A participatory framework for Chapter-lead community conservation programs: Lessons from Oceania
an example from Sydney

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Local community engagement and conservation projects

Oceania: Wellington (NZ), Sydney & Brisbane (Australia)
- Varying approaches and diverse members
- Many chapters are city-based
Project approaches are context-dependant

- Projects as an engagement tool
- Approaches:
  - adding value/rigour to an existing community/public project
  - driving your own project that engages the community/public
- Sydney is a big place!
Citizen Science, Participatory Action Research, Community Conservation…

- **PPSR** “public participation in scientific research” – intentional collaborations in which members of the public engage in the process of research to generate new science-based knowledge

- **To have an impact, PPSR should aim for one or more outcomes:**
  1. outcomes for research (e.g. scientific findings)
  2. outcomes for individual participants (e.g. acquiring new skills or knowledge)
  3. outcomes for social-ecological systems (e.g. influencing policies, building capacity for decision making, taken conservation action)

Models of Participation

- Contractual: Scientists do the project for the public
- Contributory: Project designed by scientists, public collects data
- Collaborative: Project designed by scientists and assisted by participants
- Co-created: Project designed by both scientists and the participants; high level of involvement in scientific process
- Collegial: Public does the project independently
Models of Participation

- **Contributory**: Project designed by scientists, public collects data
- **Collaborative**: Project designed by scientists and assisted by participants
PPSR Framework
Public Participation in Scientific Research

Inputs
- Scientific interests
- Identify question or issue
- Community/participant interests

Activity Design
- Develop project infrastructure and manage project implementation

Outputs
- Scientific research
  - Ecological
  - Social
- Education and outreach

Outcomes
- Science: research findings, publications?
- Social-Ecological interface: management, partnerships, action, policy
- Participants: skills, knowledge, awareness, behaviour change

Impact
- Ecological: Conservation Resilience
- Social: Behaviour Connection Action

**Example: Penguin Project**
Sydney Chapter, Australia

**Inputs**

- **Scientific interests**
- **Identify question or issue**
- **Community/participant interests**

**Little Penguin** (*Eudyptula minor*)
- smallest of all penguins
- declining colony on Lion Island
- breeding habitat becoming overrun by invasive weeds

**Sydney-SCB:** Monitoring and habitat restoration

**Community:** ??? Surveys, identify aware/keen participants

*ensure there is engagement and commitment!
Penguin Project Working Group

**Inputs**
- Scientific interests
- Identify question or issue
- Community/participant interests

**Activity Design**
- Develop project infrastructure and manage project implementation

**Working Group:**
- Finalise plans
- Create and manage working document
- Manage database – feed into national network
- Nest box workshops (BL)
- Monitoring schedule
- Weeding schedule
Activity Design

Inputs

Scientific interests

Identify question or issue

Community/p articipant interests

Develop project infrastructure and manage project implementation

Outputs

Scientific research
- Ecological
- Social

Scientific:  
- Population census  
- Breeding success  
- Habitat restoration

Education and outreach

Education and outreach:
- Engagement- communication, participation  
- Involve schools?
Outcomes

Science: research findings, publications?

Social-Ecological interface: management, partnerships, action, policy

Participants: skills, knowledge, awareness, behaviour change

Impact

Ecological: Conservation Resilience

Social: Behaviour Connection Action

Science: increased nesting success, stable population

Social-ecological Interface:
• management & policy feeds into national penguin network
• ongoing partnerships with organisations/groups

Participants:
• increased awareness
• measurable increases in skills, knowledge, …
• ongoing action by participants beyond project
The role of SCB Chapters

- Facilitate, lead…
- Difficult to find funding, support, etc
- Adaptive framework ---> idealistic?
- Chapters are in a unique position
- Offer this to existing community projects, or drive our own

To have an impact, PPSR should aim for one or more outcomes:
1. outcomes for research
2. outcomes for individual participants
3. outcomes for social-ecological systems
Feedback loops…adaptive!

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- Do you have an excellent project or idea you’d like to work with us on? Please come chat with us!

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