

Table S1: Examples of the use of Theory of Change in conservation interventions.

Research Title/ Topic (Reference)	Use of Theory of Change
Convention of Biological Diversity's Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD, 2020)	Develops a generic overarching conservation theory of change to assist in planning, implementation and evaluation of the the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at national-level.
Exploring community beliefs to reduce illegal wildlife trade using a theory of change approach (Skinner et al., 2020)	Develops a revised theory of change (based on Biggs et al. (2017) - see below) for engaging local communities to reduce illegal wildlife trade. Evaluates the success of this theory of change's application in three pilot sites in Kenya
Impacts of resilience interventions–Evidence from a quasi-experimental assessment in Niger (Béné et al., 2020)	Develops a generic theory of change and evaluate a disaster risk resilience intervention in the Niger River Basin.
A Theory of Change to grow numbers of African rhino at a conservation site (Balfour et al., 2019)	Develops an original and site-level theory of change to guide management of rhino numbers at a conservation site.
Defining and using evidence in conservation practice (Salafsky et al., 2019)	Develops a generic theory of change (decision tree) to guide and assess conservation action.
Revisiting conservation through evaluative thinking: towards a more impactful theory of change (Pilbeam, 2019)	Develops a generic theory of change to evaluate conservation interventions.
Articulating a conservation Theory of Change (The Nature Conservancy, 2018)	Provides generic guidelines informed by questions to develop a conservation theory of change.
Developing a theory of change for the evaluation of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification in Indonesia (Romero & Putz, 2018)	Evaluates established theory of change for <i>Forest Stewardship Council Certification</i> . Develops a revised theory of change for natural forest management aiming to achieve sustained timber yield in Indonesia.
Qualitative Impact Evaluation of a Social Marketing Campaign for Conservation (Salazar et al., 2018)	Evaluates <i>Rare Pride conservation campaign's</i> theory of change for local conservation interventions. Develops a revised theory of change.
Developing a theory of change for a community-based response to illegal wildlife trade (Biggs et al., 2017)	Develops an original community-level theory of change to reduce illegal wildlife trade.
Measuring the effectiveness of landscape approaches to conservation & development (Sayer et al., 2017)	Evaluates theory of change as an approach to landscape conservation and development.
Conservation Enterprises: Using a Theory of Change Approach to Synthesize Lessons from USAID Biodiversity Projects (USAID, 2017)	Provides generic guidelines informed by questions to develop a conservation enterprise theory of change.
Evaluating the impacts of conservation interventions on human wellbeing (Woodhouse et al., 2016)	Provide a comprehensive discussion on the design and application of the Theory of Change approach, especially as it pertains to evaluating human well-being in conservation interventions. Provide several example conservation theories of change
A framework for conservation in a human-dominated world (Morrison, 2015)	Provides a framework for theory of change development for local conservation interventions.
Constructing theories of change for ecosystem-based adaptation projects (Conservation International, 2013)	Provides 'step-by-step' guide to develop a theory of change.
Results Chains: a Tool for Conservation Action Design, Management, and Evaluation (Margoluis et al., 2013)	Develops a generic theory of change (Result Chain).
An overview of current knowledge about the impacts of forest management certification: A proposed framework for its evaluation (Romero et al., 2013)	Provides an example of a developed theory of change for <i>Forest Stewardship Council Certification</i> .
The effectiveness and evaluation of conservation planning (Bottrill & Pressey, 2012)	Develops a generic theory of change (Result Chain) to evaluate planning of conservation interventions.
Helping curb tropical forest degradation by linking REDD+ with other conservation interventions (Putz & Romero, 2012)	Develops a generic theory of change 'blueprint' for addressing forest degradation.
Theory of Change for community-based conservation (RARE, n.d.)	Provides a framework for theory of change development for local community conservation interventions under <i>RARE Pride conservation campaign</i> focused on behaviour change to reduce conservation threats.

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