JRS African Meeting

Biodiversity Literature Digitization Workshop

Chicago Field Museum

November 14 – 17th 2011

AFRICAN CONSERVATION CENTRE

Lucy Waruingi

Conservation in Kenya

Kenya's parks occupy less than 8% of the land mass

Kenya's parks account for less than 40% of our biodiversity (Flora & Fauna)

AFRICAN CONSERVATION CENTRE

A non-profit, Kenyan NGO

- ✓ **Conservation Science**
- ✓ **Conservation Development**
- ✓ **Community Institutions**

Principle of Co-existence

We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children

- Maasai Proverb

Importance of Biodiversity Literature

- We need to **what we have ...**
- We need to know **what we don't have...**
- We need to **describe what we have…**
- We need to know **what threats and opportunities we have**

Our Natural Capital

International Conference on Biodiversity, Land-use and Climate Change (Sept 2010)

Recommendations: --

- Review status of Kenya's Biodiversity and threats it faces
- Highlight the need for a full valuation of biodiversity
- Promote expansion of wildlife policy to a comprehensive biodiversity policy and review the policy implications of the new constitution of Kenya, 2010
- Recommend steps towards developing a comprehensive National Conservation Framework

Valuing Biodiversity

- Kenya needs to quantify the value of its natural capital
- Establish the ecosystem services provided by Biodiversity
- Take advantage of opportunities such as promoting the use of Payment for Ecosystem Services for sustaining Biodiversity

Biodiversity Informatics

- Develop a national open-access biodiversity and environmental database
- Prepare a Biodiversity Atlas of Kenya
- Document our wealth of Knowledge on our Biodiversity by compiling centrally what is already published and collating the various articles and grey literature
- Develop a Biodiversity Informatics policy and best practices

Sustainable Use

- Putting a price on nature will protect biodiversity better than traditional conservation (*TEEB Report)*
- Putting an economic value to ecosystems will enable us to plan on its sustainable utilisation
- Costs of Climate Adaptation to Biodiversity ad ecosystems
- And agribusinesses recognize that unless they have healthy ecosystems their business models will collapse.

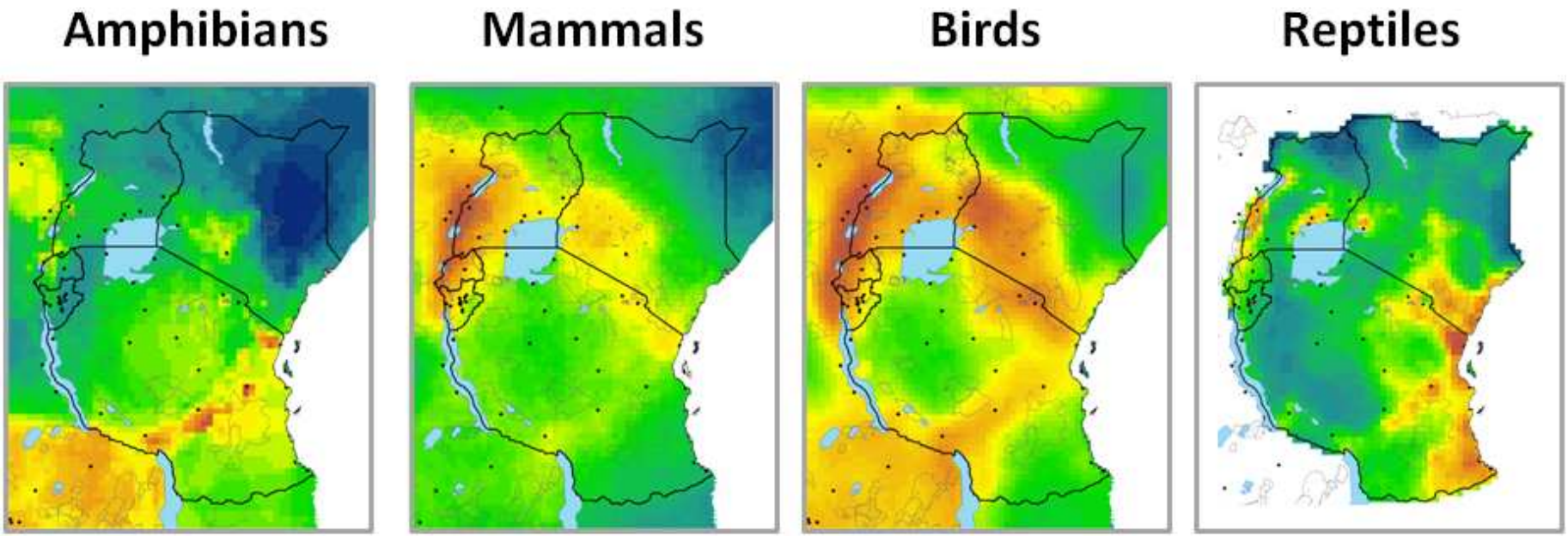
Local Efforts - I

- ACC and National Museums of Kenya and other partners reviewing the feasibility of the setting up of a regional centre of excellence in Biodiversity Informatics
- Cross border Workshop on elephants – Kenya & Tanzania Sharing of information and developing integrated strategies
- Ministry of Higher Education is documenting all past research in the country
- ACC is working with partners to build a biodiversity database for Kenya which will be the groundwork for Kenya's Minimum Viable Conservation Area

Local Efforts 2

- Seeking to work with Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources (MEMR) and other partners to co-ordinate the production of a Biodiversity Atlas for Kenya
- Developing herbarium and local community resource centre in Southern Kenya – Lale'enok Resource Centre
- SERVIR-Africa project developing a web-portal on assessing vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change

Climate Change



Geographic patterns of species richness for amphibians (208 species), mammals (532 species), birds (1,558 species), and reptiles (406 species). Maps are displayed, but not accurate, at 0.25° resolution. Co lours indicate low (blue) to high (brown) species richness. Grey outlines and black dots are protected areas

Community Resource Centres – Citizen Science

Lale'enok Resource Centre

1.A way bringing together communities and researchers in mapping biodiversity, its conservation and sustainable use.

