ASU Center for Biodiversity Outcomes
Arizona State University

Capacity Statement for NGOs

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 actions that preserve biodiversity and ecosystems.
- **Decision-Support Tools**: We develop innovative, tailored tools that identify biodiversity impacts of varied actions and relative expected costs for your company. We do this by integrating economic, ecological, and social data to account for the full suite of specific risks, including applications in marine fisheries, oil and gas exploration and platform decommissioning, agriculture and supply chain management, and fresh water supply.
- **Stakeholder-Driven Research**: CBO works to co-design research that directly addresses gaps in knowledge or pressing challenges in biodiversity management. Our work is shaped by ongoing feedback, ensuring that we address the specific needs of 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.
- **Knowledge and Technology Infrastructure**: ASU offers access to state-of-the-art technologies, including advanced remote sensing, GIS mapping, and data analytics platforms; additionally, we have library, laboratory, and educational resources and facilities. We help companies 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.

Our impact

Conservation International

Context: Conservation International was established in 1987 to build upon a strong foundation of science, partnership, and field demonstration to empower societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, and the well-being of humanity.

Problem: Lack of collaboration between researchers and practitioners means valuable research at world-renowned academic institutions does not inform practice. This gap presents a missed opportunity not only to maximize the collective brainpower working on these critical issues, but to enhance our understanding around what is working, what isn't, and how we can realize the transformative conservation impact we aim to achieve.

Solution: ASU provided CI with a wealth of research capacity and an immense opportunity to interact with, train, and influence conservation graduate students. In our first year of partnership, we onboarded seven Professors of Practice to teach a course titled Biodiversity Conservation in Practice, as part of our graduate certificate in Environmental Communication and Leadership. We continue to foster collaboration between CI scientists and ASU faculty to inform important research as we work together to protect nature, advance sustainable development, and train the next generation of conservation leaders.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species

Context: Created in 1948, IUCN is the oldest and largest conservation organization uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. Its mission is to assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature, and to ensure equitable and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources. Its flagship knowledge product, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is the most widely accepted and standardized system for classifying species extinction risk.

Problem: To drive its mission, IUCN relies on the reach of its more than 1,300 members and 10,000 experts to provide the latest science to drive its mission.

Solution: To provide additional capacity, scientific expertise, and stakeholder engagement, CBO is one of only three universities in the world to formally join the IUCN Red List Partnership. CBO has also committed to assessing global coral health and participating in regional-to-global conservation planning initiatives.

Contact us

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