

Appendix 1. Thematic interview frameworks of conservation professionals

PROFESSIONALS OF ELY CENTERS

Conservation responsibility

1. What does the conservation responsibility of the false heath fritillary mean to you, where does such a responsibility come from and what is the concrete aim that conservation activities are targeting at?
2. What does legislation say about the conservation of the false heath fritillary?
3. Are there additional institutional guidelines to civil servants related to the conservation responsibility?

Charting of the need for conservation activities in the ELY centers

1. How do you evaluate the annual need for conservation activities and how they are realized?
2. How do you plan the implementation of the above mentioned conservation activities?
3. How do you assess the effectiveness of alternative maintenance options?
4. To which extent do you assess the development of the habitat patch network as an entity?
5. Does the number of maintained habitats vary according to the year? On what basis?
6. How much resources do you have for the assessment of the conservation need of this species? (Alternatively, how a big share of the resources you have are used by other species and tasks and how much is left for this species?)

The assessment of conservation need elsewhere

1. Do you get guidance or instructions for the false heath fritillary conservation from elsewhere?
2. Do you co-operate with other ELY centers regarding the conservation planning?

Co-operation

1. What types of backgrounds do the landowners of false heath fritillary habitats have?
2. How big a part (by estimation) of the meadow landowners are positive about meadow conservation?
3. What kind of means do you have for arranging maintenance at particular habitat sites?
4. How much resources do you have available for landowner co-operation?
5. How efficient it is to motivate landowners with money? How efficient is information sharing?
6. Are the current funding mechanisms suitable for the meadow landowners?

Changing situations

7. What generates the options for site maintenance? How much do you have resources to estimate the benefits of alternative means? How do you make a choice among available options?
8. Please give examples on situations where original plans have needed to be adjusted to changing situations (e.g. changes in landownership, changes in governmental guidance, changes in co-operation networks)

Application of funding in the ELY center

1. What sources of funding does the ELY center have for false heath fritillary conservation?

Describe for each funding source:

2. Where does the funding come from and where is the application sent?
3. Do you know who processes the application?
4. How is the funding application justified? Are the same justifications listed annually?
5. At what time of year is the application being made and when do the decisions arrive? Is the timing good for making plans with landowners? Is there enough of time left for planning?
6. How much do you know of the decision-making grounds that have affected the amount of funding you get? If any, what are the influential factors affecting money allocation?
7. Do the funding decisions seem well justified?
8. For what other species does your ELY center apply for similar funding?

Application of funding by the landowners

1. What sources of funding do the landowners have for false heath fritillary conservation?

Describe for each funding source:

2. Where does the funding come from and where is the application sent?
3. Do you know who processes the application?
4. How is the funding application justified? Are the same justifications listed annually?
5. At what time of year is the application being made and when do the decisions arrive? Is the timing good for making plans with landowners? Is there enough of time left for planning?
6. How much do you know of the decision-making grounds that have affected the amount of funding you get? If any, what are the influential factors affecting money allocation?
7. Do the funding decisions seem well justified?
8. For what other species does your ELY center apply for similar funding?

The outcome

1. How well does the realized set of managed sites match with which sites should have been protected and maintained within your ELY center?
2. How well does the conservation status of the false heath fritillary match with the targeted "favorable conservation status"?
3. If not, how much resources would be needed to reach the favorable conservation status?
4. What tools or means should be allowed to the ELY centers so that the favorable conservation status could be met with a socially meaningful way?

PROFESSIONALS OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS: MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Funding instruments available for species conservation

1. What kind of funding instruments are available for the financing of the conservation of species of strict protection and species in need of urgent conservation?
2. How much do the funds vary annually that can be allocated from such clauses, and why?
3. By what process are the sums allocated from each clause decided on?

The application process

1. Who can apply for funding from the above mentioned clauses and with what kind of restrictions or requirements?
2. How many funding applications do you get annually? What kind of institutions send applications?
3. Are the funding applications usually adequately precise?

The assessment of applications

1. On your opinion, what are the most important uses of the above mentioned budget clauses?
2. Who decides how the money is being distributed among applicants?
3. On what basis are the applications prioritized and the allocated sums of money decided? What aspects are assessed in the applications? Is the decision-making founded on the information included in the applications, or on the results of the prioritization meetings or also on other sources?
4. Is the decision-making influenced by regional priorities or by previous years' funding decisions? (E.g. is it possible to follow long-term priorities and, in the case of individual species, is there an estimation how much money is allocated between regions?)
5. Is the decision-making affected by the applicant's possibility to retrieve funding from other sources?

Information sharing

1. Who informs the applicants on the funding decision?
2. How are the funding decisions grounded to the applicants? Does the funding decision contain recommendations on the use of allocated funds?

The outcome

1. Are you satisfied with how the purpose of the above mentioned budget clauses are being met, the amount of available funding and the process of funding allocation?

Species of strict conservation

1. What does the conservation responsibility of the species of strict conservation concern mean to you, what is the concrete goal of the conservation activities and on who's responsibility is it to plan (a) the meeting of the favorable conservation status, (b) maintenance activities needed?
2. What would you like to improve in the process of funding allocation related to the species of strict conservation concern?
3. How should the maintenance of habitats that suffer from habitat overgrowth be organized?
4. What tools or resources should be enables for the ELY centers, so that the favorable conservation status of the false heath fritillary could be met in a socially meaningful way?

PROFESSIONALS OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS: FINNISH ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE (SYKE)

Prioritization meetings

1. What is the origin and target of the regional prioritization meetings?
2. Who is responsible of the prioritization meetings and who take part in the meetings?
3. Which species are discussed in the prioritization meetings (VU, EN, CR)? How is it decided which species are classified as *species in need of urgent conservation* (assuming this is a different classification than *species of strict protection*)?
4. How often have meetings been organized for each taxon, or how often are they planned to be organized?

Practicalities of prioritization

1. Who decides how species are prioritized?
2. On what basis are species prioritized? How are decisions made among multiple experts? Is the decision-making founded on the information included in the annual endangered species funding applications, information outcomes of the prioritization meetings, data of national species databases or also on additional sources?
3. Is the decision-making influenced by regional priorities or by previous years' funding decisions? (E.g. is it possible to follow long-term priorities and, in the case of individual species, is there an estimation how much money is allocated between regions?)

Targets of the prioritization meetings

1. What kind of actions are supposed to be taken on the basis of prioritization meetings in the case of high-priority species that need habitat maintenance? (Funding allocations, internal resource use in the ELY centers)
2. To what extent do the outcomes of the prioritization meetings affect the allocation of conservation funding in the national level?

3. Is the target of prioritization meetings to improve the conservation status of the prioritized species so much that eventually they would no longer need urgent conservation measures?

The outcome

1. Are you satisfied with the realization of the conservation measures agreed in the prioritization meetings, the amount of available conservation funding and the process of funding allocation?
2. Should the allocation of habitat maintenance funding for endangered species be based on something else than the outcomes of the prioritization meetings? If yes, what?

Species of strict conservation

1. What does the conservation responsibility of the species of strict conservation concern mean to you, what is the concrete goal of the conservation activities and on who's responsibility is it to plan (a) the meeting of the favorable conservation status, (b) maintenance activities needed, (c) overall conservation planning?
2. Which funding instrument should be used to cover the habitat maintenance costs of endangered species that are threatened by habitat overgrowth? For (a) private agricultural land, (b) private conservation areas, (c) publicly owned land?
3. What tools or resources should be enables for the ELY centers, so that the favorable conservation status of the false heath fritillary could be met in a socially meaningful way?
4. For how many other species is habitat overgrowth the primary threat?