2.Formation of **Community Learning networks** – knowledge exchange, data/information storage and exchange

3.Community Resource Assessors – the resource owners are the investigators

4.Community based Science –

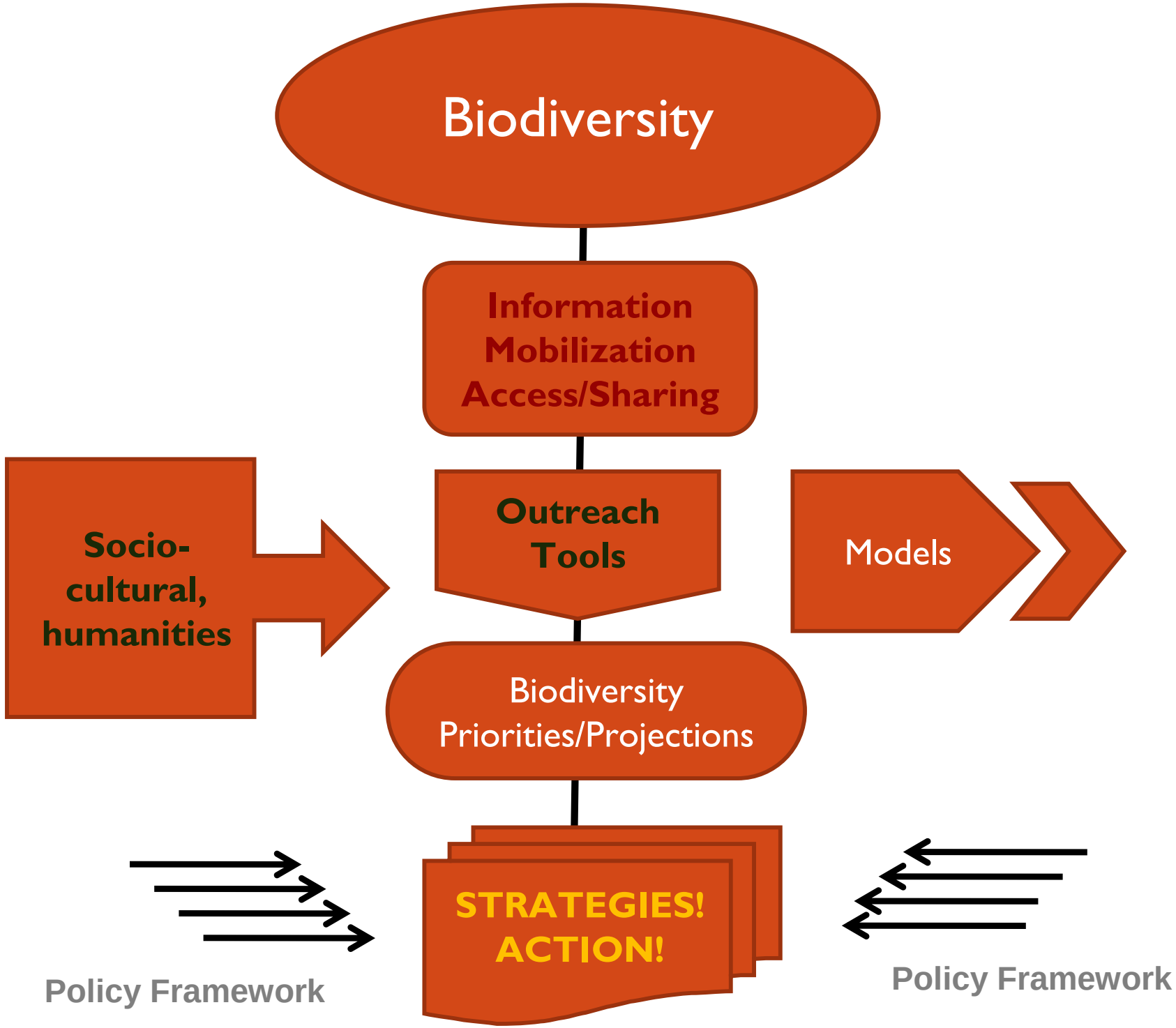
Science demanded

Challenges

- Diverse information and data scattered across various institutions
- Limited expertise to set up robust systems for data integration
- No clear mandated institution to undertake the compilation and provision of access to Biodiversity data and literature
- Data ownership and data sharing policies
- Data and information management platforms
- Poor writing and documenting culture
- Poor long term perspective on the value for information/data
- Local data and information held in museums and universities abroad – repatriation
- Role of government key to setting up national initiatives

Possible Collaborations..

- Mobilise scientists and researchers to write and publish – Mentorship programs
- Mobilise access to biodiversity data and information on various taxa for the Atlas
- Engage citizens in information generation use and dissemination. Science demanded. Community Resource Assesors
- Partner with Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), Encyclopaedia Of Life (EOL), Natural History Museums in target programs and to access services such as educational tools, art illustrations of biodiversity, etc


Biodiversity
Information
Mobilization
Access/Sharing
Socio-
cultural,
humanities
Outreach
Tools
Models
Biodiversity
Priorities/Projections
STRATEGIES!
ACTION!
Policy Framework
Policy Framework

THANK YOU