

Capacity Statement for Governments

Who we are

Founded in 2014, the Center for Biodiversity Outcomes (CBO) at ASU is driven by the understanding that biodiversity is essential for ecosystem health, human well-being, global prosperity, and resilience in the face of climate change. Together with our partners, we aim to **achieve common goals of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources**.

CBO works to **center the conservation of biodiversity in individual, social, and institutional decisions that balance environmental and social goals**. We embrace **transdisciplinary approaches** that assess **how decisions impact biodiversity** and how investment action in conservation can **support biodiversity goals**. Our work **empowers stakeholders to engage in informed action**, based on the knowledge that shared challenges are best solved when communities work together.

Our resources and capabilities

- **Conservation Science:** With several decades of combined experience in the field, we conduct high-impact research to inform policies that preserve biodiversity and ecosystems.
- **Decision-Support Tools:** We develop innovative tools that help government agencies and other stakeholders make science-based, contextually relevant biodiversity management decisions.
- **Stakeholder-Driven Research:** CBO partners closely with government agencies to design research that directly addresses gaps in knowledge or pressing challenges in biodiversity management. Our work is shaped by ongoing feedback from policymakers and practitioners, ensuring that we address the specific needs of government stakeholders.
- **Transdisciplinary Expertise:** We leverage ASU's extensive faculty network, diverse student body, and global partnerships to provide transdisciplinary expertise in ecology, economics, policy, remote sensing, data science, and the social sciences. This enables us to offer comprehensive, cross-sectoral solutions that integrate environmental, economic, and social considerations.
- **Cutting-Edge Tools & Technologies:** ASU offers access to state-of-the-art technologies, including advanced remote sensing, GIS mapping, and data analytics platforms. We help governments utilize these tools to monitor biodiversity, track environmental changes, and forecast potential outcomes of policy decisions.
- **Global Partnerships:** CBO is embedded within ASU's Global Futures Laboratory, which includes over 500 experts in sustainability from across the university. Our global reach connects us to a network of scientists, policymakers, NGOs, and corporate stakeholders in over 160 countries, giving us the scale and expertise to address the global biodiversity crisis.
- **Government Liaison:** ASU's Office of Government and Community Engagement works closely with federal and state policymakers, facilitating dialogues and advocacy efforts on issues critical to biodiversity and environmental conservation. Our partnerships ensure that CBO's research translates into real-world policy impact.

Our impact

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Problem: The [USFWS](#) is the US government agency in charge of managing national wildlife refuges, protecting endangered species, managing migratory birds, restoring nationally significant fisheries and enforcing federal wildlife laws. They work to protect over 1200 threatened and endangered species, but funding restrictions limit how many recovery plans U.S. policy makers can implement.

Solution: In collaboration with the [Endangered Species Act](#) decision-making team and [National Socio-Environmental Decision Center](#), or SESYNC, we created a tool designed to improve species prioritization for the U.S. government. When integrated with the more nuanced decision-making processes that take place at the local, regional and national level, the [Recovery Explorer Tool](#) can help engage decision-makers by highlighting how different kinds of funding allocations, choices and value-systems inform or affect species protection.

Contact us

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