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Threats-Based Approach to Conservation Using Adaptive Management

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USAID - EGAT/NRM/B

Global Conservation Program Symposium: 1999-2009

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Washington, DC



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Conservation Action - the early years

Ad hoc

Protection
based on
ecology
(species)



Conservation
including social
considerations
(ICDP)





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Example of Weak Links

THREAT

Poverty

Lack of environmental awareness

Timber concession threatening site

ACTIVITY

Develop alternative economic activities

Distribution of environmental education materials

Radio programs for communities on environmental awareness



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I S O U R

A Guide to Threat Reduction Assessment for Conservation

P R O J E C T

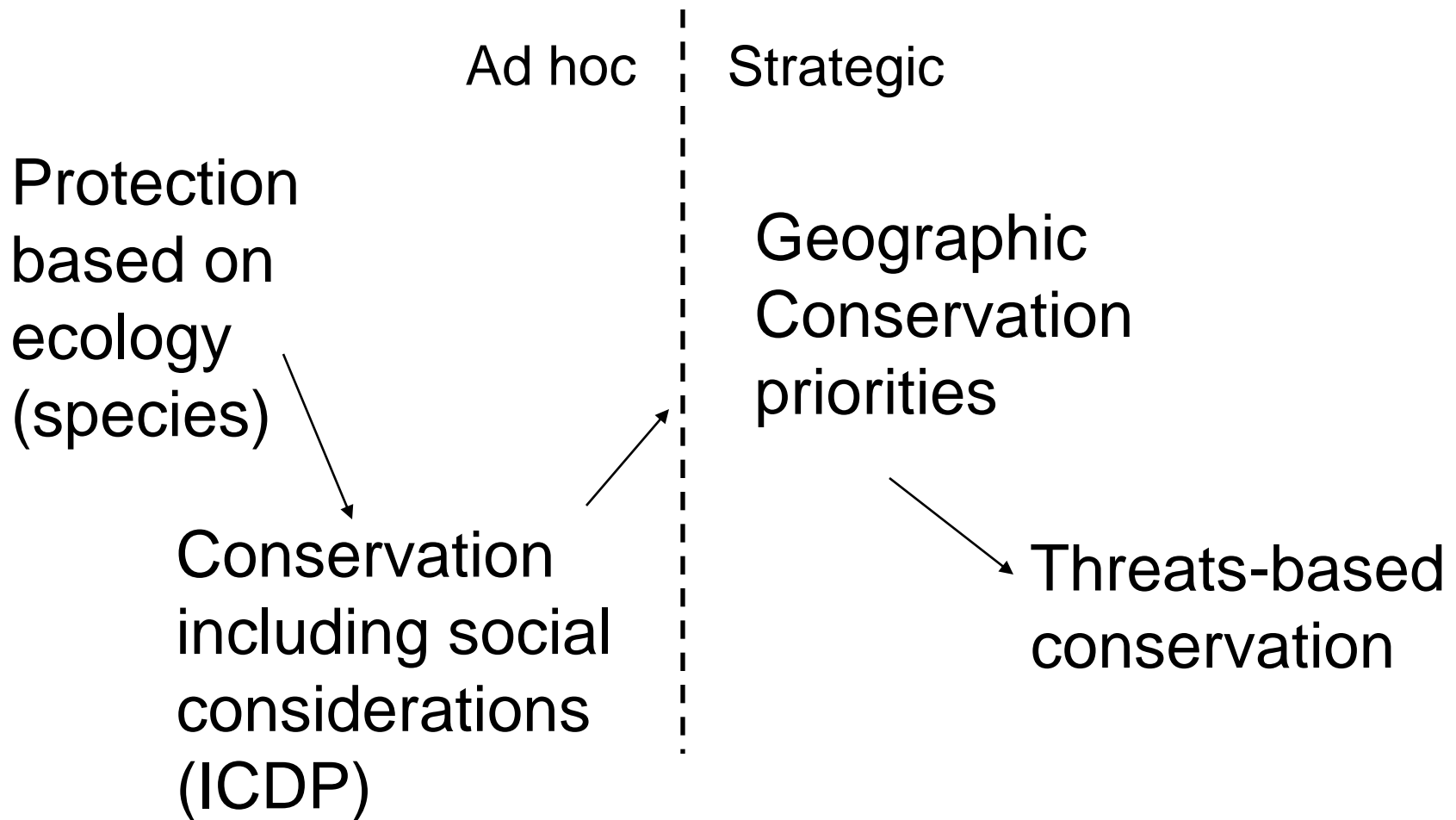
Richard Margoluis and Nick Salafsky BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

S U C C E E D I N G ?



