

NatureServe Conservation Conference 2010: Abstracts by Lead Author

Name	Title	Abstract	Session
Alba, Maria Patrocinio	Biodiversity Conservation Priority Sites in Chiapas	Chiapas has an immense national and global biodiversity value; the reasons are the geographical localization in the continent, its evolutionary history, and the topography, all these are determining factors in the distributions of ecosystems, biological communities, and wildlife populations. The identification of conservation priority sites for Chiapas is a complex enterprise, since the region constitutes unique biological values. Therefore, is necessary to protect and manage correctly these resources with strategies that have to be integral.	Wed 8:30
Allen, Paul	Predicting Species Ranges Using Spatial-Temporal Data Mining	We demonstrate how decision tree-based data mining analysis can be used to model spatial and temporal variation of occurrence, creating predictive range maps. Using data from eBird, a large-scale citizen-science bird monitoring project, we apply decision-tree analyses to several common species occurring in the continental U.S. To account for habitat-selectivity, we include remotely-sensed habitat information compiled over several spatial scales. Variation in detection rates is modeled as a function of effort spent watching birds.	Mon 4:30
Baijal, Vivek	An Enterprise Land Information System for Land Trusts	This paper will present the benefits, functionality and architecture of a comprehensive land information system for Nature Conservancy Canada. It will describe how LIS supports securement, stewardship and land administration while being a "system of record" for Conservation Blueprints and Natural Area Conservation Plans. It will review functionality such as document management, approval workflow, activity logs, reminders, management of stakeholder information, query and reporting and GIS tools that are applicable to all the business processes.	Mon 2:30
Barrios, Mercedes	Land Use and Conservation Policies of the Dry Region of Guatemala at the Departmental and Municipal Level	Dry tropical forests were localized according to climatological variables of temperature and rainfall, altitude, and biodiversity analysis. Subsequently, an analysis was made to environmental policies to determine its implementation opportunities, correlating environmental and socioeconomic variables in order to determine priority conservations actions. The result of this study was the development of the National Plan for Conservation of Dry Areas in Guatemala, and also the use of this information by the government in topics such as drought and climate change.	Tue 3:30

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Bayless, Mylea	Bats and White-Nose Syndrome: Meeting the Challenges of Public Data Reporting	White-nose syndrome is a disease killing large numbers of bats in the eastern U.S. Public reports of dead or dying bats on the landscape may allow resource managers to detect newly affected sites, enabling them to make management decisions quickly. Several states have already developed interactive online reporting systems, while others have not yet developed a local system. We will explore several data reporting alternatives and will discuss coordinating WNS public reporting across the region.	Tue 10:30
Benton, Nancy	Setting Species Conservation Priorities on BLM Lands	We will discuss recent analyses conducted by NatureServe of special status species on U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands.	Wed 11:30
Birnbaum, Sandy	Pilot reintroduction of star cactus (<i>Astrophytum asterias</i>)	<i>Astrophytum asterias</i> is federally listed endangered with the only known U.S. population in Starr County, Texas. Populations also exist in Mexico and all face multiple natural and anthropogenic threats. A pilot reintroduction of <i>A. asterias</i> was conducted. Seeds and seedlings were planted in the spring and fall, 2007. Less than 4% of the seed germinated. After a period of 14-months, 55% and 72.5% of the spring and fall planted seedlings were alive.	Poster
Blanchard, Jon	Large scale forest conservation project monitoring using a hierarchical approach	We developed and implemented a forest monitoring program on 280,000 acres spanning 11 states in the eastern U.S. With a wide diversity in forest types, ownerships, and conservation objectives we developed a hierarchical monitoring approach. Four levels of monitoring intensity were assigned dependent upon ecological priorities, resources and conservation value. The base level for all properties is a remote sensing approach quantifying changes in forest cover verified with local staff and through ground truthing.	Mon 4:00
Boice, Peter	Regional Ecosystems on DoD Lands	The Department of Defense manages many significant natural resources on its 30 million acres of land, including approximately 420 listed species and 520 species-at-risk. This presentation will discuss DoD's regional ecosystem management projects, such as the Gulf Coastal Plan Ecoregional Partnership, Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregional Conservation Initiative, and the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units. The focus will be on lessons learned from these successful partnerships and potential future applications.	Mon 9:50
Boyle, Sarah	Conservation Implications for Primates Living in a Fragmented Landscape	Primates vary in their response to habitat fragmentation. Here I present an overview of the responses of six species to forest fragmentation in the Brazilian Amazon, and relate how landscape characteristics can be used to predict species richness in the forest fragments.	Poster

