Beyond Borders It's all about Space-Integration of Zoo Capacity Building to Support Wildlife Corridor Conservation

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Abstract:

Corridor conservation science is central for long term species survival, but how much space should be allocated to wildlife. Corridors between in-situ habitat fragments increase this space, as does capacity building in ex-situ habitat zones.

The IUCN One Plan Approach to Species Conservation promotes conserving connectivity of ecological networks and of collaborative planning inside and outside natural ranges. The species specialist groups encourage and ensure ex-situ conservation supports in-situ initiatives.

Creating high-quality habitats in zoos and botanical gardens helps the public understand why suitable habitats and sufficient land are essential to species survival. Also, through interpretation and education, zoo capacity building projects make an important contribution to conservation. Evidence-based, immersive habitat zones inspire millions of urban visitors—many of whom cannot visit wildlife areas—to support conservation.

GW works to promote conservation through design. Habitat design in zoos and nature reserves forms exhibit plan structure and there are planned interpretation zones showing the importance of connectivity and research. The display supporting the projects set the context for animal species zones within the managed habitat. Information related to the in-situ habitat is shown with corridors and metapopulation science is displayed.

In terms of national and wildlife reserve allocation of space for wildlife, Bhutan is notable in its approach. In Bhutan conservation begins with landscape and is embedded onto land use national policy. The country policy embraces wildlife corridor construction for its country wide guidelines.

Space is a central theme in the wild and in zoo rebuilding programs. This presentation will examine the policies in Bhutan and show a case study focused on ex-situ elephant habitat design and the aspects of space requirement for elephants in human care.

We will briefly examine links between the habitat hubs in the zoo and the in-situ field studies in relation to the global network for conservation capacity.