work that we've done looking at past AID projects we have come up with this proposed definition of conservation enterprises.

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They involve the production of goods like honey or coffee and services like ecotourism, usually coming from nature but not always. They're intended to generate income for stakeholders. The function is that the income that they provide will provide motivation and ability for stakeholders to change their behavior such as how they manage their natural resources or to stop certain behaviors like over harvesting. These enterprises are aimed at improving the status of bioversity or the specific ecosystems and species that we're trying to conserve. And these enterprises may be willing to or depend on biodiversity out of sight. For example a national park where people go to visit and do other ecotourism kind of activities, or different kinds of non-timber forest products like the programs in Nepal. Or sometimes they might be unlinked to biodiversity and not have a direct connection like –

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making handbags from up-cycled materials or alternative _____ that aren't necessarily dependent on resource extraction. These conservation enterprises are often part of larger alternative livelihood programs or community-based natural resource management program approaches. So these enterprises can be thought of as a subset of these larger strategies. So what do you think of this definition? Do you have a different understanding or other elements that you'd like to add? Please go ahead and put your comments in the chat box.

So in setting up the enterprise learning group one of the first things that we did is come up with a common Theory of Change around how, what our hypothesis is for enterprises leading to biodiversity conservation and you can see that Theory of Change here on the screen.

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I'm not gonna read through the Theory of Change, I think that it's understandable if you read from left to right. But when we came up with the learning agenda we developed questions around each arrow on the Theory of Change just to document what our assumptions were. By coming up with this agenda it helps keep us focused on these learning questions and frame all of our activities

around answer to these key questions. Each link in this chain or each arrow is something that can be tested and that we can examine questions around and see under what conditions these assumptions holds true. We really appreciated the input that everyone was able to provide at the Environment Officers' Conference and we used those activities and lots of phone calls that Natalie –

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and Judy conducted to come up with what kind of activities we think would help answer these questions so this is a summary of what we expect to be rolling out over the next year in the conservation enterprise learning agenda. The first circle there is about the censuses, there's 20 years of different USAID experiences that we will go through and such as this webinar today present to you different results from the studies that Natalie and Judy are able to conduct such as the systematic review that we're presenting today. We also worked on a brief around the enabling conditions for conservation enterprises and are about to publish two or three more issue briefs that will look at past experiences and share those with you. The next one is a retrospective assessment that is currently in the design phase where we hope to go back and look at the results today and the conclusions of –

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USAID programs that were funded in the past and see what activities and what lasting results exist on the ground. And the third is what we call in a prospective assessment to provide technical support to current activities around conservation enterprises to work with missions and their programs to talk about or to help you integrate what we know from the Theory of Change into your current programs working with different monitor and evaluation and learning plans, hopefully do some site exchanges to see enterprise work in action as well. We'd love to hear more of your ideas for activities, you can also type those into the box here or follow-up in an e-mail to me if you're listening to this as a recording. So I'd like to turn it over to Natalie Dubois for measuring impact now, who will talk about the work that she did to –

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look at the systematic review that IIED did and put it in the context of our conservation enterprise's Theory of Change, over to you Natalie.

Natalie: All right, thanks so much Megan. As Megan mentioned I work on the measuring impact project and today I'll be providing an overview of a recent brief that was motivated by a systematic review on the effectiveness of alternative livelihood projects that was published by Dillis Row and her colleagues in 2015. Their

review examined effectiveness in relation to assumed intermediate results in the Theory of Change. And our secondary analysis builds on their effort but looks at the evidence supporting or refuting the assumptions in the Theory of Change itself. Today we'll cover just a few examples to entice you to read the brief and the full brief is available through the resource links that are included in the webinar. So studies were included in Row and Colleagues Systematic Review if they assessed evidence for one of the following intermediate results.

