Post-normal conservation science fills the space between research, policy and implementation



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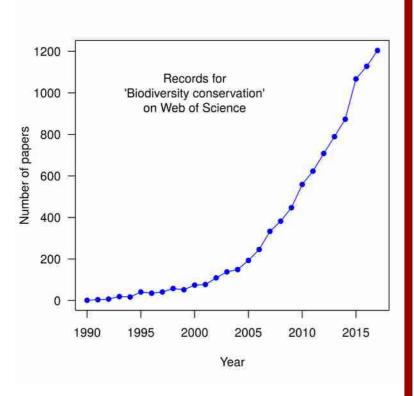
Emily Botts Independent consultant

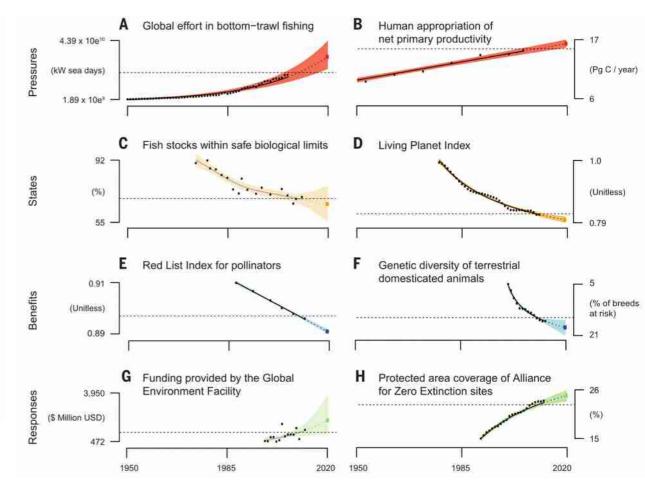
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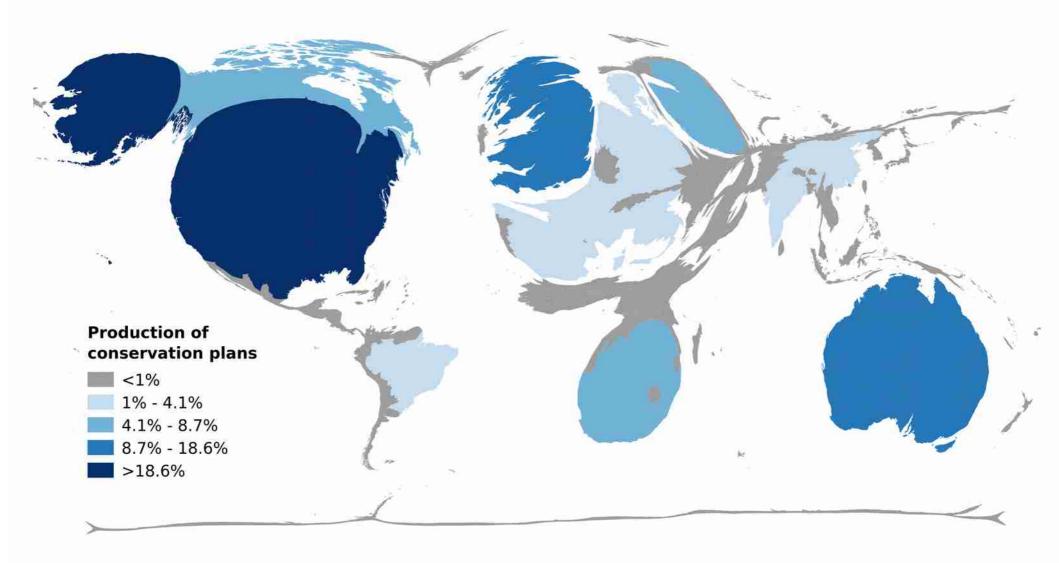
Research

State of biodiversity





Tittensor et al. (2014) A mid-term analysis of progress toward international biodiversity targets. *Science*, 346, 241-244.



Kukkala & Moilanen (2013) Core concepts of spatial prioritisation in systematic conservation planning. *Biological Reviews*, 88, 443-464.

