

Transformative Conversation Conversations

Theme: Linking Personal Transformations to Societal Transformations

April 3, 2021

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. EDT

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4152312906?pwd=dkQ3dkZlSlgyanc1T2FhUHZydDBlQT09>
(you may share this link with others and invite them as well)

1. We begin on April 3rd with introduction: **Who are we? This session is not recorded and is confidential.**
2. We review how we want to be with one another, such as confidentiality, kindness, deep listening, step up/step down, etc.
3. For our conversation today we will be referring to the paper, “Transformative Conservation in Social-Ecological Systems” – https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/cem_2020_-_transformative_conservation.pdf. You can review it all or just concentrate on the following segments. This paper calls for six actions. On April 3 we will be discussing #2 in bold below.

1. Dramatically increase our familiarity with system transformation concepts, such as the adaptive cycle of systems, panarchy, and transition design.

2. Strongly link societal and personal transformations, for example through interfaith conservation, indigenous environmental sciences, and contemporary ritual.

3. Update how we plan for transformation, including tools like decision-scaling, adaptation pathways, and shared socioeconomic pathways.

4. Facilitate the shift from diagnosis to transformative action, for example through peer mentoring networks, transformation labs, and transformative climate science.

5. Improve our ability to adjust to transformation as it occurs, using decision windows, horizoning work, and real-time climate services, among other things.

6. Partner with political movements to achieve equitable and just transformation, whether through participatory action research,

indigenous just transitions, transformative climate politics, or other approaches to fomenting social-ecological change.

4. Questions for April 3, 2021. Please reflect on these questions before our meeting and be prepared to share your thoughts on each.

a. What do you make of this description of linking societal and personal transformations? (excerpt from paper).

“Societal transformation hinges upon how tightly families, workplaces, communities, institutions, and government nurture individual transformations and transformative learning. Conversely, despite noble intentions, personal transformation in one’s religion and spirituality, worldviews, values, ethics, and behaviors will fail to systemically improve conservation results, unless one links such development to collective action that transforms our culture, political economy, and institutions. TC in the context of climate change depends on such “outer” (societal) and “inner” (personal) transformations supporting and reinforcing one another, and creating unprecedented ways of living within nature. Stepping into this middle ground, numerous organizations, social movements, and scholars are arguing that ecological degradation is a spiritual crisis that requires a commensurate response, and therefore coupling interfaith unity, ritual, and ceremony with environmental protection and climate justice. The resulting self-empowerment and political action increase the capacity of people to cope with the emerging mental health pandemic around climate anxiety, climate grief, and solastalgia (the distress caused by environmental change while people remain directly connected to their home and territory). IUCN could publicly endorse such complementary initiatives, and encourage the voluntary participation of its members therein.”

b. What are the practices that can aid in personal transformation? In which do you engage? Your organization? Are some better than others?

c. How much effort should we give to personal/spiritual transformation? What should that effort look like?

d. How and where do we link the personal with the societal?

5. Before we leave this meeting, we ask how can be in with solidarity with each other and support one another in this process.

8. Logistics for next meeting and our community – May 9th, Sunday, 2:00 p.m?

9. Check-out: Gratitudes

For more information on these conversations, go here:

<https://www.oneearthconservation.org/event-registration>