

2024 NACCB Interactive Session Report
Adding an EDI lens to conservation: which voices are missing?

Organizers:

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Abstract: In the past decade, equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) have become essential considerations in many fields, including conservation biology. Nowadays, researchers have to make decisions on a wide range of EDI related topics such as the selection of the research content itself and the many potential approaches to engage various stakeholders. This workshop will explore ways in which the field is moving and ways to improve our collective approaches to promote more inclusive decision making processes. During the workshop, we will discuss many important topics at the various stages of a research endeavor. To start, we will discuss the need to develop a self-awareness on how to improve the research through an EDI lens before starting a project (e.g. selection of students, funding agencies). We will then move to considerations during data collection and during dissemination of the results (e.g. outreach efforts). During this interactive workshop, we will provide some background information from the conservation field and other associated fields. Participants will then have an opportunity to tackle questions in groups in order to cover many topics of interest in this 90 minute session.

Number of Attendees: 25, session length: 90 minutes

Activities: The session consisted of two principal components divided in two halves. In the first 30 minutes of the session, the two presenters provided some background information and definitions on some of the EDI considerations and challenges in the workplace in general and in the conservation field in particular. In the second portion of the session (30 minutes) we conducted a power flower activity in which participants had a chance to reflect on their personal social identity and areas of their lives which give them the most and least amount of conflict. Finally, in the last 30 minutes, we had a roundtable discussion with participants sharing their own stories and reflecting on others. The presenters wrapped up the session talking about various forms of prejudices and how we can all act as actors for change.

Participants were very engaged in this workshop asking questions related to their own experiences in the conservation field. In the second part of the session, there were lots of discussions during the roundtable as many participants shared their own stories with the rest of the group. Many participants stayed at the end to discuss things further and reported positive feedback from the workshop.