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Brooks, Thomas	2010 and beyond	In 2002 the Convention on Biological Diversity set a target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. How have we done, and how do we go forward? We have performed well in conservation response, but less well in ameliorating threat, and we have failed to meet the target for biodiversity status. Looking beyond 2010, this performance has important implications the target's re-invigoration by Conference of the Parties in Japan, in October 2010.	Tue 10:30
Catherwood, Leslie	Wildlife Corridors and Partnerships on DoD Lands	The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) manages approximately 420 listed species across nearly 30 million acres of land. DoD is working to incorporate its lands into wildlife corridors for endangered species, migratory birds, and other wildlife through the conservation of installation natural resources and the participation in partnerships. An overview of DoD's work on wildlife corridors through partnerships will be presented. Examples will include the Florida Greenway project, Steppingstones of Bird Migration, and more.	Mon 9:30
Copas, Kyle	NPS Web Guide to Natural Communities	NatureServe's work with NPS to classify and map the natural communities of the national parks spawned the creation of field guides for the National Capital Region. This material forms the basis for an interactive web guide to natural communities, which will launch a prototype for Rock Creek Park in 2010. This session will outline the guide's design and how integration of spatial and non-spatial content can enhance park management and public understanding of natural communities.	Mon 10:45
Crist, Patrick	Multi-scale Conservation Planning for the Georgia Coast	A partnership of organizations is conducting a biodiversity conservation prioritization of the GA Coast that will roll down to county use in zoning. NatureServe is providing the technical capacity for the project and is applying its NatureServe Vista DSS to both regional and county level work. This session will provide an overview of the project and describe the science and data components. We'll feature a presentation fo teh results generated by Vista.	Wed 10:30
Davila, Daniel	Determination of Critical Habitat for Protected Species in Puerto Rico	[Abstract pending]	Poster

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Name	Title	Abstract	Session
De la Barra, Frank Paul	Remote Sensing of <i>Bertholletia excelsa</i>	The research is about the identification of chestnut trees (<i>Bertholletia excelsa</i>) using satellite imaging. The project is located in the Municipality of Filadelfia in the Department of Pando, Bolivia. The goal of this study is to detect the localization and the spatial distribution of this species that is of special interest for forest sector. The study was made based on digital values of sensor Landsat images, including field work information about the species and satellite images.	Mon 3:30
Diamond, David and Amie Treuer-Kuehn	Mapping the Vegetation of Texas: Methods and Applications	We are mapping existing vegetation at fine spatial and thematic resolution to facilitate landscape-scale conservation planning for Texas. The effort produced a spatial resolution of 10 m (using image objects), and a thematic resolution of 109 mapped types. The mapped vegetation types are based on the Ecological System classification developed by NatureServe. We will review the history of the project, review some applications for the data, and provide an overview of the field data collection.	Mon 9:30
Elliott, Matt	Georgia Sandhills Survey	Sandhills - xeric habitats of various geologic origins found on excessively-drained soils throughout the Coastal Plain - are high-priority habitats in Georgia, containing a number of rare species, including the gopher tortoise and indigo snake. Between 2007 and 2009, Georgia's Nongame Conservation Section mapped these habitats using GIS, and then conducted field surveys on both public and private lands. This poster illustrates some of the results of these surveys.	Poster
Evans, DJ	National Data for Endangered Species, Wetlands, and Ecosystem Services	Opportunities for funding national development of species distribution models, wetlands data, and restoration/mitigation priorities exist for the network. A proposal to expand Heritage program's species distribution modeling to include initially all federally listed species is likely to be funded. The presentation describes methods and explores ways to work across the country.	Tue 2:15
Evans, Jonah	FIT: A New Approach to Wildlife Monitoring	WildTrack (www.wildtrack.org) researches non-invasive and cost-effective techniques for monitoring endangered species. They've developed a footprint identification technique (FIT) that provides high accuracy in identifying animals at the species, individual, sex, and age-class levels. FIT is easily accessible to trackers and field technicians, thus enabling community involvement and facilitating continuity in monitoring. Texas Parks and Wildlife is investigating FIT's application for monitoring mountain lions in west Texas.	Mon 2:30

