

I'm struck by the sheer number, breadth, and complexity of the problems and potential solutions that have arisen over the course of this workshop.

It will take decades to solve most of them, and meanwhile, the species and ecosystems we are studying and managing are disappearing at an increasing rate.

I feel that we as researchers, practitioners, and funders need to do more to prioritize them so we get the most conservation bang out of our bucks and minimize duplication of effort.

What are the most critical informatics problems that ecosystem managers and policymakers (and the people who provide them data) are facing on a daily basis? i.e. what's the market?...

Where do these problems intersect across agencies and environments? Where are the greatest synergies?

Which ones have the greatest "intellectual merit" AND could be solved by some focused IT R&D and multi-institutional cost sharing?

Which ones could help leverage other public and private funds?

A workshop of ecoinformatics professionals and computer scientists, followed by an online survey/auction/futures market could help define this.

Ecoinformatics professionals raise hands. – only 3 people raised hands

How are publicly funded research priorities set for other disciplines and social issues?..

Solutions will have to be researched and developed in both technical and sociological realms, so let's be sure to fund both.

Examples:

Technical:

Who is doing (and has done) what, in terms of data, standards, tools, and models? What would a "Google" of ecoinformation look like and how could it be built and maintained?

Sociological:

What are primary barriers to open sharing and publishing of data, tools, and models, and which technical and market solutions have the best chance of overcoming them?

Both of these could be hypothesized and tested.

If successful, both of these projects would support all of the other projects