

Health as an Ecosystem Service Workshop

**Wildlife Conservation Society, Center for Global Conservation
Bronx Zoo, New York
December 3-4, 2009**

AGENDA

Overall Objective:

Create a framework for identifying opportunities for innovative finance/public support for the conservation of ecosystems that directly provide human health services.

Specific Outcomes:

- a. Identify the conditions in which ecosystems may directly provide human health benefits.
- b. Assess under what conditions markets and/or public support can be created for health benefits from ecosystems.
- c. Assess the feasibility of applied research to test the quantitative relationships between ecosystem intactness and public health at specific conservation sites.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

2:00 Welcome to WCS and the Workshop – KENT REDFORD

2:15 Introductions by participants

2:45 Review materials, agenda and meeting objectives/outcomes
– led by KENT REDFORD

Clarification of outcomes – led by KENT REDFORD

3:30 Framing the concept of Health as an Ecosystem Service – Laying the ground work and clarifying the issues

- Whose health? Human, livestock, wildlife and does it matter? – led by STEVE OSOFSKY (20 mins)
- What dimensions of health should be our focus (infectious disease, non-infectious disease, nutrition, psychological health, etc.)? Developing a typology of health-related ecosystem services. – led by STEVE OSOFSKY (20 mins)
- What dimensions of biodiversity/ecosystems matter to health? And what conditions of intactness matter to health? – led by KENT REDFORD (20 mins)
- What do we mean by markets and public support? – led by CARTER INGRAM (10 mins)

- 4:40 General discussion
- 5:00 Cocktails and mingling with WCS staff
- 6:00 Depart for dinner
- 8:15 Depart for hotel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Breakfast on own at hotel

- 8:00 Bus departs hotel for WCS
- 9:00 Coffee and pillow thoughts and questions. Opportunity to adjust agenda. – led by KENT REDFORD
- 9:20 What is the state of knowledge of health as an ecosystem service under the conditions of interest to the group? Summary and discussion of annotated bibliography. – led by KENT REDFORD
- 9:50 What is health and whose health are we focusing on? Making the inherent complexity at hand manageable from the perspective of a conservation organization. – led by STEVE OSOFSKY
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 What attributes of the environment generate desired health outcomes? – led by KENT REDFORD
- Should we be focusing on biodiversity? Ecosystems?
 - What is ecological intactness and what role does it play in health?
 - Are there robust relationships between health and biodiversity that can be generalized across landscapes, ecosystems, geographies, and time?
 - Can relationships between dimensions of health and biodiversity be expressed formally? Can relationships between health and intactness/degradedness be expressed formally?
- 12:30 Lunch and optional zoo stroll
- 1:30 Potential for innovative financing? – led by DAVID WILKIE/CARTER INGRAM
- Who are the buyers of health as an ecosystem service?
 - Who are the sellers? And can they make the quantity and quality of ecosystem-provided health services conditional on receiving payment from buyers?
 - How could the economic value of health as an ecosystem service be quantified?
 - i. What information would be needed to do this?
 - ii. At what scale would this data be most useful?
 - iii. What types of skills, resources and expertise would be needed to collect this information?

3:00 Break

3:20 *Continued*

- What types of mechanisms (market and non-market) could be used to generate funds to conserve the health-related functions of ecosystems?
- What steps would be needed to further help the public health and conservation communities determine “common ground”?

4:00 If health *is* an ecosystem service, what does that mean for conservation of intact landscapes and seascapes of conservation importance? – led by KENT REDFORD

4:30 Next steps and action items – led by KENT REDFORD

- Future meetings
- Publications
- Exploring proposal development related to landscapes/seascapes WCS has identified as conservation priorities?

5:00 Adjourn and Departures

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