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Fernandez, Milton	Planning and Policy for Participative Participation in Biodiversity Management for the Municipalities of Filadelfia y Bolpebra, Pando, Bolivia	Information and planning tools are provided to the Mancomunidad Unión Amazónica Filadelfia-Bolpebra (MUAFB) (Pando-Bolivia) for decision making in landscape planning with the establishment of a system of information management, and planning and monitoring for conservation, integrating land use and conservation of biodiversity policies. Including an institutional analysis and action plan to assess coordination opportunities among stakeholders about specific topics regarding policy, planning, and sustainable development.	Poster
Garcia, Gerardo	Mitigating Impacts from the Highway Construction over Biodiversity in the Region of Calakmul (KBA7), Campeche, Mexico	The expansion of the federal highway 186 (Escárcega-Xpujil, Campeche, México) has increased fragmentation and degradation of adjacent ecosystems to this highway. Considering this situation, an evaluation of the problems that has arisen has been made to identify the strategic sites. The goal was to suggest a series of recommendations for better practices and mitigation actions that will permit the genetic flow, the hydrological processes, and the connectivity of ecosystems.	Wed 10:30
Gendreau, Yanick	The NatureServe Climate Change Vulnerability Index applied to Quebec biodiversity	NatureServe recently developed a Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI). A strength of this index is to use data on both species distributions and biological traits. As part of a large project studying the effects of climate change on Quebec biodiversity (http://cc-bio.uqar.ca/), we perform intensive modelling of species climatic envelopes to support biodiversity managers in their work. Here we present preliminary results showing how the CCVI complements our modelling efforts on species at risk in Quebec.	Tue 11:00
Geredien, Ross	Addressing large-scale issues: The Impacts of Mountaintop Removal Mining to RTE species in Appalachia	A geospatial analysis using Natural Heritage Data of the impacts of Mountaintop Removal coal mining to rare, threatened and endangered species in the Cumberland/Allegheny Plateau region of Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Virginia. This study looks at impacts across four states and the implications for landscape-scale and regional conservation actions.	Mon 9:30
Gomez, Natalia	Advances in the Collective Development of the Departmental System of Protected Areas of the Cauca Valle (SIDAP VALLE) in Colombia	In 2002, the CVC assumed the coordination for the development of the Departamental System of Protected Areas of the Valle del Cauca, (SIDAP Valle in Spanish). The purpose of this presentation is to describe the results of this coordination. One of the main results was the regulation for agreement scenarios that includes 224 stakeholders, representing government and non-governmental organizations from protected areas, and the development of methodologies for the prioritization and categorization of protected areas according to their conservation goals.	Tue 4:30

