



Conservation Action Planning

North Carolina Outer Banks and Sounds



Efroymsen Conservation Planning Program

- Conserve functional landscapes
- Effective strategies to abate critical threats and enhance biodiversity health
- Establish baseline conservation measures
- Develop credible first iteration conservation action plans
- Explore conservation strategies for multiple areas
- Share lessons learned among network of conservation practitioners



Conservation Action Planning

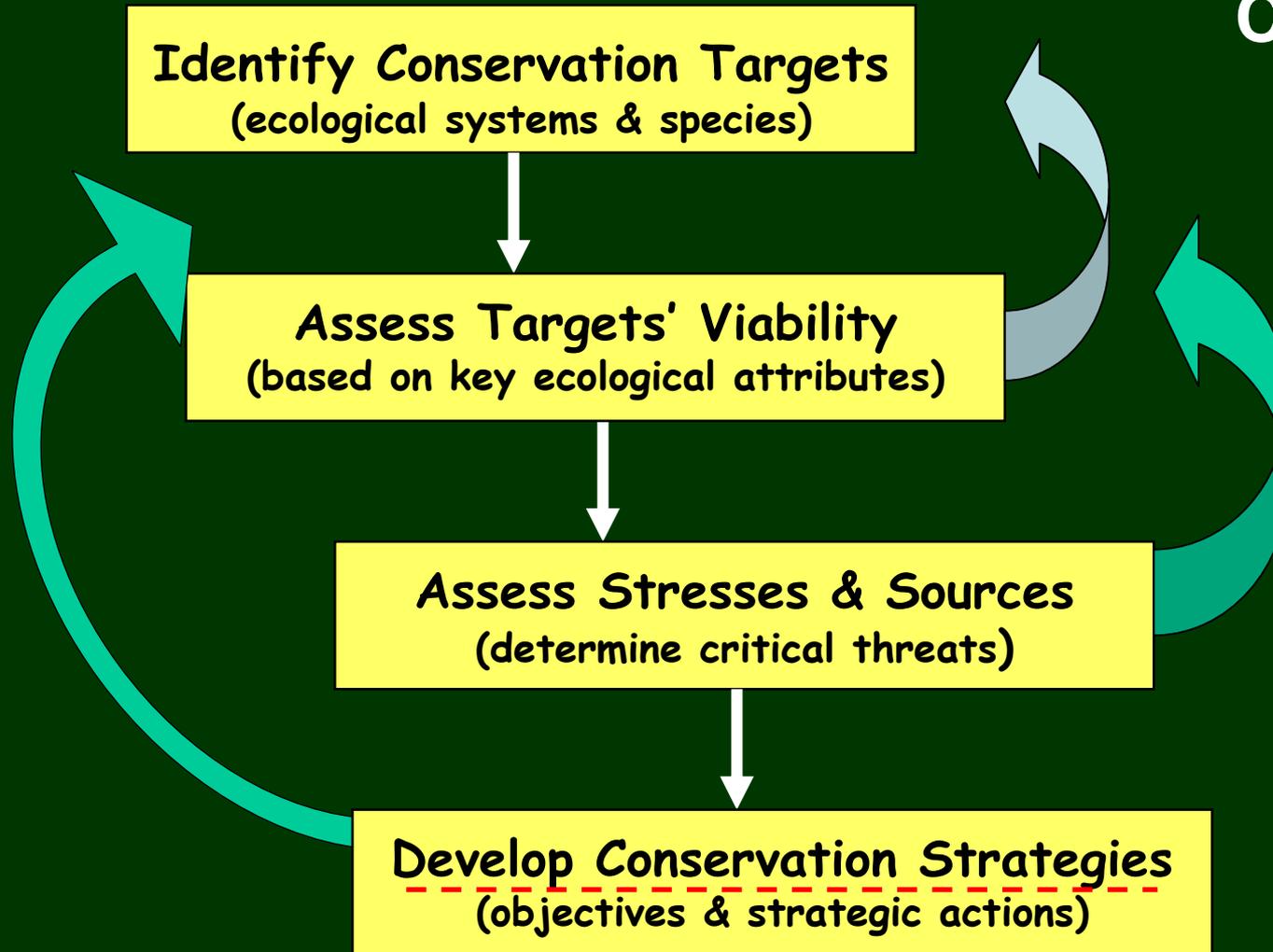
*An Iterative,
Adaptive Process*

Identify Conservation Targets
(ecological systems & species)

Assess Targets' Viability
(based on key ecological attributes)