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First, changes in attitudes to conservation, second change in the behavior of people posing the conservation threat, or three, change in the status of the biodiversity focal interest. And they scored projects as having a positive, neutral, or negative conservation outcome based on evidence for these three intermediate results. Their review included 21 alternative livelihood projects. We looked back at that set of projects and found that 18 of those projects were activities supporting one or more conservation enterprises by the definition that Megan shared with you earlier. But from their studies fewer than 40 percent of conservation enterprise activities had positive outcomes. We examined the studies that they included in their systematic review from the perspective of the conservation enterprise's Theory of Change. Row and Colleagues Systematic Review focuses on the effectiveness of the strategic approach –

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at achieving outcomes that occur towards the middle and right side of the Theory of Change as shown in the schematic on the left. On the right we show how our analysis focuses on identifying what if any elements in the Theory of Change were addressed in the studies and whether there was any evidence supporting or refuting the relationships between intermediate results in the Theory of Change. And I'm gonna review some of our key findings relative to these assumptions and the learning questions associated with each link in the Theory of Change. The first assumption in the Theory of Change is that the activity supports the enabling conditions for the conservation enterprise. The learning question addresses the first outcome in the Theory of Change whether the right enabling conditions are in place to support a sustainable enterprise, and we found that most studies reported on some aspect of enabling conditions. Some of the examples of the types of enabling conditions that were discussed as being important to conservation enterprises –

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included access to credit or capital in the form of microcredit or grants to purchase equipment, sufficient demand to establish a market for a good or service, capacity of participants to develop

new skills and knowledge, involvement of local people in joint decision making and benefit sharing, establishment of strong institutional framework, and the existence of support of legal frameworks and policies. About 80 percent of the activities were successful in developing an enterprise in which participants were able to produce and sell the good or service. However a few counter examples illustrate the importance of enabling conditions. One activity encountered legal hurdles that prevented participants from establishing a legal market for the proposed good. Another activity was successful at engaging participants in producing a good but then found that there was no market for it. In both of these examples critical enabling conditions were missing that were necessary for the enterprise.

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The next assumption in the Theory of Change is that the enterprise leads to benefits for stakeholders. Well conservation enterprises can generate both cash and non-cash benefits. We paid special attention to whether the study authors reported on economic benefits in our analysis because by definition a conservation enterprise differs from other alternative livelihood approaches in that it generates income for stakeholders. All of the studies reporting on activities in which the conservation enterprise was established mentioned some aspect of economic benefits. But they varied in whether they provided a quantitative assessment of those benefits. For those studies that included quantitative assessments of economic benefits the types of indicators reported including change in daily or annual income or the proportion of income attributable to the enterprise. Some studies reported on benefits at a community level such as the number of participants that saw an increase in income or the percentage of participants that reported that they had enough income to meet their daily needs.

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Some studies also mentioned non-cash benefits such as food security or cultural values that participants were able to maintain in connection with the enterprise. While about 85 percent of established enterprises generated some level of income that income was sometimes viewed as supplementary to other sources of income rather than as a replacement. In addition the sustainability of benefits may rely on enabling conditions that are subject to external factors. For example, fluctuations in transportation costs and world market demands sometimes made it difficult for participants to sustain profits in some enterprises. If we look at the third assumption in the Theory of Change the benefits will lead to changes in attitudes and behaviors that pose a conservation threat. The question here looks at whether benefits lead to positive changes in attitude and behavior.

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And this is a learning question that is most closely aligned to the evidence president in Row and Colleagues Systematic Review. It is also probably the greatest uncertainty or leap of faith in the Theory of Change. The systematic review looked at the effectiveness of alternative livelihood projects relative to changes in attitudes and behavior but not explicitly at whether the benefits received by participants in the enterprise led to those outcomes. However remember that most activities included in the review led to enterprises that generated some form of benefit for participants so we have most of the activities that have gotten this far along in the Theory of Change. Economic benefits co-occurred with positive changes and behavior only about half of the time. Our review of the studies identified 13 activities in which participants in the enterprise realized some level of benefits. Twelve of these studies also reported on behavior change.