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Gottfried, Bob	Private Lands, Public Values: Natural Resource Management Challenges on Private Lands	Private landowners face their own unique mix of natural resource management challenges, including balancing multiple land uses such as ranching or farming, resource use or extraction, and conservation. Private landowners who are pursuing a conservation ethic, and the public agencies and conservation groups that work with them, will discuss how they are meeting these challenges, with a focus on examples and success stories from Texas.	Tue 10:30
Hak, Jon	Advances in Mapping Biodiversity	This session will review a recent project that highlights new methods for mapping biodiversity. This may include integrated ecological classification and mapping at regional-to-local scales, vegetation change-detection for climate change research, mapping landscape condition and regional connectivity for biodiversity; and other examples.	Wed 9:00
Hall, Stephen	Use of Indicator Guilds for Assessing Conservation Priorities at the Landscape Level in North Carolina	North Carolina NHP identifies and evaluates landscape units based primarily on animal survey data. Landscape core areas are defined where concentrations of species exist that are sensitive to fragmentation of specific types of habitat. These core areas are treated as EOs for a given combination of habitat and indicator species. Occurrence ranks are based on the number of animal indicator species they contain. State Ranks reflect the status of these combinations as individual Elements.	Mon 2:00
Howard, Tim	Planning for Wildlife Habitat Connectivity in the Hudson River Valley with Changing Climate	Will animals be able to move through fragmented landscapes when the climate changes? We introduce PATHWAYS, a modeling effort to predict distributions of 25 species and assess habitat connectivity under current and future climate regimes. For each species we built an element distribution model using Random Forests and 47 predictive data layers, including climate data downscaled to 30-by-30-m grid cells. Outputs of this modeling will be used as habitat suitability layers in connectivity analyses.	Mon 10:45
Howie, Shara	A Collaborative Model: Parks Canada	A presentation of work between NatureServe, the Canadian CDCs and Parks Canada, and how it has resulted in national recognition for Parks Canada in improving the use of scientific data to inform conservation decision making under the Species at Risk Act.	Mon 11:30
Howie, Shara	Transportation on the Landscape: Integrating Conservation and Transportation Decision Making	This session will provide an overview and examples of policies and programs that are aimed at integrating conservation into transportation decision making with a focus on how to facilitate connections between people and projects involved in landscape scale planning. The session will include a panel discussion aimed at getting input from federal and state agencies on what is working and what is needed to improve the integration of land-use decisions.	Wed 8:30

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Hyde, Douglas	An EO, So What? Empowering Conservation Through Standardized Threat Assessments	For many who are responsible for managing habitats, occurrence data is not terribly helpful. For NatureServe data to empower such property managers and owners, a consistent method that ties the species to threats, and threats to underlying activities they control is needed. The presentation will highlight a new method, emerging in Canada, that supports data development around threats, and that in turn can minimize impacts to a species by facilitating conservation action.	Tue 4:00
Kent, Don	Expanding Social Boundaries	The Department of Resources and Economic Development Division of Forests and Lands administers the NH Natural Heritage Bureau. Statute does not limit the rights of private property owners to take protected species. Three case studies illustrate opportunities to protect and conserve native plants: 1) coordinated management of 201,513 acres of Department land, including natural area establishment, 2) multi-stakeholder working group opposition to onerous legislation, and 3) user group resources for managing protected species and communities.	Wed 9:30
Kihslinger, Rebecca	Naturally Green Planning	The Environmental Law Institute's "Naturally Green Planning" Program works to integrate conservation into local planning. Our market research suggests that planners trust the natural heritage community to provide the information necessary to incorporate conservation into planning and to convince decision-makers that habitat conservation is part of being green. ELI and the American Planning Association will present the market research and highlight opportunities for heritage programs to collaborate with planners to further conservation goals.	Mon 3:30
Kintsch, Julia	Creating a Corridor Commons – Linking Science, Strategies and Social Awareness Campaigns to Address 21 st Century Conservation Challenges	Corridor conservation, regardless of scale, requires the best-available science, spatial information, cross-sector collaboration, and story-telling to inspire a broad constituency to support wildlife corridor management and protection. The Corridor Commons fills all these needs by providing a clearinghouse of wildlife corridor information, including maps and data, the inspiring stories of conservation in action, and opportunities for citizen engagement.	Mon 4:00

