Wrap-Up Report: Revolutionizing State and Provincial Wildlife Governance - Interactive Session

Session Organizers: Kevin Bixby, Michelle Lute

Attendance: The session had 10 participants, with a mix of conservation professionals, academics, and representatives from government agencies and NGOs.

Session Overview:
Our interactive session focused on the challenges and opportunities for reforming state and provincial wildlife governance to promote more democratic, just, and inclusive policy-making. The session was designed to explore how the integration of diverse perspectives can enhance biodiversity protection and lead to more equitable conservation outcomes.

Session Structure:

- **Introduction:** We began with an overview of the session's objectives and the relevance of the topic to the broader conference theme, "Celebrating Diversity in Conservation from Summit to Sea."
- **Opening Address:** Kevin Bixby provided a 15-minute presentation on the urgent need for wildlife governance reform, highlighting current conservation crises and the potential for transformative change.
- **Panel Discussion:** A 30-minute panel session titled "Challenges and Opportunities in Reforming State and Provincial Wildlife Governance" featured insights from diverse experts, including former wildlife commissioners and conservation scientists.
- **Synthesis:** The session culminated in a group discussion where participants contributed to outlining strategies for implementing inclusive wildlife governance at the state and provincial levels.

Outcomes:
The session successfully fostered rich dialogue and produced actionable insights on how to reform wildlife governance structures. Participants identified key challenges, such as the need for more inclusive decision-making processes and better integration of Indigenous and local community knowledge.

Future Plans:
To build on the momentum of the session, we plan to develop a comprehensive theory of change model strategic pathways for achieving more democratic and just wildlife governance. Additionally, we are exploring opportunities to continue this dialogue at future professional meetings, specifically an organized session on governance reform at Pathways 2025, considering the development of a policy brief to influence state and provincial wildlife governance reforms and facilitate ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing among session participants and other interested parties.