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Six found evidence for positive changes and behavior but in the remainder there was no or limited evidence for positive changes in behavior. In two of these cases there was evidence for positive changes in attitude even though the behaviors did not change. For example in China wetland resource users generated income from micro-enterprises and reported improved relations between the local community and a nature reserve but they continued to use resources from the park. Several studies also suggested factors that may influence the association between benefits and behavior change. Activities in which the conservation enterprise provided supplemental or additional income to households rather than serving as a primary source of income suggests that the relative contribution of the conversation enterprise to total income may influence the likelihood of changes in behavior. Other studies provided evidence that participation in an enterprise that provide benefits may be more likely to lead to changes in behavior if doing so imposes time and resource constraints on the behavior that poses the conservation threat.

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So for example one ecotourist activity found that participants that were directly employed by the lodge reduced farming and hunting activities but those participants who were employed in selling goods and services to the lodge had fewer time constraints and so they were able to continue to engage in those threats. The fourth assumption in the Theory of Change is that changes in stakeholder attitudes and behavior will lead to a reduction in the threat to biodiversity. A reduction in threats is particularly difficult to assess at the level of an enterprise approach as it occurs at a broader special scale over which multiple strategic approaches to conservation may be occurring. Among studies included in the systematic review there was virtually no assessment of whether changes in behavior led to threat reduction. Only one study

reported on changes in both behavior and the status of the threat affecting the biodiversity focal interest.

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While the study found no evidence for threat reduction, there was also no evidence that the introduced enterprise led to changes in behavior. This example illustrates a key distinction between assessing the effectiveness of the strategic approach and testing the assumptions about how the strategic approach works. Here the lack of threat reduction is evidence that the strategic approach did not work but it does not provide evidence refuting the assumption that positive changes in behavior led to threat reduction. On the other hand since there was no change in behavior it also does not provide any evidence that the assumption is true. Even for studies that found positive changes in attitudes or behavior it was not always clear that the changes in attitude and behavior that were reported were those that would be expected to lead to a change in the threat. Not all changes in behavior, such as uptake of an alternative method of agriculture for example, are changes in threat inducing practices.

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A further difficulty in our analysis of the studies was that a number of them did not explicitly identify the threat that the conservation enterprise activity was intended to address. The final assumption in the Theory of Change connects the reduction and threats to conservation of the biodiversity focal interest. None of the studies addressing activities supporting conservation enterprises included in the systematic review reported on changes in the status of the biodiversity focal interest which made it impossible for us too examine the potential relationship between threat reduction and biodiversity conservation from this data set. If findings suggest that there is a lack of documented evidence regarding the linkages between the reduction and threats and biodiversity conservation connecting outcomes across scales from that of the activity to the scale of a threat appears to be particularly challenging.

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Even after an exhaustive literature review Row and their colleagues were unable to identify any assessments of conservation enterprise activities that reported on the full fleet of outcomes that are capture in the Theory of Change. The limitations to this evidence base make it difficult to establish the effectiveness of the strategic approach itself let alone test the pathway by which the strategic approach is leading to biodiversity conservation. The absence of information about threat reduction and biodiversity outcomes in relationship to conservation enterprise approaches limits our understanding of the effectiveness of the strategic approach and also our ability to understand how to adaptively manage activities in order to improve outcomes. Nevertheless there

are a few implications for the conservation enterprises learning agenda. First without a stronger evidence base our ability to assess the effectiveness of the strategic approach and improve implementation based on our understanding of how it works remains limited.

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But to understand why or why not a conservation approach is effective we need to test the assumed relationships between the intermediate results not just whether those results have been achieved. Designing activities with an explicit Theory of Change and identifying appropriate indicators as part of the project design rather than during the assessment phase can help to ensure that the outcomes that are measured are those that are most relevant for testing the assumptions underlying the strategic approach. And Theories of Change provide a framework for what to measure in order to understand how the strategic approach works. In other words they conform the scaffolding to build an evidence base for effectiveness and if the strategic approach is effective why it works. And before I end this part of the presentation I did want to let you know about a forthcoming resource that Megan alluded to earlier that's going to take an in-depth look at the first learning question identified in the conservation enterprise's learning agenda building on some of this work and it's a synthesis of enabling conditions for conservation enterprises.