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Klein, Mary	From Sea to Shining Sea: The Role of Landscapes in National Strategies	An expert panel will present examples of conservation frameworks that illustrate the advantages and challenges of sharing information across national and state boundaries, including: BCI's strategy to integrate partner networks across political boundaries in the Americas; the Gulf of Mexico Biodiversity Database; Climate Science Centers (CSCs) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs); and the Yellowstone to Yukon initiative.	Mon 10:45
Klein, Mary	Investing in Knowledge: Advancing State/Federal Cooperation	To effectively address large-scale environmental issues, especially those of national/international scope, access to comprehensive data and knowledge bases is required. For example, challenges such as climate change will require cross-boundary sharing of data and information, obliging states to exceed previous levels of collaboration for data management, sharing and exchange. Session looks at emerging national information priorities in which the states should play a vital role.	Tue 1:30
Knight, Gary	Florida's Biodiversity Atlas: a New Publication, with Lessons Learned	The Florida Natural Areas Inventory is completing an Atlas of Florida's Natural Heritage, a fine quality publication detailing the diversity and distribution of species and natural communities throughout the state, as well as conservation challenges and land management tools and success stories. The Atlas will serve as a guiding document for biodiversity conservation efforts in Florida. We plan to cover the table of contents and share lessons learned in the undertaking of this challenging project.	Tue 3:30
Komar, Oliver	Ecology and monitoring of endangered Golden-cheeked Warblers throughout the winter range	SalvaNATURA and partners present 4 years of data on relative abundance and habitat use by endangered Golden-cheeked Warblers at 34 sites in 5 countries throughout the pine-oak ecoregion of northern Central America. Abundance was highest at mid elevations (1400-2400 masl). More males than females were documented throughout the winter range. Elevation and latitude effected male, but not female abundance. The Golden-cheeked Warbler is a flagship species for conserving the critically endangered Central American pine-oak forests.	Mon 10:45
Komar, Oliver	Avian population declines in national parks of El Salvador	SalvaNATURA generated population-trend estimates in El Salvador for 89 bird species, based on five years banding (8747 captures) in El Imposible and Los Volcanes national parks. One resident increased, while 22 species declined significantly; 8 were migratory. One-third of insectivores declined. Twenty indicators of ecosystem health were monitored. In dry forest, 40% declined. In moist forest, 18% declined. In cloud forest, 25% declined. Only three declining species are currently recognized as threatened in El Salvador.	Poster

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Komar, Oliver	Training Community-Based Environmental Leaders in Central America: Opportunities for North-South Collaboration	NatureServe's El Salvador member program, SalvaNATURA, has developed an innovative training for environmental leaders working in key biodiversity areas of Central America. The community-based participants include small business owners, park rangers, nature guides, and practitioners of sustainable agriculture. They receive nine days of intensive, participatory training, including techniques for business planning and project development. The program includes follow-up technical assistance provided by partners from developed countries, through a social service volunteer program organized by SalvaNATURA.	Tue 11:15
LaRocco, Gina	The Conservation Registry - Improving the way we do conservation	The Conservation Registry is a smart, accessible database and mapping system that allows users to enter, search, map and track conservation projects across the landscape. The Registry gathers data from multiple sources, ranging from small organizations and landowners to federal resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and foundations, and displays it within a single, integrated system. Such integration helps users better understand the context, distribution, and effectiveness of our collective efforts to protect and restore ecosystems.	Mon 2:00
Lasky, Jesse	Conservation biogeography of the U.S.-Mexico border: a transcontinental risk assessment of barriers to animal dispersal	We evaluated the impacts of two scenarios of dispersal barriers on vertebrate species. The study species in three border regions: California, Madrean archipelago, and Gulf coast, are most vulnerable. These regions are characterized by high overall species richness and high richness of species that: 1) have small sub-ranges resulting from barriers; 2) have large proportions of their range occupied by barriers; 3) are near range edges; and 4) are listed as threatened.	Poster
Mackenzie, James	State of Biodiversity Reporting	Jurisdictions across the globe are engaging citizens and a broad sector of conservation communities in biodiversity conservation strategies. The ability to generate information on the status and trends in rare species and ecological communities puts Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centres at the forefront for criteria and indicators in support of public reporting on the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation strategy.	Tue 2:15

