

Data-Limited Fisheries

More than 90% of Earth's fisheries lack regular assessment data, which impacts millions who rely on fish for their livelihood and animal protein worldwide. This Working Group is developing innovative, inexpensive approaches to assess data-limited fisheries and providing new tools and local training to improve the sustainability of small-scale fisheries and local economies.

Fisheries Measures

Fisheries are an important source of global food security, income and employment, closely tied to changes in the health of marine environments. Managing the world's fisheries is difficult and the lack of data and analysis magnifies the challenges. This Working Group is gathering and synthesizing new data to improve our understanding of the current status of key fish stocks and all the factors that lead to healthy fisheries outcomes.

Ridges to Reef Fisheries

While most marine data tries to make sense of what is happening above and below the ocean surface, marine environments are also impacted by land-based activities. This Working Group is creating a model to help predict the impacts of land-use changes on fisheries and help decision makers assess how their choices could impact economic development, fisheries, and livelihoods.

Sustainable Aquaculture

Aquaculture currently represents 50% of all fisheries products for direct human consumption. This Working Group will examine current best practices, analyze opportunities for sustainable expansion, as well as the economic and ecological impacts of potential aquaculture development scenarios, with a special focus on the emerging sector of open-ocean aquaculture, which currently has no best-practice guidance of any kind.

Sustainable Ag Intensification

The expansion of agriculture into wild lands poses an enormous risk to conservation efforts in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT). This Working Group is creating various scenarios for the expansion of agriculture in SAGCOT that minimizes the impact on important wild lands, while sustainably intensifying food production on specific landscapes.

Better Land Use Decisions

Land-use decisions are made without a full understanding of the trade-offs of economic returns, biodiversity impacts, and nature derived benefits. This Working Group will use a data-driven, economic analysis-based approach to incorporate the impacts of both markets and policies on land-use decisions enabling decision-makers to see the full range of potential trade offs land-use choices may yield.

Hydraulic Fracturing

New technologies and hydraulic fracturing make shale energy development possible. Hydraulic fracturing uses large quantities of water and produces toxic chemicals. This Working Group is examining the impacts of energy extraction on water supplies and wastewater contamination and documenting best practices to help ensure the availability of safe, clean water for people and natural systems.

Evidence-Based Conservation

As global conservation and policy organizations wrestle with challenges like water scarcity and overfishing, they are placing growing emphasis on the value of a healthy environment to the health, development, and well-being of people. This Working Group is evaluating existing evidence that links conservation interventions to outcomes for people and is documenting how science could guide conservation managers, policy makers, and social impact investors.

Making Ecosystems Count

The United Nations has agreed to a comprehensive set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), but how will decision makers plan and monitor progress toward these goals? This Working Group is developing ecosystem services and natural resource-based indicator pathways, grounded in sound science, to inform land use planning and increase accountability for conservation efforts to attain relevant SDG targets.

Natural Capital Accounting

The contributions of ecosystem services are not accounted for in a country's GDP, underscoring the importance of a system for natural capital accounting that will accurately assess a country's true wealth. This Working Group will focus on helping Rwanda determine the value of non-market services. The results will directly support Rwanda's development planning process and reinforce the central role of natural capital in economic output.

Forest Sharing or Sparing

Native tropical forests logged for timber cover more than twice the area as those protected by conservation. A small but growing proportion of tropical forests is being converted to high-intensity timber plantations. This Working Group is developing an empirical, science-based framework to answer the question: How do countries achieve the greatest conservation and human well-being outcomes in landscapes with target levels of timber production?

Ivory Trade Economics

Elephant populations are under threat, spurred by the demand for ivory in China. With the Chinese government phasing out commercial trade in ivory, this Working Group is modeling the policy options to most effectively implement the new trade ban while minimizing potential negative impacts. In addition, the team will evaluate the cost-benefits of ivory trade on livelihoods, ecosystems, and human security and provide options for enforcing the planned ban.

Coastal Defenses

Natural habitats and man-made barriers help communities withstand the impacts of storm surges, sea-level rise, and other natural hazards driven by climate change. This Working Group is exploring how natural habitats can help protect coastal communities from extreme events. This team is building the case for coastal habitat restoration that can help improve resilience to disasters along with other valuable ecosystem services.

Fire Research Consensus

Increasingly contentious scientific debate on how much high-severity fire should be considered "natural" in dry conifer forests has become a roadblock to action on fire management. This Working Group will bring together representatives from both sides to address the core issues of the debate, review and synthesize available data, identify where consensus exists, focus on policy and management decisions based on that consensus, and develop a strategy for resolving issues that remain unsettled.