[00:22:05]

And now we'd like to ask you to share your thoughts based on the implications of what we've presented for USAID staff and their implementing partners, please respond to this poll and if you could provide any comments you may have in the chat box and we'll come back to your answers during the discussion. So our question for you is what is the primary barrier to understanding the effectiveness of conservation enterprises for threat reduction and biodiversity conservation? We have three main choices that you can select with the dialog box here. Implementers generally only conduct monitoring and evaluations to monitor their contractual obligations rather than broader learning. Short timeframes of activities and limited investment in post-activity learning prevent assessment of threat reduction outcomes and biodiversity conservation.

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Or monitoring, evaluation, and learning are not built into the design of activities from the start thereby limiting assessments of effectiveness. Or for D) if you have other thoughts, a different barrier to share or if something else comes to mind please share those responses in the chat box. We'll take a few minutes to collect your responses.

All right if there are, we'll take a last minute round of polls and invite you to continue in typing please if you have, someone asked if we had an all of the above option, that was why we typed in a primary barrier but that's a good response, please do indicate in the chat box if you'd like to.

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All right and we can continue to accept your responses through the chat box but now I'd like to introduce Shawn Tibodie who's going to give us an overview of the new conservation enterprise's learning group platform.

Shawn: All right, so we've built an online platform which sits on the USAID's –

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forestry and biodiversity offices gateway which itself is on the resource management portal. So look here, so we've built this site to connect USAID's staff to facilitate knowledge sharing and foster collaboration for our learning groups and right now we have two learning efforts that are underway, one is conservation enterprises and the second one is forthcoming soon which will be focused on commenting wildlife crime. We will share the link to this site after the presentation and so that you can go there and jump right in. We're gonna talk today of course about the conservation enterprise site. So when you follow the link you'll end up here and the first thing you want to is login.

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And for everyone who received an invite directly to this webinar we've preregistered you so you can use your first initial, last name as your login and your password will be, actually I'm drawing a blank but I'll be reminded of that in a second, cegroup, that's right, your password was cegroup and you can reset that password. If you're already a member of the RM Portal then we've added you to this subgroup and you can use your regular login in order to get into the site. So once you're logged in, one other thing, if you're not a member, if for some reason it's not working you can click on not a member and you can fill out a quick little form and get access if you have a USAID address.

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So we're gonna show you a couple things that you can do on this site, first is you can click on the See What We've Learned icon which will take you to the Wiki Knowledge Base. And the Wiki Knowledge Base is a Wiki site that we've built to try and capture and store knowledge that we get along the way so rather than building a big final report which comes out at the end of the project what we want to do is sort of build something as the project

goes on, as the learning group gets going so that new people can catch up and as we gain knowledge it's accessible to everybody. So we've organized the Wiki rather than on themes like Wikipedia is but around the conservation enterprise's learning agenda, as you can see the Theory of Change down here and then we have learning questions above it. If you'd like to submit documents or content to us you can send us documents just by clicking on share your contents.

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But then it is a Wiki so if you follow one of these questions so for example if we clicked on question three it'll take us to the page for learning question three and this one's do the benefits realized by stakeholders lead to positive changes in attitudes and behaviors? So we've got a little bit of guidance up here but then down here it's, we've just started building out this entry and we've, the information that we've already collected we've put in there. And if you'd like to edit or add to this we'd really like to encourage you to do that and you can just click the Edit button and that'll bring up this editor here and you can scroll through and you can just jump right in and start editing. We do want to ask, I'm sorry and there's an editor up there at top so you can format things, add bullets for example. And then we want to ask everyone to please add a change note, let us know what you've changed so that we can keep check of what's going on – on the site.