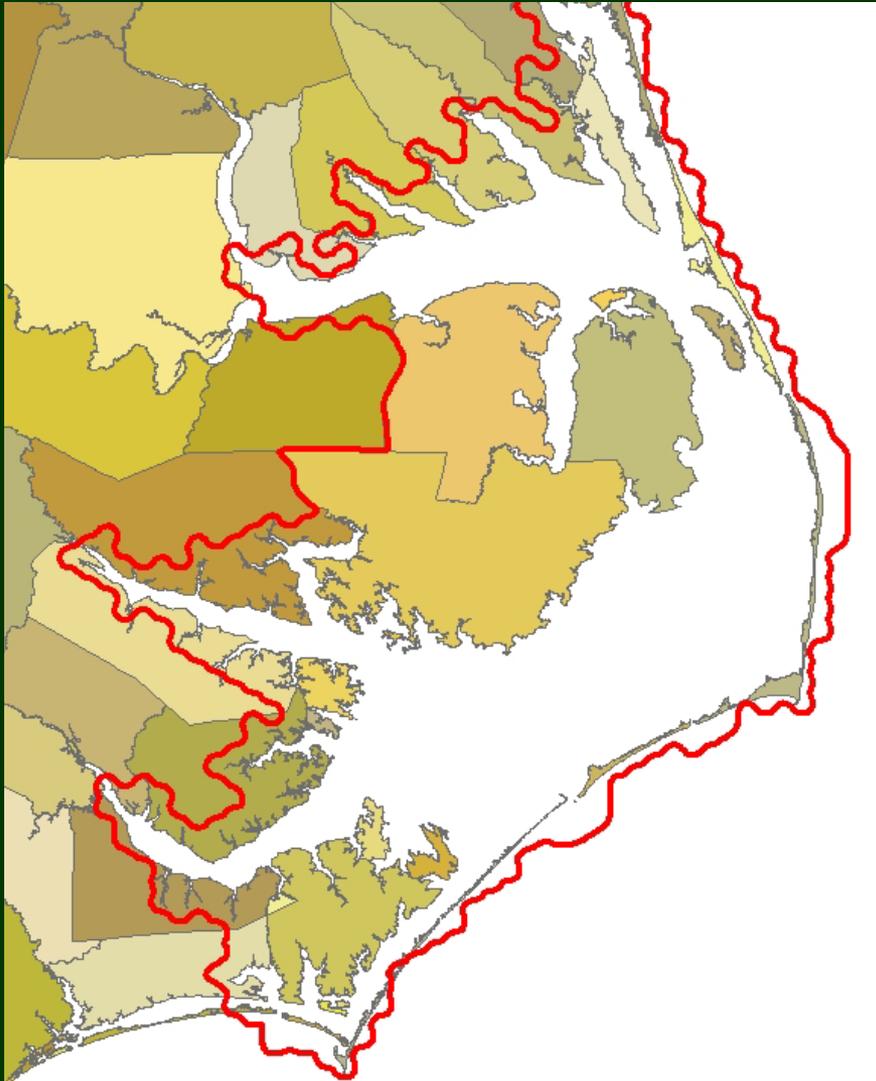
Assess Stresses & Sources
(determine critical threats)

Develop Conservation Strategies
(objectives & strategic actions)





Conservation Action Planning for SE Atlantic



North Carolina
Outer Banks and Sounds

South Carolina
Seewee-Santee-Winyah Bay
Estuary

Georgia
Altamaha River Estuary





Project and Conservation Targets	
Project	North Carolina Outer Banks and Sounds
Target #1	Mesohaline SAV Habitat
Target #2	Oligohaline SAV Habitat
Target #3	Shellfish Reef and Shell Bottom Habitat
Target #4	Tidal Marshes and Creeks
Target #5	Coastal Tributary Wetlands
Target #6	Anadromous Fish (Alosines)
Target #7	Functional Primary/Secondary Nursery Areas
Target #8	Barrier Island and Inlet Landforms
Target #9	Sustainable Fishing Communities



Threats Across Systems		Mesohaline SAV Habitat	Oligohaline SAV Habitat	Shellfish Reef and Shell Bottom Habitat	Tidal Marshes and Creeks	Coastal Tributary Wetlands	Anadromous Fish	Functional Primary/Secondary Nursery Areas	Barrier Island and Inlet Landforms	Sustainable Fishing Communities	Overall Threat Rank
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Project-specific threats (Common taxonomy)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
11	Disease (Problematic Native Species)	Low	Medium	Very High	-	-	High	-	-	Medium	High
12	Forestry activities (Wood & Pulp Plantations)	Low	Medium	Medium	-	Very High	-	-	-	-	High
13	Fire Suppression (Fire & Fire Suppression)	-	-	-	Medium	Very High	-	-	-	-	High
14	Diminished value of local seafood (Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Very High	High
15	Fishery resource allocation issues (Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Very High	High
16	Lack of public pride in locally produced seafood (Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Very High	High
17	Tax policies that encourage development (Housing & Urban Areas)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Very High	High
18	Boating activity, with associated piers, docks, marinas (Recreational Activities)	Low	Medium	Medium	High	-	-	Medium	High	-	High
19	Pollution - Atmospheric Deposition (Air-Borne Pollutants)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	-	-	Low	-	-	Medium
20	Peat mining (Mining & Quarrying)	-	-		-	High	-	-	-	-	Medium
21	Mariculture (Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture)	Low	Low	Medium	-	-	-	-	-	Low	Low
22	Algae, sea squirts, etc. (Problematic Native Species)	-	-	Medium	-	-	-	-	-	-	Low
23	Wind energy development (Renewable Energy)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Low	Low	Low
24	Human-Powered Recreation (Recreational Activities)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Low	Low
25	Inlet dredging and channel maintenance (Shipping Lanes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Low	-	Low
26	Military Activities (War, Civil Unrest & Military Exercises)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Low	Low



Draft Conservation Objectives

Objective 1: Shape and support comprehensive ecosystem management to enhance and sustain resilience, water flows, water quality, fire regimes, coastal habitats and living resources throughout the North Carolina Banks and Sounds system.

Objective 2 : Ensure funding and public support for comprehensive ecosystem management that sustains target viability and ecological integrity throughout the North Carolina Banks and Sounds system.

Objective 3: Protect keystone areas and buffers to sustain target viability and ecological integrity throughout the North Carolina Banks and Sounds system.

Objective 4: Implement land and water management and restoration to sustain target viability and ecological integrity throughout the North Carolina Banks and Sounds system.

Objective 5: Ensure that regulations and permitting processes sustain target viability and ecological integrity throughout the North Carolina Banks and Sounds system.



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