South Africa

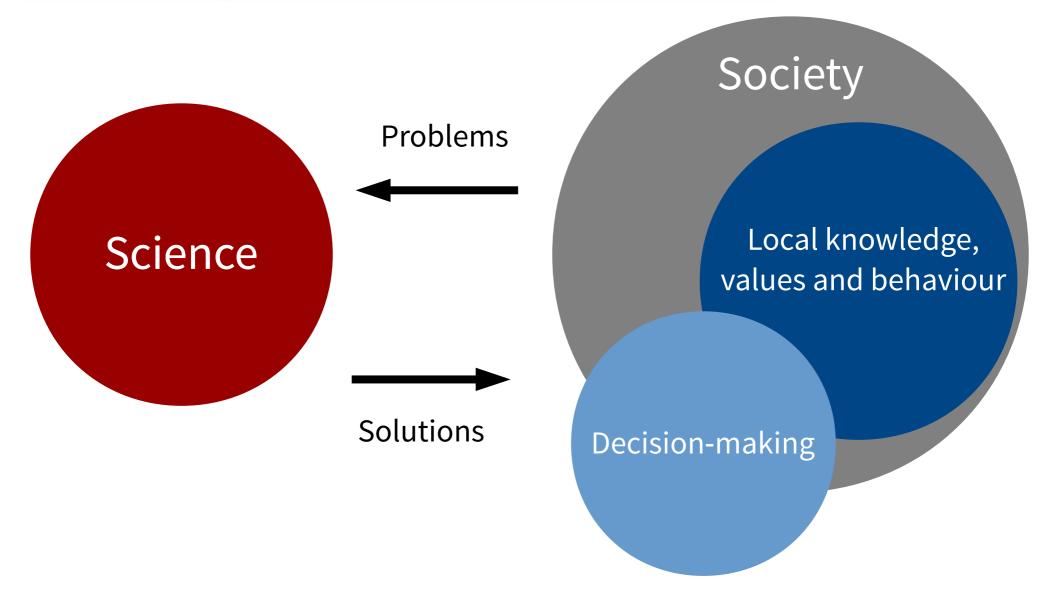
- Complex ecology
- Cultural diversity
- Turbulent history
- Economic inequality



How is South Africa able to punch above its weight?

Knowing But Not Doing: Selecting Priority Conservation Areas and the Research–Implementation Gap

ANDREW T. KNIGHT, *†† RICHARD M. COWLING, * MATHIEU ROUGET, † ANDREW BALMFORD, ‡ AMANDA T. LOMBARD, *§ AND BRUCE M. CAMPBELL**



Conservation Letters

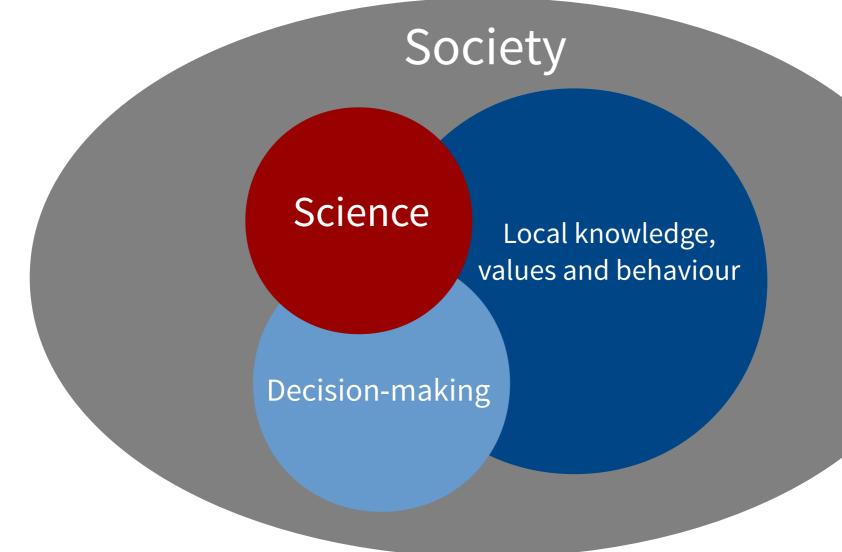
A journal of the Society for Conservation Biology

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POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Navigating the Space between Research and Implementation in Conservation

Anne H. Toomey^{1,2}, Andrew T. Knight^{3,4,5,6}, & Jos Barlow^{7,8}



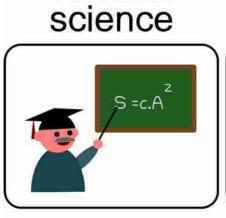
Post-normal science

- Facts are uncertain (unknowable)
- Values are in dispute
- Stakes are high
- Decisions are urgent

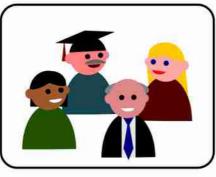
Funtowicz Ravetz (1993a) The emergence of post-normal science. In: R. von Schomberg (ed.) *Science, politics and morality* (pp. 85-123). Springer, Netherlands.

Funtowicz & Ravetz (1993b) Science for the post-normal age. *Futures*, **25**, 739-755.





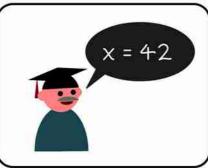
Normal

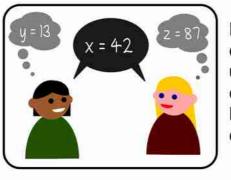


Post-normal

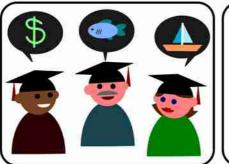
science

Normal science depends on experts, whereas post-normal science relies on an extended community of peers with diverse backgrounds, experience and expertise.



