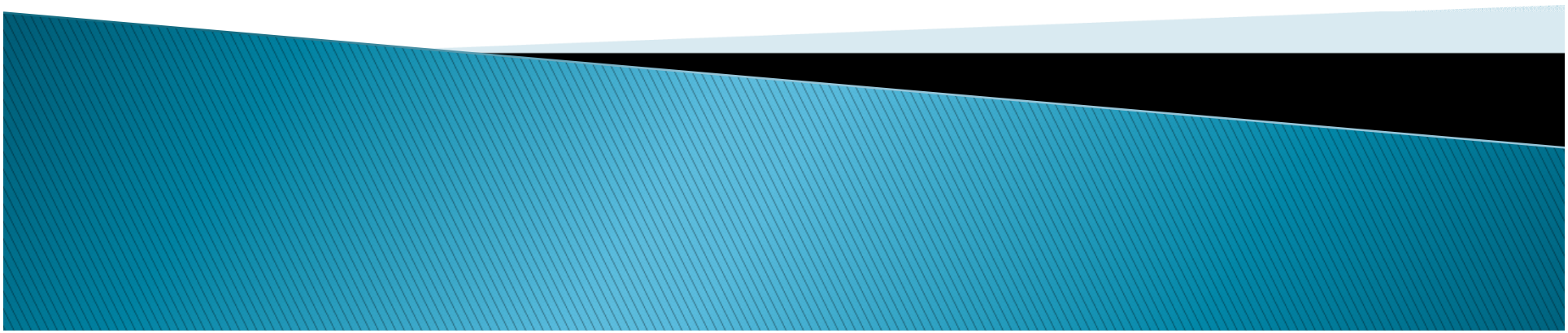
Defining Objectives and Scope



"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else." – *Yogi Berra*

Conservation/VA Goals = *Why*

(e.g., Recovery of an endangered species; maintain biological diversity)

Conservation/VA Objectives = *What*

e.g., Restore populations to a sustainable number, protect X acres of critical

Conservation/VA Targets = *What*

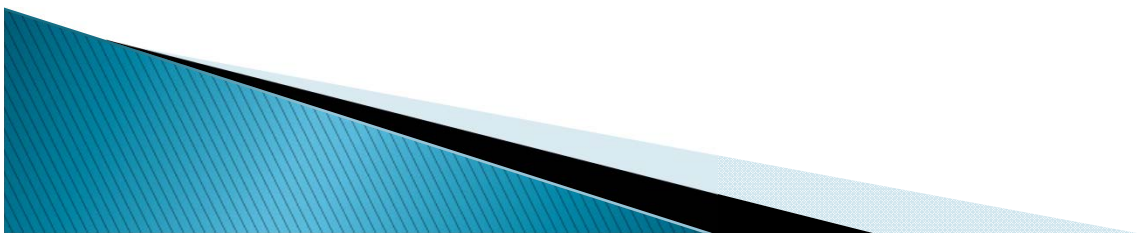
(e.g., A particular species population or habitat type in a give area)

Conservation/VA Strategies = *How*

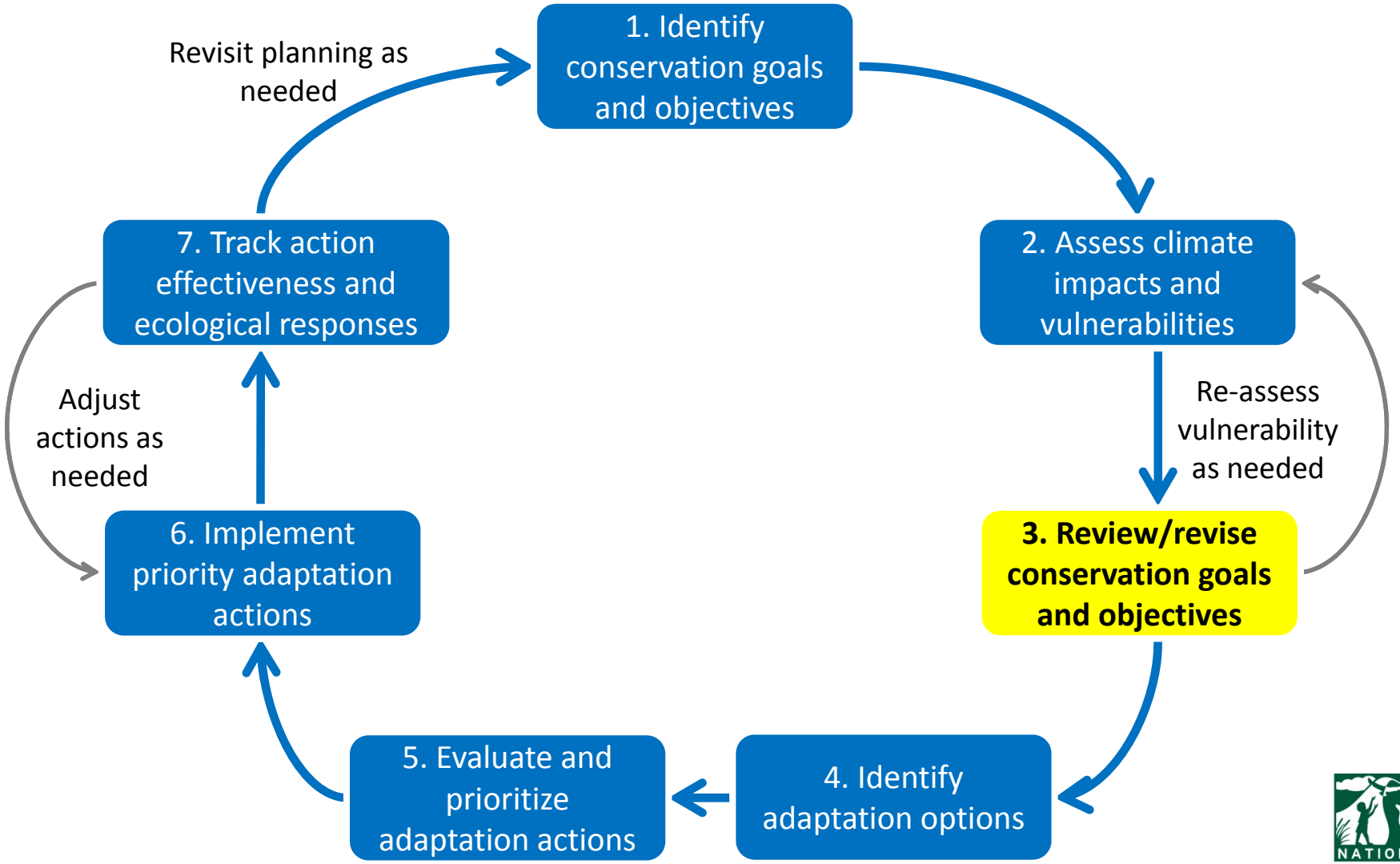
(e.g., Promote connectivity; reduce existing Stressors/ for VA, conduct modeling)

