

Best practices for project monitoring and evaluation

Jane Hill, University of York
(jkh6@york.ac.uk)



THE UNIVERSITY of York



Monitoring & evaluation

- Scientific objectives of the study
- Training objectives of project staff
- Dissemination of information to stakeholders



14-022 Predictive tools for targeting conservation effort in Bornean forest reserves.

UK and Host Country partners: University Malaysia Sabah, Forest Research Centre Sabah, University of Leeds, University of York, Natural History Museum.

Aims of project:

- To develop tools for identifying existing Forest Reserves of high conservation value,
- To determine how their value may change in the future as a consequence of climate warming as well as changes in the size, number or quality of other reserves.

Project's study area:



Focus on butterflies because this taxon is well-studied and vulnerable to forest loss and climate change.

Project's activities

- Visiting museum collections
- Construction of database of records
- Using niche models to project species distributions across Borneo
- Testing models with new field data
- Using reserve-design software to rank Protected Areas according to butterfly diversity and forest cover.

Project's personnel

UK

- Project leader (York)
- Database manager (Leeds)
- GIS manager (York)
- Collections advisor (NHM)

Malaysia

- Project leader (UMS)
- Fieldwork manager (FRC)
- DRF1 Dr Suzan Benedick – museum collections, fieldwork
- DRF2 Mazidi Abd. Ghani – museum collections, modelling

M&E (1) Scientific activities

- Visit museums and successfully construct the data base
- Use the database to model butterfly distributions
- Test model projections with new field data
- Incorporate species distributions into reserve design software

M&E (2) Training activities

- Data base construction
- Computer modelling ('Maxent', 'Zonation')
- Experimental design
- Statistical analysis
- Scientific writing

M&E (3) Dissemination of information to stakeholders

- Writing reports, papers and policy documents
- Workshop

Monitoring

- Regular field visits and yearly face-to-face meetings with host-country partners and DRFS
- Weekly lab meetings and supervisory meetings with DRFs when in York
- Students participate in Graduate Training Programmes at York
- DRFs attend and present research findings at conferences

Evaluation

- Successful completion of scientific objectives and outputs
- Database and model outputs made available
- DRF2 awarded MSc degree
- Stakeholders engage with workshop discussions

Best practice

- Retention of DRFS enhanced if DRFs have strong ownership of project e.g. through completion of a degree
- Training of DRFs requires substantial periods of time in the UK
- Have clearly defined objectives & milestones – and review them regularly
- Ensure the DRFs have the opportunity to train others

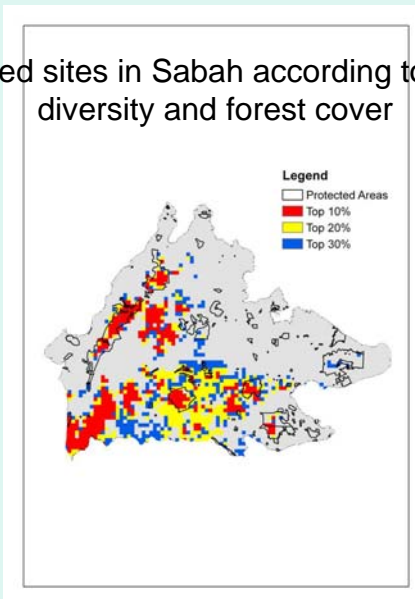
End of project workshop



Promoting stakeholder engagement with project findings

- Workshops are excellent for:
- Dissemination of findings
- Discussion of implications of project findings
- Building trust amongst interested parties
- Knowledge exchange

Top ranked sites in Sabah according to butterfly diversity and forest cover



How to promote the likelihood of policy makers adopting policy recommendations...

- Who should do this?
- How should information be provided?
- What evidence is required to confirm that findings have been implemented?