Gaming the Future

About 60% of Americans do not consider action on climate change a priority. Recent studies show that the effectiveness of climate change communication depends on both the message and the messenger. This Working Group is exploring how to create new messages and messengers with video games that can influence the way people think about and act to address the challenges of climate change.

SNAP Working Groups: Addressing Critical Issues on Food Security & Conservation Commerce & Conservation Measurement & Evaluation Climate Change & Resilience Drought, Water Security & Conservation

Amazon Waters

The Amazon Basin is the largest river system in the world, providing millions with drinking water, fish protein, and employment in subsistence and commercial fisheries. This Working Group is creating the information that decision-makers need to balance conservation of Amazon's wetlands and fisheries with large-scale infrastructure development in order to improve economies and livelihoods for the region's rural and urban people.

Ecological Drought

The intensity and frequency of droughts in North America are expected to increase presenting concurrent challenges to people and nature. This Working Group will synthesize the current understanding of ecological drought, and identify research priorities that don't rely only on historic data, and field test a suite of community preparedness and conservation actions that increase resilience without harming the natural systems that both depend on.

Sharing Water

Over-allocation of water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial use severely depletes stream flows degrading ecosystems, and posing economic risk to all who depend on reliable water supplies. This Working Group is developing a novel approach to water sharing to eliminate zero-sum competition between users, and instead advance a multiple-benefit approach that restores stream flows, reduces economic risk, and maintains agricultural economies.

Water Security

The water problems that face people living in urban areas can be summed up succinctly: too little, too much, or too dirty. This Working Group is analyzing how and where investments in nature and holistic watershed management in Latin America can help solve urban water quality, scarcity, and management issues while reducing the need for more costly built infrastructure like dams and reservoirs.

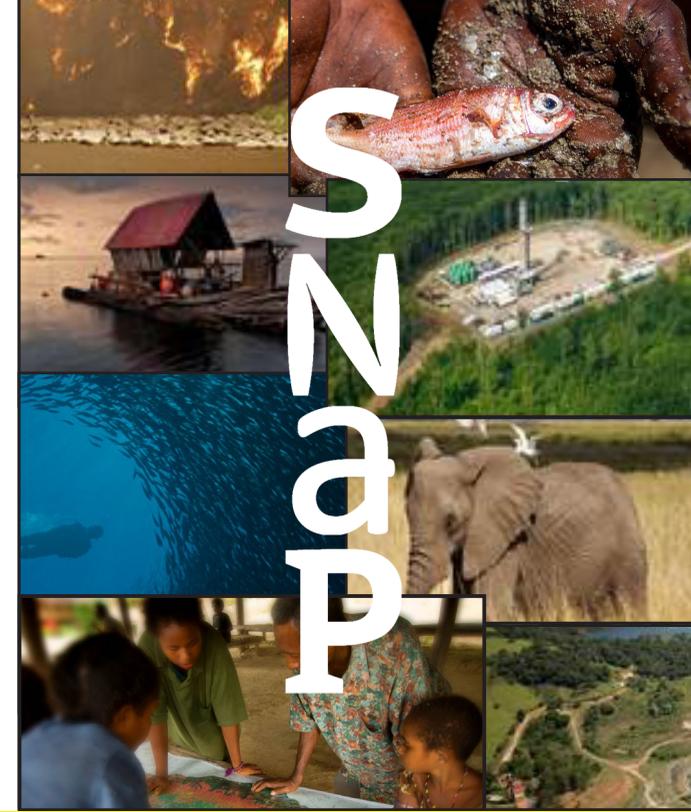


Science for Nature and People Partnership



A Clear Pathway to Impact

- The SNAP Partnership funds multi-disciplinary groups of world-leading scientists and conservationists from a variety of disciplines, sectors, and institutions (e.g. NOAA, World Bank, IUCN, WWF, CGIAR, and business).
- SNAP Working Groups are structured to deliver rapid results that will lead to more effective conservation actions and policies.
- Working Groups typically generate high profile science synthesis papers, as well as, new methods, tools, frameworks, and interventions that help advocate conservation solutions.



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Each year in March SNAP solicits Request for Proposals to applicants from academia, non-governmental organizations, and governmental natural resource agencies globally.

Important criteria include:

- Significance of proposed synthesis research for nature conservation, economic development, and human well-being
- Diversity and quality of the proposed Working Group members
- Target audiences and potential for uptake of results
- Pathways to implementing results and theory of change

The Science for Nature and People Partnership delivers evidence-based scalable solutions to global challenges at the intersection of nature conservation, human well-being, and economic development.

SNAP has been generously funded through founding grants by Shirley and Harry Hagey, Steve and Roberta Denning, Ward W. Woods, Jr., Seth Neiman, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Packard Foundation.