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The next thing I want to show you on this site is you can click on Read the Latest Research, this little Data icon and it'll bring up documents and we've got a whole bunch of documents on the site now. We've got short blurbs available if you click any of these and there are a ton of relevant documents on this site already, we're really lucky to have a whole bunch of guidance and information already available on this topic. And there may be a whole lot more out there as well so if there's something that you know of that you don't see here we'd encourage you to click Submit New Content and send it over to us. Next thing is News and Events so if you click on News and Events then you'll see upcoming webinars or other things that might be planned, if you have your own even event that's related to conservation enterprises you can add it up here.

[00:30:03]

Okay then the last thing I want to talk about it the Google group, so we've built a discussion group and you can find the link down here at the bottom which will take you to a Google Discussion Group, it's a little bit hard to see here but basically the way this works is it's a combination of an e-mail discussion group and an online forum. So if you post in the forum they'll send an e-mail out to all the members and members will be able to reply or start new

threads right through their e-mail. And this is, again this is a closed group just for USAID staff interested in conservation enterprises so we expect it to be a tight-knit group where you can ask questions of anything from does anyone have experience with beekeeping in Africa to –

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does anyone know of you know how to solve this problem with marine livelihoods? So we'd really encourage you to use it to ask each other questions specific or more general, you know what are big barriers that you've experienced with conservation enterprises for example. So if you're a little bit wary of oh no, I've been added to a discussion group, is my inbox gonna be overflowing with e-mails please don't worry, you can adjust your settings really easily within Google so that it can send you a maximum of one e-mail a day, one e-mail per week, one e-mail per month, whatever you'd like to set as the maximum and it'll just hold the messages until that prescribed time and then let them go. So again yeah as Megan's mentioning in the chat box, we're really trying to take a multipronged approach with this so that –

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the online platform has areas where you can catch up on discussion, you can see what the group's learned, you can see about new events, and you can connect with other members. So with that I'll turn it over to Megan to get us started.

Megan: Thanks Shawn, we wanted to end this webinar with kind of a preview of the discussion that we hope to get started on the Google group and that is to really hear from you about, from your experience, what enabling conditions have you found to be the most important for the establishment and sustainability of conservation enterprises? We'll kick that off and we'll over it the month of, the end of June and July, get a good conversation going on the Wiki and on the Google group site just to hear more about your experiences with enabling conditions.

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I know a couple missions right now just in the either finishing designs or just getting started with new programs and I think that we would all really benefit from your experience and sharing that. I think this is a good time to put your answers to the question in the chat box or go ahead and ask another question that you might have and we hope to get this conversation going.

Shawn: Great I see that we've already got one question which is from Scott Lumas who asks is there an active learning group moderator? And yes there is, I mean you're right Scott, this is absolutely critical to keeping things going and moving and operating smoothly and in

keeping the momentum going, so yes Judy Boshoven and I will be moderating this group with Megan Hill.

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And we're hoping to be able to make sure that we can keep the discussion focused, engaging, and most importantly relevant to everybody so thanks for your question.

Megan: I see Caroline is typing. I think the online discussion group is really the learning group is for AID stuff or USAID stuff and am I and our moderators participate as subject matters experts so certainly.

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I see multiple people are typing.

Shawn: Hey while we're waiting for people to type in their questions I've got one that we can pitch over to, maybe to Natalie, I want to ask which assumptions in the conservation enterprise Theory of Change has the most support?

Natalie: Well, oh we have something coming up?

Megan: Yes I see Christy asked a question about the retrospective and it's a timely question, right now we have gone through a subset of conservation and enterprise projects in the past and come up with a short list, the final ones have not been selected so Christy if you know of any please do share them with us we would love to include them. Right now Judy Boshoven and Olaf are in Nepal for a kick-off workshop of a new program there and I think they will be –

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investigating the feasibility of what some of the research on the ground following up with those enterprises in Nepal would look like to help get us a good estimate of the LOE required for the study.

