

## About the Biodiversity Support Program

The Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) is a consortium of World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and World Resources Institute, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). BSP's mission is to promote conservation of the world's biological diversity. We believe that a healthy and secure living resource base is essential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. BSP began in 1988 and will close down in December 2001.

### A Commitment to Learning

Our communications activities are designed to share what we are learning through our field and research activities. To accomplish this, we try to analyze both our successes and our failures. We hope our work will serve conservation practitioners as a catalyst for further discussion, learning, and action so that more biodiversity is conserved. Our communications programs include print publications, Web sites, presentations, and workshops.

### BSP Web Sites

We invite you to visit our Web sites.

**\*Biodiversity Support Program**  
www.BSPonline.org

**\*Biodiversity Conservation Network**  
www.BCNet.org

**CARPE: Central African Regional Program for the Environment**  
http://carpe.umd.edu

\* Until the end of 2006, these two sites will be available at the addresses above. WWF-US will be hosting these sites on the WWF site at www.worldwildlife.org. BSP thanks WWF for providing this service.

### BSP Publications

Many of our publications are available online at [www.BSPonline.org](http://www.BSPonline.org). On our home page, click on publications. You can view **publications** online until the end of 2006. You may contact us by mail, phone, or fax until December 2001.

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## Foundations of Success — Carrying BSP's Work Forward

Foundations of Success (FOS) is a legacy of BSP, born out of its Analysis and Adaptive Management (AAM) Program and the Biodiversity Conservation Network (BCN). FOS is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the practice of conservation by working with practitioners to develop and communicate tested knowledge about what works, what doesn't, and why. FOS works with conservation practitioners around the world to clearly define conservation success, develop guiding principles, and build the capacity to do adaptive management. FOS operates as a network of learning portfolios — clusters of projects focused on testing specific conservation tools or strategies. FOS partners share and document lessons learned and contribute to building capacity throughout the FOS network. For more information on Foundations of Success, go to [www.FOSonline.org](http://www.FOSonline.org) or send an e-mail to [info@FOSonline.org](mailto:info@FOSonline.org).

# DOING CONSERVATION BETTER

## BSP's Analysis and Adaptive Management Program

*For conservation to succeed, it must be a well-organized and highly efficient endeavor. We have found, however, that despite enormous investments of time and money over the past few decades, the conservation community has met with only limited success in achieving its goals. Clearly, changes must be made to the way we carry out conservation activities to ensure that we are getting the highest return on our investments.*

*On the front lines of conservation, in projects around the world, practitioners need to know the most cost-effective path to success. They often ask: How do we identify and define operational goals that will help us measure our success? What actions can we take to efficiently achieve our goals? How can we measure the extent to which our actions contribute to positive change? How can we more effectively integrate learning into what we do and how our organizations function? These are some of the questions that motivated us to explore the use of adaptive management as a tool to achieve conservation success.*

*BSP's Analysis and Adaptive Management (AAM) Program was established to learn about ways to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of conservation efforts around the world. We do this by conducting practitioner-focused, applied research to clarify the conditions under which certain conservation strategies work. Our results are presented in two publication series: our Global Exploration Series presents the findings of our core, external research on high-priority issues identified by BSP's consortium partners, and our Lessons from the Field provide short, summary analyses of hot topics in conservation.*

*The framework we used to guide our selection of key topics in the Global Exploration Series is the BSP Analytical Agenda. This framework outlines the following five conditions for success in conservation:*

- 1. Clarity of conservation goals and objectives**
- 2. Equitable and effective social processes and alliances for conservation**
- 3. Appropriate incentives for biodiversity valuation and conservation**
- 4. International, national, and local policies supportive of conservation**
- 5. Sufficient awareness, knowledge, and capacity to conserve biodiversity**

*We designed Adaptive Management: A Tool for Conservation Practitioners primarily to address Condition #1. Although the concept of adaptive management has been used in natural resource management since the early 1970s, it has remained fairly technical and primarily within the command of professional scientists. For this reason, its full integration into the practice of conservation has remained elusive.*

*We wrote this guide in order to distill the essence of adaptive management to develop guidance for practitioners to help them more efficiently define and achieve their conservation goals. To complete the study, we reviewed publications and materials from many related fields, and we visited various conservation projects that have attempted to practice adaptive management.*

*The results of our review and field visits are presented as a framework for adaptive management that we believe provides the necessary foundation for practitioners to be able to realize the full potential of this valuable tool. As you design, manage, and monitor your own conservation projects in the future, we hope you find this guide to be a useful resource.*



**Richard Margoluis**

*Director, BSP Analysis and Adaptive Management Program*

# A FINAL WORD OF THANKS...

This publication marks the completion of production of the Analysis and Adaptive Management (AAM) Program's *Global Exploration Series*. This series includes the following publications, in order of production:

*In Good Company: Effective Alliances for Conservation*

*Shifting the Power: Decentralization and Biodiversity Conservation*

*An Ounce of Prevention: Making the Link between Health and Conservation*

*Maximum Yield?: Sustainable Agriculture as a Tool for Conservation*

*Adaptive Management: A Tool for Conservation Practitioners*

Each one of these publications represents countless hours of planning, research, communications, management, writing, editing, and production. I would like to thank the many people who labored behind the scenes to make sure our work saw the light of day. The idea of establishing the AAM Program and pursuing its analytical agenda came primarily from Kathy Saterson, BSP Executive Director from 1991 through 1998. Kathy's vision and support are ultimately responsible for catalyzing this series. From the beginning of 1999 through 2001, Judy Oglethorpe was the Executive Director of BSP. Her leadership and guidance were essential to ensuring that the *Global Exploration Series* was produced to the highest possible standards. Throughout the life of the AAM Program, Janice Davis, Jonnell Allen, and Hilary Barbour worked hard to help coordinate all project activities including contract and budget management and communications with collaborating individuals and institutions - and this they always did with good grace and smiles on their faces. Without their assistance, this series would not have been possible. Finally, in 1999, Sheila Donoghue joined BSP as Director of Communications. She revolutionized the way BSP conceived, designed, planned, and produced its publications. This series is evidence of her fine work. To Sheila, a very special thanks.

All AAM publications are available on the BSP Web site [www.BSPonline.org](http://www.BSPonline.org) until 2006. I hope you find them useful in your work as you strive to improve the practice of conservation.



**Richard Margoluis**

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