

Feedback emails received following International Science-based Conservation International Workshop

Prof. Luigi Boitani:

“...THANK you so much for the great opportunity to see you and participate to the workshop. I think it has been a great success from every point of view... I enjoyed every minute of these days in Israel.”

Professor of Conservation Biology and Animal Ecology, Head of the Department of Animal and Human Biology at the University of Rome. Prof. Boitani is Director of the *Conservation of animal biodiversity: protected areas and ecological networks*, President of the *International Society for Conservation Biology* in Washington D.C., Chair of the *Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe* and of the *Wolf Specialist Group, SSC/IUCN*, as well as member of the *Steering Committee of the Species Survival Commission, IUCN*

Dr. Thomas Brooks:

“...thank you so much for hosting the splendid “International expert workshop: What is science-based conservation and how is it best done?” in Israel this week. The topic was extremely timely on many fronts, the participants were excellent, the venue was great, and the organization was simply fantastic!

Dr. Thomas Brooks from U.K., holds a B.A. (Hons) in Geography from the University of Cambridge (1993) and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Tennessee (1998). He is currently the Vice President for Science and Chief Scientist at *NatureServe*, and holds visiting positions at *ICRAF-the World Agroforestry Center* in the University of the Philippines Los Baños and in the Department of Geography of the University of Tasmania. He is an ornithologist by training, with extensive field experience in tropical forests of Asia, South America and Africa. His interests lie in threatened species conservation (especially of birds) and in biodiversity hotspots (especially in tropical forests). He served on the Executive Committee of the BP Conservation Leadership Programme from 2002 to 2010. He has a long-standing involvement with the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature*, and has served on its Conserving Biodiversity Core Program Group since 2009, the Steering Committee of its *Species Survival Commission* since 2004, and its *Red List Committee* since 2001. He has authored 171 scientific and popular articles of which 19 have been in ‘Nature’ or ‘Science’.

From Dr. Eric Sanderson:

“Thanks again for the invitation to Israel. I learned so much, really enjoyed getting to know you and the other participants, and hearing/thinking about science-based conservation in Israel and beyond.”

Dr. Eric W. Sanderson is a Senior Conservation Ecologist at the *Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)*. He co-authored guidelines on species conservation planning for the IUCN Species Survival Commission in 2008 and contributed to the development of the “Landscape Species Approach” for biological landscape conservation. Dr. Sanderson and colleagues created the Human Footprint map, the first global look at human influence at less than 1 square mile resolution, and generated a map of the “Last of the Wild” areas representing the largest remaining wildernesses on Earth. He is an expert on species conservation planning, having contributed to efforts to save lions, tigers, Asian bears, jaguars, tapirs, peccaries, American crocodiles, North American bison and Mongolian gazelle; as well as having contributed to landscape planning conservation efforts in Argentina, Tanzania, Mongolia, and elsewhere, including the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Adirondack Park, in the USA. He co-authored guidelines on species conservation planning for the IUCN Species Survival Commission in 2008 and contributed to the development of the “Landscape Species Approach” for biological landscape conservation. Recently, Dr. Sanderson directed the Mannahatta Project, an effort to reconstruct the original ecology of Manhattan Island at the time of European discovery in the early seventeenth century, in order to direct the development of New York City in a more ecological direction. In 2009, Abrams published his book, “Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City”. In addition, he has edited two scientific volumes and written numerous scientific papers. His work has been featured in the New York Times, National Geographic Magazine, CNN, NPR, and The New Yorker.

From Dr. Belinda Reyers:

Thank you so much for a wonderful week in Israel! I found it very interesting and thought provoking...”

Dr. Belinda Reyers is a Chief Scientist and Divisional Fellow at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), as well as Leader of CSIR’s Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services Research Group in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Dr. Reyers is a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, a Board Member of the Society for Conservation Biology: Africa Section, a member of a DIVERSITAS Science Council, an Associate Editor for the journal *Animal Conservation* and an Editor for *Conservation Letters*. She is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Pretoria. Dr. Reyers has been involved in numerous conservation initiatives worldwide, including, most recently: “Ecosystem services for decisions makers” for UNEP and GEF, “Restoring natural capital” for the Strategic Research Panel of CSIR, “Ecosystem service assessment of the Succulent

Karoo, South Africa” for the South African National Biodiversity Institute, “Ecology of Ecosystem Services of the Winelands” as part of the CSIR’s Parliamentary Grant, “Assessment of integrated responses in Southern Africa” for the Netherlands Environmental Agency, and the European Commission’s “GEOBENE project on benefit assessment for Global Earth Observation.”

From Dr. James Watson:

“Thank you again so much for everything - it was a wonderful experience... and we learnt so much!”

Dr. Watson is a Research Fellow at the Applied Environmental Decision Analysis (AEDA) Research Hub at the University of Queensland. His main interest is trying to bridge the divide of conservation science and conservation policy. The focus of his current research is to inform decision making and policy for successful conservation of endangered species in Australia. Specifically, I am interested in conservation planning for species recovery, in particular designing effective and cost-efficient methods for population stabilisation and recovery. He is leading a research team based at UQ and working with Peter Latch (Department of Environment, Australia) and policy makers from all state governments to ensure that species recovery is conducted in the most cost-effective way possible. He is currently President of the Society of Conservation Biology (Oceania section). Prior to 2007, he was the chief scientist, for The Wilderness Society, the largest conservation NGO in Australia. . In this role he developed the scientific principles that guide the Society’s *WildCountry* vision and ensured they were incorporated across all of the Society’s activities, through the development of a 20 year strategic teaching and communication plan. He also facilitated a national strategic alliance among a diverse range of organisations and individuals to support the WildCountry conservation program across Australia.

He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 2000 and I completed his doctorate at the Oxford University Centre for the Environment in September 2004, where he researched the nexus between conservation and social development, by assessing the best ways to develop appropriate conservation policies while alleviating poverty in the littoral forest ecosystems of southeastern Madagascar. HeI was then a post doc at the University of California (San Diego) where I studied a global analysis of the impacts of climate change on terrestrial vertebrates, a report funded by the UNEP. He completed my undergraduate degree at Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) , where he did an Honours degree (first class and University medal) in geography and mathematics. He went on to graduate from Royal Military College Duntroon in 1999, and was posted to Melbourne, Darwin and conducted peace keeping operations in East Timor.

From Dr. Arve Vanger:

”...תודה... על היזמה, הארגון המשובח, ההזדמנות לפגוש אנשים מעניינים מחו"ל והנעת העיסוק בנושא החשוב.”

אדם, טבע ודין

Adam Teva V'Din - the Israel Union for Environmental Defense is a membership-based non-profit organization of lawyers, scientists, urban planners and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting Israel's natural resources and public health and to promoting environmental justice.

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