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Magaud, Marc	IPBES: aiming to inform policy on biodiversity and ecosystem services at the global level	Biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate and new threats to biodiversity are emerging. A number of new scientific, economic and policy instruments to address these issues at various levels are being developed. One such instrument is the International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), an international scientific clearing-house and panel. The presentation will touch on the objectives and status of IPBES, and on possible developments before the next CBD Conference of Parties, to be held in Nagoya in October.	Tue 4:30
Manning, Kiersten	Connecting Conservation Across Land and Sea	A partnership created and demonstrated a toolkit for conducting integrating land use and resource management planning across terrestrial and marine ecosystems. We used CommunityViz, NatureServe Vista, and N-SPECT to link scenario assessments of socioeconomic, ecological, and water quality indicators. Working with local ecologists, planners, and stakeholders we developed, demonstrated, and trained practitioners in the use of the toolkit. This session will demonstrate how interoperating these three distinct tools can create a more effective planning environment.	Tue 11:30
Master, Larry	Assessing Conservation Status	Recently there have been major advances in conservation status assessments including the development of a rank calculator by NatureServe and the development of Red List indices and standardized categorizations of threats and actions by IUCN. These advances will be reviewed along with COSEWIC's assessment methodology in light of how status assessments are used to help set priorities for conservation. Also, we will quantitatively compare the results of ranking species using both NatureServe and IUCN methodologies.	Tue 11:30
Maybury, Kat	Screening an Area for At-Risk Species: Biodiversity Data Delivered to the Desktop	NatureServe's online application will offer 24/7 access to the natural heritage network's 500,000+ location records for at-risk plants and animals of North America. See how you can use this tool to query your area of interest for the known presence of endangered and other at-risk species.	Mon 1:30
McClintock, Will	MarineMap: Web-Based Decision Support for Conservation Planning	MarineMap is a web-based tool developed for marine protected area (MPA) design by non-technical stakeholders. Built on open source technologies, MarineMap may be extended for use by any conservation planning project that requires collaboration and the consideration of multiple objectives. We will demonstrate MarineMap and discuss how it may be acquired, modified and adapted for planning purposes.	Wed 11:00

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McRoberts, Ron	Assessing large scale forest biodiversity using forest inventory plot data	Plot-level observations of species, diameters, and heights of trees collected by the Forest Inventory and Analysis program of the U.S. Forest Service uniquely permit estimation of local and regional forest diversity. The objectives of the analyses were threefold: (1) identify spatial trends in estimates of forest diversity, (2) estimate the proportion of gamma diversity realized locally, and (3) assess temporal trends in both alpha and gamma diversity as they might relate to climate change.	Poster
McRoberts, Ron	Assessing forest naturalness	Forest naturalness is defined in terms of the absence of human influences on forest ecosystems. In many countries, close-to-nature silvicultural practices are increasingly used to produce more natural forests. In addition, naturalness assessments are required for many international reporting agreements. However, assessing naturalness in a uniform manner among countries is difficult because of different sampling designs, plot configurations, and measurement protocols. The analyses focuses on methods producing harmonized estimates of naturalness despite country-level differences.	Wed 8:30
Meléndez-Torres, Maria Cristina	Conservation of Biodiversity in Sonora, Mexico	Since 1991, with the creation of the Conservation Data Center of Sonora, as part of a natural resources conservation strategy for the State and a new scheme that includes the protection but also the management of natural resources, important projects have been under development. These projects have resulted in the creations of natural protected areas and conservation actions of priority species shared with the United States of America.	Tue 3:45
Moseley, Mark	Ecological Site Descriptions and Land Stewardship	Managing land requires knowledge of applied plant succession. Helpful to the manager is historical data as well as contemporary data. Most soils can support more than one plant community. It is important to understand the different values for each community but more importantly; what practices are required to create and maintain a desired plant community? Web Soil Survey is a national application that couples Ecological Site Descriptions geographically with the land.	Wed 11:00

