

Unit 4: Building a Vulnerability Assessment

Defining Objectives and Scope



“If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.” – *Yogi Berra*

What Do We Mean by “Goals”?

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)

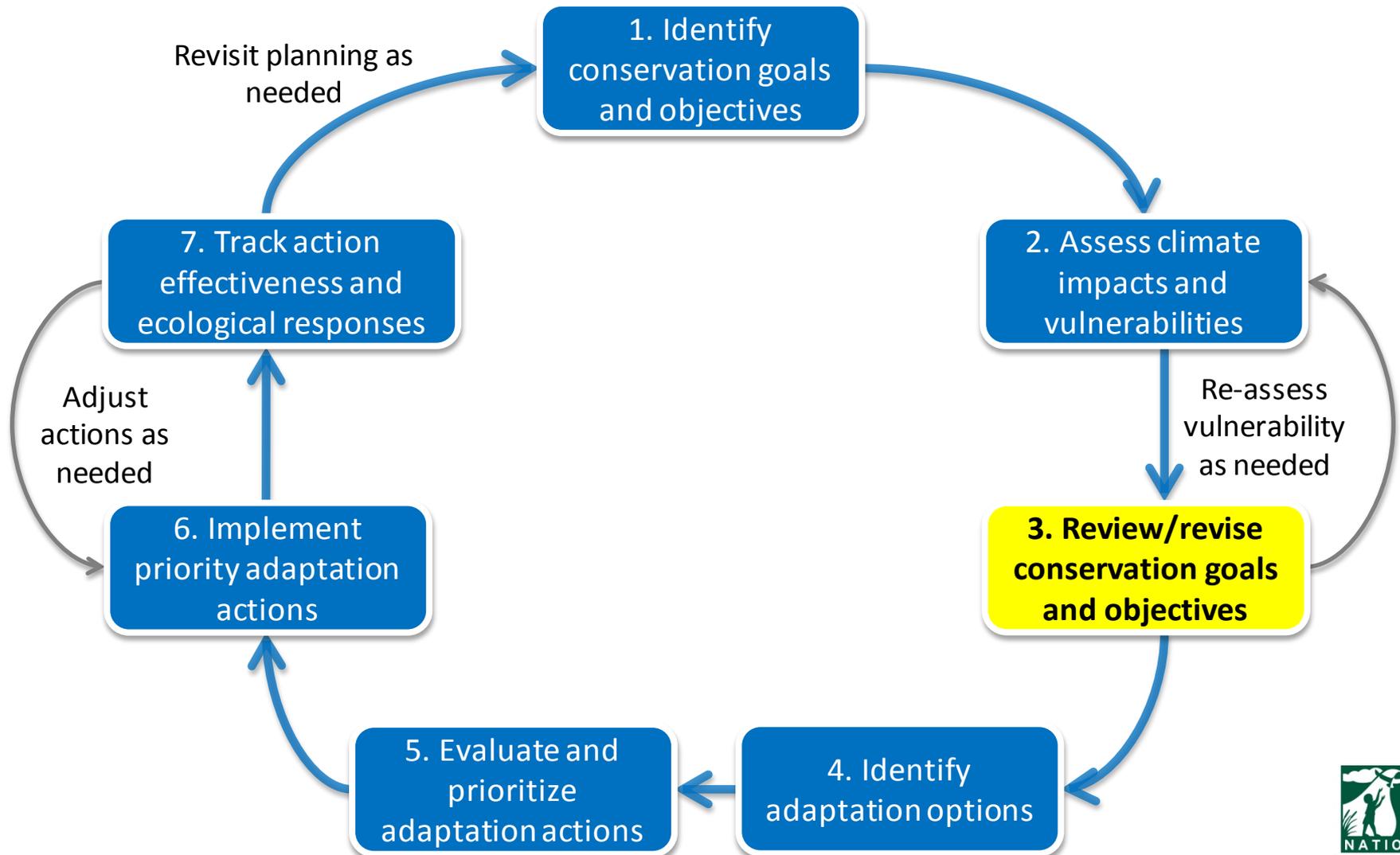
Conservation/VA Strategies = *How*

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

Distinguishing VA Objectives from Conservation Objectives

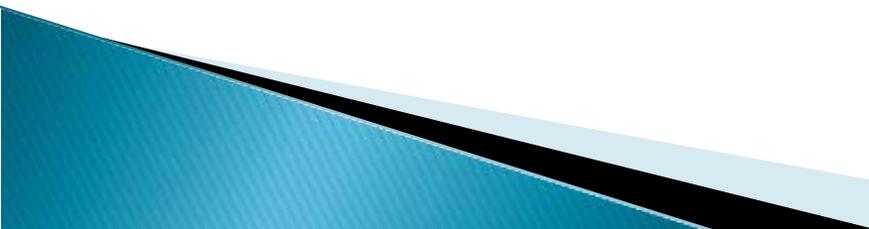
- ▶ VA objectives are about determining focus and scope of assessment
- ▶ VA helps in evaluation and selection of appropriate conservation goals and management objectives
 - Some existing goals may no longer make sense or be feasible

Using VA to Review/Revise Conservation Goals and Objectives



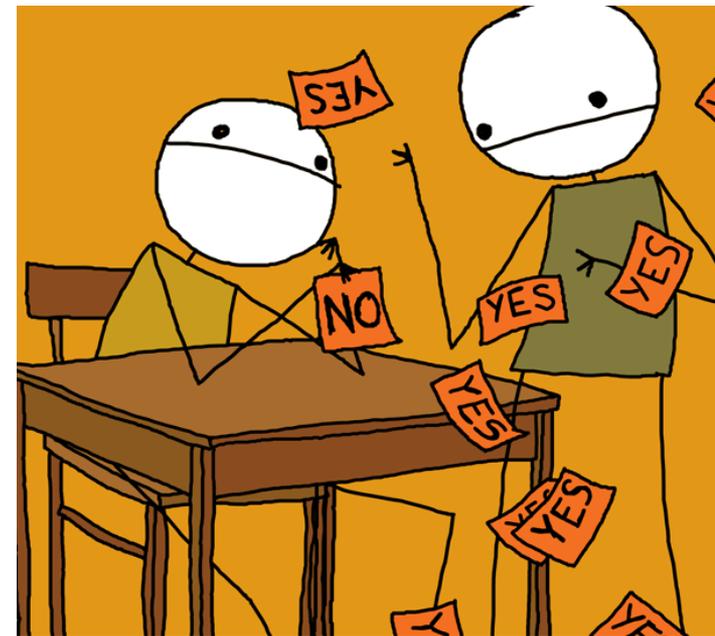
Good objectives help make sure you are solving the right problem

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
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Setting Goals for a Vulnerability Assessment

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



Tips for writing good objectives

- ▶ 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)
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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.

Your assignment:

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