

Tenet 1: Conservation is informed by personal values
Look inward, understand your purpose

Think:

- What problem is my conservation project trying to solve?
- Who determined it was a problem and how?
- Why do I care about this?
- What are my motivations for conducting this project?
- Whose aims does it serve?
- What actions do I hope to inspire with my work?
- How do I benefit from it?
- How will I know if my goals have been met?
- What are the overall changes I want to see?
- What are the potential consequences of these changes over time?
- How might I describe my personal conservation agenda to various other people?

Reflect:

Were any of these questions difficult to answer? Why?

How have my personal values influenced the design, interpretation, and communication of my project? How might it have been done differently by someone with different values? What makes my vision for the project unique?

Practice:

Select three actors from your scientific system that you know personally. Ask them to describe some of your strengths and weaknesses. Reflect on any unexpected answers and the role that these characteristics may play in your work.

Read:

Elliott, K. C. *A Tapestry of Values*. New York, NY, Oxford University Press, 2017.

Brown, M. *Science and Moral Imagination*. Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020

Tenet 2: Conservation requires true partnerships
Look outward, establish real connections

Think:

- Have I shared my values with my teammates? Have I been open to new perspectives?
- Do we have the same philosophical assumptions regarding our work?
- If not, how do we plan to address these differences?
- What may I need to compromise on in order to create a shared vision of success?
- What can I do to build confidence, respect, and trust with my team and our stakeholders?
- In what ways have I considered diversity, equity, and inclusion in my conservation project?
- How will my partners contribute to any resulting publications? Will some receive acknowledgements or be included as coauthors? Who gets to decide?

Reflect:

Were any of these questions difficult to answer? Why?

What lessons have I learned from past partnerships? What specifically made these collaborations difficult or successful?

Practice:

Imagine a group of scientists comes into your community to study some of the local natural resources. Draft a code of ethics that the scientists must agree to before conducting their research. Consider how you would expect them to treat you, your family, and friends, what role your community would play in the scientific process, who would own the data the researchers collect, and whether or not there would be expectations for long-term partnership.

Read:

Deming, A. H. and Savoy, L. E. *Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World*. Minneapolis, MN, Milkweed Editions, 2011.

Schroeder D., Cook J., Hirsch F., Fenet S., and Muthuswamy V. *Ethics Dumping: Case Studies from North-South Research Collaborations*. Springer Nature; 2018.

Tenet 3: Conservation must contend with its own history*Look backward, learn from the past****Think:***

- What is the historic context for conservation and natural resource management where I work?
- What are the historic and current circumstances of local and indigenous people?
- What is my position in relation to them?
- How might my positionality effect my work?
- In what ways are social conditions unavoidably impacting my conservation project?
- Could my actions in this place create stereotypes, maintain negative power dynamics, or cause harm to community members or research subjects?
- How can I create positive relationships here?

Reflect:*Were any of these questions difficult to answer? Why?*

How would I describe the power dynamics within my scientific system? What is my relationship with my assistants, participants, and stakeholders? What steps have I taken to ensure that all people have been treated fairly?

Practice:

Look back at some of your previous conservation efforts or scientific publications. Write a positionality statement for each. Consider how your positionality has changed under various contexts or over time. Highlight aspects of your identity that are always relevant to your work.

Read:

Dowie, M. *Conservation Refugees: The Hundred-year Conflict Between Global Conservation and Native Peoples*. Cambridge, MS, The MIT Press, 2009.

Brechin, S. R., Wilshusen, P. R., Fortwangler, C. L., and West, P. C. *Contested Nature: Promoting International Biodiversity with Social Justice in the Twenty-first Century*. Albany, NY, State University of New York Press, 2003.

Tenet 4: Conservation demands progress
Look forward, inform and transform

Think:

- What mistakes did I make or unexpected costs did I incur during my conservation efforts that others could avoid in the future?
- Who needs this information and how can I get it to them in a form that is usable?
- Are my conservation recommendations feasible? What will change if they are implemented?
- What specific policies or management initiatives can my work support?
- Who will have access to my message and how might different audiences interpret it?
- How can I guide the use of my findings?
- What should be done differently next time?

Reflect:

Were any of these questions difficult to answer? Why?

What were some of the most difficult things I've experienced while trying to reach my conservation aims? Do barriers still exist for the implementation of my research results by relevant decision makers or natural resource managers? How could I overcome these?

Practice:

Have a conversation with a local policy maker about conservation efforts in your area. Reflect on their response to your opinions and how the conversation made you feel. List some ways you could collaborate even if you hold dissimilar views on current conservation policies.

Read:

Turnhout, E., Tuinstra, W., and Halfman, W. *Environmental Expertise: Connecting Science, Policy, and Society*. Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press. 2019

Benessia A., Funtowicz S., Giampietro M., Pereira Â. G., Ravetz J. R., Saltelli A., Strand R., and van der Sluijs J. P. *The Rightful Place of Science: Science on the Verge*. Tempe, AZ and Washington, DC: Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes; 2016.