

Examining Trends of Field Based Social and Biological Science

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Introduction

Conservation social science research has been shown to improve conservation efforts, including research on or for conservation, but has continued to be under-practiced and underutilized (Bennett et al. 2016). We aim to see what kind of science is being done in the field and how significant the difference is in current literature. We examine trends in conservation literature conducted with field-based data collection to **assess the proportion of social science completed** and **explore benefits of including social science research in fieldwork**.

Methods

We reviewed articles from **Conservation Biology, Biological Conservation, Conservation Science and Practice, and Conservation Letters** published from **2007-2010** and **2017-2020**, and only articles that contained **in-person field research** were included. We analyzed the type of science conducted (social, biological, or both) and the land ownership where research took place (public, private, or unknown).



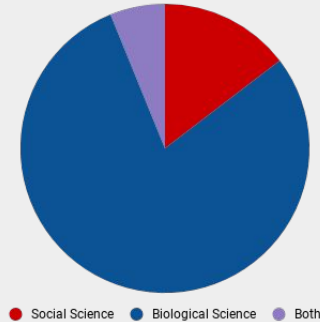
We have currently completed screening on 467 articles, with 337 of those excluded.

Next Steps:

- 1865 articles awaiting a second reviewer
- 2910 articles awaiting initial full text review

Results

Percentage of Field Studies

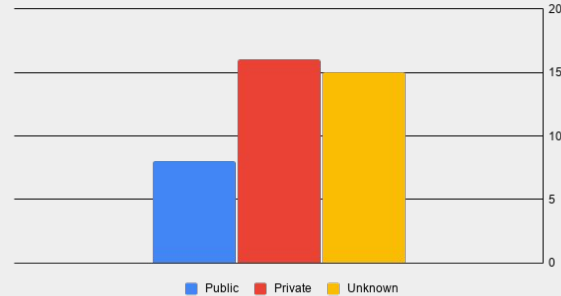


Currently, we have completed **130** full text reviews. From these reviews, **79%** of studies were tagged as strictly biological science, **15%** of studies were tagged as strictly social science, and **6%** of studies had both social and biological science components.

Citations:

Bennett, N. et al. 2016. Conservation social science: Understanding and integrating human dimensions to improve conservation

Land Ownership in Field Based Social Science



From the 27 studies that had a social science component, **8** had an element of the study that took place on publicly owned land, **16** had an element that took place on privately owned land, and **15** had elements that took place on land whose ownership was unknown or unspecified in the literature.

Conclusions

Our preliminary data shows that significantly more biological science work is done in the field than social science. Despite the barriers, there are many benefits to field social science research, alone or in combination with field biological science. For example, engaging local communities could give insight into the target species, perceptions on target species, or even interactions between locals and the target species. Data also shows that the majority of social science field studies takes place on private land.



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