You want to go ahead with your question Natalie?

Natalie: Oh okay yeah, the question was about which assumption in the conservation enterprise's Theory of Change has the most support and there was a fairly small dataset from the Row et al systematic review but even from that it's pretty clear that having the right _____ conditions in place is important for establishing and sustaining enterprises.

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We know that because there were some examples where enterprises failed and when they failed the implementers could often identify an enabling condition that hadn't been addressed. However there's a lot of variation across even that small set of studies and so it's likely that the different enabling conditions are context dependent and this is probably a great point to sort of highlight the next brief that I mentioned at the end of my portion of the talk which will be looking at specifically at enabling conditions that need to be in place for successful and sustainable conservation enterprises. There was also some evidence that receiving monetary benefits from a conservation enterprise can be associated with positive changes in behavior but there we start seeing that there was support for that assumption only about half the time. And so there are other factors probably that are context dependent that influence that association and we really, from the set of studies that were included in the systematic review we know very little about the association between behavior change and threat reduction or conservation outcomes.

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So designing projects and implementing in a way that we can start to gather that information is really important.

Shawn: Great, we've got another question from Anna which is will you be adding other results chains with different learning questions? Megan do you want to take that one?

Megan: Certainly, I think the other results chains if you're talking about other topics for the wildlife crime for example, those have different learning questions associated with them and so that learning group will look at them. For the conservation enterprises I think this learning agenda focuses on the conservation enterprise Theory of Change so all of our work will be focused on those key questions.

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Annetra I see your question as well, we are putting together a calendar of activities, I haven't thought about making that public to you but we can certainly do that. And Olaf for your question we certainly want to tap into the experience of our partners and bring them to us. Right now just as we're getting started we wanted to keep the online platforms to USAID staff primarily because of either procurement sensitivities or just that confidence level of asking questions internally just to get the group going but certainly want to share the experience such as frame, all the products that we produce and the briefs that we produce both to post that and make it available to external and also bring in other external speakers to talk to us like Dillis Row who I think it's sometime in July will be willing to talk with us.

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I see your question here Mark about how we can build evidence for and against and this is realistic given _____ project and MI timelines. We certainly want these kind of learning groups to exist long past the MI timelines and we're just getting started to work on that. I think the coming up with common indicators on projects and really internally working on our own project designs to know that we have to be, especially when you're at the right end of the chain looking at threat reduction indicators and biodiversity conservation indicators, we have to do a much better job at improving the baselines of what we're measuring against because we know that biological change takes a lot of time.

Shawn: Great, we've got another question here from Robert; maybe this one's for Natalie, what are the definitional limits of conservation enterprises?

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Natalie you might be muted.

Natalie: Yeah well so we, Megan went over some of them at the beginning of the webinar and I'll let her fill in but we focused on the subset of the alternative livelihood approaches that were in the systematic review and focused on those that either produced a good or a service and did so in order to provide a monetary benefit to participants. So Row et al's broader definition also included things like substitution of livelihoods that didn't actually or activities that didn't actually provide a monetary, a direct monetary benefit so that was one of the key criteria that we used in screening out among the broader set that were included in the systemic review that Row did.

[00:42:05]

Megan can, would you like to expand on that?

Megan: I wanted to go back to Robert and hopefully Robert you can hear me and can type in – in the chat box what you think, I think I might understand what boundaries you might think you're pushing but as far as the definition of a conservation enterprise, the way we defined it for this work was looking at goods and services whether that be non-timber forest products or other kind of agro-ecological products like cacao or coffee. But whether they're linked or unlinked to biodiversity we left that out there as a question, I'm thinking you might be thinking of your cell phone charging stations in _____ and I think that's just one of the points of research and examination that we'd like to look at about along the Theory of –

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Change if you increase somebody's income no matter how you do that and no matter if it's linked or unlinked to biodiversity does that

actually prompt a behavior change and a threat reduction at the other end of the chain, so if you could type in what you meant by limits of conservation enterprises that would be great.

