DELPHI SURVEY QUESTIONS: ROUND 1

Part 1:

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (please select one answer):

   Efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation interventions are essential to building the evidence base on what works and when.
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neither agree nor disagree
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

2. How would you best describe your knowledge of experimental (randomised field experiments) and quasi-experimental (propensity matching) programme evaluation methods prior to this survey? Please select one answer.
   - Very knowledgeable
   - Quite knowledgeable
   - Somewhat knowledgeable
   - Not knowledgeable

3. In your opinion, how important is the use of experimental and quasi-experimental programme evaluation methods for drawing reliable inferences about the causal effects of conservation interventions? Please select one answer.
   - Very important
   - Quite important
   - Neither important nor unimportant
   - Not important
   - Completely inappropriate

4. In terms of desirability, what is the best standard of evidence, or ‘Best Practice,’ that should ideally be expected from conservation research? Please select one answer.
   - Experiments (randomised evaluations)
   - Qualitative with-without or before-after comparisons (observations as recorded in interviews or thematic reports)
   - Quasi-experiments (matched with-and-without intervention comparisons)
   - Quantitative with-without or before-after comparisons (actual measured outcomes)
5. In terms of **feasibility**, what is the best standard of evidence, or ‘Best Practice,’ that can usually be expected from conservation research in practice? Please select one answer.
   - Experiments (randomised evaluations)
   - Qualitative with-without or before-after comparisons (observations as recorded in interviews or thematic reports)
   - Quasi-experiments (matched with-and-without intervention comparisons)
   - Quantitative with-without or before-after comparisons (actual measured outcomes)
   - Other (please describe the method that you would ideally consider to be ‘Best Practice’ in the space below)

6. In cases where experimental and quasi-experimental evaluation methods are not feasible (or perhaps not even desirable), how important or unimportant are the following considerations when designing an impact evaluation study? Please select one answer for each row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Quite Important</th>
<th>Neither Important nor Unimportant</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>Completely Inappropriate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constructing simple control groups (units that do not receive the intervention)</td>
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<td>Guess-estimating the direction of potential bias in interpreting intervention effectiveness</td>
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<td>Formulating detailed theories of change (causal hypothesis with explicit assumptions)</td>
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<td>Considering ecological and socio-economic factors that co-vary with the programme</td>
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<td>Making observations and collecting data on outcome and key indicators before (at the baseline) and after interventions</td>
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Part 2:

7. Do you sense that the following statement, made by two reputable academics in 2006, is still valid? Please select one answer.

When it comes to evaluating the success of its interventions, the field of ecosystem protection and biodiversity conservation lags behind most other policy fields.

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Probably not
- Definitely not

8. In your experience, how often are attempts made to measure the outcomes and impacts of conservation interventions using programme evaluation methods? Please select one answer.

- Always
- Usually
- Occasionally
- Never
- Don't know

9. On average, what proportion of these evaluation studies would you say use experimental or quasi-experimental designs?

- All
- Most
- Some
- None
- Don't know
- Not applicable

10. Are you aware of any major conservation organisations that are already routinely meeting this evaluation standard [use of experimental and quasi-experimental methods] in their impact studies? Please select one answer.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you answered 'Yes' to the question above, please specify which organisation(s), and provide an example(s) where possible using the space below:

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11. How would you best describe the general trend in the use of experimental and quasi-experimental evaluation methods in the conservation policy field over the last few years? Please select one answer.
   - Dramatic increase
   - Moderate increase
   - Slight increase
   - No change
   - Slight decline
   - Moderate decline
   - Dramatic decline

12. Given the following menu of possible barriers to using experimental and quasi-experimental methods to evaluate conservation interventions, please select FIVE barriers you think are the most significant, and thus most likely to explain any gaps in the evidence base, by clicking in the appropriate boxes:
   - Availability of a suitable control group
   - Availability of base-line data
   - Lack of control over assignment to treatment
   - Lack of funding
   - Unclear programme objectives
   - Lack of forward planning (evaluation not built into project design)
   - Lack of expertise/trained field staff
   - Weak theory of change (hypothesis of how the intervention will cause the desired outcome)
   - Spill-over effects (leakage)
   - Cost
   - Lack of collaboration between different disciplines
   - Lack of technology/tools
   - Time constraints (effects/processes take longer than the length of the study)
   - Other (please specify)
13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (please select one answer):

_In general, conservation organisations are working hard to improve their programme evaluation standards in an attempt to strengthen the credibility of the evidence base._

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (please select one answer):

_By 2025, most major conservation organisations will routinely use experimental, or at least, quasi-experimental methods to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation interventions._

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

15. If you would like to elaborate on any of the issues covered in this first round of questions or on the questionnaire itself, please use the space provided below, thank you.

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End of Delphi Survey R1.