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Oetting, Jon	Rare Species Habitat Modeling in Florida	The Florida Natural Areas Inventory has conducted habitat modeling for more than 350 rare species using two primary methods: occurrence-based potential habitat mapping, and predictive element distribution modeling. The first method maps suitable habitat around known element occurrences, primarily for use in evaluating lands for acquisition by the Florida Forever program. The second method models habitat around known occurrences to predict the range of extent of a species based on potentially suitable climate and habitat.	Poster
Oliveira-Miranda, Maria	Endemic and Endangered Species: Distribution and Habitats in Protected Areas of Venezuela	Using NatureServe's data base for amphibians, birds, and mammals, and including protected areas, the conservations status for endangered and endemic species is evaluated. Taking in to account the geographic distribution and the habitats where they are located. The analysis is focused on the landscape and considers a threshold to identify the level of protection for each species. This research was originally made for all the Tropical Andes but later it was completed for Venezuela.	Mon 1:30
Pierce, Ann	Forest Certification: High Conservation Value Forest Development	Forest certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) requires the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) to identify, maintain, and enhance high conservation value forests. Of FSC's six categories of high conservation values, DNR forest ecologists are addressing three categories related to biodiversity. I will briefly describe the forest certification process, identification of sites that met the high conservation value forest priorities, and the benefit to the states biodiversity and conservation planning efforts.	Tue 1:30
Pyne, Milo	Hierarchy Revisions of US NVC - Implications for Alliances: The case of Shortleaf Pine (<i>Pinus echinata</i>)	Under the proposed new US NVC hierarchy, there are implications for the Alliance level. One intention of the revised hierarchy is to alleviate the unintended consequences of using physiognomy and leaf phenology (evergreen vs. deciduous) as high level criteria. Both of these are being demoted in relevance to their placement in the revised structure. The case of Shortleaf Pine (<i>Pinus echinata</i>) presents a relatively simple illustration of how this might work to simplify the Alliance structure.	Poster

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Ramírez, Aníbal	Effective Planning: A Case to Assess it in Veracruz, Mexico	This presentation will describe the principal planning methods and tools used by Pronatura in Veracruz from 2003-2009. During these years, we received funding from different sources and countries, each with similar purposes. Nevertheless, due to social and environmental circumstances the technical and administrative team had to try different methods for effective planning o others that were not successful for conservation actions and ecological restorations. Five experiences are presented describing the different sources and territories.	Wed 11:30
Robertson, Breece, and Mitchel Hannon	Integrating SWAPs and Species data into Local Greenprints	TPL's Greenprint is an interactive, community modeling process that uses a geographic information system (GIS) to identify priorities for planning and conserving parks and natural resources based on local input. This presentation will focuson the integration of SWAP and species data into the local planning process as high priority goals for land protection, leveraging local funding to protect habitat in conjunction with other lands important for preservation.	Wed 9:00
Robles, Marcos	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Species & Habitats in the Southwest	In collaboration with federal, university and non-profit partners, The Nature Conservancy has initiated the Southwest Climate Change Initiative. As an important first phase of the initiative, we have completed an assessment of species and habitats that may be vulnerable to climate change in the Southwest United States. For the assessment, we completed a spatial analysis comparing historic and future climate change projections with the location of rare species and major habitats.	Mon 11:15
Sanchez, Martha	The Environmental Management System of Information of Nicaragua	SINIA-MARENA coordinates de National Network for Environmental Information. SINIA coordinates 4 regional decentralized thematic nodules, such as information monitoring. Developing an early alert system in protected areas, registering of 35 satellite alerts (FORMOSAT-Taiwán) regarding land change in 3 protected areas. Daily monitoring of heat points by department and in each protected area. Training in geographic information tools to 197 professionals of more than 30 organizations and municipalities in the country.	Poster

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Schuurman, Gregor	Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery and Climate Change: Surveys, Vulnerability Assessments, and Initial Adaptation Thoughts	The federally listed Karner blue butterfly is an emblematic species in conservation discussions: recovery focuses on intensive habitat restoration within its former range, but long-term persistence may ultimately depend on how well we understand and incorporate likely climate change impacts into our recovery efforts. This comparatively well-understood species is an ideal representative for lesser-understood imperiled barrens ecosystems and barrens-dependent species. This presentation reviews and synthesizes habitat management, population assessment, climate change vulnerability assessments, and preliminary incorporation of adaptation into recovery and management planning.	Mon 11:45
Scott, Lori	Big Landscapes, Little Gadgets: A System for Collecting and Managing Observation Data	This workshop will: 1.) present a prototype system for handheld data collection and online observation data management that supports diverse data structures and data collection workflows; 2.) demonstrate how this system can support major research objectives such as species distribution modeling and monitoring species and habitat response to climate change; and 3.) engage participants in developing a strategy for deploying this system to fulfill existing and emerging needs for large-scale ecological observation data.	Wed 8:30
Smetana, David	Spatial Data Management Without Boundaries	The Nature Conservancy has implemented a number of high and low tech solutions for creating, managing and sharing its spatial datasets across a global staff. I'll present the best practices that we've established at different scales of our organization, in the US and internationally.	Mon 4:30
Spackman Panjabi, Susan	Colorado Rare Plant Conservation Initiative, Saving Colorado's Wildflowers	The Colorado Rare Plant Conservation Initiative (RPCI) is a diverse partnership of public and private organizations dedicated to conserving our state's natural heritage by improving the stewardship of Colorado's most imperiled plants. Colorado has no state-level recognition or protection for plants. Many plants are at risk due to a simple lack of awareness regarding their precarious status. The RPCI is pursuing numerous opportunities to protect these species through strategic conservation actions.	Wed 10:30
Spadafora, Alida	The Role of ANCON in Protected Areas of Panama	ANCON works to protect and maintain biodiversity and to improve connectivity among the protected areas of Panama. ANCON has worked with local groups in their empowerment at the International Park La Amistad and the National Park Coiba. Also, has developed the Management Plan of the Biological Corridor of the "Serranía de Bagre", and has proposed the creation of a new protected area in Donoso, which conserves a considerable extension of forests from the Panama Caribbean.	Tue 4:15

