

Corridor Management Group Assignment: Do Scale and Context Matter?

You will work in groups of three to develop a biological corridor project and associated management plan in a new location. The Assignment will include both a written report and an associated presentation. Together, the written and oral report will account for 30% of your grade.

Choosing the Site for the Proposed Corridor

Your site location for the proposed corridor must meet these criteria:

- either all private land or a combination of public and private land;
- currently unprotected landscape, or a combination of unprotected and protected land (expanding coverage over what is currently managed as protected);
- a real area which has significant conservation challenges affecting animals, people and ecosystems (in other words, no imagined or invented territory), and;
- the area for the proposed corridor project not be in Costa Rica or other Central American countries (the US and Rwanda are allowed locations).

Your Assignment

Your assignment is to prepare a written report and an oral presentation that outline a comprehensive management plan for the proposed corridor. The report and presentation should contain the sections and elements listed below.

Section 1: Background

Mission Statement

What is the mission of your particular corridor? It should be unique to fit your corridor specifically (place-based). In one or two sentences, what are you trying to accomplish here?

Management Goals and Aims

Now further expand upon the mission statement by listing specific goals for the corridor. Remember, goals are best when they are measurable (to determine if your plan is working or not). Remember that we are interested in animals, people and ecosystems; goals should affect and be affected by all three.

Map

Indicate the boundaries of and natural features found within the corridor. Include current land-use practices, existing human infrastructure, and any proposed corridor facilities.

Concept Map

You now have experience with concept maps. Include a concept map for your specific proposed corridor. Be sure to include all of the social as well as environmental/biophysical elements. Unlike with

the more general concept maps we have done in class, make this one as specific as possible. For example, don't list "people"; instead list the specific stakeholders as much as possible. You may want to consider using the free concept-mapping software available at <http://cmap.ihmc.us/>.

Key Stakeholders

List the key stakeholders, their roles, and their motivations. Some of these may be a bit general (e.g., corn farmers) but others may be quite specific (e.g., Governor Asa Hutchinson).

Key Ecosystems

Identify and describe the major ecosystem(s) that will be protected and/or connected in the corridor you propose. Identify and describe any keystone species that warrant special consideration because they are integral to the structure and maintenance of the ecosystem you aim to protect with your corridor.

Key [Non-Human] Animals

In addition to the keystone species you identify, list other important players, especially those that are endemic, threatened, endangered, and/or play an important role in the ecosystem. In other words, consider choosing a few species who, because of either their conservation status and/or their role in the ecosystem, are deserving of extra attention and resources in your management plan.

Key Conflicts

Identify and describe any conflicts that might pose challenges to your conservation efforts. These might include human-animal conflicts (over livestock predation, for instance) or human-human conflicts (over land ownership or land use, for instance).

Section 2: Activities of the Proposed Corridor

Programming

What services and activities will you provide in and around the corridor?

Human Activities

Identify and describe the human behavior you would like to limit, prohibit, or encourage in the corridor. How will you go about trying to modify this behavior? In other words, are there rules governing human behavior? How will you enforce these? Be specific about the ways you anticipate needing to change human behavior, and the strategies you will employ to do so.

Animal Behavior

Identify and describe the animal behavior that you would like to encourage or discourage. And, more generally, what do you need to know about the behavior of the key animal players in your corridor? Behaviors that matter could include but are not limited to life history patterns, foraging behavior, mating behavior, social structure, parenting behavior, migration and movement patterns, sensory ecology, habitat preferences, intelligence and cognition, and behavioral responses to environmental change, including introduced species. Explain how the behavioral information you identify will be used to maximize corridor effectiveness. In other words, how will knowledge of animal behavior inform how you implement and manage your corridor? Be specific about the ways you anticipate needing to manage animal behavior, and the strategies you will employ to do so.

Monitoring and Assessment

How will you know if you are meeting your goals? Describe your monitoring plan, including how you will collect the necessary social, environmental, animal behavior, and population data. In other words, what is your scientific adaptive management plan?

Section 3: Organization of the Proposed Corridor

Organizational Structure

How do people come together to form an administrative structure to manage the corridor? What does that structure look like? Who is in charge or has a voice? What are the rules governing the organization itself?

Staffing

Will the corridor have actual employees? How many people do you need? What are their responsibilities? Include very brief job descriptions.

Facilities and Equipment

What equipment and facilities will the proposed corridor need to achieve its goals? These will be related to official programming of the project.

Budget

Likewise, your comprehensive budget will be related to the activities and goals of the project. Consider both capital and operating costs. Capital includes purchasing land and building infrastructure. Operating budget includes the funds you need each year to run the corridor (personnel, equipment and supplies, activities, maintenance, etc.). How might you generate revenue (e.g., fees) or from where will this funding come?

Section 4: Political Feasibility

Corridor Approval

How will you build support in and out of the community to create your corridor? Where do you anticipate resistance? What key stakeholders need to approve the corridor, and how will you convince them?

Marketing and Outreach Plan

Related, how will you reach out to and build buy-in among local citizens and other stakeholders? What is your plan for involving locals and the community? How will you "sell" the corridor?

Section 5: Reference List

Provide a comprehensive, alphabetized reference list that identifies the sources you cite in the body of the proposal.

The Written Report

The report should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 pt font, with one-inch margins. You should use the citation style relevant to your group's academic background and interests. We encourage you to use APA style (the American Psychological Association) or APSA (the American Political Science Association). You are expected to submit a paper that is written, organized, and punctuated in a manner that is appropriate for a college-level student. Furthermore, you are expected to provide in-text citations as well as a comprehensive reference list for all of the sources you use to write your report; it should be clear where your words and thoughts end and some else's begins. We encourage you to use empirical articles as your sources. However, non-peer reviewed articles, websites, and other sources are also acceptable. Unless you are quoting directly from a source, you should use your own words to paraphrase and summarize your sources; the paper should be written in your own voice—in your group's voice.

The Presentation

Each group will have 20 minutes to present, followed by up to 10 minutes for questions from your instructors and the other groups. The presentation should simply summarize the written report. Use PowerPoint or other professional presentation software (you can also draw on the whiteboard if helpful). Be creative. Think of the audience as a group of key stakeholders that you need to convince. When you are not presenting, you will be asked to help evaluate the presentations of the other groups; we will provide you an evaluation form for doing so.