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Threats-based Conservation





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From GCP call for applications

- Applications should use a threats based approach. Applications should clearly identify the threats (whether they are site-based, regional, national, and/or international) to biodiversity and clearly explain how threats will be addressed. In cases where it is not feasible to address significant threats, applications should describe the likely impact of these threats on the site and/or the proposed activities. The application should also present the most promising opportunities for conservation. Applications should identify critical assumptions and the discuss potential consequences if these assumptions prove false.



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Threats

- Threats are the factors that negatively affect biodiversity, and
- Threats should be identified at the level at which the threat abatement can be undertaken.



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The Threats-based Conservation Approach

- Identify the site, scale, and conservation targets,
- Identify direct threats to biodiversity,
- Prioritize threats,
- Develop conservation interventions to abate high priority threats, and
- Apply adaptive management techniques.



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Improved Links

Threat	Source of Threat	Effect on conservation target	Activity
Conversion - Habitat degradation	Logging company concessions	Loss of forest habitat/ connectivity within landscape	Best practice agreements between company and government
Species exploitation/ overharvesting	Overfishing	Loss of fish species – habitat destruction	Increase enforcement capacity No take zones and fishing protocols



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"My question is: Are we making an impact?"



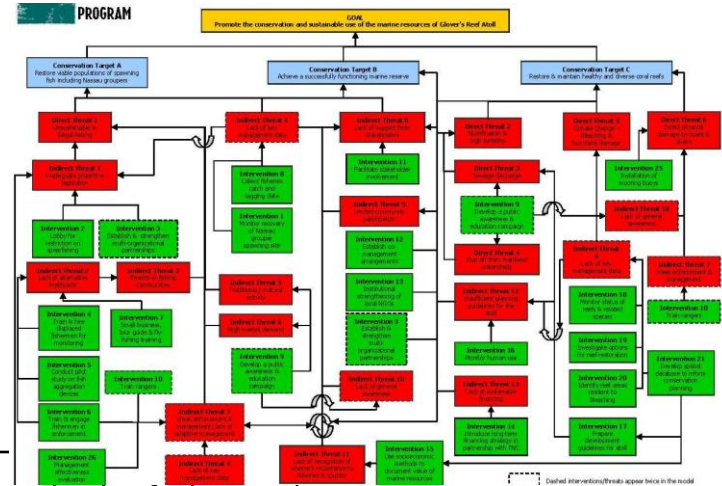
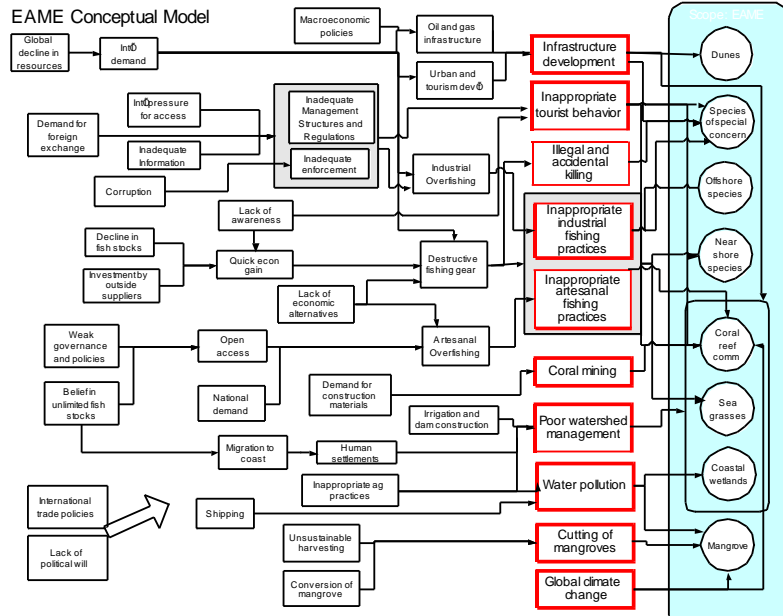
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Conservation Measures Partnership

- Rosetta Stone of Project Management Systems
- Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation
- CMP Conservation Audits
- Miradi: Adaptive Management Software for Conservation Projects



Models and Measures



Threat	Rank	Rank
Artisanal fishing (includes bycatch and turtle poaching)	#2	#1
Infrastructure development	#3	#1
Global climate change adaptation	#5	#3
Cutting of mangroves	#4	#4
Industrial fishing (includes bycatch)	#1	#6



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At USAID

USAID “internalized” threats based approach

- Prioritize funding opportunities that focus on threats-based approach
- Work with partners to develop sound emphasis on local community involvement and benefits
- Develop biodiversity activities in concert with other sectors - democracy and governance, agriculture, population and health.



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*“Sure, kid. You start by working for the ecosystem,
but pretty soon you figure out how to get the ecosystem
working for you!”*



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Opportunities - or ?

- Environmental services
 - payment for environmental services
 - REDD
- Climate change
 - scale of threat
 - new measures for success
 - implementation focus



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Evolution continues