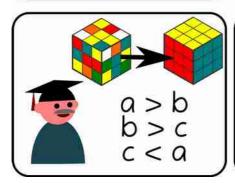


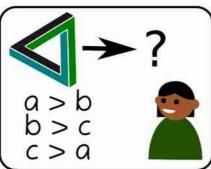
Normal science depends solely on explicit facts. Post-normal science uses extended facts, which are explicit facts supplemented by tacit knowledge based on individual experience.





Normal science stays within settled scientific paradigms (may be inter- or multidisciplinary). Post-normal science blurs the boundaries between paradigms and is transdisciplinary.





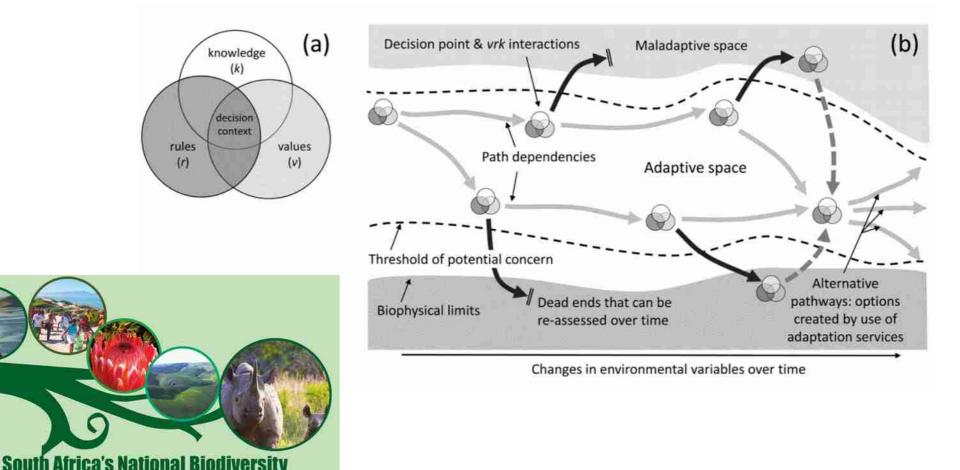
Normal science is essentially a puzzle-soving excercise with clear links between variables. Post-normal science addresses complex and multicausal problems that may be intractable and without simple solutions.

1 – Establish institutional authority

SANBI Biodiversity for Life

South African National Biodiversity Institute

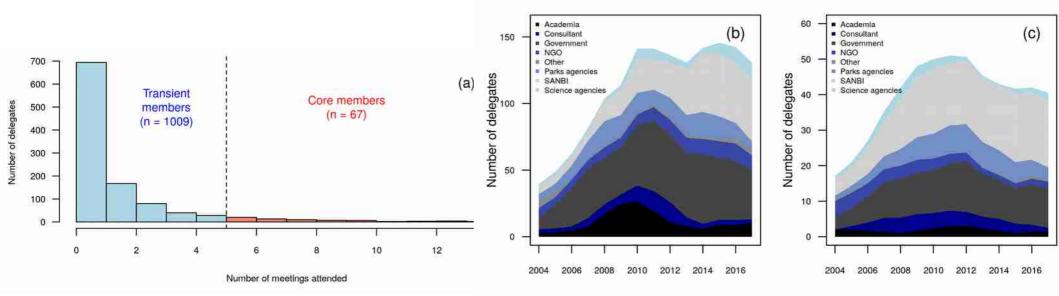
2 – Define goals and boundaries of broad adaptive space



Colloff et al. (2017) Transforming conservation science and practice for a postnormal world. Conservation Biology, 31, 1008-1017.

Strategy and Action Plan





Action	Output	Outcome	Impact
Provide a platform for shared learning	e.g. Biodiversity planning forum	Inclusive and accessible multi-stakeholder engagement	Knowledge, values and rules integrated into biodiversity planning
Promote a common language	e.g. <i>Lexicon of Biodiversity</i> planning	Reduced ambiguity and encourage exchange of information	Consistent and unambiguous flow of information
Support access to publications and data	e.g. Biodiversity advisor, BGIS	Transparent and equitable access to information	Planning based on most recently available scientific information
Create pathways for synthesis	e.g. Technical guidelines for CBA maps	Products aggregated to become more than the sum of their parts	Leverage incremental actions into step-changes in progress





SANBI CON

Conclusion

 Post-normal science fills the researchimplementation space



- 1) Establish institutional authority
- 2) Define goals and boundaries of broad adaptive space
- 3) Nurture the extended peer community

Questions

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