



CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORLD OWL CONFERENCE 2017 UNIVERSITY OF ÉVORA, 26-30 SEPTEMBER

The results of more than 60 communications and lectures, some workshops and symposia and fruitful discussions among more than 130 participants from 30 countries and 5 continents were synthesized and presented as Conclusions in the Closing Session of the Conference aiming to set up the base line for the future. This document is a synopsis of those conclusions.

Conservation was reinforced as a key driver for upcoming times and 4 main goals were identified:

1. A need to fill the gaps in knowledge on owl biology and ecology.
2. How to influence decision-makers about the relevance of owl conservation.
3. How to reach people in a more effective way.
4. How to get funding for global, regional and local conservation strategies.

CONCLUSIONS

Part 1 – World circumstances

1 - GLOBAL CHALLENGES – the biophysical world is changing

Currently we assist to global changes fostering fast population declines in several owl species and affecting owl migration scenarios. There are gaps of knowledge in many areas of the world reinforcing the need for more research and conservation actions.

2 - MULTI-CULTURAL CHALLENGE – human societies and cultures are changing

Human societies and cultures are changing within and among countries and regions due to new human migration flows. This affects the natural environment and the social perception regarding the value of Nature.

Part 2 – A need for action

3 - NETWORKING – working together

There is a need for more formal collaboration among teams carrying on similar research and sharing experience on owls.

It was well recognized the need to know which teams are working on similar subjects in order to promote wide-scale studies and meta-analyses.

4 - A NEED FOR MULTI-DISCIPLINARITY – being more integrative

Studies should incorporate several research aspects to accomplish better conservation solutions.



5 - CONSIDER SOCIAL DIMENSIONS & MARKETING FOR OWL CONSERVATION – make our research more relevant to people & policy-makers

Education is crucial (especially in childhood and youth) and has an added-value: it rejuvenates us all. Additionally, we must bring emotions to conservation in order to reach more people and make messages more proficient.

6 - CREATE A FORMAL ORGANIZATION

To join scientists and volunteers involved in owl studies and conservation, to provide guidance on field methods and research, to stimulate conservation strategies at different spatial levels and to organize future World Owl Conferences on a regular basis.

7 - FUTURE CONFERENCES

The need for more regular meetings was emphasised and in 2018 a proposal for a time interval between World Owl Conferences (WOC) will be discussed and settled.

The Organization to be created should foster a growing in research between WOCs and will try to get funding to develop the needed work in world areas of conservation concern which will then be presented in next Conferences.

It was recognized the importance of organize future WOCs in strategic countries for owl conservation in order to boost conservation and owl research in those regions.

The Organizing Committee of the World Owl Conference 2017

Évora, September 30