

Our session at the 3rd World Biodiversity Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, June 2024:

Tapping into alternative knowledge systems to transform biodiversity and conservation management

This novel and alternative session aims to provide an informative and convivial forum for learning and discussion around the role of alternative knowledge systems in biodiversity-related fields. In recent decades there has been slow but steady progress in incorporating intuitive interspecies communication into efforts to solve biodiversity and conservation problems. There is new and exciting scholarly discourse around research and practice in this regard. In turn, practitioners have demonstrated notable successes of drawing upon intuitive interspecies communication to enhance our understanding of the natural world, thereby generating new knowledge that has improved conservation and resource management. We invite contributions that draw on scholarly sources, thought leadership, established initiatives and practical examples of the role of intuitive interspecies communication in bridging nature-human tensions and in providing alternative insights and knowledge for transforming biodiversity and conservation management.

Our talk: **Exploring collaboration across natural science and intuitive interspecies communication to transform biodiversity and conservation management in the ocean** (Shortened title: Transforming ocean decision-making through intuitive interspecies communication)

Lynne Shannon, Wynter Worsthorne, Christine Noble Seller, Eleni Gkikakis, Sarah Abbott, Hannah Gosnell, Kelly Ortega Cisneros, Gillian Madden, Sebastián Villasante

This contribution aims to provide some initial thoughts around potential linkages between an alternative knowledge system (here intuitive interspecies communication) and natural science, in an effort to achieve transformation in ocean decision-making. Here we report on the planning of a pilot phase being explored in Southern Africa. A set of prospective marine case studies has been identified, with a view to exploring a collaborative initiative in support of ocean biodiversity and conservation. A draft plan for an Ocean “Heart Energy Achieving Real Transformation” initiative will be presented as a basis for establishment of an Ocean Transformation Programme that would align well with current global biodiversity efforts. Taking the process further regionally and globally will require the identification of interested potential researchers and intuitive interspecies communication practitioners. A community of practice is proposed and some initial ideas and examples provided to initiate this exciting and new approach.