

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROBLEM SOLVING AT LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL SCALES

The scale at which a conservation problem is analyzed guides the problem-solving effort and its outcome. Analysis at the wrong scale can lead to conclusions that are incomplete or insufficient to solve the problem at hand. Each conservation issue in this section takes place at one of three geographic scales: local, regional, or global. These papers show that, regardless of scale, “positivistic” approaches that emphasize narrow, technical solutions often fail when used to address complicated, multi-faceted conservation issues. At all scales, the interdisciplinary tools of problem orientation and examination of the social context and decision-making process are critical if practical solutions are to be found.

The first of the three papers in this section is presented in its entirety, along with an appendix showing the visual aids used in the oral presentation of the paper to the class. The remaining two papers are presented in one-page abstract format.