Shawn: Okay I think we've got one more question from Danielle _____; will the results of the analysis be shared with agency leadership and even with Congress to influence funding decisions and to build the case for integration and public/private partnerships?

Megan: Well I see that Robert is typing but in the meanwhile I think Danielle's question is great, we certainly hope that through our work at the programming –

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level that these learnings and using evidence-based programming will make it up to your mission leadership. I think that the value of public/private partnerships and the interest that that sparks in Congress is great and you know to the extent that how you use these materials and how you put them to use in your programs can bubble up to Congress that would be great.

I saw you were typing there Robert but I haven't seen anything popup yet, there we go. Some activities are not necessarily linked to biodiversity; yeah I think that that's a topic that we're all interested in looking at and in particularly what kind of _____ you can build in to your programs around that.

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The _____ is transitioning to some evaluation questions that we'd really like your feedback on especially the kind of platforms that you think you're most likely to use. I know I have very limited experiences with Wikis but certainly open to learning and the ones I've seen in use end up coming up with really interesting discussion threads. One thing that we'd really appreciate you all doing is sharing these materials within the mission and with mission staff and if you work in a regional mission fording it out, we all know we tend to live in our e-mail and it can often be a challenge to change those –

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online behaviors but we really hope that through this conservation enterprise site you'll be able to find materials when you need it and be able to actually find evidence and include that evidence in your programming decisions or in their work planning decision as you work with partners on conservation enterprise projects. And if you need any help please feel free to reach out to me, happy to forward you along documents if you get to the point where you know you saw some document but you don't know where to find it you can always turn to us and we'll help you get the information that you need.

Shawn: Okay I see some answers are already starting to come in, if you haven't responded yet it'd be great if you could start poking those buttons. And in just a second after we've –

[00:47:00]

done this feedback we'll put the links up again so you can connect to the site and connect also to the resources we've mentioned on the brief. And that's right there will also be a newsletter that we'll be sending out a couple times a year and our first issue should come out very soon so look for that in your inbox. And one other announcement is that Megan and I have an event coming up tomorrow at 9:00 on the _____ Reference Group is holding a discussion group and we're giving a presentation on organizational learning within USAID so it's a related topic to really think about how to scale up social learning efforts within USAID to increase the impact of learning.

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So if that's interesting to you please join us and I think we can send out a link to that as well.

Megan: I see Annetra is typing. I see Scott is typing as well.

[00:48:59]

On the bottom left of your screen you'll see all of the links to the documents that you can download including the learning agenda for conservation enterprises, the work that Natalie did using a Theory of Change approach to examine the evidence of conservation enterprises. And you also will find that publication itself "Are Alternative Livelihood Projects Effective at Reducing Local Threats through Biodiversity?" These are also in the Google site that is included in the calendar invite and if you go to the Conservation Enterprise's site, the _____ biodiversity gateway you'll also be able to find those documents there. I think if there are no other questions we can wrap this up and this recording will also be sent around to the folks so that you can forward it to people who you know who might be interested.

[00:50:00]

And a big thanks to our colleagues at Measuring Impact, Natalie and Shawn have done a lot of work on this; Olaf, Diane and Judy are both in _____ or in Nepal at the moment are also great resources who've put a lot of work into this. And this is really only one of a series of webinars that we hope to come up to share with you in the future. Dillis Row and her colleagues, we've been in touch and they'd love to have a further discussion with you all about their findings. Judy's also working on the enabling conditions brief and once that's done send that around and also set

up another time to talk about that, and also to share with you the progress that we're making on the retrospective design and all of our work to help you with enterprise programming. Please feel free to reach out at any time, my e-mail is Megan Hill, so Mhill@USAID.gov and we're just an e-mail away, thanks everybody.

[00:50:59]

[00:52:00]

[End of Audio]