

January 20, 2026 Translation Working Group Call

Attendees: Alexis O'Callahan, Janet Nackoney, Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Abby Keller, Jody Peters, Charlotte Malmborg, Güray Hatipoğlu, Yishen Li

Regrets: Collin VanBuren, Alison Gerken (maybe)

Agenda

1. EFI2026 Conference - <https://bit.ly/efi2026>
 - a. Abby submitted the work group proposal!
 - b. **Translation and Actionable Science Working Group**
 - c. **Description:** "Decision support" is frequently described as the primary end use of an ecological forecast, yet this term is often used abstractly in conservation and ecology. This working group will work collaboratively on a synthesis manuscript that assesses how conceptualizations of "decision support" have changed over time and across fields within and outside of ecology and conservation, as well as how these trends relate to key technological advancements and changes in conservation policy. We will develop typologies or generalizable categorizations that can help both ecological forecasters and decision-makers better envision the entire landscape of decision support.
 - d. **Brief description of the expected outcomes:** The working group will provide feedback on literature review results and develop an outline and framing for the manuscript. The working group will also invite additional co-authors interested in contributing.
 - e. **Estimate of how many potential participants:** 15

2. [Social Science and Ecoforecasting Planning Award](#) update
 - a. Awards were given to 3 applicants!
 - b. Ranjit Bawa, University of New Hampshire: Forecasting PFAS Exceedance Under Changing Forest Landscapes
 - c. Steven Johnson, Cornell University: Indigenous-Led Ecological Forecasting: Native Hawaiian Ecological Pairings for Community Climate Adaptation
 - d. Georgia Roberts, Northern Arizona University: Exploring Snowmaking's Economic and Hydrologic Impacts to Support Sustainable Water Management in the Southwestern US

3. Tutorial Check in
 - a. Alexis - How script
 - i. How-Alexis and script;
 - ii. Updates are going well.
 - iii. Made a zotero for the papers presented in the video - can add to the EFI Zotero or add citations
 1. Jody will add to the EFI Zotero bibliography with a tag and will add all the other citations from the other tutorials and then will add a pointer to the bibliography in both the youtube recordings and in on the [tutorials webpage](#)
 2. Citations from Alexis
 3. Added an additional slide on ground rules - people can review
 - iv. Does anyone have visual for model prototypes (slide 28)

- 1. Yishen will add some ideas
 - v. Next steps - working on adding the clips to the
 - vi. If anyone wants to clip recordings, Alexis can use help with this.
 - 1. Kira and Güray
 - b. Charlotte - has a draft script ready for the group to review.
 - i. Adding a nod to the other tutorials
 - ii. Helpful for people to know that sometimes there are barriers that will lead to co-production not taking place.
 - iii. Think about the order of categories.
 - 1. List power dynamics first
 - 2. Kira suggests:
 - a. Power differentials
 - b. Multiple priorities/ goals
 - c. Budget and person-power constraints
 - d. Time
 - iv. Tip from Janet - contact political economy analysis. Used commonly at USAID to consider who is involved. Similar to power mapping or stakeholder mapping assessment. Who has a seat at the table and what are we doing to get people at the table, who has a stake in the project you are conducting
 - v. Finding the budget and types of grants for people to do co-production
 - vi. Slides?
 - vii. Narrator?
 - 1. Charlotte still doesn't want to be the narrator. But willing to make the script and slides and work with someone who wants to be a narrator
 - 2. Goal is to have that finished
4. Conceptualization of decision support manuscript
- a. Community Manuscript Guidelines - Manuscript submission
 - b. Goal of paper - if you are a forecaster interested in having your model support decisions, what typology might it follow. Often "decision support" is listed as the primary end use of a forecast, but decision science is frequently not used in the development of the forecast. What is the cost of this disconnect?
 - c. Descriptive - evaluate the papers that are doing forecasts
 - d. Prescriptive - is there a correct definition of decision support
 - e. Decision support scoping papers:
 - f. Discussion - mission statement, audience, analysis methods
 - i. See notes here about mission, audience, analysis:
 - ii. Schwartz et al paper - are we thinking to link to the 5 typologies already identified by Schwartz? Could be interesting to do a revisit to see how things line up and review to see if things have changed since the article has been published.
 - iii. How wedded to the Schwarz typologies?
 - 1. Abby had envisioned looking at how things have changed and use the existing categorizations to group together ideas rather than these are the 5 frameworks that everything needs to be placed in. Rather how to develop categories from literature
 - 2. Develop the general categorizations and then see how they relate to the typologies that are available.

3. Güray - reminded me my attempt to track changes in the definition of "Assimilative Capacity" for rivers and lakes. I reviewed the literature down to 1930s and crafted categories one by one **after** reading articles.
- iv. Biggest challenge - focus down our goals
- v. Could we do a problem statement - what is the thing we want this paper to solve. What are we answering the paper.
 1. From the summary - 1st sentence - the way the term "decision support" is used
 2. 2nd sentence - what can the ecoforecasting sector learn from the evolution within our field or from other fields. This is new knowledge assimilation into our understanding
 3. Typologies - may be similar to the 1st sentence - people think of this in many different ways and it is important to know the pitfalls
 4. Also people say something can be used for decision support, but they do not make a concerted effort to hand it off to
 5. Perhaps show a spectrum - I made a model that could be used for decision support on one end to I co-produced a decision support tool
 - a. What do the authors mean in their papers?
 - Mention that it could be used vs we developed a platform that is in use
 - b. How is decision support described - focus on this to avoid the issue without knowing about actual tools because they are not in the scientific literature
 - c. As we look at abstracts - come up with a rubric of readiness level categories to assess the papers
 - d. From Janet: I think I shared our readiness levels that we use at NASA to gauge applied relevance at our last mtg but just FYI:
https://above.nasa.gov/meeting_jan2017/docs/thur/1145_Larson_ASTM3%20EKL%20copy.pdf
6. Is it about decision support or use of decision support in other subfields
 - a. Imprecision of "decision support" is a problem
 problem statements/qs?: 1) when does a tool become a decision-support tool (more theoretical)? vs. 2) what is the conceptual inflection point for when a tool becomes a decision-support tool based on its uptake? (how authors describe their tool and how they made it, vs. how/if their tool has been taken up by decision-makers?)