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Torreblanca, Esteban	Fishing Regionalization in the Norwest of Mexico	A Framework for the regionalization of fishing in the Norwest of México is presented, based on the analysis of the similarities from the captures registered by Fishing Authorities. This framework integrates the fishing authorities from different regions where the composition of commercial fishing is associated with the marine and costal ecosystem characteristics. The analysis of clusters applied to relative distances of ≤ 0.541 identifies 11 fishing regions.	Wed 11:30
Tovar, Antonio	"Is not a Cat nor a Rabbit": Local Biodiversity Endangered by Exotic Invasive Species in Peru	The problem with exotic invasive species is not new in Peru, but it has become a greater problem as government authorities have been supporting and promoting the introduction of species such as trout and tilapia. The last 20 years the European Rabbit has been introduced in the south of the country and is expanding rapidly. What do we need to address this problem? Information (research, data bases, maps, habitat knowledge and life cycles), awareness and capacity building at the local level, strict regulations and enforcement (sanitary control, border coordination, required permits), and to be realistic about this issue.	Wed 11:00
Varley, Ian	Applying a New DSS Tool in Colombia: Creating Defensible Offsite Mitigation Options	The increasing size, environmental impact and frequency of megaprojects in Latin America prompted NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy to develop new tools and methods to conduct an environmental assessment and create mitigation options in a region of expanding coal mining in Colombia. This project employed a new DSS tool, the Mitigation Query Tool, designed to determine best options for offsite mitigation to meet requirements based upon the land parcel size, landscape position and biodiversity criteria.	Mon 9:30
Varley, Ian	A New Look at the Rio Yaqui: Integrating TNC Conservation Action Planning with NatureServe Vista	The upper watershed of the Rio Yaqui forms the heart of the Desert Borderlands Project, the current and potential range of the northern Jaguar. Already the site of the federal and private protected areas, the upper Yaqui watershed was the target of an integrated effort to implement TNC's CAP strategy with NatureServe's conservation planning software, Vista. The authors conducted a comprehensive analyses including relative conservation value, threats to biodiversity and mitigation scenarios.	Poster

NatureServe Conservation Conference 2010: Abstracts by Lead Author

Name	Title	Abstract	Session
Wilkinson, Meg	Geo-Tracking Invasive Species with iMapInvasives	Is your state biodiversity threatened by invasive species? Find out how your state can participate with the iMapInvasives Project. Learn about the functionality of iMapInvasives including on-line data-entry for invasive species locations, signing up for email alerts and viewing invasive species data at both the state level and the site-level scale. The iMapInvasives Project is "Network-grown" with four Heritage Programs currently participating and several more planning to participate.	Mon 11:30
Young, Bruce	NatureServe's Climate Change Vulnerability Index: One Year On	At last year's Conservation Conference, we unveiled NatureServe's Climate Change Vulnerability Index. Feedback from the Conference led to improvements and a public release of the tool in August 2009. What are the current plans for the Index? Who is using the Index and how are they using the results in adaptation planning? We'll answer these questions and more in this fun-filled session.	Tue 10:30