Experiences with Connectivity to Inform the Global Biodiversity Framework and 30x30 Goals and Targets

Organizers

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In this networking session, participants had the opportunity to share how they are thinking about and working towards the well-connected component of Target 3 (30x30) of the Global Biodiversity Framework in the different ecological realms: land, freshwater, and marine. There were 33 participants from NACCB engaged in speed-dating style discussions followed by free-style networking. The multifaceted aspects of connectivity planning and management that came up in the discussions spanned from policy development and scientific modeling to on-the-ground conservation efforts and public engagement. We recognized 10 different categories of topics:

1. **Policy and Governance**: The establishment and implementation of policies, including legislation and governance structures that influence connectivity planning and management across different jurisdictions.
2. **Species and Habitat Connectivity**: Understanding how corridors facilitate movement for species, both native and non-native, and the challenges posed by invasive species and wildlife crossings.
3. **Modeling and Methods**: The various modeling techniques and tools used to study connectivity and methods for validating modeled corridors.
4. **Urban and Agricultural Connectivity**: The role of connectivity in urban planning, wildlife movement in agricultural landscapes, and the impact of green infrastructure on biodiversity and pollinator diversity.
5. **Conservation and Restoration**: Systematic conservation planning, restoration efforts for ecological corridors, and the overall importance of maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity.
6. **Social Acceptance and Engagement**: Engaging stakeholders such as private landowners and First Nations, mobilizing social support for conservation targets, and integrating connectivity into municipal planning and development.
7. **Ecological Impacts and Benefits**: The ecological benefits of maintaining green spaces, quantifying climate resilience through connectivity, and monitoring wildlife crossings for conservation outcomes.
8. **Specific Case Studies**: Specific examples included urban coyote corridors, wildlife crossings on highways, and regional efforts like freshwater connectivity projects in Oregon.
9. **Challenges and Considerations**: The challenges posed by climate change on connectivity, tradeoffs between conservation and cost, and overcoming obstacles like developer influence and managing complex socio-ecological systems.
10. **Research and Education**: The need for research on species movement and ecosystem impacts, educating the public and stakeholders on the importance of connectivity, and translating research findings into actionable conservation strategies.