



How Indigenous knowledge and science partner to build evidence-based information for use in conservation planning

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Indigenous Peoples & Conservation

- Place-based natural history knowledge
- Landscape-scale understanding of ecosystem dynamics
- Reciprocal relationship with nature and wildlife

Why are conservationists interested in a co-production of knowledge?

Conservation Planning

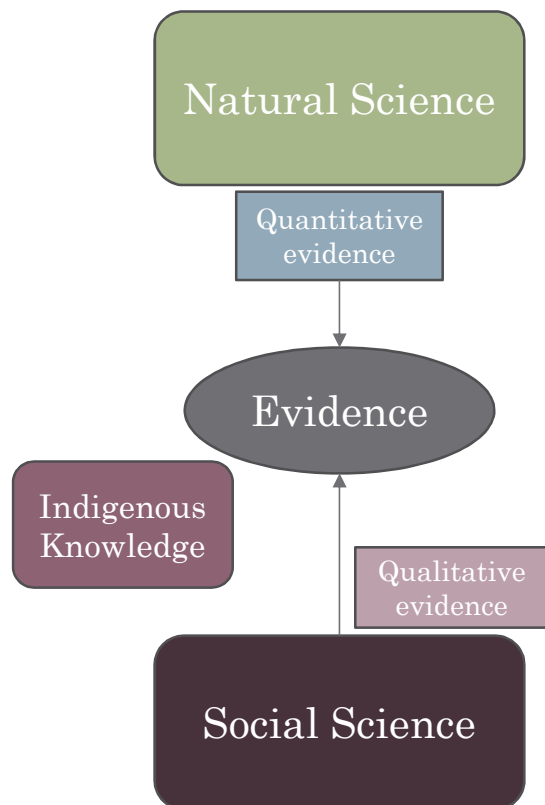
Evidence-Based

&

Stakeholder-Driven

1. As a crisis discipline, conservation planners need access to the best available information.
2. Early frameworks for conservation planning neglected the human dimensions of what is ultimately a social process.
3. Conservationists have a responsibility to collaborate on decisions that affect the people living with those decisions.

What counts as evidence-based information?



Added Value of **Social** Approaches to Evidence

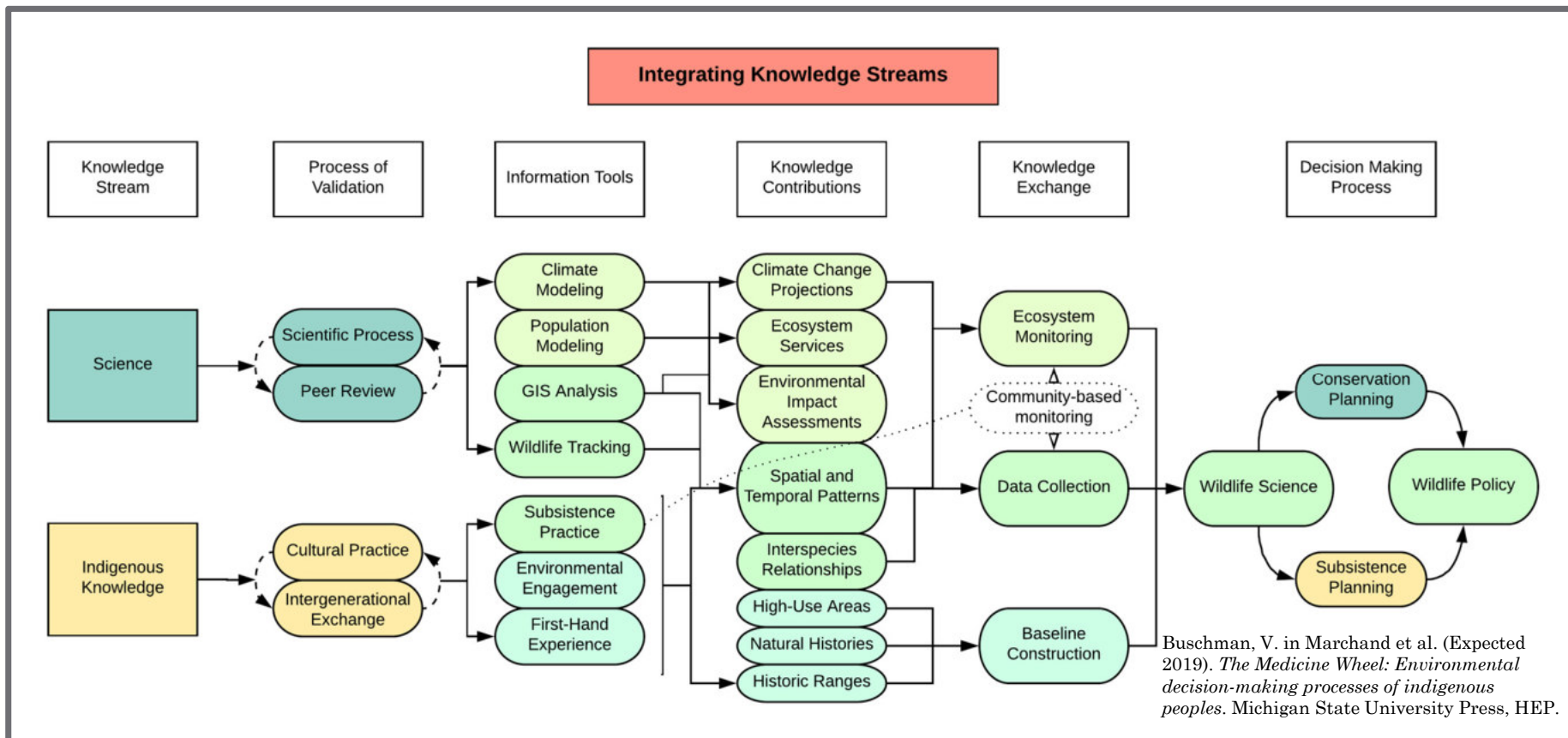
- Contextuality
- Mutual learning
- Proactive and reactive thinking
- Concepts and models
- Innovative actions
- Stakeholder engagement
- Cultural applicability
- Social equity

Bennett et al. 2017. "Conservation social science: understanding and integrating human dimensions to improve conservation." *Biological Conservation*, 205(1), 93-108.

What does the co-production of knowledge do for conservation planning?

- Facilitates collaboration over large regions
- Ensures stakeholder-driven process from beginning
- Supplies time critical information
- Fosters co-management
- Provides biodiversity and cultural benefits
- Supports place-based and landscape-scale efforts
- Aids in how we evaluate and apply knowledge systems

What is the Arctic context for wildlife conservation and co-production?



Does the co-production of knowledge aid in challenges to conservation planning?

The Three Planning Challenges

1. **Research-implementation gap**
 - Current evidence is not sufficient to guide conservation efforts
2. **Decision complacency**
 - Decision makers fail to use evidence in the planning and implementation processes even when it exists
3. **Policy-relevance**
 - Planning must be evidence-based, rooted in political contexts, and spanning the boundaries between science and policy

The Co-production Solution

1. **Bridging the gap**
 - Contributes to time critical research
 - Contributes evidence from interdisciplinary perspective
2. **Overcoming complacency**
 - Large constituency holding decision makers accountable to the evidence
3. **Establishing policy-relevance**
 - Human dimensions are necessarily political
 - Addressing greater societal need than conservation alone

Questions?