- VA objectives are about determining focus and scope of assessment

- VA helps in evaluation and selection of appropriate conservation goals and management objectives
  - Some existing goals may no longer make sense or be feasible



Using VA to Review/Revise Conservation Goals and Objectives



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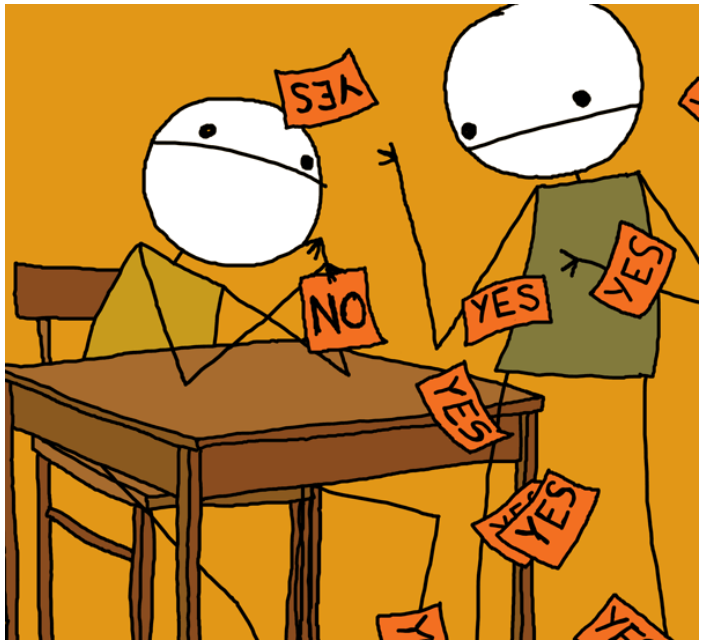
Good objectives help make sure you are solving the right problem

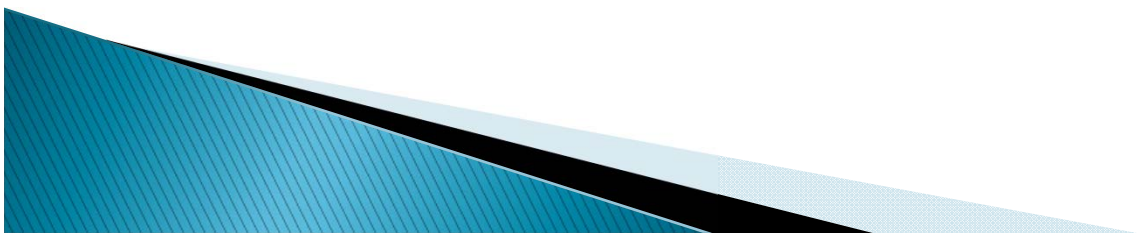
They are essential in order to

- **Select an appropriate VA approach**
- **Identify necessary information**
- **Make decisions during the VA process**
- **Get the VA results used**

- What *problems* are you addressing?
- What *decisions* need to be supported?
- Who is *making* those decisions?

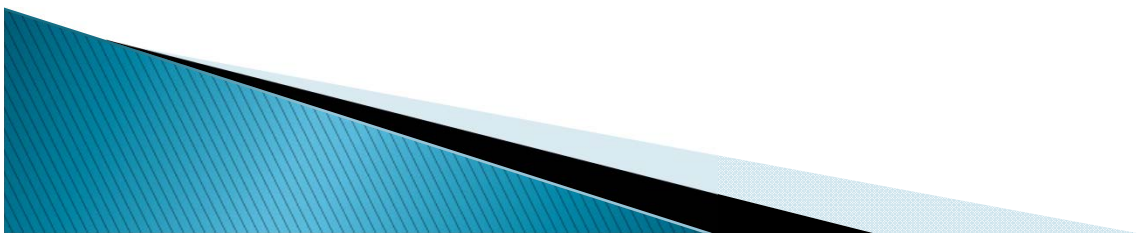


- Avoid ambiguity
  - What you want
  - When you want it
- Make them measurable
- Focus on fundamental objectives, not how you'll achieve them (i.e., strategies/tactics)



The objective of my CCVA is to understand the relative vulnerability of the species in my refuge to climate change.

My objective in performing a vulnerability assessment is to prioritize restoration projects.

My fundamental objective is to maximize the likelihood that the Ozark hellbender will be de-listed. I will do a CCVA to minimize the risk of selecting management measures that are highly vulnerable to climate change.

- Get into your VA groups
- Discuss questions 1a and 1b; write out your answer
- Share your answers with another VA group